

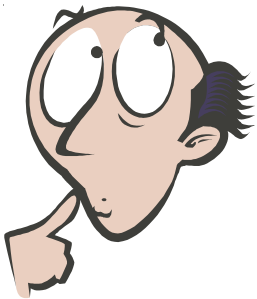


Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

FEBRUARY, 2005 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

System AccuCut Directory



Looking for a specific AccuCut die? Wondering if the System has it? If not, can you borrow it somewhere else? If unwilling to loan the die, would people be willing to do the cutting? A recent suggestion reached the System Office that it would be very useful to have an AccuCut Directory for the System.

I agree and when the directory is compiled, we will be placing the listing on the system website and distributing copies to system members.

If you are interested in loaning or cutting for other libraries, please answer the following questions by **March 15th and send it to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601 or email to: nelibry@megavision.com.**

1. What dies does your library/county library association own?
2. Are you willing to loan your AccuCut dies to other libraries in the Northeast System?
Out of the System but within the state?
If so, will you cover postage one way or will the borrower pay postage both ways?
3. If you have dies, but cannot send the dies to another library, would you be willing to cut pieces for the requesting library if they sent you the paper? Would you be willing to do it if they didn't send you the paper? Can you laminate the cutouts upon request? What would you charge for lamination or cutting?
4. What type of dies would you like to see the System Office purchase? Summer Reading Program Dies? Scrapbooking dies? Border sets?



New dies from the system office: Dragon #2 - Jumbo, Unicorn - Jumbo, Castle #2 - Jumbo, Visor - Jumbo, Crown #1 - Large and Badge #3 (shield) - Large. These dies will be available at the Summer Reading Workshop in Columbus on March 9th.

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March for Peanut Butter!

Want to celebrate Peanut Butter month with teens? How about playing peanut butter trivia, "Guess the Brand of Peanut Butter", peanut on a chopstick relay race, peanut toss, "count the number of peanut M&Ms in the jar", "how much does the jar of peanut butter weigh?", Nutty bingo (regular bingo with peanut butter prizes), and peanut butter play dough sculpting (regular peanut butter dough cookie recipe without the egg) and guess the library's staff members favorite kind of peanut butter.

You can also get comic books, coloring books and recipe booklets just by writing the Georgia Peanut Commission, 110 E. 4th Street, P.O. Box 96, Tifton, GA 31793, or by emailing them at info@gapeanuts.com. Additional peanut putter information can be found at www.peanutbutterlovers.com.

A word of caution: some people may have a strong reaction to peanuts or peanut products.



NLA Scholarships Available

Nebraska Library Association members interested in pursuing additional education and training are eligible for NLA scholarships which will be awarded this spring.

Several Louise A. Nixon Scholarships (\$1000.00 each) will be awarded in the spring of 2005. The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund was established to support students pursuing **graduate level** library education as a part-time or full-time student. The guidelines and application form for the Nixon scholarship are available at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/nixonsschol.htm>.

One Duane Munson Scholarship (\$250.00) will be awarded to an NLA member in the spring of 2005. The Duane Munson Scholarship was established to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals gain additional education and training on a part-time or full-time basis. The guidelines and application form for the Munson scholarship are available at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/munsonschol.htm>.

The application deadline for both scholarships is **April 15, 2005**. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May 2005. If you have questions about the scholarships, contact Theresa Jehlik at tjehlik@omaha.lib.ne.us or 402-444-4803.

Nebraska Highway Web Sites

Highway 14 Association features communities and attractions along the Route 14 corridor from South Dakota to Superior, Kansas. Last October Highway 14 sponsored the "POP IN" (Products on Parade in Nebraska) event. For more information, check out their web site at www.highway14.org.



Route 6 Nebraska launched a new web site to promote Nebraska's "First Highway". Route 6 Nebraska spans 374 miles across 17 Nebraska counties from Omaha to the Colorado border in western Chase County. Museums, historic sites, recreation and much more await visitors at www.route6nebraska.com.

