



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

APRIL, 2006 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



23 and Counting!!

The 23rd Northeast Library System Annual Institute will be held on Thursday, June 1st, at Gardner Hall, Wayne State College. Once again we will offer a variety of sessions to meet the needs of school media specialists, librarians, trustees and advocates.

Don't forget that the sessions are set up in a "menu" format so that you may come and go as you wish.

This year's sessions are:

***Family Night @ your library** presented by Tanci Meshler and Rebecca Cemper from the O'Neill Public Library. They will share their experiences, tips and trick on organizing family reading nights.

***Migrant Resource Center** Julie Nash, Resource Center Specialist from the Migrant Education Resource and PASS Center in Hastings, will explain

the range of services available to the entire state. They own 88,000 items available for check-out!

***Connect, Click & Listen**

Interested in downloadable media (podcasts, ebooks, etc.), but not sure how it works? Curious about mp3 players but don't want to borrow one from your teenager? Both will be available to your library thanks to a successful LSTA grant written by the six Nebraska regional library systems. Your system administrator will give background on this project, how the players work and interested libraries can check-out a mp3 player/Ipod for a trial period at their library.

***Two to Teens**

Need ideas for great reads to entertain kids for the summer? Come join Marilyn Liedorff and Pat Thompson from WSC and they will give book reviews on the best books WSC Book Examination Center from ages two to teens and every age in between.

***Good Books, Great Conversation**

A panel of three Northeast Library System librarians will share their experiences and tips on book discussion groups in their library. Topics include: who selects the books, keeping your book groups active, and who leads the discussion.

***Stump the Cataloger**

Do you have an item that defies cataloging? Marilyn Liedorff from Wayne State College will give cataloging advice on items given to her from the audience. Prizes will be given to folks who 'stump the cataloger!'

***Automating @ Your Library**

Ready to buy a library automation system or perhaps you are thinking of upgrading? Our panel of experts will present information on Follett, Winnebago, Book Source and TLC (The Library Corporation) systems. Topics to be covered include: initial costs, tech support, maintenance costs and more.

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*Integrating Information Literacy Skills

Glenda Willnerd, Coordinator Library Media Services, Lincoln Public Schools, will present on the Lincoln Public Schools Guide to Integrated Information Literacy Skills (GUILS) and how it is being used. Copies of the Guide will be available for purchase for \$15 each.

*We Never Have Time To Talk: Talk Tables

Once again, Talk Tables will be set up in special rooms for School Media Specialists, Public Librarians/Trustees and for Academic/Special Librarians to get together to just TALK.

*Give-Away Table

Do you have items that your library can no longer use, but maybe someone else can? Bring it to the annual meeting. There will be a Give-Away Table set up in Gardner Hall lobby where people can drop off or pick up items as they wish.

*AccuCut Dies & Cutting Machines

All the system dies and cutting machine will be set up in the lobby of Gardner Hall. New dies include: lizard, snake, turtle, alligator, 100 bookmark, elephant and donkey. Paper will be provided.

*Parking

A new parking lot has been installed since last year. It is on the east side of Gardner Hall and can only be entered from Walnut Street. Parking permits will be mailed to participants or

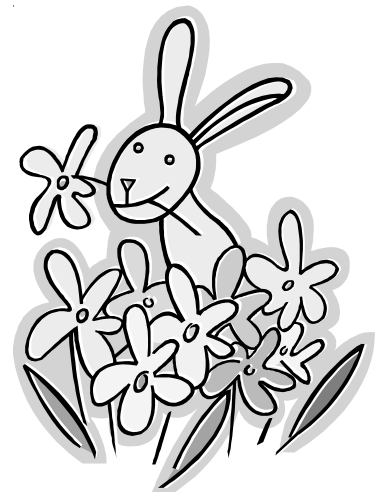
handed out at the Registration Table in Gardner Hall.

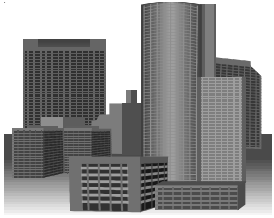
Registration form can be found on page 15 or on the system's web site at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>.



