



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds!



Wednesday, March 9th is the date for the Annual Summer Reading Workshop at the New World Inn & Conference Center, 265 33rd Avenue (across from Pawnee Park) in Columbus.

Patti Harrington, editor of the 2005 Summer Reading Program Manual, will offer ideas, examples, and enthusiasm to help you plan your summer library program based on "Dragons, Dreams, &

Daring Deeds". Patti Sinclair is a former children's librarian and former editor of Children's Magazine Guide. She is also the author of *E for Environment*, an Annotated Bibliography of Children's Books with Environmental Themes. She resides in Madison, WI.

Sally Snyder, Children & Youth Services Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission will discuss "Why Do We Have Summer Reading Programs?"

Karen Drevo and Marci Retzlaff, Youth Services Librarians from the Norfolk Public Library will review good summer reads for juveniles.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am with introductions and announcements following at 9:30. This year's workshop costs \$15 per person and registrations are due by March 1. Please bring sharp scissors, glue, tape and a few markers to the workshop. For more information, see the registration form on page 15.



Re-Writing the Script: Communication Skills that Reframe Conflict & Content Workshop will be held in Tilden at the Raymond Whitwer Public Library beginning at 10am on Monday, January 24. This workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission.

The day's agenda will include a morning and afternoon session. "Re-Writing the Script" will be presented in the morning followed in the afternoon by "Problem Solving Techniques".

Theresa Dickson, from the Pioneer Library System in Oklahoma will be the presenter. She has taught numerous classes for the Institute in Public Librarianship.

There will be no charge to attend this workshop and four hours of continuing education credit will be given if attending the full day.

To register online, go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtrainingreg.html> or you can register by phone by calling Jacque Crocker at 1-800-307-2665.

In This Issue...

Summer Reading Wkshp.	p.1
Basic Skills Grads.....	p.2
Survey Book Winners....	p.2
Communications Hdbk....	p.2
Nite Owl Prowl.....	p.3
Center Court.....	p.3
Basic Skills.....	p.3
Starting a Reading Club..	p.4
Northeast News.....	p.5
RGLG Meeting.....	p.5
10 Tips for Funding Techno- logy.....	p.6
Technology Funding Web Sites.....	p.7
Rich Site Summary.....	p.8
Doctor Tech.....	p.9
Web Sites.....	p.10
Check Your Calendar...	p.11
Valentine Fun Facts....	p.11
The Reading Chair.....	p.12
New at NELS.....	p.12
Board Minutes.....	p.13-14
SRP Registration.....	p.15



Congratulations to Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library; Richa Perkins, Schuyler Public Library, Carol Craig, Hartington Public Library and Jane Schultz, Oakdale Public Library for completing the Basic Skills Course!!

Survey Book Winners

Thanks to everyone who filled out a survey and returned it to the system office. The results will be used in planning future workshops and other services.

The following libraries received a free nonfiction juvenile book for participating in the survey:

St. Rose School - Crofton
Stanton Public Library
Osceola Public Library
Winside Public School
Centennial Elementary - Columbus



Communications Handbook for Libraries

The American Library Association recently published a guide to assist librarians in gaining media visibility for library programs, surviving tough media interviews and developing a media communications plan. The handbook also has sections devoted to use of radio markets, marketing on the Internet, and a glossary. You can obtain this guide at: http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/availablepiomat/online_comm_handbook.pdf or call the System Office at 1-800-578-1014 for a copy.



Nite Owl Prowl

Are your genealogy buffs clamoring for a workshop? Do they complain about using your computers next to a gum-snapping teenager? Consider a genealogy lock-in. Participants can begin arriving at any time, but by early evening the library will be closed to the public. The library will remain open until midnight for genealogists. Participants can leave at any time and staff can be on hand to answer questions. The lock-in can include genealogical advice and instruction, food, and door prizes. Some libraries have included scrapbooking as part of the event. The purpose of the event is to

showcase your library's genealogy collection and provide the opportunity for the novice and veteran researcher to work together. It is recommended that children under the age of sixteen be accompanied by an adult. Another name for this program is "Sitting Up With The Dead".

