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Judy Grandstaff—Blue Hill Public Library



Interviewing Judy Grandstaff, is like popping corn in a pan that is too small and all the kernels just keep escaping. You keep following those escaping pieces and pretty soon you have forgotten the popcorn on the stove and are sweeping up the kernels from the counter. Judy and I spent 3 hours chatting, and my notes could probably be condensed to a paragraph, but we had a great time talking! Judy has worked at the Blue Hill Public Library for 39 years this October. Judy says she is famous for raising her son in the library. John was 6 months old when she started working at the Blue Hill Library, so Judy took a crib to work with her, and John grew up in the library. Even her daughter benefited from Judy's library work as she was a student librarian at Doane College and then worked at the McGoogan Medical Library during her med school days. (Then of course, we had to chat about what a cool library McGoogan is, so you see how it went).

Judy was instrumental in starting Library Systems as we know them.

She was on the Central Library Network Advisory Council which created the Library Systems. The first RVLS Administrator was Bev Russell who only worked for RVLS for 6 months and moved to Scottsbluff. After that, Judy was the part-time RVLS Administrator. Her tenure ran from 1983 to 1989.

While she was RVLS Administrator, Judy Grandstaff was and still is the Director of the Blue Hill Public Library. During her tenure, Blue Hill built a new library, which is lovely. The mission for Blue Hill Library is 1st pleasure and recreation, 2nd early childhood education, and 3rd lifelong education. Judy says the learning curve for libraries has been significant. Users are more sophisticated than in the past and they see libraries as vendors of materials and technology. Librarians know that we must become retailers. We must be pleasant, comfortable and attractive. Librarianship requires librarians to spend much time on programming and technology which has created a complex budgeting process. It is really hard to be attractive when you're thinking about budgeting. Thirty years ago, we could sit behind a desk, smile and try to not be annoyed when patrons interrupted us. Now librarianship is a much more demanding profession. Judy says she never thought she would have to be a technologist, social worker, child psychologist, craft enthusiast, with only a sparse amount of time to do what she loves the most and that is collection development, or in her words, "choosing good books". Judy says she looks at new materials at 11:00 at night.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Judy Grandstaff—Blue Hill Public Library



Judy has lots of thoughts about everything, but here is my favorite: “The mission of the library is to provide a place for the mind and the body to be: to find solace/comfort/peace.” That doesn’t mean the library has to be calm and silent, and Judy is into the latest technology as well as cool children’s programming. A few weeks ago, the children at Summer Reading were treated to a phle-

botomist with microscopes and blood (Judy’s), they also did fingerprinting and mystery guests—her husband and a friend.

Judy’s husband has retired so he is rapidly becoming the official unpaid library assistant. Judy’s family goes to Avon on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks in North Carolina every year with her extended family including children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters-in law, etc. Since I love the beach, we were off on another side conversation.

In 1997, Judy Grandstaff received the Excaliber Award for exceptional Public Library Service from the Nebraska Library Association. I think she was extremely deserving of the award. Judy has been the president of the Republican Valley Library System Board during my time with RVLS, and she has been a delight to work with. No one can deny that Judy has a deep, abiding love for libraries and all facets of her life reflect that love and joy.

Written by Sherry Houston



\$10,000 Demco Library Makeover

Hastings Public Library was selected as one of the 15 finalists for the \$10,000 Demco Library Makeover at ALA. I hand delivered the application so I was really excited to see Hastings Public Library on the list of 15. The top 15 were then put on a wheel of fortune and given a spin. There were 122 applicants so making it to the wheel was a huge accomplishment. Unfortunately, the wheel did not stop on Hastings’ number. Better luck next year.

I will have to go to ALA again to hand deliver another proposal!

Try it out! Try it out!



RVLS purchased a portable DVD player with a 10” swivel screen to be checked out by libraries for one month. You can borrow a DVD from RVLS such as “The Recruitment and Orientation of Library Trustees” and watch it with your board members, count the hour for CE credit and have a fun learning experience. If my 3 year old grandchild can operate it, you can too. Don’t forget to have someone make the popcorn!



