

Snapshot Day is Coming Soon!

The Nebraska Library Association is gearing up for “Nebraska Snapshot Day 2012: A Day in the Life of Nebraska Libraries.” You can participate in this advocacy event any day during the week of April 15-21, 2012.

What is Snapshot Day you ask?

It’s an opportunity for you to take a look at all that your library accomplishes in a single day. We encourage you to collect usage statistics, photos, videos and stories from your library from the one day you choose to be your “Snapshot Day.” This will be great information to share with your library board, school administration, municipal officials and the news media. Additionally, the Nebraska Library Association will compile all the information sent in and will publish statewide data that can be used to advocate for libraries all across Nebraska.

Who should participate?

ALL Nebraska libraries are invited to participate! Public, school, academic, tribal and special libraries are all invited to take a “Snapshot” of what their library does in one day. The more libraries that participate, the more complete our “Snapshot” will be!

How can you participate?

1. Let us know you want to participate. Leave a comment on our website at <http://snapshotnebraska.wordpress.com/how-to-participate/> giving us your library’s name and what day you’ll hold your Snapshot Day.
2. Let your staff know you are participating in Snapshot Day. Get excited and plan some events!
3. Visit the [Toolkit](#) page on our website at <http://snapshotnebraska.wordpress.com/toolkit/>.

You’ll find a sample press release, a sample data collection form and lots more to help give you the resources and inspiration to make this a wonderful event for your library.

4. Participate on any one day between April 15 – 21, 2012.
5. Submit your statistics, photos, videos and stories by May 4th, 2012.

You’ll find online forms to submit your data on our website at <http://snapshotnebraska.wordpress.com/how-to-participate/>

6. Visit the Results page after May 18, 2012 to find out how other libraries participated, read the statistics, see comments and view the photos.

I hope you’ll join us as we take a “Snapshot” of our Nebraska libraries!



Nebraska Snapshot Day 2012 is a project of the [Nebraska Library Association](#). If you have any questions, please contact Robin Clark, Chair of the Legislative/Advocacy Committee, at robin.r.clark@gmail.com or Jessica Chamberlain, PLTS Vice-Chair, at 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com.

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Northeast News

Celebrity Reader Week at St. Mary's in O'Neill

Submitted by Jennie Schneider, Media Specialist at St. Mary's Schools in O'Neill

We started a new program this year in our elementary library ~ 'Celebrity Reader Week'. One week out of each quarter (4 times per year), our student athletes from our high school visit our elementary library classes to read to the students and answer their questions. Students from our high school digital design class make posters advertising the 'celebrities', which are posted around school for a few weeks before they visit. Then, at the end of the visit, the celebrity reader chooses the best listener in the group to receive his/her poster. They even autograph it for the students!



Winter Wonderland in Pierce

Submitted by Dawnn Tucker, Director of the Lied Pierce Public Library

Kids in Pierce have been kept busy with activities at the Lied Pierce Public Library. Kids gathered for Craft Day to make cement snowmen and New Year's Hats. **A Gingerbread House Contest was held with an entry fee of \$5 and only one rule: everything used had to be edible.** Winners received "Lucky Bucks" to use at local Pierce businesses. **The lucky winner is shown here with her top-notch entry.**



Pat on the Back Awards

An award was given to Sharilyn Heller, a para at the Madison High School library. Mrs. Heller's nomination said, "She is incredible and is key to keeping our middle school and high school library organized! She goes above and beyond to make it look great too by making new bulletin boards, book displays, and shelves neat and orderly. She also is so efficient in our 1:1 lap-top initiative. She can troubleshoot like a rockstar! The school library couldn't function without her!"



An award was also given to Lenore Wemhoff, an outgoing Humphrey Public Library Trustee. She has been an outstanding board member and supporter of the library. A strong vocal advocate of the library, she has brought much support and awareness to the library, and she is appreciated greatly.

Please notify the NELS office if you have someone you would like to nominate for a "Pat on the Back!"

Norfolk Adds Downloadable Music to Collection

Only the second library in the state to do so, Norfolk Public Library has added the Freegal Music database of downloadable music to its collection. Freegal Music gives library patrons access to a wide variety of songs in the Sony Music Catalog, and these songs can be downloaded by patrons. The downloads are free and the patron may keep the song, burn it to a CD or listen to it on any MP3 player and the song never has to be returned!