One False Move Available

The One Book, One Nebraska book bags for Alex Kava's 'One False Move' are booked up through May 20. If you would like to schedule a book set after that date, please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014. So far the book bags have traveled to five northeast communities. If you would like to see where the book has roamed throughout the state, check out the One Book, One Nebraska web site at: <http://www.onebookonenebraska.org/gnomemap.htm>





From Blizzards to Baseball: PLA

Nebraska's latest blizzard

caught me racing to the airport in order to fly out to the Public Library Association Conference recently held in Boston. I made my flight and joined more than 11,000 people attended the conference and every session was full. It was an exciting, invigorating, and exhausting conference!

There were so many good sessions to attend, it was like being in a candy store. Here are some ideas garnered from a few of the sessions I attended.

The Curse of Carnegie: Can Modern Public Libraries Find True Happiness in Historic Buildings? by Fred Schlipf and John Moorman.

The presenters discussed common problems and misconceptions with old Carnegie buildings, but many of their aphorisms can apply to any remodeling project. Some of their tips were:

#1 Despite our attachment to an historic library, if no one can park anywhere near it, it's a bad idea to spend thousands fixing it up.

#2 Never miss the opportunity to buy land next door to your library. If you wait until you need it, someone will have

converted the space into a Post Office, a telephone switching center or a wedding chapel.

#3 As long as you have light-colored ceilings, there's no conflict between good indirect lighting and historic interiors.

#4 When you expand an historic library, be careful not to concentrate all the usable space in the new addition.

#5 When you connect your old and new buildings with an atrium and skylight, you simultaneously gain internal separation, glare, reverberation, rainstorm racket, and leakage.

#6 Today's strikingly contemporary addition is tomorrow's avocado and orange addition.

#7 It's hard to raise money for a proposed library that looks like a car wash.

Trading Spaces: How to Transform a Library Like Yours in Nine Months With the Money You Have Right Now by Karen Hyman and Mount Laurel, NJ library staff.

The Mount Laurel Public Library decided to adopt retail strategies to increase circulation and customer satisfaction. A strategic plan focus group statement gave direction to the project by saying, "Think of the library as Mount Laurel's Main Street."

With a project budget of \$45,000 the library created new areas in the library such as Family Room, Audiobook Avenue, Slatwall Shelf Ends,

Internet Cafe and Movies & Music. New services were introduced such as: entertainment DVDs, vending machines, wireless network and self check-out machines. During this entire process there was no major construction and no closing the library doors. Transforming costs ranged from low in the Living Room area to High in the Family Room section.

Circulation zoomed through the roof. In the first year there was a 39% increase and in the second year circulation increased 18%.

Mount Laurel tips:

- *All changes have trade-offs
- *You can't change everything then continue to act the same
- *New ideas need time to get right, tweak and evolve.
- *Involve all staff at all levels planning, implementing, evaluating
- *Know your communities priorities!

Everything's Coming Up Roses: Launching New Services Effectively by Charlaine Ezell.

Charlaine Ezell, a public library consultant spoke on how to plan and implement new library services.

It isn't the new service to be launched but the benefits to the patron.

And how do you convince the patron to try something new? A new service should have the following characteristics:



*Using it does not seem threatening

*The person advocating it is someone the user admires & trusts.

*It is easy for the user to try for the first time.

*People must first perceive that they have a genuine need and that the service you offer is a good solution to that need.

*The benefits of trying the new service must outweigh the disadvantages of continue using the old.

*The innovation is easy for the user to understand.

*The user can relate it to something s/he already uses.

*The service works without breaking down in the trial stage.

*If the trial test doesn't seem to work, it is easy for the user to back out.

New services should be promoted at least through five different communication channels such as focus groups, pilot tests, mass media (newspapers & radio), demonstrations, and training workshops.

Mildly Delirious Libraries: Recreating Your Library from Top to Bottom by the West Palm Beach library staff and Peter Robinson of Mildly Delirious Design.

The West Palm Beach Public Library was an uninspiring place despite the staff's best efforts.

The library had gone through the strategic planning process and had made changes. Circulation increased slightly, but still the library was not a 'happening' place.

Library director, Pam Smith, decided the library needed to think outside the box and brought in Peter Robinson of Mildly Delirious Design. He used GASP, a process in the hospital-ity industry to create a brand or identity.

How did the library do it?

G: Graphics. The library used fun graphics in greens, blues, and oranges for a tropical feeling.

A: Ambience: The library moved furniture to open up the library. Palm trees and other tropical plants were added to give the library a more relaxing, fun atmosphere.