RVLS NEWS



Betty Bricker will be the new media specialist at **Holdrege Middle School** and **Franklin Elementary School**

(Holdrege). Betty has been a seventh grade Life Science teacher for the past eleven years. She lives in Holdrege with her husband and two children. She is just finishing her Endorsement in Media. Welcome, Betty! Betty replaces **Sylvia Person**, who retired after 18 years in the library and two years as an art teacher prior to the library. When asked what she is planning for her retirement, Sylvia smiled and said, "Everyone asks me that, but I am not one bit worried!" Good luck on your retirement, Sylvia!

Holdrege Area Public Library recently launched a new Web site with the theme "Books and Beyond" (www.holdregelibrary.org). "Patrons can still go to our online card catalog, search the collection and determine if an item is checked out or on the shelf," **Director Pam Soreide** said. "But in this update, we've added several features I know people are going to really enjoy." For example, lists of new items in the library's collection that can be sorted by genre (romance, mystery, etc.) and type (audio, DVD, large print, etc.). Also new to the site are lists of bestsellers owned by the library; a section on the Browse New Books page called "Holdrege Reads!" containing lists of the high-demand fiction and non-fiction materials; and

"Links We Love", a collection of recommended Web sites listed by topic and represented in what is known as a "tag cloud." A big subject tag like "health" displays on the screen in a larger, darker font, indicating it contains more link selections than a smaller heading such as "veterans."

"There are any number of wonderful resources on our Web site just waiting for people to discover them," **Soreide** said of the new Web site. "We're really excited about our new look and content and would urge people to drop by for virtual visit soon."

Nancy Cantin has decided to move to Superior and work for the Broadstone Memorial Hospital. **Sue Callan** is the new director of the library at the **Hastings Regional Center**. Enjoy your new job, Nancy.

Jackie Davis from **Adams Central Public Schools** in Hastings will become one of the Elementary Media Specialists at **Hastings Public Schools**. She is taking **Colleen Carter's** place and will be at Watson, Hawthorne and Longfellow. Welcome Jackie! We are glad you are staying in RVLS. If you would like to know what Colleen is doing check out her blog cartersinalaska.blogspot.com Some of us have more exciting lives than others!

Cathy Barger is now **Hitchcock Elementary** and High School Media Specialist. I bet you received a huge raise to have both jobs, didn't you!

Susan Pfeifer from **Wallace Elementary** in Hastings will become the Media Specialist at **Adams Central School** as well as continuing at Wallace Elementary. Ahhh, your job just got bigger, didn't it!

Mary Schluntz will be the Media Specialist at **Alma Public Schools** as well as the Family and Consumer Science teacher. I think she will be a happy addition to the Media Center. **Linda Lubeck** is retiring. Happy retirement, Linda.

Chad Wiseman will be the new High School Media Specialist and **Marcia Weaver** will be the Elementary Media Specialist in **Sutton Public School**. Glad to have you in the System.

Melissa Whitefoot is the new **Public Library Director** at Fairfield. **Gail Kimminau** decided to take the summer off and then liked being free so much she decided to let Melissa stay as the Director. You are leaving the library in good hands, Gail.

Mardelle Grandstaff has retired from **Silver Lake Public Schools** (Bladen and Roseland). Mardelle and I go back a long way. We were going to meetings at ESU#9 long before I had to dye my hair! Good Bye and Good Luck, Mardelle.

Jaime Porter is the new Director of **Harvard Public Library**. Welcome Jaime, we look forward to working with you.

Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

By Terri Johnson, North Platte Library, RVLS Board Member

You've heard the phrase "You just had to be there!" when someone attempted to describe an awesome experience. That's how I feel about my five days at the 4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute. My path to the Institute began after hearing about it from a co-worker who attended 2 years ago and when RVLS offered scholarship money to offset costs of attending library events, I decided to apply for one of the 30 available spots and was accepted.