Another site for Northeast Nebraska information is the Northeast Nebraska Travel Council web site at www.travelnenebraska.com. This group is dedicated to promoting tourism and has a monthly calendar of events.

HeritageQuest Online

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce that the genealogy database **HeritageQuest Online** is being added to NebraskAccess for the remainder of FY 2004/2005. Nebraska libraries can look forward to having both on site and remote access from their library to HeritageQuest Online beginning February 1, 2005.

HeritageQuest Online contains a unique, growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture. It combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with the digitized version of the popular UMI® Genealogy and Local History collection. This online database is an essential collection of unique material for both genealogical hobbyists and professionals.

For more information about the database and training sessions, contact Network Services at 1-800-307-2665.

Online Health Information Tool Encourages Partnerships



"Public Libraries and Community Partners: Working Together to Provide Health Information", a new online resource from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, encourages health information partnerships between public libraries and local community organizations. Six extensive guides show how to deal with the growing demand for health information, how to provide health information services, how to develop a community based program, and other valuable resources. The site, nlnm.gov/libinfo/community, also contains a section for funding opportunities through the National Network.

Plagiarism Prevention in 11 Easy Steps

1. What "Plagiarism" Means

Most students will tell you they already know what plagiarism means. But do they really understand the difference between a legitimate paraphrase and a plagiarized one? Or between a proper citation and an improper one? Spending some time explaining plagiarism may go a long way toward preventing future problems.

2. What's Wrong about Plagiarism

Without instruction, it may be hard for your students to understand the seriousness of plagiarism. Their response is often: "How can copying some words actually hurt anyone?" But the reality is that plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing another's intellectual property, and lying about it afterwards, claiming the paper as one's own. This undermines the principles of trust and respect that make education possible.

3. Make the Consequences Clear

Students often do not know just what they risk when they plagiarize. Begin your course by establishing a clear policy on plagiarism. Give very specific information about the penalties involved. Be sure to cite your policy on any research assignments as a reminder.

4. Start off with Clear Expectations

Let your students know you expect them to produce thoughtful, original work. Students are often under the illusion that the goal of their assignments is to collect the best information possible. Explain to them that while good research is critical, you are even more interested in their ability to transform the information they find into an original and persuasive argument than in their ability to come up with the most or best sources. The skills they learn in working to further the ideas and arguments of others are a valuable part of what they will take away from their assignments.

5. Assign Specific Questions or Topics

Provide a list of topics or questions that you would like your students to address in their papers. The more particular the questions, the less likely that your students will find papers already written on them.

6. Require Students to Submit Outlines, or Drafts

One of the best ways to ensure that your students' work is original is to check it during the process of composition. Since rough drafts, etc., are not as readily available for copying as finished papers, the simple fact that they have to submit one will encourage most of your students to produce original work. It often takes more work to forge these materials than it does to produce them originally.

7. Have the Students Annotate their Bibliography

Ask your students to summarize the content and usefulness of their sources in a few sentences. Be sure to tell them that copying library abstracts or blurbs from the backs of books is not permissible.

8. Assign Oral Presentations

Have your students answer questions about the process of researching and developing their ideas. This is also an excellent opportunity to ask them specific questions about their papers, and to bring up passages that seem suspicious. Questions like "This quotation here is a little unclear. Could you tell me a little more about the article from which you got it?" can be very effective in determining how much work the student did without offending or seeming suspicious.

(continued on page 7)

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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Straight Talk Online

Need an extra copy of Straight Talk? Did you know that Straight Talk is now online? Go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/newsarchive.html>



New at NELS

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

100 Great Literacy Ideas using AccuCut Dies by Elaine Haven.

Directed toward pre-K to 5, this book includes a wide range of literacy project ideas. The book is divided into three sections: Beginning Reading, Intermediate Reading, and Writing Activities.

"Coping With Difficult People", College of DuPage Teleconference video, 2 hours.