\$ Fund raising Ideas

Center Court

There are several fundraising techniques for basketball game halftimes but they can be adapted for other locations. Numbered, rubber stars are sold and then the holders of stars line up around the perimeter of the gym and toss the stars at the center of the court. The closest star to the center gets a prize or a percent of the take on star sales. The kids love it and there is no way to predict where the stars may bounce because of the 5 points on them. Variation 1: Tossing balls of a putty type density that do not bounce or bean bags into a bucket at center court. Variation 2: Tossing tennis balls (which obviously will bounce) into a deeper container such as a garbage can at center court.



Basic Skills: Public Services Class Coming Soon!

The next Basic Skills class, Public Services, will be held on April 5, 12, and 19th at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Public Services involves the following areas: Public Service Attitude, Reference, Readers Guidance, Policies, and planning and developing needs-based services and programs. Send registration information and payment of \$35 to Jacque Crocker, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

Reaching Teenagers Class Coming Soon!

The Nebraska Library Commission recently announced the availability of another University of North Texas Desktop class. It is called Reaching Teenagers and will be available sometime in February. If interested, please contact the System Office at 1-800-578-1014 or email Kathy at: kellert@megavision.com.



Want to Start a Reading Club?

Do a little brainstorming. It is important to have a clear idea of what you expect to get from the meetings before you start. Here are some questions to ask yourself.

What type of conversation do you want to have at your meetings? Will you be serious and exclude all talking unless it is relevant to the book, or will you permit casual conversation interspersed with the book discussion?

Will you expect readers to prepare questions or topics for discussion beforehand? Or will you let conversation dictate the topic for discussion?

Do you want to read one book for each meeting, or tackle several books per meeting?

How often do you want to meet? This might determine how many books you read, or how long they are!

Do you want to have a theme? Focus on one author for several meetings, or one genre? Or do you want to pick and choose from a variety of subjects?

Will there be food involved, and if so, who is in charge of providing it? (One suggestion is to have a food theme. For example if your book is set in the south, serve a southern-inspired snack. And rotate who is in charge of providing the snack so that one person is not bearing the burden of preparation and cost.)

Who will join? This is always the hardest question to answer. First, before you begin to invite people to join the group, think about the questions above. If you want a serious discussion with little to no outside discussion, then make that clear to prospective members. If the book club is a good excuse to see your friends, that's great too, just be sure everyone knows that the discussion doesn't have to be confined to the book!

The first meeting. The hardest part of anything is getting started. So what do you do when your reading group is assembled. Everyone has a cup of tea or coffee and is settled in his or her chair, books open, ready to talk. But it's so quiet you could hear a pin drop! Here are some **tips for getting the discussion started.**

If this is your first meeting, **talk briefly about your expectations** for meetings. This is your chance to be sure everyone is on the same page. Then after you've established the ground rules you can slide into a discussion of the book.

Focus on the 5 W's (and one H). Who wrote the book? What do you know about him or her? Who is in the book? What do the characters do? What is the book about? When was the book written? When does it take place? Where does it take place? Where is the author from? Why did you like or dislike the book? Why did the characters do certain things? How did the book effect you? How did you feel about the characters?

Compare and contrast. How does this book compare to other books by this author, or to other books you've read? How does it relate to current events? To your personal experience?

Choose one universal question to start each discussion. Come back to this question if the discussion lags. For example, did you like the main character in this book, why or why not?

Keep questions as broad and simple as possible. This gives people lots of room to answer. And you can always delve deeper as the conversation goes on.

Choosing books.

Choose a theme. Your theme could be a culture, an author, a time period, current events, a genre, etc.

Avoid a theme. Deliberately choose books that are different from each other to create a contrast.

Ask others. Ask each member to submit a list of his or her favorite books. Then choose one book from each list in turn.

Finally, if you still have questions, there are a number of resources online. Random House has a list of tips for forming your own reading group: www.randomhouse.com/vintage/read/tips.html.



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)- 564-1586 (Voice) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

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

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To subscribe, send cash or check with mailing information to the System Office. Advertising: Businesses wishing to advertise in **Straight-Talk** should contact the System Office for current rate information.

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Correction: IN the November Straight Talk, Ruth O'Neal received the Citation Award, not Ruth Beal. Congratulations again, Ruth, and sorry for any confusion the error may have caused.



