

October / November 2005

# PANHANDLE SUN

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

## *PLS Coordinator's Message*

One of the most amazing things about people in the library profession is their unending desire to learn. Maybe it's because they are surrounded in the library by knowledge, and are constantly being asked questions. One of the statements often made by those just starting a library job is, "I had no idea how much there is to know!"

The change in attitude between those taking the first basic skills class, sitting quietly intimidated on the edge of the group, and those in their last class, boldly sharing their experiences, is gratifying. They know we can help each other learn.

The annual CE surveys elicit some familiar responses – we need help in the areas of weeding, getting children to read, writing policies – because those things never go away, and we are constantly looking for encouragement and new ways to approach them. But now, librarians ask for technology training, and more technology training – whether they like it or not! And what they know now, and need now, is far beyond what they knew and needed just a few years ago. Library staff who may not have had a computer in the library 3 years ago, are now taking online classes, going to workshops to learn how to create web pages, and teaching patrons how to do research using databases. They are plowing through the vocabulary of wiki, and RFID, and IM and blogs. And some days they may say "I just can't keep up!"

But no matter how overwhelmed they may feel by the next new thing (one librarian wrote, "what's an MP3 player and how do I download audio books?!"), the exciting thing is that they want to know! Library workers need to give themselves one gigantic pat on the back for somehow maintaining that balance between the standard services that everyone expects from a library, and learning about the next new thing, and how or whether it might be a useful tool for library users. Whether you are a "next Gen" librarian, or you've been around for awhile, you've chosen to work in a place that requires constant growth and provides unending challenge.

Cherie Longmuir



## Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events



### **October 4, 2005 School Job Alike Central**

Location: El Charrito Restaurant, 802 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Scottsbluff

**All area librarians are invited**

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Register with the PLS office

### **October 6, 2005 School Job Alike South**

Location: Perkins Restaurant, 655 Cabela Drive, Sidney

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Register with the PLS office

### **October 7 & 8 Nebraska Book Festival**

Location: Nebraska Wesleyan University, 5000 St. Paul Ave., Lincoln

For more information visit:

[www.unl.edu/NCB](http://www.unl.edu/NCB) or contact Jim Schaffer 402-423-6224, [jrs@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:jrs@nebrwesleyan.edu)

### **October 11, 2005 School Job Alike North**

Location: Pheasant Run Restaurant, 118 North Main, Hay Springs

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Register with the PLS office.

### **October 12 – 15, 2005 WLA/MPLA Conference**

Location: Jackson Hole, WY

Contact: Joe Edelen, 605-677-6082, Email:

[jedelen@usd.edu](mailto:jedelen@usd.edu)

Also visit: [www.usd.edu/mpla](http://www.usd.edu/mpla)

### **October 13, 2005 NEBASE Annual Meeting – West**

Location: (HATC) Harms Advanced Technology Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff (Across the street from WNCC)

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Jeannette Powell, 800-307-2665,

Email: [jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us)

Or register at:

[www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nam.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nam.html)

### **October 17 – 21, 2005 Teen Read Week**

This year's theme: Get Real @your library @

See the ALA website: [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)



### **October 19, 2005 Jim Trelease in Seward**

Location: Concordia University, John W.

Cattle Conference Center, Seward

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Seward Memorial Library: 402-643-3318

### **October 21, 2005 Youth Grants for Excellence Applications Due**

Contact: Sally Snyder 800-307-2665,

[ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **October 26, November 2 & 9, 2005 Basic Skills: Collection Development**

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 10:00 to Noon & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch is on your own.

Cost: \$35 for all classes

Register by October 21, 2005 with Pam

Scott 800-307-2665, [pscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pscott@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **November 1, 2005 E-rate Workshop**

Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750

Sweetwater Ave, Alliance

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Register by October 26<sup>th</sup> at:

[www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtrainingreq.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtrainingreq.html)

### **November 8, 2005 PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750

Sweetwater Ave., Alliance

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact the PLS office

### **November 14 – 18, 2005 Children's Book Week: "Imagine"**

### **November 18, 2005 College of DuPage**

Soaring to Excellence

"Libraries in a Google Universe"

Panhandle Locations: Chadron State

College, ESU 13 Scottsbluff, WNCC Sidney

Time: 10:00 to Noon (MST)

PLS will have a video recording.