In the Age of Information, people have come to expect results immediately! Perennial favorite, Deb Johnson provides some practical advice on how to deal with impatient and frustrated patrons.

The RFID Riddle, Net Connect Fall 2004.

This supplement to Library Journal covers all aspects of radio frequency identification (RFID) including pros and cons of the system and vendor comparison. This is a great introductory source on RFID.

Let's Build! A Program Manual Celebrating Construction in the Library, by Tami Chumbley, State

Library of Iowa, 2004.

This unique book is both a building project promotional manual and a children's program manual. You can use the graphics for promotional materials or for summer reading projects. If you want your own copy, go to: <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/youth-services/construction.html>



The Advisory Committee of the Nebraska Library Commission

Talking Book and Braille Service is seeking to fill two vacancies. The committee's purpose is to represent the needs of talking book and Braille borrowers and to make recommendations concerning library policies and services. Membership consists primarily of library users but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and other individuals who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. Normally the committee meets twice a year.

Information concerning nominees should be sent by March 1, 2005, to the Nebraska Library Commission, Talking Book and Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

For more information, contact the Talking Book and Braille Service at 1- 800-742-7691.



Sign language classes have been very successful reported Lisa Ziegenbein, director of the **Verdigre Public Library**. When the sign language classes end, computer classes will begin.

Hometown Competitiveness was the subject of a recent 'Food for Thought' program at **Hruska Memorial Public Library** in David City. Hometown Competitiveness is a Come-Back/ Give-Back approach to rural community building. The four areas of importance addressed are: Youth, Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Charitable Giving.

The new handicapped accessible door at **Polk Public Library** has been installed.

The November 2004 Nebraska Municipal Review has an article and photographs of the new **South Sioux City Public Library**.

A photography show is being held at the Arlo & Anne Wirth Art Gallery in the **Hartington Public Library** in January and February.

Antonette Turner, the granddaughter of immigrant Annie Pavelka, featured in Willa Cather's "My Antonia," is visiting the **Stromsburg Public Library** the second Tuesday in March. Turner will describe the quilt her grandmother made using brightly printed feed sacks. Turner tells the story behind the quilt and what it illustrates about her grandmother and

about immigrant life in Nebraska in the early 20th century.

Marc Brown's sister, Kim Croissant, the real DW, will give a presentation on Marc Brown and his characters at the **Ponca Public Library** on March 17.

It was Teens Only night at **Wayne Public Library** on January 28th from 6:30-7:30pm. Teens met when the library was normally closed and discussed books, magazines, movies while chowing down on free pizza!

Welcome to Sue Mueller, the new librarian at **Dakota City Public Library**! Sue has been involved in Library Friends groups and is excited about working at the Dakota City Public Library.

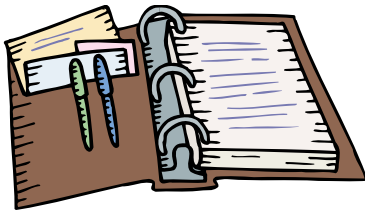
Congratulations to MeMe Smith, staff, and friends of the **Schuyler Public Library**. The City of Schuyler is in the final stages of purchasing land

for a new library building!! The site is one and one half blocks south of the present building. The Library Foundation will be meeting to begin their fund-raising.

Neligh Public Library is busy celebrating it's 100th birthday. On February 10th, Kathy Steinkamp is speaking on the Anassazi Culture during their noon Brown Bag Lunch and on Feb 23, an after school program is Cindy Wanek talking about massage therapy.

Really Good Library Group met February 2nd at Neligh Public Library. Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission led a discussion on Youth Grants for Excellence. A lively discussion on picture books followed with everyone showing their favorite picture books and why. Lobbying your legislator and the current bills were discussed. Next meeting will be in Hartington on August 10th. See you there!