Bloomfield Public Library held a signing for author, Norma Lhee Hooper on Saturday, December 18th. She is the author of "The Land of Gone Before". The books is full of stories and poetry about the Great Plains and its people.

Crafty Duct Tape Crafts will be held at the **Central City Public Library** in February for middle school students. This event is for youth in grades from 5-8 and the program will run from 4-6pm.

December is Fun Month for kids at **Battle Creek Public Library**. Each Saturday from December 4 through December 18 the Library held a free video day with treats for the kids at the end. During the school vacation, the Library will host a craft day, a game board day, a video day, and a story time.

Gardner Public Library (formerly Graves Memorial Library) in Wakefield held its grand opening on December 11. Nancy Fredrickson, librarian, is thrilled with the new facility and invites everyone to come visit.

On January 5, 2005, the **Neligh Public Library** will be 100 years old. The library is planning special programs throughout the year to celebrate. Watch this space for more information.

The **Randolph Public Library** has received pledges and donations totaling over \$265,000.00 for the new library building.

Youth Grants for Excellence Recipients

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded the following Northeast Library System libraries grants to enhance their children's or youth services:

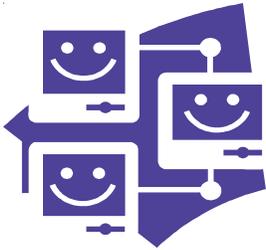
Atkinson Public Library, Central City Public Library, Hartington Public Library, Neligh Public Library, Norfolk Public Library, Lied Pierce Public Library, Ponca Public Library, Randolph Public Library, Schuyler Public Library, Stromsburg Public Library, Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library, and Wayne Public Library. Congratulations!

If your trustees have not finished filling out the **Trustee Survey** by Lynn Bradman, do not despair! She is still accepting surveys through February 1st. She is very pleased with the 40% response rate and hopes to have a report out soon.

RGLG Meeting Feb. 2nd

RGLG (Really Good Library Group) is meeting February 2nd at 10am at the Neligh Public Library. Topics for discussion include: Putting Together a Successful Grant, Tech Plans, Picture Books, Lobbying your Legislator, and more. Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 or email at: nelibry@megavision.com if you can make it as we need a lunch count. Don't forget to bring your favorite picture book or two for discussion.

See you there!



10 Tips for Funding Technology

You can plan for all the technology in the world, but you still have to come up with the funds to pay for the new equipment and staff training.

There are no silver bullets when it comes to fund-raising, especially during these hard times. Here are ten tips to help you find the funds you need to implement and sustain your library's technology.

1. Build strong relationships with funders. Fund-raising is essentially about building relationships, whether its with your local business leaders or homemakers. If you can establish a rapport with them and articulate your case before them, you may well be on your way to securing the funds you need. Any funds you receive should be followed up by a well-conceived evaluation strategy. Once you have demonstrated success, it will become easier to receive more funds in the future.

2. Incorporate technology into your annual strategic plan. Just as funders want to know your project plan for program grants, they also want to know how you plan to use grants for technology. By having a plan in place that spells out specific needs, identifies costs, and ties them to your mission; you are demonstrating good management practices to your funders and you ensure consistency in all your grant proposals.

3. Focus on your mission and your programs, not technology for technology's sake. Always think of your mission and your program first. Organizations seeking funds for technology must remain focused on one thing: "How will this technology help us better achieve our mission?"

4. Budget technology expenses as shared costs, not overhead. Technology expenses are best expressed as shared costs, also sometimes called "common costs." The rest are expenses that are shared among all your programs to provide direct support to program staff.

5. Target technology funders. Finding the right funders to ask is often half the battle. Here are a few rules for targeting funders with technology requests:

- a. Expand your searches to include "capacity building" as a search parameter when using foundation libraries and search engines. This term often indicates a willingness to invest in technology.
- b. Many funders set aside a certain amount of funds for what are called technical assistance grants. Technical assistance grants are a great way to pay for technology consulting, technology planning, and often equipment.
- c. Community foundations are often more likely to fund technology requests than national foundations. Such foundations generally consider building the capacity of the nonprofits in their local area an integral part of their mission.