Register with the PLS office

### **December 2, 2005 Patrick Jones**

Location: Holiday Inn Express, North Platte

Time: 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. includes lunch

Mail \$15 payable to NRLS by November 23

to Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm

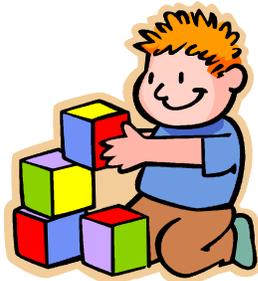
Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144

See flyer



## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

Several of our libraries have new staff or adjusted assignments: **Colleen Harvey** is now at both Chadron Middle School and Chadron High School; **Milton Wolf** is the new director at Chadron State College Library; **Cathy Raben** has moved from the elementary library at Crawford Elementary to the office, and has been replaced by **Tracy Summers**; **Kathy Wasserburger** is no longer at Gering PL, but **Stephanie Cacciavillani** is; **Ruby Tiensvold** is the middle school media specialist in Rushville, because the high school students now attend Gordon-Rushville High School, with media specialist **Jan Varn**; **Janet Johnson** has filled the library/teaching position at Hyannis High School; **Ann Cain** is the new director at Morrill PL; Goodall City Library in Ogallala staff now includes Chris Shott, Tanya Bruce, Shelley French, and Tammy Wach; **Ann Hanson** is the new half-time school librarian in Paxton; Platte Valley Bible College is now Summit Christian College, staffed by **George Keralis**; **Carla Porter** has taken over the Scottsbluff Middle School library; **Stephanie Norton** is the new media specialist at Central and West Elementary Schools in Sidney; and **Doris Jensen** has become director at Sidney Public Library.



**Gordon Public Library** and **Gordon Schools** teamed up to write a Youth Grant for Excellence last fall. The result of a year of hard work and collaboration is over 100 literacy kits that will help pre-schoolers begin kindergarten with the skills they need to be successful readers. Maria Kling and Dawn Weber at the public library, and Jan Varn and Susan McCarthy from the school libraries, worked with kindergarten and first grade teachers to determine how to support learning in the day care centers, Head Start programs, and homes. They packed see-through bags with books, puzzles, games, and manipulatives, all grouped by theme (such as weather, animals). Each item was selected to encourage counting, sorting, naming, measuring, talking about, and reading. The books and objects are so colorful and appealing that they will stimulate play and interaction among care givers, family members, and the children. The kits will be distributed to child care centers, and may then be checked out to homes. Some will also be available in the library, and the kits will be rotated monthly.

Even though Maria's initial reaction to applying for the grant was, "I can't do this!" the community need was apparent, and they were determined that **together** they **could** do it.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

The **video recording** of the Youth Services video conference that took place on September 9, may be borrowed from the System office. It contains specific pointers on **how to write a grant**, plus several inspiring stories of projects that were funded by Nebraska Library Commission grants. Those featured from our area were Gering PL's teen space, and Gordon PL/School joint pre-school literacy kits.

Another continuing education resource will again be available on video this year: **College of DuPage** programs. Here is the schedule: **Nov. 18**, "Libraries in a Google Universe"; **February 3**, "Always a River, Sometimes a Library: Re-examining Library Practice and Patron Service in a Digital Age"; **March 10**, "Total Collection Digitization Project: Oxford and Michigan"; **April 7**, "The Language of Diversity: A Library Prototype"; **April 28**, "Library Hot Topics". If it fits your schedule, you can view them live at Chadron State College, WNCC-Sidney, or ESU 13 in Scottsbluff.