S: Style & Service: The service area was expanded to enable local people who worked in West Palm Beach, but did not live there, could use the library. Staff relaxed with more casual dress.

P: Presentation & Programs. Library programs reflect the unexpected and surprising style of the library, but still comfortable and familiar. Jazz programs come with the opportunity to enjoy a glass of fine wine along with the music.

These were just a few of the programs I attended. Nancy Pearl - who will be speaking at

NLA in October - spoke about some of her reading experiences. Linda Ellerbee opened the first General Session by speaking about how she became a journalist. She ended her talk with a poignant appeal for librarians to support the rebuilding process in New Orleans.

You couldn't go anywhere without tripping over an author. Linda Barnes, Mary Kay Andrews, Cathy Linz, Jeremiah Healy, William G. Tapply, Sarah Susanka, Michael Schlow, Ellen Cooney, Roger Rosenblatt and Jon Scieszka were just a few of the authors who spoke or presented at the conference.

On Friday night, a reception was held at the Boston Public Library - the first large municipal library in the United States. The library is indescribable. It's like all of Boston - historic monuments lurking around every corner. During the reception, I was lucky enough to catch a performance of the Harvard Din & Tonics, a 14-member all-male jazz a cappella group. I could have listened to them all night long singing music from the thirties and forties.

And baseball? I toured Boston Saturday afternoon and saw Fenway Park where the Boston Red Sox play.





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)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

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Meritorious Service & Mari Sandoz Award Nominations

The NLA Citation Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2006.

The **Meritorious Service Award** is given annually to a person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation.

The **Mari Sandoz Award** recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

Nomination procedures:

The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.

At least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination are required. Such letters may provide further information about the nomination.

The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.

More information and lists of past recipients may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/handbook/handbook8.htm>

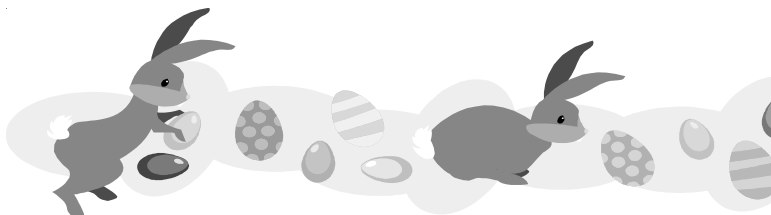
Nominations and letters of support must be received by **May 30, 2006.**

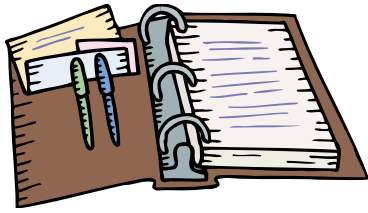
Mail to:
 Sally Payne, Chair NLA Citation Committee
 Sump Memorial Library
 222 N Jefferson St.
 Papillion, NE 68046

Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail to spayne@sumplibrary.info

"A great book should leave your with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it."

~William Styron,
 Novelist





Check Your Calendar

April 18 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk starting at 10am.

April 28 - "**Google Print: It's Impact on Scholarship & Libraries**", College of DuPage teleconference starting at 11am.

May 1 & 2 - **Disaster Preparedness Workshop** in Lincoln sponsored by the NLC. For more information, go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/distasterreg.html>

May 17 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Atkinson Public Library at 10:30am.

May 19 - Nebraska Library Commission Meeting at the Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln starting at 9:30am.

May 25 - **Gaming @ your library**, NLA Public Library/ TUFs section joint spring meeting at La Vista Public Library at 9:30am.

May 25- 28 - **Mayhem in the Midlands** - 7th Annual Mystery Convention at Sheraton Hotel, Omaha. For more information, contact: Maggie

Tarelli-Falcon, mtarelli-falcon@omaha.lib.ne.us

May 29 - **Memorial Day Holiday**. System office closed.

June 1 - **Annual Institute & Membership Meeting** at Wayne State College. Workshops begin at 9:30am.



NEW @ NLS

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

Library Challenges & Opportunities: Library Management Hot Topics, College of DuPage Video, March 10, 2006. 1 hr, 30 min.

Leaders in the library field discuss a series of management-related issues. Topics include: roles of support staff in libraries; team-building; library recruiting; keeping staff motivated; disaster planning; and strategies for working with faculty.