6. Maximize existing resources. Libraries are very adept at stretching limited resources. Stretching resources doesn't mean using outdated equipment and never upgrading your equipment. A wise manager will stretch existing resources by properly maintaining the equipment the library already has. If you thoroughly understand what you have and what you really need, you can save money and get the most out of your technology.

7. Use local community technology resources. Take the time to find out what the community technology resources are in your area, and find out what resources can be pooled with other local

organizations.

8. Partner with others for joint grant proposals. Perhaps you can find partners with whom you can share the costs of developing a community network or a common database that would be useful to anyone with a similar mission. A group of similar organizations requesting technology assistance may be far more compelling than one organization alone. This gives funders a way to stretch their dollars and have a greater impact.

9. Generate unrestricted revenue where possible. This is revenue that does not have to be spent on predesignated expenses. Unrestricted revenue offers the flexibility to apply funds where they are most needed or to cover expenses that don't often attract funding streams.

10. Spend less on software and equipment. The next best thing to raising new funds to acquire new equipment is to save money by spending less on each acquisition. Donated equipment will often save the most of all, but be certain that you've done a thorough tech plan and understand your current inventory, your future needs, and your minimum requirements. Knowing when to say no to inappropriate donations is as important as finding appropriate ones.

Technology Funding Web Sites

Technology Grant News at <http://technologygrantnews.com>. This web site has grant news for a number of different sectors, including schools and public libraries. Nonmembers can read the news and articles plus the latest grant news in their sector.

NonProfit Association of the Midlands - Information Technology, Tips, Tricks & Resources Newsletter at http://http://www.nonprofitam.org/subpages/tech_news.asp. This weekly Internet newsletter is intended to provide a compilation of useful Internet sites, free or low cost computer applications, productivity tips for office applications and information on nonprofit fundraising.

Foundation Center at: <http://fdncenter.org>. This organization has the best up-to-date information on grant makers. They have an extensive online search directory available for members. Nonmembers have access to the Philanthropy News Digest, an online newsletter of weekly news and updates regarding grants.

iWave at <http://www.iwave.com>. This private company is in competition with the Foundation Center. Nonmembers have access to free weekly reports and 24 hours free access to Prospect Research Online, their foundation online database.

Gifts in Kind at <http://www.giftskind.org>. This organization offers everything from staplers to sporting goods and does offer a good selection on technology products.

Consistent Computer Bargains at <http://www.ccbnpts.com>. This is a leading authorized reseller of computer software and hardware for nonprofit organizations. CCB is committed to supporting nonprofits exclusively.

TechSoup Stock at <http://www.techsoup.org/soup/>. This is the nonprofit source for technology donations such as office applications, networking equipment, fundraising software, accounting software, and other donated computer applications. TechSoup Stock offers hundreds of the most popular titles for as little as three percent of the suggested retail price. No technology grants are required.



Rich Site Summary/Real Simple Syndication

There is another "tool" that is built in to most blogging software that many think will change the way we receive and process all of the information we get from the Internet. This is what's known as RSS.

Depending on who you talk to, RSS stands for Rich Site Summary or Real Simple Syndication. Either way, RSS is a real important technology that information specialists and educators would be well advised to harness sooner rather than later. In simple terms, Weblogs (and an ever-growing number of other sites) generate a behind-the-scenes code in a language similar to HTML called XML. This code, usually referred to as a "feed" (as in "news feed"), makes it possible for readers to "subscribe" to the content that is created on a particular Weblog so they no longer have to visit the blog itself to get it. As is true with traditional syndication, the content comes to you instead of you going to it.

For instance, say you've found 20 or 30 (or, like me, 120!) Weblog sites on the Internet that interest you. Finding the time to click through to those sites on a regular basis is probably pretty difficult. But what if you had to go to only one place to read all of the new content on all of those sites? Wouldn't be so difficult, would it? Well, that's exactly what RSS allows you to do by using what's called an "aggregator" or news-feed collector. The aggregator checks the sites you subscribe to, usually every hour, and it collects all the new content into a folder that is just waiting for you to come and read it.

Take this general scenario, for instance: You currently get the headlines from *The New York Times* via an e-mail message that arrives each morning. But more and more, your e-mail box is being clogged up by spammers selling everything from pornography to mortgages. There are new virus warnings every day. Not so with RSS.