How Freegal Works:

- Library users have a weekly download limit of 3 songs.
- The library may have an overall weekly limit, too. If the library runs out of downloads for the week, patrons can add songs to their Wishlist.
- The downloads on this site are all in MP3 format with no DRM. This service will work with any MP3 player, including iPod, and can be loaded into iTunes. It works on both PCs and Macs.

Hartington Partnership Teaches Ag Literacy to Kids

Submitted by Tami Anderson, Director of the Hartington Public Library

The Hartington Public Library has partnered with UNL's Cedar County Extension Office to create a program that is unique to Cedar County. "Farmyard Facts" is a series of programs that occur at the library each month. Cedar County Extension Educator Jackie Steffen leads the programs which include stories and hands-on activities that develop agricultural literacy in kids in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The program has been very successful so far. Shown below on the left is Jackie Steffen leading February's discussion called "Gifts of Gold," which was about the various products made from corn. Shown below on the right is a group of children having worm races as part of January's discussion of soil.



Photo above courtesy of [Cedar County News](#).

Photo to the right courtesy of [Yankton Press & Dakotan](#)



BTOP Open Houses

Forty-four public libraries in northeast Nebraska are part of the BTOP (or [Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities](#)) grant. The following libraries have had Open Houses to welcome the community into their new computing centers and to highlight the services the public can access through the library.

- Newman Grove Public Library—January 13, 2012
- Meadow Grove Public Library—January 15, 2012
- South Sioux City Public Library—January 27, 2012
- Gardner Public Library, Wakefield—February 9, 2012
- Stanton Public Library—February 18, 2012
- Lied Randolph Public Library—February 23, 2012
- Polk Public Library—February 25, 2012
- Eastern Township Library, Crofton—February 29, 2012



Central City and Randolph Begin Circulating E-Readers

The Central City Public Library and the Lied Randolph Public Library have both recently begun circulating E-Readers to their patrons. The Lied Randolph Public Library is circulating a Barnes & Noble Nook, with several titles downloaded and patrons may use it to check out titles from OverDrive as well. Patrons may check out the Nook for 2 weeks.

The Central City Public Library has a Barnes & Noble Nook and a Sony Reader available for checkout. The Nook has 60 books pre-loaded on it and the Sony Reader more than 100 books pre-loaded for patrons. The books pre-loaded are popular titles in a variety of genres. Both of these devices may be checked out from the library for 2 weeks.

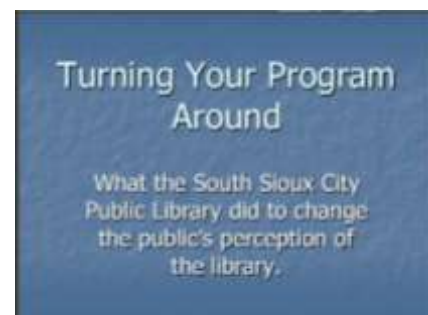


South Sioux City Turned Their Library Around

Recently, Dave Mixdorf, Odessa Meyer and Dan Nieman from the South Sioux City Public Library presented a session on NCompass Live about all the changes that have happened in their library in the past two years. The changes have really been dramatic. For example, in the past two years their circulation has almost doubled, their computer use has increased by **30%**, **they've answered twice as many reference questions and attendance at their children's programs has more than tripled. How did they do it?**

They asked their community what it wanted from the library. They listened. They looked for what was missing from their community and tried to fill in the gap. They tried new things and they wrote grants.

If you'd like to hear their inspiring story and get some great ideas, you can view the archived recording of their NCompass Live session at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgID=11185> . I promise it will be an hour well-spent!



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 at the NELS office! jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

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 6—Summer Reading Program Workshop—Dusters Restaurant, Columbus

See page 8 for complete description, session information and registration.

Time: 10:00—3:00

Cost: \$20 CE Credits: 4

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

March 21—NELS Board Meeting—Albion Public Library

The public is invited to attend all NELS Board meetings.

Time: 10:00—12:00

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

March 23—Helping Patrons with Assistance Programs—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

Time 10:00—12:00

Cost: FREE CE Credits: 2

Join Kelly Dunlap and Stacy Schenk as they show you how to help your patrons apply for food stamps and other benefits from the Department of Health and Human Services. See page 9 for details.

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

March 29—**NLA's Paraprofessional Section Spring Meeting**—Online/Lincoln/Omaha/Norfolk

Time: 10:00—2:00

Cost: \$5 Member/\$10 Non-member CE Credits: 3

See the [Paraprofessional Section website](#) for more details.

April 9—**NLA's Public Library & Trustee Section Spring Meeting**—Columbus

More details coming soon!

