March/April 2011

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Who is Helping Whom?
By Jessica Chamberlain

In December of 2010, J.T.F. Burgess wrote an article titled “Smart-World Technologies and the Value of Librarianship” for Computers In Libraries magazine. In this article he explores “Smart-World” technologies, which he defines as the internet of things, the semantic web, and augmented reality. While the article itself was fascinating (contact our office if you’d like to borrow it), it was his introduction that was—for me—the most enlightening. He discusses the role technology has played in the library world so far and blames it for causing librarians to question their worth and distracting librarians from their true role in society. His hope is that as technology gets “smarter” it will become so easy to use that it will be almost invisible in our lives.

It got me thinking about the way we use technology now. At this point, we struggle learning new formats and new jargon as we try to use the technology that’s available to us. It can be easy to focus on the technology itself and forget why we wanted this technology in the first place. Imagine what it would be like if new technology were so easy to use that using it was completely intuitive, no training sessions or webinars necessary!

Right now, Mr. Burgess and many others are asking, “Is technology serving us, or are we serving it?” I admit that sometimes it seems that technology is winning. I am an avid fan of the TV game show Jeopardy!. This past February a computer faced off against two of the best Jeopardy! players in history. The computer won by a huge margin, even though the questions involved word play, puns and riddles. It was remarkable.

There is no doubt that certain technologies—library automation systems, barcode scanners and the internet—have made libraries easier to use and easier to access, but we struggled with a big learning curve in getting these technologies to work for us. Some libraries are still not automated due to the cost and difficulty of getting started. If technology can become so smart that it becomes part of the background of what we do, then it will truly be serving us instead of the other way around. And when that happens, technology won’t distract librarians from doing what they do best—leading people to a lifetime of learning. ◊

Our NELS Board Members
- Joyce Sullivan
- Michele Hestreiter
- Elaine Tobias
- Melissa Baumert
- Dawnn Tucker
- Kate Ostenrude – President
- Tami Anderson
- Judy Hagan
- Kathy Ageton
- Sally Stahlecker – Vice President
- Beth Foulks
- Jolene Klein – Secretary
- Susan Tyndall
Northeast News

Pat on the Back Awards
A Pat on the Back Award was given to Arlo Bockerman from the Palmer Public School for his continued dedication to providing the library with new shelving.

Awards were also given to Sandy Goodwater and Ginger Howser, both from the Lied Battle Creek Library. They were instrumental in creating some of the outdoor decorations at the new library. They decorated the front steps and the handicap ramp with a herringbone design and the landing in front of the front door was decorated with a multicolor compass design like the old compasses long ago. The whole process took days of planning and a whole weekend to complete with their help.

The Ponca Public School is anxiously awaiting the opening of its new school library, which will occupy this magnificent space sometime this year.

Online Registration for Events
You may now register for events hosted by NELS on our website! Visit our calendar page and you will see a list of events below the calendar. Click on the event you want to attend and fill out the short registration form. You may continue to register for events via fax or mail as well, this is just an additional option for those interested. http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar

***Agenda Notice***
Agendas for the Northeast Library System Board Meetings will now be posted on our website. You can find them on the calendar page. Click on the meeting you are interested in and it will take to you a link for the agenda. http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar
The agenda will be posted at least a week in advance of the meeting. In the past, libraries were notified by mail, but concerns for the environment and our budget drove us to change this practice. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Jessica Chamberlain at the NELS Office.

The South Sioux City Library recently added 12 new computers for their patrons. Due in part to local donations and a grant from the Gates Foundation, they were able to add this up-to-date technology to help patrons access online tax forms and other e-government services.