CAPSTONE HEINEMANN LIBRARY COMPASS POINT	ROURKE PUBLISHING CO. LERNER PUBLISHING CO. FACTS ON FILE
COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.	
Duane Munson	
2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772	
ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



Check Your Calendar

February 18 - **Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques**, College of DuPage Teleconference at 11am.

February 21 - **President's Day**. System Office closed.

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

March 1 - **Nebraska Humanities Council Major & Mini Grant** applications due.

March 9 - **NLS Summer Reading Workshop** at New World Inn in Columbus at 9am.

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

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

March 15 - **Reaching Out @ Your Library**, NLA Paraprofessional 2005 Spring Conference 10am - 1pm.

March 18 - **Library Transformation: Library as Place**, College of DuPage Teleconference at 11am.

April 5 - **Basic Skills: Public**

Services at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC at 10am.

April 9 - **Young Authors & Young Adult Authors Program** at Wayne State College. Contact Stan Gardner at 402-375-7259 for more information.

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

April 17 - **Tom May**, Nebraska celebrity host of River City Folk will be performing at the John Neihardt Center in Bancroft. For more information, call 1-888-777-4667.

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



Preventing Plagiarism continued...

9. Require Recent and Printed Sources
Most papers from online paper mills and other cheating databases are already several years old at best. Having your students integrate at least one contemporary source in their paper will keep your students up to date on the issues and help ensure legitimate research and work.

10. Assign a Paragraph on the Composition Process

If you do not have your students give oral presentations or turn in drafts during the composition process, you may want to have them submit a paragraph explaining how they arrived at their topic, how they began researching it, what criteria they used for evaluating their sources, and what they learned from the research project. This will give you an idea of how well they have comprehended the material and the degree of fluency they have in speaking about it.

11. Encourage Concision
Students often try to "fill space" by "borrowing" material once they have finished with their own ideas. Tell your students that it is very obvious when they "pad" their papers to fill up page requirements. Encourage them to be as concise as possible, focusing on the substance of their claims rather than the length of their writing. Make sure they know the trick to writing a long research paper lies in coming up with a thesis or argument which requires the assigned number of pages to develop, and not in drawing out the points they make or citing multiple sources to prove a single idea.





Dear Doctor Tech:

The library's computers are crashing for no apparent reason. Sometimes the computers will shut down every application and restart. The computers are using the Windows XP or Windows 2000 operating system. I have rebooted the machines but the machines always need to be rebooted at an inopportune moment. Is there anything we can do to stop these out-of-control computers?

Signed,
Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

Windows XP and Windows 2000 are both supposed to be (and typically are) much more stable than Windows 9x/Me, but there are still things that can bring down the entire system in a heartbeat, displaying the BSD (Blue Screen of Death) or simply restarting. Go over this checklist and see if any of these apply to you.

Power Supply - a bad (or insufficient) power supply is the most common cause for random crashes, especially if you have a lot of cards, drives, or fans, or have a dual-processor motherboard. A 350W or 400W power supply is recommended if you're experiencing this problem.

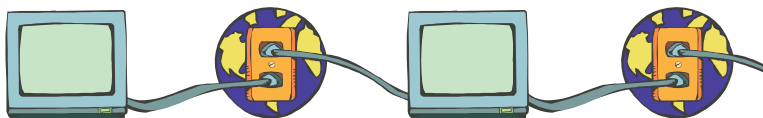
A mix of FAT32 and NTFS drives - If you have more than one hard disk, and there are different file systems on each one, try converting them all to NTFS.

Audio Card Drivers: - try removing your sound card, or at least uninstalling and then reinstalling the drivers.

USB Hub: - if you have a USB hub, try eliminating it and see if that solves the problem (especially if you have a USB-based Palm cradle and your system crashes every time you hotsync).

Overheating: - a computer will crash if the processor overheats. Make sure the CPU fan/fans are working, and that the processor temperature (read in the BIOS screen) is within normal limits. Make sure your computer case has adequate ventilation.

