



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

Digital Inclusion Survey

This study has been designed to focus on the role of libraries in building digitally inclusive communities. Digital inclusion combines high-speed internet access, information and communication technologies, and digital literacy in ways that will provide opportunities for individuals and communities to succeed in the growing digital environment.

Four areas are covered by the survey: 1. public access technology infrastructure, resources, and capacity (public workstations, broadband, etc.) 2. digital content, services, and accessibility 3. digital literacy 4. domains-specific services and programs (civic engagement, health and wellness, etc.)

The survey will create unique and valuable data about topics relating to digital literacy and public access to the internet. Participating will help libraries create digitally inclusive communities, identify where library services are meeting community needs and where there may be room for improvement, and will also act as an aid in communicating the value of technology-related library services.

Nebraska currently has a 52% participation rate, but at least a 60% rate is needed to gather enough state-level data.

To participate, go to <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/>. You will need to know your library's federal code to log-in, which is your FSCS ID. The survey needs to be completed by November 15.

For more information, contact John Felton at john.felton@nebraska.gov or 402-471-3216.

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Tilden Public Library Creates a Venue for Artists

Public libraries across the Nation are searching for, and discovering new and innovative ways to expand their roles within their communities, and the Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library in Tilden, NE is no exception. New to the library, and the inspiration of library Director Cindy Simeon, is the Homegrown Art Society of Tilden, established for local area Artists and Craftsmen with a desire to share their talents with others, but who require a venue to exhibit and sell their creations.

By joining an annual membership through the library, and meeting the terms of a Consignee Agreement, selected local Artists & Craftsmen will be able to display and sell their art work in designated areas within the library, with little effort involved. The Homegrown Art Society of Tilden project is not only advantageous to the Artists, it also provides another outlet in Tilden for residents and visitors who wish to purchase unique artwork personally, or for gifts.

Currently the collection of artwork on hand is limited, but continues to grow. Committee members for the Society, which includes Library Director Cindy Simeon, Jeannene Kerkman, and Georgia Wyatt, are seeking out and contacting local and area Artists that they have been made aware of. A "Meet the Artists Open House" is planned in the future to highlight the Society and the artwork. For more information about the Homegrown Art Society of Tilden, please contact Cindy at 402-368-5306 or csimeon@tildenlibrary.org.



Regional Library System Configuration Task Force

By Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission

Funding for Nebraska's regional library systems has been limited for a number of years due to reductions in federal LSTA monies and in state general fund monies, as well as rising operations costs. The Commission has appointed a task force to make recommendations to the Commission on how to address this issue, in particular, how the current number of systems might be reduced. The first meeting of the group occurred Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at Lexington Public Library.

Rod Wagner appointed the following members to the Regional Library System Configuration Task Force with the charge that it make its recommendations sometime during the first calendar quarter of 2014. Members of the task force are:

- Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston (representing State Advisory Council)
- Deb Carlson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library (representing State Advisory Council)
- Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library (representing Northeast Library System)
- John Dale, Wayne (representing State Advisory Council)
- Gail Formanack, Eastern Library System (representing Eastern Library System)
- Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System (representing Republican Valley Library System)
- Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis (representing Panhandle Library System)
- Kathy Thomsen, Lexington Public Library (representing Meridian Library System)
- Dorothy Willis, Pawnee City (representing Southeast Library System)

The task force will continue its work with Rod Wagner and Richard Miller to develop its recommendations.

112 people attended the NELS-NNNC Annual meeting on September 18 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.



Declaration for the Right to Libraries

The Declaration for the Right to Libraries is the cornerstone document of ALA President Barbara Stripling's presidential initiative, Libraries Change Lives, which is designed to build the public will and sustained support for America's right to libraries of all types – academic, special school and public.

The Declaration has 10 tenets outlining the ways libraries, of all types, impact their communities:

1. Libraries Empower the Individual
2. Libraries Support Literacy and Lifelong Learning
3. Libraries Strengthen Families
4. Libraries are the Great Equalizer
5. Libraries Build Communities
6. Libraries Protect Our Right to Know
7. Libraries Strengthen Our Nation
8. Libraries Advance Research and Scholarship
9. Libraries Help Us to Better Understand Each Other
10. Libraries Preserve Our Nation's Cultural Heritage

Librarians and library supporters are being encouraged to have signing ceremonies for the Declaration within the library and in the community as a mechanism for affirming the libraries' value. Signings could be held at in a variety of locations – a mall, concert, craft fairs, library events... with encouragement for individuals of all ages to participate. In Nebraska the Declaration was available for signing at the Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Library Association Conference in Kearney as a statewide effort.