If you have a piece of news or a photo you’d like to share with your fellow northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Jessica Chamberlain at the NELS office! j chamberlain. nels@gmail.com
A Calendar of Upcoming Events and links to details and registration forms can be found on our website at: http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar

March 16 — **NELS Board Meeting** — Atkinson Public Library
Directions and meeting agenda can be found on the website listed above.
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

March 31 — **NELS Summer Reading Program Workshop** — New World Inn, Columbus
Learn about the “Every Child Ready to Read” program in the morning and get great Summer Reading Program ideas from Jody Crocker and Sally Snyder in the afternoon!
See page 7 for details.
Time: 9:00—4:00
Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

April 6 — **TARGET Meeting** — Clarkson Public Library
Come share with and learn from other northeast Nebraska librarians. See page 8 for details.
Time: 9:00—12:00
Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

April 15 — **Michael Sullivan** — Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
Nationally renowned speaker, Michael Sullivan will present “Connecting Boys With Books” and “Breaking All the Rules.” See page 9 for details.
Time: 9:00—3:00
Contact: Read Aloud Nebraska—info@readaloudnebraska.org

May 5 — **Branding Workshop** — Venture Center, Central City
Mary Palu will explain the value of creating a “brand” for your library and the describe the process for developing one. See page 10 for details.
Time: 10:00—3:00
Contact: Denise Harders, RVLS Director, 800-569-4961/402-462-1975

May 18 — **NELS Board Meeting** — Central Community College, Columbus
Directions and meeting agenda can be found on the website listed above.
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

May 21 — **Nebraska Book Festival** — Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln
Nebraska authors with books published in 2010 have been invited to read from their work and Writers’ Workshops will be made available free of charge. The workshops will be led by Timothy Schaffert, Jim Reese, and Matt Mason/ Dwaine Spieker/Jeff Lacey.
Time: 1:00—6:30
Registration for Writers’ Workshop: www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp
Book Update

One Book One Nebraska

Ted Kooser’s *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* has been selected as this year’s One Book One Nebraska. Kooser describes southeastern Nebraska as only he can, with humor and compassion that describes ordinary events in an extraordinary way. You will recognize yourself somewhere in the pages of this book. This is a must-read for all Nebraskans!

Ted Kooser was the U.S. Poet Laureate from 2004–2006 and is a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. He is currently a University of Nebraska Presidential Professor.

Through the generosity of the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Library Association, the Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska Press, we have a set of 12 books that it is able to loan out to libraries. Contact the NELS office to reserve the set for your book club today!

eBooks through Nebraska OverDrive Libraries a Hit

By Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission

Downloadable eBooks have been available through the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries collection for just over six months. The collection started with 168 titles. Demand for eBooks was high from the beginning. Mary Jo Mack and Karen Drevo have done a great job of adding new titles and extra copies of popular titles; as of January 24th, the eBook collection consists of 968 titles and a total of 989 copies. All the popular fiction genres, a number of nonfiction subjects, and juvenile titles are represented. At least four or five purchase orders have been submitted each month. An extra large purchase on Christmas Eve helped meet demand from people who received eBook readers as presents.

Demand remains high and a fair number of eBook titles have waiting lists. The same thing occurred when the group initially started with audiobooks; however, that collection has grown to the point where there are a large number of available titles from which people can choose. The collection budget is divided between audiobooks and eBooks, and must last through September. We try to spread this budget out somewhat evenly over the 12-month period so that we are constantly buying new content; we don’t want to spend all our money in the first four months of the year, and then not be able to add new content in the subsequent 8 months.

If staff or patrons from participating libraries have requests for specific titles, please pass them along for consideration to Mary Jo (adult fiction), wplibrary@cableone.net; Karen (juvenile, YA, and adult non-fiction), kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us; or Susan Knisely (all topics), susan.knisely@nebraska.gov. Just remember not every print title will be available in audio or eBook format through OverDrive.
Kids and Teens

Teen Tech Week
Teen Tech Week 2011 is March 6-12! Teen Tech Week is a national initiative aimed at teens, librarians, educators, parents, and other concerned adults that highlights non-print resources at the library. The 2011 theme — Mix and Mash @ your library — focuses on encouraging teens to use library resources to express their creativity by developing their own unique online content and safely sharing it by using online collaborative tools.