Did you know that the average number of books read by a patron of the **Talking Book and Braille Service** is 7 times the number read by those who do not have a visual or physical impairment? If you have people in your community who qualify for this service of free reading materials and the equipment on which to use it, be sure they have the information they need to apply. In Nebraska, contact Dave Oertli in TBBS at the Nebraska Library Commission: 800-307-2665.

You can get free posters, flyers, magnets, and registration forms to use in your library or to provide to organizations in your community who may be aware of those who would benefit from this service.

LB 131, which became law in September, 2005, allows potentially hazardous **foods** (dairy and egg products, for example) to be prepared at home **for fundraisers**, IF a placard is displayed informing consumers that food was not prepared in an inspected facility. If you have questions about food related to library events, contact George Hansen at the Dept. of Agriculture: [ghansen@agr.ne.gov](mailto:ghansen@agr.ne.gov)

The new edition of the **Intellectual Freedom Manual** was revised by NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee last year and is available online at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html)

The PLS office has some **equipment** that you may borrow or come to the office and use. One is a "cool" **laminator**, which allows you to feed an item up to 9" wide and have it come out "sealed" on both sides. This is good for making signs. The charge is 50 cents per foot for the film. Another item is a **binding machine**. This allows you make papers into a booklet with a spiral binding. There is no charge for using the machine, but you need to supply your own plastic spirals. Just call the PLS office if you need either of these for a library project.

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## BITS AND PIECES

Some new items for you to borrow from the **PLS professional collection** include these booklets that highlight concerns for Boards: What Nonprofit Managers Need to Know about Lawsuits; Managing Volunteers: Balancing Risk and Reward; Managing Collaboration Risks: Partnering with Confidence and Success; Supervision of Children and Teens Never Includes Sex.

A **new video** available from the Nebraska Library Commission is “Working @ your library®: for Love or Money”. It is 10 minutes long and its purpose is to help you increase your salary! It demonstrates the type of work done by library staff, and points out the inequity of library pay compared to similarly skilled jobs.

In an effort to stop patrons from using the library cards of friends to access the Internet, the Naperville (IL) PL has installed **biometric scanners** on their computers. The user logs in by pressing the sensor with an index finger. Parents may request that their children only use computers with filters, in which case the scanner will not allow the child to access an unfiltered computer. The director says that the biometric indicator does not match a fingerprint, and that privacy issues have been addressed.

LB 334 provides a **tax credit** for individuals who make a contribution to community betterment projects (such as libraries), starting from Jan.1, 2005. LB 216 allows meals sold by parent-booster groups to be **exempt from tax** when the proceeds support school activities.

A suit has been filed against a library district in Colorado over its **meeting room policy**. A group wanted to use the community room to “present a biblical perspective on marriage and homosexuality” that would include prayer and scripture reading. The library policy stipulates that religious or political meetings “must provide a balanced view.” The legal counsel suggested that this would require the NAACP to invite the KKK to present its views on civil rights.

A 2004 study of **public libraries and the internet**, revealed that only 14% of libraries report that they have sufficient terminals to meet patron needs; 40% of libraries filter internet access.

If you receive or pay mileage, the federal rate was temporarily raised to \$.48.5 for the time period Sept.1 to Dec. 31, 2005.

The Library of Congress sells fine art reproductions at reasonable prices online:  
<http://loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>.  
Many historical images can also be downloaded.

The Associated Press recently provided a press release to newspapers across the country with the headline “Libraries Offering Book Downloads.” It described the new OCLC NetLibrary for audio books, as “a new way to borrow from the library that involves no CDs, no car trips, no fines, and no risk of being “shushed”(ouch) – plus it’s available 24/7.



## Annual Meeting, July 22, 2005



Outgoing Board Member Carolyn Brown; new president Diane Downer; new VP Vickie Retzlaff.



Guest speaker, Barbara Netherland; Jill Ellis, Board Treasurer.



Secretary, Ruth Walker; Board Member Allison McBride



Members enjoying lunch and conversation.