April 15-21—**NLA's Snapshot Week**

A great advocacy event that collects a "snapshot" of all your library does in a single day.

See <http://snapshotnebraska.wordpress.com/> for information on how to participate.

April 19—TARGET Meeting—Clarks Public Library

Time: 1:00—4:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE CE Credits: 3

We'll discuss managing your print collections—what to keep, what to toss and what to replace. See page 110for details.

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

May 16—NELS Board Meeting—Hruska Memorial Library, David City

The public is invited to attend all NELS Board meetings.

Time: 10:00—12:00

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Website Recommendations

At our Winter Workshop, Michael Sauers, Technology Innovation Librarian at the Nebraska Library Commission, shared quite a number of Time-Saving Tech Tools with us. There are some really helpful tools here. **If you didn't have a chance to attend Michael's session, take a moment to see if any of these tools could help make your online tasks easier and more secure.**

How Secure is My Password?

<http://howsecureismypassword.net/>

If you've ever wondered how long it would take a hacker to figure out your password, check out this site. You enter your password and the site will not only tell you how long it would take a PC to hack your password, it will give you tips to create a better, more secure password.

Wolfram Alpha

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

Called a computational knowledge engine, you really have to see it to appreciate what it can do. Instead of crawling the web for websites like a traditional search engine, Wolfram Alpha can create charts, graphics and **comparisons based on what you input.** **For a sample of what it will create, try putting in "cost of living index omaha vs. new york city."**

CCleaner

<http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner>

CCleaner is a tool for cleaning your Windows PC. It protects your privacy online and makes your computer faster and more secure. It is easy to use and is a small, fast download.

Wuala

<http://www.wuala.com/>

Similar to [Dropbox](#), this is an online storage service. You can backup your files to a secure online server and sync them to multiple devices and computers. This gives you access to your files no matter where you are and allows you to share them if you choose. The major difference between Wuala and Dropbox is that Wuala encrypts your data before it uploads it. Wuala allows you to store up to 2 Gigabytes of data for free.

If This Then That

<http://ifttt.com/>

This site puts the internet and its vast stores of knowledge to work for you. You create formulas that tell this site "if ____ happens, then do ____." To borrow Michael's example, you could tell this site, "If the weather forecast says it's raining, then send me a text that reminds me to bring an umbrella." Or you could tell it, "If I upload a photo to Facebook, then save a copy in my Dropbox account." The possibilities are endless!

Log Me In

<https://secure.logmein.com/>

If you've ever needed to access a particular computer, but that computer is in one place and you're in another, this could be the solution you're looking for. For example, you are at work, but you need a file from your home computer. Next time you go home, download this free software onto your home computer. Then, download it onto your work computer. You can now access each of the computers remotely using the **Log Me In software.** This is also perfect if you're trying to help a family member with computer problems from far away!

If you'd like to see the complete list, visit <http://delicious.com/travelinlibrarian/tstt>. A big thank you to Michael for sharing these great, free resources with us!

Continuing Education Grants for Webinars and Online Classes

Did you know that you could get a grant to take an online class from the American Library Association (ALA), InfoPeople or other library-related agency? For example, InfoPeople is offering a class called “[Ebooks and Public Libraries](#)” this June. It looks like it will be a great 4-week course, and although I’m sure it is worth the \$150 tuition, that may be out of your library’s price range. If that’s the case, employees of accredited public libraries or institutional libraries may apply for a Nebraska Library Commission CE Grant to help cover the cost.

Find out more on the Nebraska Library Commission’s website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Grants/CE/CETGTuitionMain.aspx>. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2012.



Winnebago One of Only Ten to Host “Discover Earth”



An exciting new traveling exhibition opening at the Winnebago Public Library on April 9, 2012 focuses on local earth science topics—such as weather, water cycle, and ecosystem changes—as well as a global view of our changing planet. The *Discover Earth: A Century of Change* exhibition features interactive, multimedia displays that will allow exhibit visitors to interact with digital information in a dynamic way, encouraging new perspectives on our planet.