Fiction Catalog, 15th Edition, H.W. Wilson, 2006.

With an increase of nearly 3,000 more titles than the 14th edition, this selective list of classic and contemporary works of adult fiction is more comprehensive than ever. The best authors and their most widely read works in literary and

popular fiction, old and new, are listed, including mysteries, science fiction, fantasy, Westerns, and romance.

A Visit to the Doctor and the Library, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2006. 12 min.

This short movie is aimed at children and shows the steps involved in making a doctor's appointment, checking in at the reception desk and undergoing a physical exam. The movie also shows a child and her family requesting health information at their local library. Available in English video, Spanish video and DVD in English, Spanish and Sudanese.

Audiobooks & Literacy: An Educator's Guide to Utilizing Audiobooks in the Classroom by Dr. Frank Serafini, Listening Library, 2004.

Dr. Frank Serafini, Assistant Professor of Literacy Education and Children's Literature at the University of Nevada, discusses the correlation between active audiobook listening and improved literacy skills. He also outlines specific classroom activities that incorporate audiobooks into reading instruction and literature discussions.

Terrific After-School Programs for K-Grade 6, Nebraska Library Commission, 2006. Video & DVD,

Librarians across the state discuss their after-school programs including Northeast's own Kathy Brettschneider at Battle Creek Public Library.



Northeast News

Charlotte Endorf of Norfolk visited the **Columbus Public Library** on April 9th to sign her book "Plains Bound: Fragile Cargo". The book tells the stories of the Orphan Train travelers and their descendants.

Have you always wanted to know how to Tole paint? If you do, then come to the **Neligh Public Library** on April 20 and Lorraine Naslund will show you how.

Is bridge your game? The **House Memorial Library** in Pender is hosting a Bridge Bash on Saturday, April 29th at the Community Hall (Fire Hall).

Need a good book to read? **Wayne Friends of the Library** will have their annual book sale April 27-29 at the Wayne City Auditorium. Hours haven't been set yet, but last year the sale ran 2-8 pm on Thursday and Friday and 9-1 on Saturday.

Raggedy Ann stopped by the **Hartington Public Library** as part of their National Library Week celebration. In addition, there were programs on learning Spanish, discussing 'One False Move', this year's One Book One Nebraska selection, and the Cedar County Youth art exhibit.

Congratulations to the **Randolph Public Library** for their ground-breaking ceremony for their new library. The ceremony was moved

indoors due to blustery winds and rain. Governor Heinemann and Rod Wagner from the Nebraska Library Commission spoke.

Change your world@your library was the theme for National Library Week at the **Wayne High School Library**. Student library assistants were recognized.

A 5th anniversary of being in their new library building was celebrated at **Stromsburg Public Library** on April second. Dr. Oliver Pollak spoke about "Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries". Tours of the building were given which included the new elevator.

Congratulations to Deb Robertson, Director of the **Northeast Community College Library**, for her recent appointment to the Library Technical Assistant Education Committee for the Community & Junior College Libraries Section of ACRL.

National Library Week was

celebrated at the **O'Neill Public Library** Friends selling one of a kind canvas book bags with a picture of the library. Also, donations were accepted for the food pantry in exchange for forgiveness of library fines.

Drop by the **Norfolk Public Library** on April 24th between 1-3pm to help celebrate the library's 100th birthday. Both Senator Flood and Mayor Gordon Adams will speak and read proclamations. In the evening, Olliver B. Pollak will speak about the formation of Nebraska's public libraries.

Golden Sower Reading Program voting party was part of the National Library Week celebration at **Stanton Public Library**. Carol and Laura went over to the grade school and each read a Golden Sower book to the children. The kids will then vote for their favorite books and library staff will go to school, get the results and then at the party announce the books they chose as winners.

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



The Atkinson Public Library staff singing along!

Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales Workshops 2006



Patti Sinclair



How did that song go?



She said we were to do what?



Are we having fun yet?



Proper Disposal of Computer Equipment (Preventing Toxic PC Junk from Getting into Landfills)

By John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library

Everyone that possesses and uses computer equipment will have to get rid of it eventually. Unfortunately, computer equipment has a number of toxic materials imbedded within it. So, environmentally conscious librarians (as I am sure just about all of us are) need to be aware of (a) the hazardous nature of the materials within, (b) how to properly recycle computers and (c) how to properly dispose of them.