56 PLS members gathered at ESU 13 in Scottsbluff for the Annual Meeting “Oregon Tale Days” on July 22, 2005. The experiment to change from the usual June meeting date, to July, met with overwhelming approval, according to the evaluations. High ratings also went to the guest speaker, Barbara Netherland, from the North Platte Valley Historical Association. She showed slides from the Henderson collection and gave detailed and often humorous information about the Oregon Trail in western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. The western theme extended to the tables, decorated with tree boughs and wild animals, and to the delicious lunch of pulled pork and beef sandwiches with all the trimmings. A representative from each library received a goodie bag containing books and other treats. Those whose names were drawn for prizes had many choices, such as an autographed Hank the Cowdog book, a video on book repair, a Golden Sower t-shirt, an unabridged audiobook, plus many more treasures. For the first time this year, two awards were presented, one for distinguished leadership by a library employee, and one for advocacy by a non-library employee. The recipients were Cherie Longmuir, PLS Coordinator, and Jim Soester, Crawford PL Board President. Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator at the Nebraska Library Commission, presented an overview of upcoming opportunities, from grants and scholarships to trainings. Appreciation was expressed for the leadership of Maryruth Reed, outgoing president, Dena Crews, outgoing vice president, and Carolyn Brown, whose term is ending. New officers elected by the members attending were Diane Downer, president, and Vickie Retzlaff, vice president. Jill Ellis will continue as treasurer, and Ruth Walker as secretary. Special thanks goes to the committee who planned the annual meeting: Jill Ellis, Dena Crews, and Sharon Ulbrich. If you couldn’t come this year, mark your calendar and be sure to join us for another great day next year: July 21, 2006!



Results from our recent survey indicate that many of you would like support in the area of collection development and selecting books, especially for children's and youth collections. Remember that you are welcome to borrow copies of Library Journal, School Library Journal, and any of the book selection aids that are in the PLS professional library. But in addition, we will try to include in the newsletter a selection of recommended titles from a variety of sources, understanding that what's perfect for one library may not work in another. Use "Books In Print" in **NebraskaAccess** to get order information, descriptions, and reviews.

Winners of the Private Eye Writers of America 2005 Shamus Awards (Best PI Novel):

**Fade to Clear** – Leonard Chang

**The Wakeup** – Robert Ferrigno

**After the Rain** – Chuck Logan

**Cooke Point** – James Mitchell

**While I Disappear** – Ed Wright

Harry-a-like Books (books that have similar story elements to Harry Potter and replicate the accessibility, tone and flavor). Some are old, some new:

**The Book of Three** – Lloyd Alexander

**The Wizard of OZ** – Frank L. Baum

**The Field Guide** (Spiderwick Chronicles) – Holly Black

**The Anybodies** – N.E. Bode

**The Dark is Rising** – Susan Cooper

**Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher** – Bruce Colville

**Inkheart** – Cornelia Funke

**Charlie Bone** – Jenny Nimmo

**Mister Monday** – Garth Nix

**Septimius Heap, Book One: Magyk** – Angie Sage

**Wizard's Hall** – Jane Yolen

ALA 2005 Notable Children's Books – Younger Readers:

**Baby Danced the Polka** – Karen Beaumont

**Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein** – Don Brown

**Guji Guji** – Chih-Yuan Chen

**The Turn-Around, Upside-Down Alphabet Book** – Lisa Campbell Ernst

**Sidewalk Circus** – Paul Fleischman

**Where is the Green Sheep** – Mem Fox

**Wild About Books** – Judy Sierra

**Knuffle Bunny** – Mo Willems

ALA 2005 Notable Children's Books – Middle Readers:

**The Big House** – Carolyn Coman

**Millions** – Frank Cottrell Boyce

**Doodler Doodling** – Rita Golden Gelman

**Merlin and the Making of the King** – Margaret Hodges

**The Tarantula Scientist** – Sy Montgomery

**Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen** – Marissa Moss

**The Little Gentleman** – Philippa Pearce

**Science Verse** – Jon Scieszka

ALA 2005 Notable Children's Books – Older Readers:

**Al Capone Does My Shirts** – Gennifer Choldenko

**Bucking the Sarge** – Christopher Paul Curtis

**The Sea of Trolls** – Nancy Farmer

**The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marion Anderson** – Russell Freedman

**Bird** – Angela Johnson

**The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place** – E.L. Konigsburg

**Airborn** – Kenneth Oppel

**The Schwa Was Here** – Neal Shusterman

Most in-demand DVD titles in libraries and bookstores:

**Fahrenheit 9/11**

**Faith Rewarded: The Historic Season of the 2004 Red Sox**

**Superbowl 39**

**Super Size Me**

**Riding Giants(Special Edition)**

**IMAX: Space Station**

**IMAX: Nascar**

**Masters 2005: Tournament Highlights**

Most borrowed nonfiction in U.S. libraries, fall, 2005:

**French Women Don't Get Fat** – Mireille Guiliano

**Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking** – Malcolm Gladwell

**Freakonomics** – Steven Levitt

**My Life So Far** – Jan Fonda

**Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed** – Jared Diamond

**1776** – David McCullough

**Your Best Life Now** – Joel Osteen

**The Tipping Point** – Malcolm Gladwell

Children's book editor Richard Jackson's FAVORITES from the last 50 years:

**Tiger Eyes** – Judy Blume; **One-Eyed Cat** – Paula Fox; **The Relatives Came** – Cynthia Rylant; **And One for All** – Theresa Nelson; **Taste of Salt** – Frances Temple; **Toning the Sweep** – Angela Johnson; **The Great Shaking** – Jo Carson; **The Painter** – Peter Catalanotto; **Love From Your Friend** – Mindy Skolsky; **Life is Funny** – E.R.Frank; **The Art of Keeping Cool** – Janet Lisle; **Sonny's House of Spies** – George Lyon; **Seadogs** – Lisa Wheeler; **The Sea of Trolls** – Nancy Farmer; **New York is English, Chattanooga is Creek** – Chris Raschka; **When the Library Lights Go Out** – Megan McDonald; **Sleepy Boy** – Polly Kanevsky.

**The Panhandle Library System Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, July 22, 2005**  
**ESU 13, Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

The board of the Panhandle Library System held the annual meeting on July 22, 2005 at Educational Service Unit 13 in Scottsbluff. President Maryruth Reed called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The minutes and agenda were approved.

Present were 50 PLS members and the following board members: Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Dena Crews . Kathy Terrell was absent. The new board member Sue Gosnell from Western Nebraska Community College in Sidney was introduced. Carolyn Brown was recognized for her six years of service on the board. She was presented with a certificate. Maryruth reported on highlights of the past year, and committee chairs reported on their committees' activities. Ruth Walker presented the new PLS Advocacy Award to Jim Soester, and the Distinguished Leadership Award to Cherie Longmuir.

The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of officers which were: Diane Downer, President; Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President; Ruth Walker, Secretary; and Jill Ellis, Treasurer. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote of the membership. Cherie thanked Maryruth for her many years of outstanding leadership as president of the PLS Board.

The meeting was suspended while Pam Scott gave a report from the Nebraska Library Commission, and there was a program by Barbara Netherland of North Platte Valley Historical Assn. about the Oregon Trail, followed by lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:30

The budget proposal was presented for the next year. The proposal was lower than the amount in our previous budget, because we are not able to carry over funds at the start of a new biennium. Cherie recommended that Debbie McCall's hours be cut from 30 hours to 25 hours. Allison McBride moved to accept the proposed budget with the recommended changes. Lillian Diedrichsen seconded the motion. The roll call vote was nine yes with Kathy Terrell absent.