The feed your aggregator checks is virus free, and you know that everything in your aggregator is something you want to read because you subscribed to it. No ads, no spam, just new content from the sources you read. You can scan the headlines, read the entire post, click through to the actual Web site, and file the information away for later retrieval.

Subscribe to My Homework Page!

For educators, the potential significance of RSS is huge. Think about how teachers and districts could use this syndication process to communicate with students, parents, newspapers, etc. In the classroom, teachers who have students create their own Weblogs can easily keep tabs on what those students are posting by subscribing to their students' feeds and simply checking their aggregators regularly. If school Web sites were built on a foundation of Weblogs, parents could "subscribe" to different feeds that are relevant to their children ... say, the feeds from the College Search page, the Board of Education page, and Mr. Richardson's homework page.

Similarly, if internal committees used Weblogs to post minutes and links, administrators could do a quick read in their aggregators to keep abreast of what the groups are up to with the added benefit that the work is easily archived for retrieval at a later date. Or, if you teach, say, a media class and want to stay abreast of the latest developments with the Federal Trade Commission, you can even subscribe to a Google or Yahoo! search for that term so that any news on that topic is delivered right to you.

More and more Web sites are creating RSS feeds for their content. Many major newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and others, now offer RSS feeds of major sections in their papers. If you are a librarian and you want to be notified when new young adult books are released, just add the Amazon.com-young adult books feed to your aggregator and sit back and wait for the notices to start arriving.

(continued on page 14.)



Dear Doctor Tech: I've been told that there are many helpful web sites to help people solve their computer problems. However, when I search under computer troubleshooting my search results give me thousands of sites. Can you give me some assistance?

Signed,
Lost in Cyberspace

Dear Lost,
Www.livemanuals.com is a website that features simulations of many products. The site shows you exactly how products are supposed to work. There are interactive user manuals of popular consumer electronic products in addition to computers. Also, you can search my manufacturer or by product category.

Another helpful site is www.annoyances.org. This site is devoted to solving those annoying Windows quirks. For example, do you want to know how to get rid of that bouncing 'Click Here to Begin Arrow' or irritating splash screens? In addition, this site provides troubleshooting, reducing clutter, and customizing solutions.



Web Sites

This new page lists federal and state government resources such as business, medicine, agriculture, science, and crime. Included are Nebraska FAQs, State Government Publications Online, and Google's Uncle Sam.

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/readers/series/juv/>

Mid-Continent Public Library (Independence, MO) has put together a site listing over 18,000 books that are listed as juvenile series titles. They are classified into three audiences:

- Young Adult — for high school-aged readers
- Juvenile — appropriate for grade school through junior high-aged readers
- Juvenile Easy — for young readers just beginning to read

<http://www.ed.gov/free>
This site lists more than 1,300 federally supported teaching and learning resources. The site lists resources in ten subject areas with dozens of subtopics. A new option provides one stop shopping for special cultural events such as Black History Month, jazz appreciation, President's Day, etc.

<http://skell.org>
Heraldry, myths, religion, medicine, and legends are just a few of the topics listed in this site devoted to Medieval England. The site includes a calendar of holy days, ballads with synapses and clip art.

<http://renaissancemagazine.com>

A medieval glossary, historic events calendar, and links to more medieval sites are found here.

<http://www.foodsci.uoguelph.ca/dairyedu/icecream.html>

This fun site is devoted to all aspects of ice cream including the science of the dreaded ice cream headache and ice cream freezing curves.

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/cleartutorialdepresources.html>



Check Your Calendar

January 7 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at 9:30am at the NLC. Contact Maria Medrano-Nehls at 1-800-307-2665 if you wish to attend.

January 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk at 10am.

January 21 - **Dealing with Difficult People** College of DuPage Teleconference.

January 24 - **Re-writing the Script: Communication Skills that Reframe Conflict & Content** by Theresa Dickson at Raymond Whitwer Public Library in Tilden at 10am. To register, contact Jacque Crocker at 1-800-307-2665.

January 26 - **CDBG Application Guideline Workshop** at Lifelong Learning Center, Suite H at 9am. Registration is not required.