First, we need to become aware of just what is so toxic and hazardous about the computer equipment that we are ready to dispose of. According to a recent article in the *Galt Global Review*,

"Landfill and incinerator facilities are often the final resting place for electronic waste. Computers, cell phones, electronic games, television sets – are piling up with increasing rapidity, ready to be burned or buried. But are you aware that these leftover gadgets are loaded with toxins that can leak into the groundwater or produce carcinogens and toxins

Your computer equipment could contain highly toxic materials.

Computer equipment is a complicated assembly of more than 1,000 materials, many of which are highly toxic, such as chlorinated and brominated substances, toxic gases, toxic metals, biologically active materials, plastics and plastic additives."¹

Given this, we librarians need to be good shepherds of our environment, and properly dispose of our obsolete assets.

If the computers are not too old, and they are complete, consider donating them to another activity that perhaps can use the lesser capabilities available in these machines. Generally speaking most activities have certain minimum equipment standards, and will require an operational and complete machine (CPU, keyboard, monitor, mouse and the cords). If it is not possible to give them to an activity that can use them as is, or they are not complete, it may be possible to donate them to an activity that can find a home for them. My research today indicates that the Salvation Army in both Omaha and Lincoln will take computer equipment that will run, including incomplete units. They told me today that they will take CPUs, Monitors, Keyboards, Mice, and Printers. The only problem is that they are only located in Omaha and Lincoln, with no facilities further west or north. So, if you can, the equipment can be dropped off at one of the following addresses in Lincoln or Omaha:

- 82nd and Grover (East of Magelsens) in Omaha
- 84th and Park Drive in Ralston
- 75th and Dodge in Omaha
- 1502 Harland Drive in Bellevue
- 48th and Leiton in northern Lincoln

- 48th and VanDorn in southern Lincoln

If you have equipment that simply needs to be recycled, then there are some recyclers available to take your equipment and recycle it in an environmentally conscious way. Generally, they take any equipment, but there is unusually per pound fee of from \$0.25 to \$0.35. The important thing is that they will separate and properly dispose of the toxic materials and ensure that they are recycled in a manner that does not affect the environment. It is important that before you give them a call before you take the material to them and they will advise you what they will take that day:

- CP Recovery, 7534 F Street, Omaha, 402-331-1630
- Electronic Recyclers, 1528 North 16th Street, Omaha, 402-408-0053
- Computer Renaissance, 330 North 48th Street, Lincoln, 402-564-4040
- Lincoln Action Program, 240 P Street, Lincoln, 402-471-4528

These are the only recyclers that I could find in Nebraska.

Hopefully, the information presented here may help you to properly dispose of your obsolete or non-operational computer equipment.

(Footnotes)

www.galtglobalreview.com/business/toxic_pcs.html Old PC Toxic in Landfill Sites, Page 1

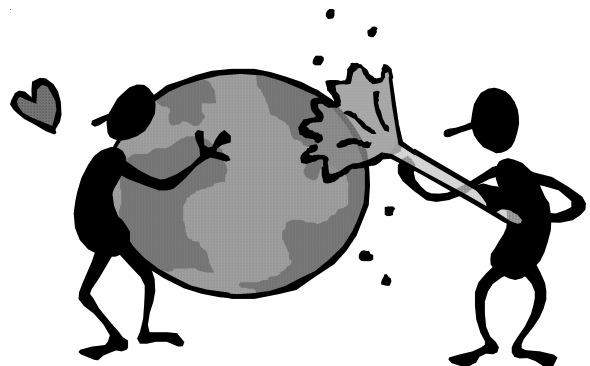
Celebrate Earth Day April 22

Here are some online resources for kids of all ages to learn more about our environment.

Kids

www.ecokidsonline.com/pub/index.cfm

This web site offers information and activities for kids which include coloring sheets, word games and interactive storybooks. Check out "The Great Garbage Caper!"



Environmental Kids Club

www.epga.gov/kids

If you like games, go to the Games section and try "The Environauts Mission to Earth" and help save the planet Ergon from being buried under trash!

HogBusters Training Camp

www.energyhog.org/childrens.htm

Here kids can train to be hogbusters by playing games like 'Ivanna Hamm'.