If you’d like some program ideas, professional resources or publicity tools, check out www.ala.org/teentechweek

Book Review

The Thirteenth Princess
By Diana Zahler
Much like the original fairy tale, The Twelve Dancing Princesses, it is a fun fairytale with an updated twist. The author is very descriptive in her scenes, which makes the story vivid and come alive. The heroine is brave and daring and feminine and unspoiled. The heroine, Zita, as well as the other characters in the story adds some depth and enjoyment to the story. This is a perfect story for a child who loves reading fairy tales and is ready for longer, more complex ideas.

- Shelia Cermak

One Book for Nebraska Kids

The 2011-2012 One Book for Nebraska Kids is The Last Newspaper Boy in America by Sue Corbett. This exciting, suspenseful story follows Wil as he fights to save his newspaper delivery route after the local paper calls an end to home delivery. Using physics and the help of his brother and a neighbor girl, Wil starts to unravel a mystery bigger than he ever expected.

Thanks to the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Northeast Library System has a set of 10 of these books to loan out to your school or public library. Interested? Contact the NELS office to reserve the set today!

Submit Your Summer Reading Successes to YALSA’s SRP Manual

Have you successfully run a summer reading program for teens and tweens in your library? Would you like to have information about it published in YALSA’s upcoming book, YALSA’s Complete Summer Reading Manual for Teen and Tween Services? Share your good ideas with other librarians!

Find the submission form and instructions at: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/yalsapubs/monographs/summerprograms.cfm

The deadline to submit is May 1, 2011.
Grants and Freebies

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries
Deadline: March 28, 2011
This program helps Local Education Agencies improve reading achievement by providing students with increased access to up-to-date school library materials; well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media centers; and professionally certified school library media specialists. Districts may use funds for the following activities: Purchase up-to-date school library media resources, including books; Acquire and use advanced technology that is integrated into the curricula to develop and enhance the information literacy; Facilitate Internet links and other resource-sharing networks; Provide professional development for school library media specialists of PK-3 students and provide activities that foster increased collaboration among library specialists, teachers, and administrators of PK-12 students; and provide students with access to school libraries during nonschool hours, weekends, and summer vacations.
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html

Improving Access to E-Government Services
Deadline: April 20, 2011
The Nebraska State Records Board is sponsoring a grant program for Nebraska government agencies for the development of programs and technology to improve electronic access to state government information and services. Grants will be awarded for one time funding of small projects. The grants may be used for the creation or enhancement of electronic access and delivery of government services and information, but not to fund ongoing operations. Applications received by April 20, 2011 will be considered for funding by the NE State Records Board at their meeting on July 20, 2011.
http://www.staterecordsboard.ne.gov/grants.html

NHPRC Digitizing Historical Records
Deadline: June 9, 2011
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), supports projects that promote the preservation and use of America’s documentary heritage essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture. The Commission seeks proposals that use cost-effective methods to digitize nationally significant historical record collections and make the digital versions freely available online. Projects must make use of existing holdings of historical repositories and consist of entire collections or series.

Free Teaching Tolerance Books for Librarians
Teaching Tolerance is making the hardcopy teacher edition of Rhinos and Raspberries available to librarians. The multicultural compilation of folktales, fables and parables is designed for preschool and elementary grades. To request copies (limit 2), email editor@tolerance.org with "Rhinos and Raspberries" in the subject line. Include your name, the name of your school or public library, a full mailing address and phone number.
http://www.tolerance.org/
Northeast Library System
Summer Reading Program Workshop

March 31, 2011
New World Inn & Conference Center
Hwys 30 and 81 South, Columbus
6 CE Hours — $20

8:30-9:00  Registration and Refreshments

9:00—10:30  Every Child Ready to Read with Jessica Chamberlain
This program encourages early literacy education for parents and early literacy
practices in library storytimes. Come for an overview of the program and learn
where you can get the resources to apply this program in your library.

10:30—12:00  One World, Many Stories to Booktalk with Sally Snyder

12:00—1:00  Lunch and Idea Sharing
Bring a great book or program idea that goes with
this year’s theme!