Maryruth Reed turned the meeting over to Diane Downer to preside during the presentation of the scholarship report. The scholarship committee recommended that Maryruth Reed be awarded a scholarship for \$300.00, Sue Gosnell, \$105.00 and Vickie Retzlaff, \$174.00. Ruth Walker moved to accept the scholarships. Jill seconded the motion. The motion carried with six yes votes, three abstaining which were Maryruth Reed, Sue Gosnell, and Vickie Retzlaff. Kathy Terrell was absent.

Cherie Longmuir gave the current budget report, a summary of the summer children's program evaluations, and the results of the PLS funds distribution. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Ruth Walker  
Secretary

### **Upcoming Learning Opportunities**

The PLS Continuing Education/Technology Committee met on September 13, and based on responses to our member survey, has tentatively planned these workshops: weeding; youth collection development; web page creation/improvement; Follett Users Group sharing session; summer reading planning. In addition, there will be hands-on technology training this fall funded by a Gates grant, as well as Rural Library Sustainability sessions next spring, also funded by the Gates Foundation. Add in the regular NLA spring meeting, NEMA summer institute, database roadshow, LE@D online courses (for public and school librarians, and trustees), jobalikes, e-rate training, Basic Skills classes, and you have another full year!

### **Nearby – and Worth the Trip**

On December 2, Patrick Jones, the guru of young adult services, will be doing a presentation in North Platte. He has spoken at many national and international conferences, and we are lucky to have him in Nebraska. He recently collaborated on the book Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: a how-to-do-it manual (which you may borrow from the PLS office – or you may win a copy if you attend the workshop!) For those of you working to enhance your teen programs, in public or school libraries, this is a great opportunity. You will get fired up and have many new ideas to try. He is also the author of the teen novels Things Change and Nails. If you travel over 200 miles in one direction to attend, the Library Commission will pay for one night in a hotel room. See the flyer in this newsletter, and take advantage of this special event.

### **Future Filmmakers Need to Read**

A speaker at the 2005 University Film and Video Association conference said, “Make sure your prospective filmmakers study literature.” Bruce Sheridan, who heads the film and video department at the prestigious Columbia College Chicago, recommends “high school students (need to) do lots of reading and writing. If all students know is what they’ve seen, their visual imagination will be strictly derivative.” eSchool News, 9/2005.

### **Magazine Subscriptions**

Many of you use Ebsco Subscription service for your magazine orders. But Sue Arndt at Leyton Schools also recommends Subscription Services of America, both for discounts and service. You can contact them at 800-603-2651 or P.O. Box 820, Bellmore, NY 11710-0763, or email: [ssoa@aol.com](mailto:ssoa@aol.com). And by the way, did you know that you can order **classroom** editions of Time, People, and Sports Illustrated do not contain tobacco ads?

### **A Voice for Libraries in the U.S. Senate**

Barack Obama, Senator from Illinois, gave the keynote speech at the 2005 American Library Assn. conference. Here are some of his remarks: “Guardians of truth and knowledge, librarians must be thanked for their role as champions of privacy, literacy, independent thinking, and, most of all, reading.” “Literacy is the most basic currency of the knowledge economy that we’re living in today.” “Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible.” “Libraries have a special role to play; your institutions have been and should be a place where parents and children come to read and learn together.”



The August, 2005 issue of **American Libraries**, had a feature that helps school and public libraries provide a valuable collection of materials for college-bound teens. They recommend creating a space that contains everything students need in one place.

1. Collect relevant items from the various places that they may be shelved in the library: college directories, financial aid/scholarship handbooks, admissions guides, test prep materials.
2. Display the collection prominently, possibly near the new books, with comfortable seating nearby.
3. Be sure the materials are current. The SAT was completely redesigned in 2005; old study guides will have limited value. Requirements change; weed out items older than 3 years old. Buy multiple copies of the most popular items.
4. Check with guidance counselors, and stock copies of packets or brochures that they provide. Take recommendations from students and their parents about what they have found useful, such as The Insider's Guide to Colleges.
5. Adjust check-out periods to accommodate the college application process.
6. Provide online options, such as [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) for college selection databases or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for downloadable practice tests.
7. Rather than trying to manage a print collection of college catalogs, encourage students to visit college websites.
8. Have available free forms for financial aid, test bulletins, etc.