Bad memory: - a bad memory module can cause this problem. Try removing one of the modules (if applicable) to see if that solves the problem; rotate through all modules until you've found the culprit. Note that some computers require memory to be installed in pairs, so, for example, if you have four modules, you'll have to remove two (no more, no fewer) for this test.



Best of the Year Booklists

This is the time of year when the 'best of 2004' lists are appearing in our professional journals. Here's a few sites to check out:

Family Fun's Best Books 2004

<http://familyfun.go.com/parenting/learn/activities/feature/bestbooks1204/bestbooks12046.html>

Time Magazine's Top Ten

<http://www.time.com/time/bestandworst/2004/children.html>

Recommended by the New York Times Book Review

www.abebooks.com/docs/Community/Featured/illustratedChildrens.shtml

Caldecott, Newberry & Other ALA Awards - Book Reviews Included

<http://www.hbook.com/alaawards2005.shtml>

University Press Books Selected for Public & Secondary School Libraries

<http://aaupnet.org/librarybooks>



Hispanics in the United States

The Census Bureau released *We the People: Hispanics in the United States* by Roberto Ramirez in December 2004. This special report provides a portrait of the Hispanic-origin population in the United States and discusses some of the Hispanic groups within this population at a national level. Highlights include marital status, citizenship, language spoken at home, educational attainment, employment, and income. The full report is available in .pdf format at the Census Bureau Web Site: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/censr-18.pdf>. (taken from What's Up Doc? Nov/Dec 2004)



Books of Love

Do you have stacks of Reader's Digest Condensed Books gathering dust? Here is an easy way to make sure these books find a good home and earn a little money for your Friends group at the same time!

Books of Love, a company based in Davenport, FL, uses Reader's Digest Condensed books to create hand-molded, antiqued and lacquered books and scrolls. The company is looking for a mass quantity of Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Special volumes, collector volumes, etc. are not required. Each book needs to have 500+ pages and measure 1 1/4 inches thick by 5 1/12 inches wide by 7 5/8 inches wide. Books of Love will pay \$.50 each for a book with a good cover. It does not matter if it has a slip cover on it or writing in it. The book needs a good spine, not cracked or split.

Depending on your location, Books of Love will mail you a check for the books along with a pre-paid UPS address label (they pay the freight). Books of Love will provide a list of drop off points in your location. If there is not a suitable place within reason to drop them off you can call UPS for a pick-up.

For more information, contact Aaron Bond at Books of Love, Inc., 4 Page Road, Davenport, FL, 33837, Phone: 863-422-6001; Email: aaronbond@booksoflove.com or visit the website at: www.booksoflove.com.

Many Voices, One Nation @ your library

"Many Voices, One Nation @ your library" initiative celebrates diversity in literature; Libraries invited to host event during National Library Week.

ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano has announced a new national program that celebrates the diversity in the literature of our country and the unifying role that libraries play in building a literate nation. Called "Many Voices, One Nation @ your library," the program is part of Brey's presidential initiatives for 2005.

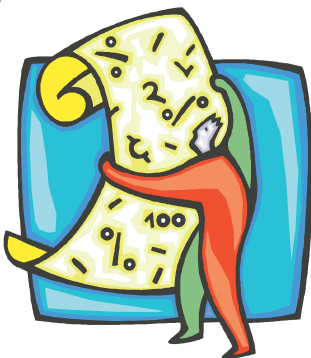
As part of the initiative, ALA Chapters have been invited to contribute two annotated book selections to a Many Voices, One Nation Booklist. The titles should represent the uniqueness, diversity, and/or heritage of their state or region. One title will be for children or young adults and the second will be for adult readers. The books may be fiction or nonfiction, and there is no restriction on publication date. The resulting list will showcase the diverse voices that exist in our nation and its literature. The booklist will be continually updated at www.ala.org/manyvoices.

"This program provides a unique opportunity for libraries to stand up and speak out for the richness of our nation's literature and the diverse voices it represents," said Brey-Casiano. "I hope that libraries across the country will join me in this celebration of reading."