January 31 - **Public Library Statistics due** using Bibliostat Connect.

February 2 - **Really Good Library Group Meeting** at Neligh Public Library at 10am.

February 18 - **Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques,**

College of DuPage Teleconference.

February 23 - **NLA Legislative Day** at Cornhusker, Lincoln.

March 11 - **Reference Tools for the Information Age,** College of DuPage Teleconference.

March 16 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Columbus Public Library at 10 am.

March 18 - **Library Transformation: Library as Place,** College of DuPage Teleconference.

April 5 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC at 10am.

April 12 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC at 10am.

April 19 - **Basic Skills Class: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC at 10am.

Valentine Fun Facts

Romantic Sounding Places:
Valentine, NE
Lovelady, TX
Romeo, CO

2.2 million marriages annually, roughly 6000 per day.

138,600 marriages performed in Nevada in 2003. So many couples "tied the knot" in Nevada that it ranked fourth nationally in marriages, even though its total population that year was 35th.

118 single men compared to 100 single women looking for love.

24.6 pounds of candy eaten by Americans in 2003.

(Taken from Facts for Features at www.census.gov.)



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The Reviewer's Chair

Danger Boy: Dragon Sword

by Mark London Williams

Eli Sands has seen much of the world because he has the ability to travel in time. His parents are scientists and his mother has disappeared. While looking for his mother, he meets notable characters, like Hitler Youth, Jo DiMaggio, and even the wizard Merlin! An unlikely pair, Clyne and Thea, came to Eli's aid during his navigation of the Fifth Dimension. This time Eli may have found his mother, but can he free her from tyrannical rule?

The reading level of this book is 4.5, but it was very hard to follow. I enjoyed the first part where Eli traveled back into 1941 and then into the future, but later became lost when more time travel occurred. If the reader is interested in time travel and science fiction, this may be a good book. However, I struggled reading it.

Other comparable books would be *Ancient Fire* by Mark London Williams, *Time Warp Trio Series* by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith, and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.
-Karma Ragland, Atkinson, NE.

The Last Treasure

By Janet S. Anderson

On his birthday, Ellsworth receives a letter from his great aunt inviting him to the Square of homes built by his great, great grandfather, John Matthew Smith. When the homes were built John hid a treasure in three of them in memory of the three sons that preceded him in death. In order to find each treasure an adult needs the aid of a child's eyes to see beyond the obvious. Ellsworth and his cousin Jess are needed to find the last treasure and save the family homes.

This is a well-written story about a large family that has been pulled apart for many reasons over the years. They discover that by working together they can accomplish the impossible. In the process they reestablish their love for each other and the family unit.

With a reading level for grades 5th through 7th, this book would make a great addition to any elementary library. It has accelerated reader possibilities.
-Diane Limoges, Hartington NE

Finding My Hat

By John Son

This fictionalized autobiography reveals much of what it means to grow up Korean in America. It is an inside look at the conflicts and difficulties immigrants face in their struggle to be American. The reader is aware of these difficulties, but the central

character does not seem to be. While Jin-Han enjoys his childhood, his parents try to find a way to make a living, learn a strange language, buy a house, and provide for the family. Jin-Han teases his little sister, makes friends, plays games, goes to school, and falls in love.

This book is comparable to another fictionalized biography, *Kim/Kimi*, which shows a 16 year old girl of Japanese heritage stranded in an all-white community in Iowa. She needs to find out about her Japanese-American father before she can know who she is and where she fits. The writing in *Finding My Hat* is much more immediate. John Son invites the reader to participate in the family's life. *Kim/Kimi* seems less compelling to me.

A thoroughly enjoyable book, *Finding My Hat* was hard to put down. Most young adults will relate to the dilemmas of growing up presented by the author, and also come away with a new understanding of the difficulties faced by Asian immigrants.

With a reading level for grades 4th and up, I would recommend this book to both public and school libraries.

-Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

ALERT!!

The 2002 Nebraska Foundation DataBook is overdue. Please return it to the System Office ASAP. The checkout card was sent with the book and there is another library wanting to use it.