1:00—3:00  Summer Reading Activities and Ideas with Jody Crocker

3:00—4:00  Talk Tables
Read-In with Sally’s Books—Teen Program Brainstorming—Children’s Program Brainstorming

Please register by March 24th.
You may register by completing this form and returning it via mail or fax. Please include a
check made out to “Northeast Library System.”

NAME ______________________________ EMAIL_____________________________
LIBRARY _____________________________ PHONE_____________________________

Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601

PH: 800-578-1014
PH: 402-564-1586
FAX: 402-564-7977
April 6, 2011
Clarkson Public Library
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
3 hours CE credit
FREE

Please RSVP by April 4th.
You can RSVP by registering on the calendar page of our website—
http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar
or by phone, fax, or email!

Topics of Discussion will include:
• BTOP / Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities Project
  • Round-Robin on issues in your library
• Bring a library-related newspaper or magazine article to discuss.

TARGET meetings are informal gatherings that occur quarterly and in various locations in Northeast Nebraska. The focus of each gathering will be to keep us informed about issues that affect our libraries and give librarians a chance to share and learn from each other.
**Presentation**

**Connecting Boys With Books:**
Boys are in trouble. All right, it seems boys are always in trouble, but this is serious. Boys are failing to read at an alarming rate. Libraries are not solving the problem because boys are not a presence in libraries. Find out how we lose boys, and why, what the consequences are for boys, and what we can do to save boys from lives as non-readers. Michael Sullivan brings more than fifteen years experience as a Children's Librarian and Library Director, storyteller, chess teacher, and author. He will share practical, proven, and sometimes off-beat suggestions on how to turn boys into lifelong readers.

**Breaking All the Rules:**
Which is more important, the way things have always been done, or the person standing in front of the circulation desk? Think carefully, the future of our libraries may depend on the answer. One library maverick will challenge every assumption about public libraries. Hold on tight, whether you are a library patron or employee, this will be a ride.

For more information about Michael Sullivan visit his website at [www.talesoldtall.com](http://www.talesoldtall.com)

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**Agenda**

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Registration and refreshments

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Welcome

9:30 a.m. - Noon
Connecting Boys With Books

Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Breaking All the Rules

3:00 p.m.
Book Signing

**Registration fee:**
$20 if received by April 1
$30 after April 1

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**REGISTRATION**

Name: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________

Choose a location:
- [ ] April 12 - Alliance Public Library
- [ ] April 13 - Lexington Public Library
- [ ] April 15 - Seward High School
- [ ] April 15 - Norfolk - Northeast Community College

Choose a payment option:
- [ ] Pay for registration and books now
- [ ] Pay for registration now and books at the event

You can register and pay online at [www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org) or you can mail this registration with your check to the address shown on the back of this form.

Purchase orders not accepted.
Branding Your Library

Learn how to create a brand for your library.

For-profit businesses use brands everyday to promote their products and evoke emotions in their customers. Mary Palu, an employee of an Omaha integrated marketing firm, Bozell, will explain the value of a brand for your library and describe the process of developing one.

Choose the Date and Location most convenient for you

May 5, 2011
10:00 am—3:00 pm
Venture Center
1530 17th Avenue
Central City, NE

May 6th, 2011
10:00 am—3:00 pm
North Platte Public Library
120 West 4th Street
North Platte, NE

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Branding Your Library

Circle one: May 5, 2011 O R May 6, 2011
Central City, NE North Platte, NE

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Library: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Fee: $15.00 (includes lunch) AND Registration Due: April 20, 2011

Mail Check and Registration To:
Meridian Library System Phone: 1-800-657-2192
3423 Second Avenue, Suite 6 308-234-2087
Kearney, NE 68847 Email: meridian@frontiernet.net

Sponsored by the Meridian, Northeast, Panhandle, and Republican Valley Library Systems and funded in part by the Nebraska Library Commission with state funds allocated through the Nebraska Legislature.
Northeast Library System Board Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2011

The Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at the Lied Battle Creek Public Library. Host was Kathy Bretschneider. The meeting was called to order by President Kate Ostenrude. Members present were Judy Hagan, Michele Hastreiter, Melissa Baumert, Dawnn Tucker, Jolene Klein, Beth Foulks, Susan Tyndal, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, and Joyce Sullivan. Absent was Tami Anderson. There were no alternates. Also present was Library System Director Jessica Chamberlain, and Shelia Cermak, Administrative Assistant.