As with any collection, listen to your users for ideas on how to make the library an essential resource for this specialized and high-stress activity.



### **The School at Home**

The number of homeschooled students continues to rise. Parent teachers look to the library as a tremendous resource. Here are some recommended materials:

Homeschooling: A Research-Based How-to Manual – Andrea Clements

Homeschooling High School: Planning Ahead for College Admissions – Jeanne Dennis

250 Things Homeschoolers Can Do on the Internet – Tamra Orr

Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling – Mary Pride

Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling – Brian Ray

[www.educationrevolution.org](http://www.educationrevolution.org) – Alternative Education Resource Organization

[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) – Homeschooling Legal Defense Association

[www.nhen.org](http://www.nhen.org) – National Home Education Network

**Donna Helvering**, President wrote an inspiring message in permission to reprint in part essential it is to have a positive leader. Although she refers reminders can be valuable for



of Nebraska Educational Media Assn. the NEMA News, which she gave here. She wanted to emphasize how attitude in your role as a library specifically to schools, these attitude us all.

“As school library media facilitate collaboration and library programs are integral to schools. Our jobs are

hope that each of you will have a major role in helping create a true learning community at your school. I envision a collaborative learning environment that invites all students, teachers, administrators and parents to become both learners and teachers. Our collective knowledge provides opportunities for greater understanding of our role and functions, and can help us articulate a vision for the future. Our collective voice is a powerful voice to shape perceptions as well as to advocate for our profession.”

specialists, we are the leaders that integration to ensure all school teaching and learning in Nebraska challenging, but rewarding! It is my

- A **positive attitude** is being anxious to do better. It is having an optimistic, hopeful and cheerful outlook.
- A **positive attitude** means using one’s ability to the utmost.
- A **positive attitude** is seeing each day as an opportunity to get something done, to improve ourselves, to feel pride and to appreciate other people.
- A **positive attitude** means being cooperative and helpful, working together to solve problems.
- A **positive attitude** means filling our thinking time with pleasant thoughts, overcoming past pains and failures.
- A **positive attitude** is a winning one, not being willing to accept defeat.
- A **positive attitude** means saying something positive to every person we meet.