The traveling exhibit, which is visiting ten libraries throughout the U.S., is part of the STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net) led by the *National Center for Interactive Learning* at the Space Science Institute. Exhibit partners include the American Library Association, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the National Girls Collaborative Project. *Discover Earth* is supported through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

“We are pleased that our library was chosen as a site for this exciting new exhibit focused on earth science,” said Mary Austin. **“The *Discover Earth* exhibition will help our patrons to explore global issues affecting our planet, as well as local environmental changes. This is a fascinating and important topic, and we are excited to host this interactive display at our library. We hope the whole community will be able to see the exhibit, participate in the programs the library has planned, and become thoughtful stewards of Planet Earth.”**

The exhibition features an 18-inch-diameter Magic Planet™ globe and a 42-inch multi-touch table computer. The exhibit pieces incorporate personal narratives, stunning graphics, video, animations, weather artifacts, animal specimens, and simulation-based educational games. Each host library receives a real-time digital weather station that will collect data and show how local temperature, pressure, and precipitation change during the time the exhibition stays at the library. The traveling exhibition will allow library patrons to understand how Earth’s global environment changes – and is changed by – the local environment of all exhibition host communities.

The Winnebago Public Library is sponsoring a number of free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibit. Contact Mary Austin at maustin@littlepriest.edu or 402-878-3334 or visit www.littlepriest.edu for more information. *Discover Earth* will be on display at the library until May 31, 2012.

Northeast Library System presents a

Summer Reading Program Workshop

March 6, 2012
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Dusters Restaurant
2804 13th St.
Columbus, NE

\$20
(includes morning refreshments and lunch)
4 CE Credits

Featuring:

“Dream Big Craft & Program Ideas” from Jody Crocker
(please bring scissors and glue with you if possible)

“Pre-K through YA Summer Reading Booktalks” from Sally Snyder

and

“The Devil Made Me Do It: Controversial Literature and Young Adults”

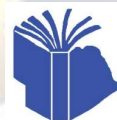
Contact our office or [click here](#) to register!

Registrations must be received by Thursday, March 1.

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

PH: 800-578-1014
PH/FAX: 402-564-1586

*Due to the size of the room we will be meeting in at Dusters, the AccuCut Machine and Dies will not be available during this workshop. If you would like to use them, please contact our office and we will arrange a time that is convenient for you. Thanks for your understanding!



Northeast Library System presents

Helping Patrons with Assistance Programs

Do you have patrons asking you to help them apply for food stamps (SNAP), Medicaid or other public assistance programs? If your library is struggling to fill in the gap that closed DHHS offices have left, then this workshop is designed with you in mind.

Kelly Dunlap, from Foodbank for the Heartland and Stacy Schenk from the Department of Health and Human Services will provide an overview of:

- Public assistance programs and eligibility (Medicaid, SNAP, ADC, Energy Assistance, etc.)
- ACCESSNebraska: Prescreening Tool, Application, Report Changes, Benefit Inquiry, and Document Upload
- The application process and how to help clients navigate the system

March 23, 2012

Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

10:00—12:00

FREE

2 CE Credits

Contact our office or
[click here](#) to register!

*Please register by
March 19th if possible.*



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TARGET



April 19, 2012
Clarks Public Library
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
3 hours CE credit
FREE

Topics of Discussion will include:

- Managing Print Collections—what to keep, what to toss and what to replace
 - Round-Robin on issues in your library

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. Any person who is involved with public libraries, whether a staff member, board member or volunteer, is welcome to attend.

Contact our office or [click here](#) to register!

Please register by April 17th if possible. Thank you!



Northeast Library System Grants



The Northeast Library System Board is pleased to announce that \$500 is available for grants to libraries in the Northeast Library System. All libraries, whether school, public, academic, tribal or special libraries are eligible to apply. Five (5) \$100 grants will be awarded and may be used for new library services, collection development or library programs.

- Applications must be received by the Northeast Library System office no later than March 15, 2012.
- You may print out this form and fill it in manually or you may [click here to download a pdf form](#). The pdf form may be filled out on your computer, but you will need to print it out in order sign it.
- Applications may be sent in via US Postal Mail, fax or email.
 - US Postal Mail: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601
 - Fax: 1-402-564-1586
 - Email: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com
- Recipients will be notified by March 30, 2012.

Application Form

Applicant Information

Library Name	
Address	
Contact Person's Name and Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Summary of Grant Proposal – Provide a brief (150 words or less) summary of the project including estimated beginning and end dates.

Project Title	
Summary (150 words or less)	

NELS Grant Application continued

Purpose of the Grant – Describe your target audience and how this project addresses one or more of their needs.

Grant Promotion – Describe how this project will be promoted in your community.

NELS Grant Application continued

Budget – Please fill out the following budget form. You may add additional categories if needed. All grants require a 50% local match. For a \$100 grant, this would mean a match of at least \$50. This local match may be in cash or may be in-kind costs such as staffing resources, supplies, etc. If you are using a cash match, it may come from a Friends group, Foundation or other source outside the library.