Recycle City

www.epa.gov/recyclecity/mainmap.htm

In the game "Dumptown" kids assume the role of city manager and they must inspire the local citizens to start recycling while taking into account the cost of various recycling programs. Even older teens find this game challenging!



2 Free Web Sites for School Libraries

History-It's Happening!
(<http://www.epnet.com/flashPromo/historyhappenings/index.html>)

for middle and high school libraries focuses on North American history and special events such as Women's History Month. Students can begin their research here or browse key primary source documents, historic video footage, speeches, selected articles and Web sites about notable women and men from Canada and the U.S. A section for librarians and teachers offers suggestions for using the site, search tips, and teacher guides.

It's a Reading Rave! (http://www.epnet.com/flashPromo/librarian_page1.html) helps young adults find articles from a favorite magazine, explore literature with the help of NoveList, and use other interactive reading resources. The site includes two interactive Flash Web components, a librarian portal, and a "main wing" for young adults. The librarian portal offers tips and tools to promote reading resources. The "main wing" for young adults features School Tools, Recommended Reading, Cool Links to quality sites, Fun Facts, and a trivia quiz.

Gaming for World Hunger

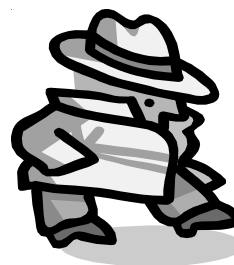
Food Force, a free video game created by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to teach children about global hunger. In the game, children and aid workers race against time to feed thousands of starving people of a fictitious island. The game has generated a huge fan base and has been translated into Japanese, and Italian. The game is designed for children 8-13 years old. Check



out this game at: <http://www.food-force.com>.

2005 IRS Tax Forms

Do you dread visiting the IRS web site to download tax forms? Have no fear...UNO has downloaded a "greatest hits" collection of 2005 IRS and Nebraska tax forms and instructions on its library server. Government Documents Librarian James Shaw welcomes you to direct your patrons to UNO's site and to link from your web page to theirs: <http://library.unomaha.edu/researchtools/taxforms>.



2006 Edgar Nominees

Best Mystery Novel Nominees

*The Lincoln Lawyer by Michael Connelly

*Red Leaves by Thomas H. Cook

*Vanish by Tess Gerritsen

*Drama City by George Pelecanos

*Citizen Vince by Jess Walter

Best Original Paperback

*Homicide My Own by Anne Argula

*The James Deans by Reed Farrel Coleman

*Girl in the Glass by Jeffrey Ford

*Kiss Her Goodbye by Allan Guthrie

*Six Bad Things by Charlie Huston

Best Young Adult Mystery

*Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams

*Last Shot by John Feinstein

*Quid Pro Quo by Vicki Grant

*Young Bond, Book One: Silverfin by Charlie Higson

*Spy Goddess, Book One: Live & Let Shop by Michael Spradlin

Best Juvenile Mystery

*Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach

*Wright & Wong: The Case of the Nana-Napper by Laura J. Burns and Melinda Metz

*The Missing Manatee by Cynthia DeFelice

*Flush by Carl Hiassen

*The Boys of San Joaquin by D. James Smith



The Reviewer's Chair

One Little Mouse

By Dori Chaconas

Mouse finds his home too small and tries out different animals' homes, at their invitation, with each one not being perfect. I think children would like the pictures and description of different animals' homes.

I would consider this an excellent choice for a children's collection. This book is recommended for lower elementary in either school or public libraries.
~~Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

Just Like That

By Marsh Qualey

It is funny how life can turn on one small decision. One minute Hanna is brooding about the breakup with her months long boyfriend, and next she is caught up in a big secret, attraction for a boy far too young. A midnight walk by the lake changes everything! She can't tell anyone about any of this. Even drawing and painting, normally an outlet for her feelings, give her no comfort. How she comes to grips with her life, and the events and people in it, affects her more than she can possibly foresee.

This was a book difficult to put down. It had suspense, death, romance, friendship,

overwhelming guilt, and relationships in jeopardy. In short-this book has it all. The development of the characters and their situations were believable, and very well done. This is a great read. This book is recommended for 8th grade and up in both school and public libraries.

~~Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

Momma, Will You?

By Dori Chaconas

This is a sweet story of a momma, little boy and baby sister who spend a question filled day on the farm. The illustrations are beautiful and the inquisitive preschooler with his momma who knows just the right answer will be familiar territory for any child through early elementary school.