You can find tools and helps at multiple sites online, including copies of the declaration, and translations in various languages. There will be a place for feedback where you can share information on your local event, what the outcome was, how many attended, what community leaders participated and any other stories. Below are sites with information and materials:

www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration

www.ala.org/declaration

www.barbarastripling.org

www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries-toolkit

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Sharing the WorldShare ILL Experience

(Republished from the October 2013 edition of ValleyTalk; by Libby Munsell, Kilgore Memorial Library, York)

You have probably noticed the alert message as you work with Interlibrary Loans, indicating that the WorldCat website that we have all become accustomed to is changing to OCLC WorldShare. I must admit, when I was told about the switch I was nervous to begin using a new website, mostly because I was still learning how to use WorldCat since it was my first year working with ILL. However, I was eager to jump into WorldShare because I knew that eventually, the switch would be inevitable.

I began my experience by participating in OCLC's basic training sessions that taught me the process of borrowing and lending on the WorldShare site. While WorldShare has many different features that cater to library needs, I found that learning how to lend and borrow were the main necessities; I could learn the details as I worked through ILL requests. It took a couple weeks for me to stop using the WorldCat site along-side the WorldShare site to compare the two and get used to the appearance of borrowing and lending with the new service. I am pleased with WorldShare and now find it difficult to revert back to WorldCat! Overall, WorldShare provides a modern and sensible display with user-friendly features to make working with ILL a smooth process.

After using WorldShare for my daily ILL activities, I found it to be easy to navigate and understand. The home page has quick links that automatically direct your attention to current requests and problems that need to be solved. In addition, the home page organizes the links that are most likely to be used in one place, rather than all around the page, demonstrating the site's ease of use. Request links that were one or two characters long on FirstSearch are now a full word or a button, making it easier to click to a different part of the site to find what I need. All the main activities using Worldshare are buttons lined up on the left side of the screen, subdividing into more specific actions with a click of the mouse. Searches for items outside of your library, previous requests that you made, and requests from other libraries stay organized in their own respective sections. The organization makes it easier to notice new requests and to reference older request records.

When I am working with computers, I tend to have a variety of different tabs and pages open at one time. One feature of WorldShare that I really enjoy is that it is possible to have different records open at once and reference them without closing them. For example, I can search for a book that our patron requests and also check to see if a different book has been shipped to us yet without closing the first search. I can do multiple searches and click back and forth between them, never losing my place in case I am interrupted with another ILL task.

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Worldshare ILL Experience Cont.

WorldShare does a great job of providing relevant information for easy referencing. When searching to borrow an item, images appear with the list of results as well as consistent images that indicate the type of media, such as a print book or an audio book. When looking at the list of materials that our library has out to other libraries, I can see the ID number for the record, the title, the media type, the borrower's symbol, and the date it was requested before I even open the record. When I am requesting a book from a variety of lenders, before I send the request I can see the cost of loaning the material for each library listed next to the library's name. Information is organized in a way that is useful for quick referencing.

While I have not put all of WorldShare's features to use, I have been happy with its service day-to-day and have not had any major problems. It can sometimes be overwhelming to change something that you use every day, but it is possible to learn new things to make a more efficient work environment. OCLC has instructor-led training sessions for those who haven't switched to the new service and are eager to learn more. They also have recorded training sessions if you cannot participate in a live session. In fact, OCLC has added more features to WorldShare since I began using it in December 2012, some of which I plan on learning to use by either going to training sessions or exploring it on my own. Since full migration to WordShare happens this December, I suggest easing into the switch while you have time so you can learn by comparison, attend virtual training sessions, and explore. Good luck to you as you make the switch!

IMLS State of Rural and Small Libraries Report

In the past, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has never conducted an analysis of trends in rural and small libraries. This report, released on September 5, was designed to fill that gap. It provides an overview of the current state of rural and small library services for policymakers, program managers, and researchers concerned with rural development.