The Open Meeting Act location was given. Kathy Ageton moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2010, meeting. (Ageton -1M / Hastreiter -2M /all ayes). Jessica Chamberlain presented correspondence, and Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. Members were advised that federal taxes and W2 were complete, and state taxes were being finalized. Sally Stahlecker moved to approve the financial report. (Stahlecker – 1M / Hastreiter – 2M / roll call – all ayes.)

There were no reports for the Nebraska Library Commission or the State Advisory Council. Jessica Chamberlain gave the System Director’s report. She highlighted that the February 8 Winter Workshop would include a program through a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council. The Basic Skills classes are now all online. No Committees reported.

In Unfinished Business, Shelia provided the members with an updated calendar and a committees listing.

In New Business, Jessica reported a dialogue with area ESU’s regarding a possible Joint Annual Conference between the Northeast Library System and the ESU’s. It was recommended that further checking should be given for the feasibility of a joint effort, and that a written agreement should be drawn. It was noted that the Library System office has ceased mailing agendas to the general public. A copy of the agenda for each meeting can be viewed online on the system web site.

Also in New Business, Jessica announced that all system event registration can now be done online at the Northeast Library System web site http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/, in addition to mail and fax registrations. Registrants will find the new feature on the calendar page. The next title for the One Book / One Nebraska will be Ted Kooser’s Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps. Finally, member libraries of the Northeast Library System are encouraged to submit news and success stories, as well as photos, for the system newsletter.

Members reported local activities. Recommendations for three Pat on the Backs were given to Arlo Bockerman from the Palmer Public School, and to Sandy Goodwater and Ginger Howser, both from the Battle Creek Library Foundation. Michele Hastreiter moved to pay the Claims of the Day. (Hastreiter – 1M / Sullivan – 2M / all aye.)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. (Stahlecker – 1M / Tobias – 2M / all aye.)

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene Klein

New Books in the Professional Collection at NELS

- *Boomers and Beyond: Reconsidering the Role of Libraries* edited by Pauline Rothstein and Diantha Dow Shull
- *Building a Buzz: Libraries & Word-of-Mouth Marketing* by Peggy Barber and Linda Wallace
- *Crash Course in Collection Development* by Wayne Disher
- *Fundamentals of Library Supervision* by Joan Giesecke and Beth McNeil
- *Less is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections* by Donna J. Baumbach and Linda L. Miller
- *The Readers’ Advisory Guide to Graphic Novels* by Francisca Goldsmith
- *Twenty-First-Century Kids, Twenty-First-Century Librarians* by Virginia A. Walter
Straight Talk is published 6 times per year by the Northeast Library System. Libraries in northeast Nebraska may receive 2 free copies of the newsletter. Additional copies are available for $1 each.

To subscribe to additional copies or update names or addresses, please contact Jessica Chamberlain or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office.

Jessica Chamberlain, editor

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Minnie's Coffee Cake
(as baked by Lied Battle Creek Library Board member Susan Volk)

Cake
1 yellow cake mix
1 package instant butterscotch pudding
3/4 cup oil
3/4 cup water
4 eggs
1/2 tsp. butter flavoring
1/2 tsp. burnt sugar flavoring

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13 pan. Combine cake ingredients and beat for 8 minutes. Pour half of batter into pan. Spread half of the cinnamon mixture on top and repeat layering. Bake for 45-50 minutes. Yum!

Cinnamon Topping
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup walnuts or pecans

Cake
1 yellow cake mix
1 package instant butterscotch pudding
3/4 cup oil
3/4 cup water
4 eggs
1/2 tsp. butter flavoring
1/2 tsp. burnt sugar flavoring

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13 pan. Combine cake ingredients and beat for 8 minutes. Pour half of batter into pan. Spread half of the cinnamon mixture on top and repeat layering. Bake for 45-50 minutes. Yum!