This book would be a wonderful addition to any collection.
~~Heather Reid, parent, Omaha, NE

Coming on Home Soon

By Jacqueline Woodson

This book is about a little girl who stays with her grandmother while her mother goes north to make money during the war. The girl writes letters to her mom and waits. While she waits she befriends a lost kitten. Her grandmother says she can't keep it though. At the end the mother finally sends word. It is a very sweet, moving book and it is

illustrated with beautiful water-colors.

This book is recommended for Kindergarten through 2nd grade in both public and school libraries.

~~K.P. Schuyler, NE

Good Night, Fairies

By Kathleen Hague

When a child asks about fairies, read what a mother imagines up for a bedtime story. It is a very beautiful book and cute storyline. I enjoyed it a lot.

It is recommended for Kindergarten through 2nd grade in public libraries.

~~Angie Vavra, Lied Public Library, Pierce, NE

Dancing Matilda

By Sarah Hager

Matilda loves to dance and she dances all day long. She dances everywhere she goes from home to around the town. Matilda is a very confident girl and enjoys life. This book would be great for a beginning reader as there is so much repetition throughout the book.

It is recommended for Kindergarten through 1st grade in both public and school libraries.

~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

This is the Teacher

By Rhonda Gowler Greene

Teachers and children will enjoy this rhyming story of the first day of school, with its mishaps



that keep on multiplying. The lyrics are repeated as in "The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly." If you read it orally, you will probably feel as exhausted as the teacher did at the end of the day.

Public libraries may also care to add it to their middle elementary collection. It is a humorous, read-aloud story. ~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

Pee Wee and Plush

By Johanna Hurwitz

This is a splendid book full of positive messages and a wonderful read-aloud book. Pee Wee is the only groundhog in Central Park until someone releases Plush into the park. Pee Wee is so excited about the arrival of Plush because now he might have a family. But Plush is very nervous about the park because she has never been out of a cage. So begins a tale of love, friendship, bravery and freedom. A very important part of the story is that Pee Wee learned to read early in life. Knowing how to read helps Pee Wee to keep his family safe.

This book is recommended for ages 9-10 in school or public libraries. ~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE



Diary of a Worm

By Doreen Cronin

A young worm records the daily events of his life both positive and negative. A positive for the worm is wriggling silently up to a group of girls on the playground causing them to scream. A negative is having to dig deeper during fishing season to avoid the shovel of those looking for bait. This book contains a lot of humor and gives the reader a worm's eye view of the world.

Adults will enjoy the read aloud experience with children. This book would be a great addition to any collection. ~~Laticia Olson, Randolph Public School

Grace Happens

By Jan M. Czech

Grace is the daughter of movie star Constance Meredith. She doesn't attend a regular school, but has a tutor who travels with them and teaches her. She therefore does not have any real friends. Now her mom has decided to take her to Martha's Vineyard (the island where Constance lived for a few years while growing up). While grocery shopping, Grace, who has never known what it is like to have a friend, meets Louise and her mom and finds herself volunteering to help them out with their catering business. Will Grace finally have a friend she can share things with? Will she find out who her father is?

This is a light, fun book that

most young teenage girls will enjoy and will make a fine addition to your young adult collection. Recommended at a reading level of 6th through 9th grade.

~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Vin Fizz

by Clive Cussler

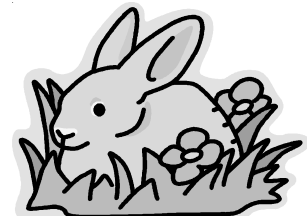
Vin Fizz, Clive Cussler's first book for children, is a modern fantasy for readers ages 9-12.

The ten-year-old twins, Casey and Lacey Nicefolk, live on their family herb farm in California. A mysterious stranger named Sucoh Sucop is hired to help harvest the herb crop. When the harvest is finished, Sucoh Sucop comes to say goodbye and to give the twins an enchanted box that can change a toy into the real thing.

Lacey and Casey use the magic box to transform a model of the Wright Brothers' 1911 biplane into the magical Vin Fizz and soon they and their basset hound, Floopy, are soaring across the continental USA toward New York.

The cross-country trip is full of magic and adventure. The twins (and Floopy) must use all their ingenuity to avert constant danger. Luckily, Vin Fizz always comes to their aid.