Highlights of the report that pertain to Nebraska include that 79.6% are considered rural libraries and 93.6% are considered small libraries. Nebraska is also one of 10 states where rural libraries account for more than 70% of the public libraries.

Nationally, the survey found that while per capita revenue has decreased over the past three years, circulation numbers have increased for both rural and small libraries.

The full report can be read at www.ims.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/Brief2013_05.pdf.

Declaration of the Right to Libraries Cont.

Goals of this project include:

1. Increase public and media awareness about the critical role of libraries in communities around the country.
2. Inspire ongoing conversations about the role of the library in community.
3. Cultivate a network of community allies and advocates for the library.
4. Position the library as a trusted convener to help in the response to community issues.

If you have questions please contact Brenda Ealey at b.ealey@lincolnlibraries.org or Carrie Turner at carrieturner@westside66.org



Upcoming Events

November 11: Veteran's Day, Office Closed

November 14: Target Meeting, Gardner public library, Wakefield, 1-4 pm

November 28-29: Thanksgiving, Office closed

December 24-25: Christmas, Office closed

February 4: Winter Workshop, Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

If you have a book review, piece of news, or photo that you would like to share with your fellow Northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Sarah at the NELS office.

nelsdirector@gmail.com

Library Happenings



Central City public library dedicated Lucy's Garden—a collection focusing on preschool literacy.



Kids at the Neligh public library enjoyed painting pumpkins as part of a Family Fun Night.



Local volunteer fireman Chris Bartling taught kids about fire safety at the Hartington public library.

Northeast Library System Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

The Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, September 18th, 2013, at the Northeast Community college Lifelong learning Center. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by President Judy Hagen, and roll call showed board members Judy Hagen, Beth Foulks, Tami Anderson, Dawnn Tucker, Audrey Loosvelt, Judy Hilkemann, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Mary Anne Schwarten, Susan Tyndall and Tim Sebade present. Also present were Director Sarah Warneke, Shelia Cermak, Mary Austin and Richard Miller from The Library Commission. Dee Johnson was approved as an alternate for Sara Lee. (Ageton – 1M, Johnson - 2).

The July minutes were unavailable and will be reviewed at the November meeting.

A card of congratulations was prepared for Melissa and her new bundle of joy.

Shelia gave the financial report. An audit is being done and will be completed before the November meeting. A glitch in the Quicken program was fixed by the auditor. Shelia emphasized the need for two people to review financial records for accuracy. The report was approved by roll call. MCU

Reports and handouts from the Nebraska Library Commission were presented by Richard Miller. He stressed the importance of getting an early start on the new certification requirements.

Director Sarah Warneke reported attending the Leadership Institute and presenting at eReader workshops and a Target meeting. Sarah will be teaching a basic skills class starting in November called Programing and Outreach. A task force discussing System Reorganization will have its first meeting on Friday.

The personnel committee completed Sarah's evaluation and Judy presented the results. The technology plan has been updated.

New business included a discussion of possible by-law changes to board member numbers. The possibility of reducing the number of members from 11 to 9 was discussed as well as changing the small public library parameters to "3000 and under" rather than "1000 and under". Suggestions are being collected.

New committee members include: Continuing Education, Mary Austin and Dee Johnson; Strategic Planning, Beth Foulks and Tim Sebade; Technology, Judy Hagan; and Nominating, Kathy Ageton.

Gift sacks were given to outgoing members: Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Susan Tyndall, and Melissa Baumert (in absentia)

The next meeting will be November 20th at the Orchard Public Library.

Claims of the Day were approved by roll call. Johnson (1) Ageton (2) Johnson. MCU.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. (M)-Foulks, (2) Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Foulks, Secretary

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

“Reading is the basic tool in living a good life.”

~ Joseph Addison

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Please contact
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or Shelia Cermak
at the Northeast Library
System Office
with any questions
or concerns.
Sarah Warneke, editor

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Our NELS Board Members

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Beth Foulks, *Secretary*, Ponca Public School
Audrey Loosvelt, Madison Public School
Dawn Tucker, Lied Pierce Public Library
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Vice president