Down on the Farm

By Merrily Kutner

What a fun book to look at and read for preschooler through 2nd grade children. The brightly colored detailed pictures will encourage conversation on counting, names, and number of animals. This simple little book is both entertaining and educational and would make a wonderful addition to any school, public, or private library.
-Pat Thompson WSC

At the End of Words: A Daughter's Memoir

By Miriam Stone

A mixture of prose and poetry combine to make this memoir a moving tribute to the author's mother. The author does an excellent job of expressing her emotions as she deals with her own inner troubles during her mother's last few months struggling with cancer. The writing is gripping and even though the theme is serious and sad, the final pages leave the reader feeling uplifted.

This is a story that is moving and will tug at the hearts of the young, and the not-so-young. It lets the reader know that life does go on, but it is not a title I would recommend to somebody dealing with grief.

With a reading level for 5th grade and up, I recommend this to both school and public libraries.
-MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

Snail Boy

By Leslie McGuirk

A snail the size of a pony decides he needs an owner. But it has to be a certain kind of person.

He didn't want anyone too cool – too neat – too goofy, and certainly no one too grabby.

You'll like this book, and you will learn a new word, "Puccih!"

With a reading level for Preschool through 8 years, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.
-Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

Hector the Hermit Crab

By Katie Boyce

Hector is a very shy hermit crab that doesn't like the attention he gets at first when flowers grow on his shell. He tries everything he can to make the flowers go away. He is even more upset when a crowd of crabs gathers around him to look at his flowers. The other crabs admire his flowers and they behave in a friendly manner to Hector, enabling him to "come out of his shell" and make friends. The story is simple and its lesson on reaching out to make friends is not threatening.

With a reading level for 3 to 6 year olds, I recommend this book to school, public, and home libraries.
-Laticia Olson, Randolph Public School



New at NELS

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

Making Our Voices Heard: Citizens Speak Out For Libraries by Sally Gardner Reed, FOLUSA, 2004.

This guide will take you and your group through the advocacy process step-by-step. The CD-ROM will tell you how to engage in advocacy for your local library and the workbook will allow you to design your own plan for action.

"The Role of Teaching in Modern Libraries" Video (College of DuPage Teleconference, 11/19/2004).

Library staff are called upon not only to find information for their patrons, but to also teach their patrons skills related to finding, evaluating, and using information. This teleconference explores the expanded roles of librarians in today's modern libraries.

The Nebraska Library Commission Personnel Workshop, August 23, 2004.

A two video set covering such topics as employee handbooks, workplace privacy, and resolving workplace complaints.



Northeast Library System Board Meeting November 17, 2004

Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at the South Sioux City Public Library. Board President Marilyn Liedorff called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ruth Strassler was present as a guest. Alternate members were Deb Robertson for Dee Johnson and George Strassler for Lucy Cooper. Motion to accept alternates: (MS: Risinger, Healy); motion carried unanimously.

Roll call was taken with all members present except Johnson, Cooper, Zurovski, and Zwingman.

Additions to the printed agenda:

Approval of minutes of September 15 meeting: (MS: Lofgren, Bachman); motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Communications:
Cards/letters passed for all to read.

Financial Report (Shelia Cermak):

Checking: \$1,382.71

Savings: \$42,348.04

CDs: 2 due within next 1 ½ weeks; motion to renew \$7,003.60 for 13 months at Cornerstone Bank and \$4,305.98 now at First National Bank to Tier One for 9 months (MS: Bachman, Healy); roll call vote unanimous.

Reports:

Commissioner (Gross): not in attendance

State Advisory Council (Healy): Council will meet Friday, November 19.

Nebraska Library Commission: not in attendance

System Administrator (Katherine Ellerton): spoke on MPLA conference; is working with school media specialists to be of assistance to them; Ellerton is now on NLA by-law committee; System contacted by IRS on back payroll taxes, problem was found and seems to be resolved; Summer Reading workshop is March 30; Basic Skills has begun with Ellerton and Lofgren as instructors; Systems put proposal to Commission to fund resources and instruction for library staff to deal with patrons who are in grief or extremely upset; Commission did not fund current proposal but Systems want to resubmit. Ellerton polled Board to see what their thoughts were; has visited all counties in System.