***Remember – life is 10% what happens to us, and 90% how we react to it.***

I have often heard it said that a person without specific skills but with a positive attitude will be hired for a position long before a skilled worker with a poor attitude, because skills are much easier to improve than attitude.

~~~~~ **ODDS ‘N ENDS** ~~~~~

Percentage of students who use computers at home or at school:

Nursery school:**67%**; Kindergarten:**80%**; Grades 1-5:**91%**; Grades 6-8:**95%**; Grades 9-12:**97%**

**96%** of teachers responding to a recent survey say instant messaging is NOT allowed in school.

**92%** say high schools are outdated and need to be redesigned.

**48%** say they would rank their top school administrators as 4 or less in technology skills on scale of 1-10.

**56%** rate Microsoft Word as the best desktop publishing software under \$200.

**40%** rate Adobe Photoshop as the best photo manipulation software.

## TECH TIPS

It is exciting to see one after another of our libraries making their 24/7 appearance **online**. The latest is **Mitchell PL**: <http://mitchellpl.com/webopac/main> **Kimball PL** will be next. But a word of tech caution comes from **Alliance PL**, where they discovered – after a power outage – that their records were not being backed up, even though they thought they were doing backups. Dena Crews advises you to be sure you are using the back-up option in the Utilities section of your Follett software, and saving to a server, not to tape. This is much quicker than restoring months of circulation and cataloging records.

Maryruth Reed at Mitchell has more technology working for her in the form of the **Libris** Design program. Here are her comments: A scholarship from PLS “enabled me to attend the ‘Bricks and Boards’ workshop on June 13. The Mitchell Library Board is in the early stages of considering an addition to the library, so this workshop was the first step in a feasibility study. The morning presentation was about ‘Libris Design,’ a computerized program that allows libraries to do cost projections, from land acquisition to furnishing the facility. This allows the Board to have specific cost estimates before they approach funding groups and city councils. In the afternoon I attended a session presented by an architectural firm concerning planning that needs to be done in a building project. The last session addressed building community support. Perhaps the most important thing I learned is that this can be a very long process and not to be discouraged.” Since the workshop, Maryruth and the Board, with help from Pam Scott of the Nebraska Library Commission, have used the Libris program to start their planning process.

So what’s a **wiki**? A wiki is an open Web site that allows anyone to edit, add, and delete content. A popular wiki is **Wikipedia** ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)), which is an open encyclopedia with entries that are constantly being changed by users all over the world. What happened to accountability and authority in reference works? As with any information, consider the source. But the concept is interesting, and you can see it working at these other sites: <http://wikipes.com> (recipes); and [http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page) (an evolving dictionary).

Dixie Riley has a **wireless** network at **Chappell Library**! For those of you moving that direction, a product called CybraryAir software will help overcome security risks. It requires a patron to log on to the network using a library card as identification. This serves as a gate to library Internet access and other online resources the library provides, and also sets a time restriction. For more info: [www.CybraryN.com](http://www.CybraryN.com)

An alternative to Internet Explorer is the **Firefox** browser. It can be downloaded free from [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org). A “tab” feature allows you to have several websites open at once and tab between them.

Tell your science teachers about this one-stop source for science lesson materials: the **National Science Digital Library** ([www.nsdlib.org](http://www.nsdlib.org)). It provides free access to 500 science web sites. By typing in a subject (“frogs”), you are directed to dozens of classroom resources. There are other similar digital libraries available.



### **Get Real @ your library®**

Teen Read Week is October 17-21. One of the items recommended to entice teens into the library and into reading, is high interest magazines. The signs of success are empty racks and tables covered with tattered “rags.” Teens will enjoy recommending titles to order, though school and community standards need to be considered. Previewing before purchasing is important. Some titles to consider are: **ELLEgirl** (fashion and culture); **ReadyMade** (crafts); **Men’s Journal** (sports, tech, fashion); **Latina** (bilingual pop culture); **Guideposts Sweet 16** (faith based); **New York Times Upfront** (news); **Teen People** (entertainment); **ESPN Magazine** (sports); **PC Gamer** (elec. Games).

### **False Economy**

Multnomah County (Oregon) Library is conducting a security review after it was determined 18,786 items were missing in the first half of 2005. This is similar to the loss reported in 2003 and 2004. Apparently the 3M security gates have been unplugged due to false alarms that intimidated patrons (and thieves).

### **Poetry for the People**

Nebraska’s own Ted Kooser is making poetry popular. According to an article in **NCB News**, Summer 2005 (a publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book), the Poetry Foundation, in partnership with the Library of Congress and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, supports the American Life in Poetry project, an initiative of Ted Kooser. It is a free weekly column for newspapers and online publications featuring a poem by a contemporary American poet and an introduction by Ted Kooser. Here is column 003:

“A poem need not go on at great length to accomplish the work of conveying something meaningful to its readers. In the following poem by the late Marnie Walsh, just a few words, written as if they’d been recorded in exactly the manner in which they’d been spoken, tell us not only about the missing woman in red high heels, but a little something about the speaker as well.” (reprinted from **A Taste of the Knife**, Ahsahta Press, Boise, ID, 1976, by permission of Tom Trusky, literary executor of the Walsh estate.)

#### **Bessie Dreaming Bear**

Rosebud, So.Dak., 1960

we all went to town one day  
went to a store  
bought you new shoes  
red high heels

ain’t seen you since.

## PANHANDLE SUN

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