Category	NELS Grant Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
Library Materials (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.)			
Personnel Costs please list "staff hours x hourly rate =" i.e. 10 staff hours x \$9/hr = \$90			
Program Materials/Supplies (craft supplies, equipment for programs, etc.)			
Equipment			
Promotion Costs of promoting your program or service, like charge for newspaper ad, copying cost for flyers, etc.			
Contracted Services Costs for personnel employed outside of the library like a speaker, an electrician, etc.			
Other – Please specify			

I understand that if this grant proposal is funded that:

- I will send a report detailing how grant funds were used and what changes occurred as a result to the Northeast Library System by September 28, 2012.
- My library will not be eligible for another NELS Grant for 3 years.

Grant Applicant Signature Date

Library Board President/School Administrator/Organization Administrator Signature Date

Northeast Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2012

President Judy Hagan called to order at 11:21 the first-ever online meeting of the Northeast Library System on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Roll call showed members Hagan, Michele Hastreiter, Tami Anderson, Melissa Baumert, Dawnn Tucker, Kathy Ageton, Audrey Loosvelt, Beth Foulks, and Joyce Sullivan in “attendance”, as well as System Staff Jessica Chamberlain and Shelia Cermak. Ageton offered a motion to approve Dee Johnson as an alternate; Sullivan seconded the motion (Ageton – 1M, Sullivan – 2M). All approved.

The location of the Open Meetings Act was noted. As there were no additions to the agenda, Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting; second by Sullivan (Johnson – 1M, Sullivan – 2M). Motion carried.

Chamberlain offered several items of correspondence for the Board’s review. Cermak presented the financial report, noting that the payment was received from the ESU’s, the audit was done but still waiting for the paper copy, and two CD’s were renewed (sad, sad rates L). Sullivan offered a motion to approve Cermak’s financial report; second by Hastreiter (Sullivan – 1M, Hastreiter – 2M). Roll call voiced “Ayes” by all.

There were no reports submitted from the NLC Commissioner, the State Advisory Council, or the NLC, though Chamberlain submitted a written summary of her activities the past two months. She made special note of the upcoming System events, which are listed on the System’s website.

There were no reports submitted by the Personnel, Strategic Planning, Nominating, or Technology Committees. Hastreiter noted that the Budget Committee would be meeting at the Norfolk Public Library at the end of January for a six-month review of the budget. On behalf of the Continuing Education Committee, Ageton noted that 3 \$100 scholarships for Legislative /Advocacy Day were available. Anderson of the Grants Committee announced that five (5) - \$100.00 grants were being offered; details for both the scholarships and grants were on the System’s website.

In New Business, Hastreiter offered some explanation for the need of a new board member and why the nominee was chosen. Johnson nominated Cindy Simeon, director of the Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library, to finish Kate Ostenrude’s term; Hastreiter seconded. (Johnson – 1M, Hastreiter - 2M). All board members voted in favor. Loosvelt nominated Sharilyn Heller, a Madison High School para, and Hastreiter nominated Lenore Wemhoff, outgoing Humphrey Public Library Board Trustee, for Pat-on-the-Back awards.

Chamberlain reported that there was little interest in individual or group purchases of DVD repair machines; she will contact those who were interested in purchase to discuss purchasing options.

Anderson offered a motion to pay the Claims of the Day, second by Hastreiter (Anderson – 1M, Hastreiter – 2M). Roll call vote carried the motion.

Loosvelt announced the upcoming arrival of her fourth child – Congratulations!!

Baumert made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sullivan (Baumert – 1M, Sullivan – 2M). There was no opposition. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Hastreiter, Secretary

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Shelia Cermak nelibrarysystem@gmail.com

Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels>



"I find television very educational.
Every time someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book."

~Groucho Marx

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

Straight Talk is published 6 times per year by the Northeast Library System.

Please contact Jessica Chamberlain or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office with any questions or concerns.

Jessica Chamberlain, editor

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Our NELS Board Members

Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library
Michele Hastreiter - Secretary, Humphrey Public Library
Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library
Melissa Baumert, Clarkson Public Library
Dawnn Tucker, Lied Pierce Public Library
Tami Anderson, Hartington Public Library
Judy Hagan - President, Atkinson Public Library
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Judy Hilkemann, Norfolk Public Library
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Susan Tyndall, Nebraska Indian Community College
Cindy Simeon, Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library