On Monday, April 11, 2005, during National Library Week, libraries are urged to host a Many Voices, One Nation, One Night @ your library(r) program that showcases the community's literary heritage and serves as a celebration of reading. Libraries are encouraged to invite local authors, dignitaries and residents to participate in a "read-aloud" portion that feature selections from the Many Voices, One Nation booklist or other books that represent the community, state or region. Libraries also might want to invite diverse groups to read and present on a relevant topic and should consider collaborating with other libraries in their area to create a community-wide presence.

Materials are available to help libraries in their planning. They include a tip sheet, downloadable logo, sample press release and sample radio PSAs to announce the Many Voices, One Nation, One Night event locally. The logo and press materials are available in both English and Spanish. All are posted at www.ala.org/manyvoices and on The Campaign for America's Libraries Website at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary. Click on the Many Voices, One Nation icon.

To let ALA know how your library is participating in the Many Voices, One Nation initiative, please send an email to Giovanni Rivas in the ALA Governance Office at: grivas@ala.org.



Words, Words, & More Words

"Harry Potter & The Order of the Phoenix" has 255,000 words in it. This is one big book! How does it compare to other literary works?

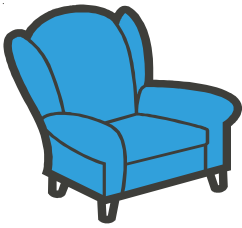
The Holy Bible has 774,000 words. The Old Testament alone has 593,000 words.

Hawaii by James Michener has 500,000 words.

David Copperfield by Charles Dickens has 357,000 words.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte has 116,000 words.

And Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson has 68,000 words.



The Reviewer's Chair

Basilisk

By N.M. Browne

A young man named Rej who is a "comber" (one who lives in underground caves called catacombs), discovers the body of an "abover" (one who lives above ground in the open air) in the catacombs. He swears vengeance for the man and goes above at great risk. There he meets the beautiful Donna, a scribe for the ruling classes. They share dreams of dragons flying in the blue sky. Arkel, the evil, greedy ruler of Above is determined to bring their dreams to life in order to literally scare the Combers population to death.

I enjoyed this book from the beginning. I could see the catacomb's low and absent light, feel the cold right through Donna's thin garments, although it was not weighed down with description. The action was believable, the characters real, although Donna's transformation from obedient servant to rebel was rather abrupt.

This book compares favorably to *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini, but with more emphasis on the human characters, less on dragons.

With a reading level for grades 7 through 12 and adults, I

recommend this book for both school and public libraries.

-Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

Petite Rouge

By Mike Artell

This is the story of Little Red Riding Hood set in a Cajun setting. It is written in poetic form set with delightful watercolor pictures that bring the humor of the story out. I think in my own region that my younger students would have a tough time deriving the humor following the storyline and it wouldn't be as insightful because they haven't had any background with Cajun culture. Older students would enjoy Claude the croc as the villain of the story.

I would put this in the folklore or fairy tale section. It has a background page and glossary of how to pronounce the French words in the book. With a reading level for 3rd through 6th grade, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

Mystery Mansion

By Michael Garland

Tommy receives an invitation to Aunt Jeanne's home. When she is nowhere to be found, Tommy follows a trail of rhyming clues throughout Aunt Jeanne's house. Readers can search for over 400 creatures, Tommy's Aunt Jeanne, and 13 letters that spell out Tommy's surprise when they are

unscrambled at the end of the book.

This book is similar to *Where's Waldo* books. I really enjoyed this book. I came back to it several times to read and search for all 400 creatures. It was hard to put down!

With a reading level for 3rd through 6th grade, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.
-Tammy Svatora, WSC

On the Go with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe

By A.E. Cannon

If the pirate's life is for you, then you will definitely want to read *On the Go with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe*. This collection of three easy-to-read short stories written by A.E. Cannon and illustrated by Elwood H. Smith, will take you along with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe and their everyday wacky adventures. You will discover what pirates like to eat and what they shop for.