~~Neligh Public Library





Tech-ing Wisely in K-2 Classrooms

Are computers simply entertaining babysitters in early childhood settings? Tech expert Pam Livingston, suggested that emerging reading skills can be reinforced with computers, while tech coordinators Jennifer Wagner and Sandra Kennedy said that technology's value for early childhood lies in its ability to extend learning beyond the traditional curriculum. Thomas Haynes, father of a preschooler as well as a high school math teacher, offered the opinion that the enthusiasm and creativity found in K-2 students can be fostered through technology.

With early childhood learning being the foundation for how students learn for years to come, technology also can play a role in the preparation for future learning. As Gail Braddock noted, "The foundation of future learning success should be patterned by using software and activities that help students learn to think and learn."

To Game or Not To Game

Computer games are the subject of debate in any grade, but perhaps more so in early childhood. Do "skill and drill" activities, whether online or on software, have a place in K-2 classrooms? Both Haynes and Gail Braddock said no. Haynes argued, "I have little time for games or software packages that are pre-rolled. Those are a 'solution,' not a use of the computer as a tool for research or presentation."

For Jennifer Courdoff, however, such skill-building activities do play an important role in learning in the early childhood classroom. She suggested, "Learning games such as Reading Rabbit are high-interest and engage students in learning Dolch site words, recognizing numerals, counting, matching numerals to sets of numbers, and many other primary skills."

Time-Tested Tech Activities

Looking for engaging activities for your early childhood classroom?

·Jennifer Wagner says, "We trace each child's hands and scan them into [Kid Pix](#). Each child decorates his or her hands in a variety of designs and colors. The hands are printed, and lined paper is glued onto the inside part of the hands. Students then write a story about themselves on the lined paper."

·Gail Braddock suggests that "teachers can do directed lesson with [Kid Pix](#) templates and begin to help students learn how to do creative presentations with the Slide Show feature."

·Pam Livingston sees value in using technology within thematic units, including "opportunities for students to 'visit' a zoo via a Web cam and see a newborn panda, for student work to be uploaded to a school Web sit where Grandma and Grandpa can see it, and for children to use [Inspiration](#) to create a simple concept map of their own families."

·Beth Gregor emphasizes both journal writing on the computer and learning the keyboard, particularly capital and lower case letters, using [Kid Pix Deluxe](#). "I can teach them to use the shift key to create an upper case letter. Students also print their work each and every week."

·Bernie Poole suggests virtual field trips. "The computer can be used to stimulate a child's curiosity about his or her world, and there are so many wonderful Web sites that take children on virtual field trips to gloriously illustrated and narrated experiences."

·Elizabeth Sky-McIlvain emphasizes both team-based projects, in which students work together on activities using technology, and activities using dialogue.

(For the complete article, visit: http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech195.shtml)



Library/Media Training Institute - June 1, 2006

NAME _____ **TOWN** _____

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER _____ **PHONE** _____

Please check & return entire form. All sessions take place in Gardner Hall. I plan to attend the following:

		ATTEND	@	COST
9:30 - 10:30	Automating @ Your Library	_____		_____
	OR			
9:30-10:30	Two to Teens	_____		_____
10:30-10:45	BREAK			
10:45-11:45	Family Night @ Your Library	_____		_____
	OR			
10:45-11:45	Integrating Information Literacy Skills	_____		_____
12:00-1:15	Annual Meeting & Banquet (no charge, please let us know if you plan to attend)	_____		FREE
1:30-2:15	We Never Have Time To Talk : Talk Tables			
	Public Libraries/Trustees	_____		_____
	OR			
	Talk Tables: School Media Specialists	_____		_____
	OR			
	Academic & Special Libraries	_____		_____
2:30-3:30	Migrant Resource Center	_____		_____
	OR			
2:30-3:30	Stump the Cataloger	_____		_____
3:30-3:45	BREAK			
3:45-4:45	Connect, Click & Listen	_____		_____
	OR			
3:45-4:45	Good Books, Great Conversation	_____		_____
Total Cost to Attend the Above Sessions:				_____

Institute takes place between college sessions. Let us know if you need a college map. All activities will be located in facilities along east side of campus. Questions? Call the System office at 1-800-578-1014.

Deadline for registrations and CHECKS is Tuesday, May 23. Please mail completed form along with check made out to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

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"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."
— Henry Ford

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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