Committee Reports:

Personnel: no report

Budget: met prior to this meeting; budget will need to be readjusted in some line items

Continuing Education: Basic Skills, LAMA workshop: employee incentives, E-Rate, digitization workshop.

Technology Plan Committee: Risinger, Bachman, Klein with Risinger as chair

Strategic Planning: no report

Nominating: Kay Schmid from David City is new member

Unfinished Business:

Bylaws update: following much discussion, updates were agreed upon; new booklet will be published with revisions.

Assessment survey: has been sent out and replies are coming in. Paper copies are also being sent out. Duane Munson donated 5 copies of juvenile nonfiction books to be awarded to libraries who return their surveys.

New Business:

Board alternate pool: working well; term discussed; geography and representation considered when pool members asked; commitment for pool members to be reviewed annually.

Directory update: update is being completed.

Pat-On-The-Back awards: no names were presented.

Members presented library activities.

Claims of the day: (MS: Lofgren, Healy); motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

Announcements: NECC on January 19, 2005 for next meeting.

Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

	
<p><i>Quality Library</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bookcases and Shelving• Circulation Desks• Computer Desks• Tables• Chairs• Custom Built Items• Furniture Reconditioning	<p><i>For more information contact us at:</i> 800 Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502 Phone: 402-471-4597 or 800-348-7537</p>

RLSS continued...

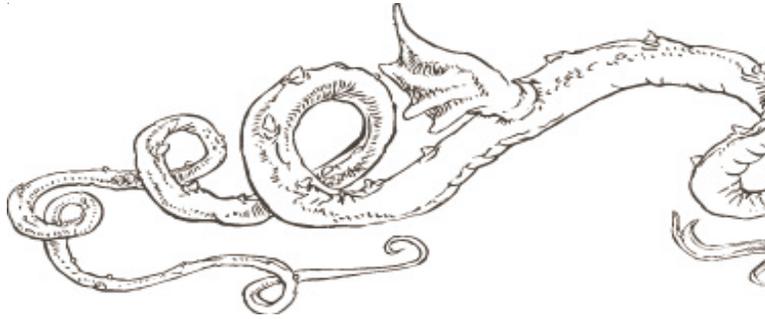
Getting into It

So if you're convinced that RSS have an important role to play in education, how do you get started? Here are some suggestions.

First, start your own Weblog, and start aggregating RSS feeds. There's no better way to understand the process and potential than to practice it yourself. As you learn more about the technology, start thinking about ways you might use it in your classroom. Since there exists a whole range of Weblogging platforms and RSS readers to choose from, you'll want to consider security and privacy issues, collaboration potential, and general complexity.

The easiest way to start a Weblog is with one of the free services online. You can be up and running in just minutes with Blogger [<http://www.blogger.com>], the best known of the free services. Remember, if you want your Weblog to be interactive, make sure you choose a tool that has a built-in commenting feature so you can invite others to discuss your posts.

(Taken from Blogging and RLSS in MultiMedia Schools, Jan/Feb 2004 by Will Richardson. Check out the author's website at www.weblogg-ed.com).



Dragons, Dreams

Summer Reading Workshop 2005

Wednesday, March 9th

9:00am - 3:30pm

New World Inn & Conference Center

265 33rd Avenue (across from Pawnee Park), Columbus

9:00-9:30 Registration, Refreshments

9:30-9:45 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

9:45-10:15 Sally Snyder, NLC

"Why Do We Have Summer Reading Programs"

**10:15-11:00 Good Summer Reads by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff,
Youth Services Librarians, Norfolk Public Library**

11:00-11:15 - Break

**11:15-12:15 Patti Sinclair, 2005 Summer Reading Program Manual
editor offers ideas and examples for your summer reading program**

12:15-1:00 Feasting

1:00-3:00 ...and even more ideas from Patti Sinclair

3:00 What are your plans?

3:15-3:30 Door Prizes, Wrap-up, Evaluations



Name _____ **Phone** _____

Library / School _____ **E-Mail** _____

Please send a check for \$15 per person, made out to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601. Registrations due: March 1. Please call if you have questions. Please bring sharp scissors, glue, tape and a few markers to the workshop.



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

**"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn
as if you were to live forever."
~~Mahatma Gandhi**



**Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601**

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