With vocabulary and brief sentences geared toward 6 to 9 year old reader this book will help develop reading skills while having a lot of fun! Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe would be at home in any school, public, or home library.

-Rebecca Cemper, O'Neill Public Library

A Book of Coupons

By Susie Morgenstern

The new teacher of Marie Curie School in France has a great idea. He gives his students

coupons to be used or to be saved, but they're not just any coupon. The first is for sleeping late, next for losing your homework, and the third for clowning around. This school year may turn out to be okay just using their coupons wisely. It will definitely be full of surprises.

This is a small book and fast to read. The story is light, fun and keeps your attention. With a reading level for 4th through 6th grades, I recommend this book for public or school libraries.

-Karma Ragland, Atkinson NE

Cam Jansen and the First Day of School Mystery

By David A. Adler

Cam "clicks" images and clues in her mind to help solve the mystery of her teacher's car being run into a tree on the first day of school.

Children were excited about the anticipation of solving the mystery. Some students had read other Cam Jansen mysteries and said that it was typical, nothing extraordinary.

This is a good book for fourth grade low level readers, not nearly detailed enough for high ability readers or in a teacher-student "oral reading time" situation.

With a reading level for 2nd through low 4th grades, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.

-Lori Wragge, Pierce Elementary School

Don't Forget to Come Back

By Robie H. Harris

Mommy and Daddy are going out!

The little girl in the story has to stay home with a baby sitter. She doesn't like that idea at all! So she yells, threatens to run away and is a real pain. But somehow the baby sitter turns out to be FUN! And wait until you see the last page.

With a reading level for ages 3 to 6, I recommend this book to school and public libraries.

-Joan Chilvers, Pierce NE

The Happy Hocky Family Moves to the Country

By Lane Smith

This book is the story of the Hocky family and life in the country compared to life in the city. It has sections somewhat like chapters. It moves quickly from subject to subject and is written in vocabulary familiar to children. I would consider this book a good choice for a children's collection.

With a reading level for very young children to middle elementary, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.

-Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale NE

Away to the Goldfields!

By Pat Derby

This adventure story takes Molly Malarky by ship, mule, & canoe from Boston to the goldfields of California. Molly has promised her deceased

mother that she will look after simple minded brother Malachi, but Molly often questions whether Malachi is simple minded. Molly is a hard worker and no matter where she lands she can earn money by being a nursemaid, taking in laundry, cooking flat-jacks for hungry miners or trying her hand at panning for gold. I was a bit disappointed in the ending as it left me hanging and wondering now what? Written for 6th grade and up I would give this B rating. -Pat Thompson WSC



Medieval Days & Ways: Books for Middle School Readers, The Book Report, Nov/Dec 2002, pp. 10-14.

Wondering what books to direct your middle school readers to this summer? Check out this listing of books dealing with monks and monasteries, knights and castles, artisans and peasants. Each title is categorized by age level and accompanied with a brief description and evaluation.

If you would like to read this article, contact the System Office at 1-800-578-1014.



Have you ever wanted to attend the "**Woodstock for Capitalists**" weekend in Omaha? Had a yen to hear the "Oracle of Omaha" and his sidekick, Charlie Munger, make their annual financial forecasts?

Make a \$5.00 donation to the Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund in January, February or March to enter your name in a special drawing. The lucky winner will receive two tickets to the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting on 30 April 2005. For each additional \$5.00, another chance will be added to the drawing.

Warren Buffett always plans a full weekend for his shareholder guests. Typical events include shopping at the Nebraska Furniture Mart with the employee discount, a cocktail reception at Borsheim's, and a chance to tour NetJet's business jets. Various Berkshire Hathaway companies always have booths at the Annual Meeting. Past exhibitors have included Dairy Queen, Fruit of the Loom, Geico Insurance, The Pampered Chef, and See's Candies.

You can't catch a glimpse of Warren Buffett if you don't donate. Send your check payable to NLA – Nixon Fund (It would be very helpful if you also write Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005 on your check's "For" line.) and mail it to –

Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director
Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005
P.O. Box 98
Crete, NE 68333-0098



Reaching Out @ your library TM

Wednesday, March 16, 2005 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT

- Session I - **The Virtual Patron: Distance Learning** - innovations in the field of distance education, and how libraries can support the patrons who never cross our front door
Speaker: Dorothy Willis, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University Library
- Session II - **Collection Development Now** - current trends in the field of collection development, new access points, and working to reconcile access for all.
Speaker: Heather Buckwalter, Creighton University Law Library
- Session III - **Teens and Computers** - providing materials and access for teenage patrons, and maintaining a useful environment with teenagers present.
Speakers: Debra Grove and Janie Botsch, Papillon-LaVista High School

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting, following above sessions, Maria Medrano-Nehls, Chair of Paraprofessionals, will guide us through our annual spring general meeting.

For details and registration form please see the following web site: <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/PARA/paraconference.html>

Northeast Library System Board Meeting February 19, 2005

Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, February 19, 2005, at the Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center. Board President Marilyn Liedorff called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Guests present were Stan Gardner, WSC; Deb Robertson and Mary Louise Foster, NECC; Kay Schmid, Hruska Memorial Library; and Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission.

Roll call was taken with all members present.

There were no additions to the printed agenda.

Approval of minutes of November 17 meeting: (MS: Johnson, Lofgren); motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Communications: Christmas cards, thank you; IRS letter stating no back taxes are due were passed around.

Financial Report (Shelia Cermak):

Checking: \$1,714.02

Savings: \$51,226.79

CDs: \$41,109.17

2 CDs due: \$10,816 now at Tier One. Motion to move to Cornerstone at 3.25% for 15 months (MS: Johnson, Cooper); roll call vote with unanimous approval

\$8,345 now at Cornerstone. Motion to keep at Cornerstone at 2.5% for 12 months (MS: Healy, Risinger); roll call vote with unanimous approval.

Motion to accept financial report: (MS: Healy, Zwingman) roll call vote with unanimous approval

Reports:

Commissioner Pat Gross: not present

State Advisory Council, Gretchen Healy: reported on availability of funds available for persons seeking library degrees

Nebraska Library Commission, Richard Miller: still room in Theresa Dickson workshops; new state advisory council members approved; HeritageQuest Online, a genealogy database will be offered by Commission on Feb. 1 and hopefully next year; two persons are being sought to serve on NLC Talking Books and Braille Service; four categories of expenditures for \$250,960 awarded to NLC from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Commission will hire a tech support person with a portion of this money;

System Administrator Kathy Ellerton: Annual Institute scheduled for June 2 with annual meeting during lunch hour; workshops are all scheduled; E-Rate for System filed; web page has been updated; new brochure designed; applied for backup devices and laptop computer for System office from LSTA; LB374 would add regional library staff to healthcare benefits. The hearing on this bill will be next week. This would be beneficial to the System.

Committee Reports:

Personnel: no report

Budget: no report from committee; Committee asked Ellerton to do projections for year.

She reported System budget is fine

Continuing Education: no report but will meet soon

Strategic Planning: no report

Nominating: no report

Technology: System technology plan written and input given by Commission; should be completed by next meeting

Unfinished Business:

Bylaws update: motion to accept bylaws changes for Article VII section and as rewritten by committee (MS: Johnson, Becker); unanimous approval

System needs assessment survey: results discussed

New Business:

System evaluation form: I forgot what this was. Was this for workshops? Can you please add in.

Pat-On-The-Back awards: no nominations

Activities in local libraries shared by members:

Claims of the Day: motion to approve (MS: Lofgren, Healy) roll call vote with unanimous approval

Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



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**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.**

**"The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking."
~~John Kenneth Galbraith**



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