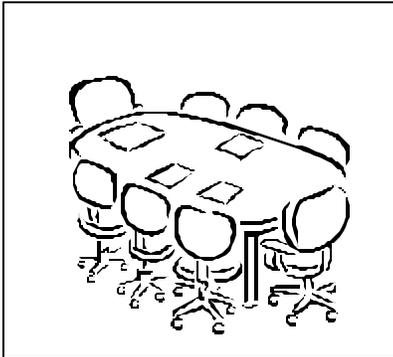
The 27 attendees came from all walks of library life as did the 8 mentors for our groups. Our presenters, Becky Shreiber and John Shannon, led us through multiple steps to increase our leadership skills and broaden our view of the library's place in the world today. "Customer-centered libraries" were the buzz words for the week.

The setting of the conference was ideal. The Saint Benedict Center north of Schuyler, NE was sheltered in a valley surrounded by gently rolling hills of corn. It also had flower gardens, walking paths, and its own lake with fountains and a serenading bull frog in the evening hours. Sherry and the other system administrators kept us provided with snacks and evening entertainment after the day's sessions were finished.

If you haven't attended the Library Leadership Institute yet, mark your calendars for 2 years from now and get your application in. You will love it!!



2007-2008 RVLS Board Meetings



Friday, September 14, 2007

Mary Nelson's Straw Bale Home, Plum Creek

Friday, November 2, 2007

Hildreth Public Library

Friday, January 11, 2008

RVLS Office, Landmark Center, Hastings

Friday, March 7, 2008

Beaver City Public Library

Friday, June 6, 2008—Board & Annual Meeting

Location to be determined

All meetings begin at 10am. Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!



It's Your Move

Do you need a place for teens to look at book reviews on books that are “out of the ordinary” or write their own reviews? **Check out Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists** which is a website that has become an interactive blog.

www.readingrants.org
Teens can read reviews, write reviews and link to other websites. Just reading the reviews, lets me look into today's teens minds.....cool...oh, wait that is my generation!

New York Times article on July 8, 2007 says it is hip to be a librarian...we all knew that didn't we! Check out the link. It is all called “A Hipper Crowd of Shushers” and it is really a fun article.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/08/fashion/08librarian.html?ex=1184731200&en=6003898db16f307b&ei=5070>



Jan Brett will be visiting 23 cities this fall on a book tour for her new book *The Three Snow Bears*. One of the places she will visit will be Hastings Bookstore in Kearney on Oct. 23, 2007 from 5:00-7:00. Tickets are free, but are limited in number. Please call the bookstore to find out all of the details. (308-234-1130)
9 West 39th Street,
Kearney, NE

The American Library Association is sponsoring a promotion called “Step Up to the Plate @ your library®”.

Kids and young adults ages 9-18 are invited to go to their library, pick out a baseball book and describe how their favorite character inspired them. Free promotional tools for librarians are available at <www.ala.org/baseball>. Entry deadline: 9-01-07

Are you interested in becoming an author? Do you need writing tips? NL Sharpe is hosting a workshop consisting of 3 two-day sessions at St. Benedict's in Schuyler. It is called “Novel Secrets: “A Novel Retreat in Three Acts.” Dates are October 25-27, 2007, April 2-6, 2008, and October 24-26, 2008. Authors presenting are Elaine Marie Alphin, Darcy Pattison, and Alexander Penfold. For more information and to register see

www.NLSharp.com

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Book Sale:
 Superior Public Library
 Sat. & Sun.
 August 11th
 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 August 12th
 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
 At the Eagles Club,
 133 W. 3rd St.
 (west parking lot)



On the Bookshelf



The following items have been recently added to the RVLS Professional Collection:

Books on CD

- *Icebound* by Dean Koontz
- *Lean Mean Thirteen* by Janet Evanovich
- *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier
- *The Overlook* by Michael Connelly
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Navigator* by Clive Cussler
- *Land of Lincoln* by Andrew Ferguson

Playaway Audio Books

- *The Cashflow Quadrant* by Robert T. Kiyosaki
- *Codependent No More* by Melody Bettie
- *The Collectors* by David Baldacci
- *The Debutante Divorcee* by Plum Sykes
- *Freaks Alive on the Inside* by Annette Curtis Klause
- *Hard Truth* by Nevada Barr
- *Marker* by Robin Cook
- *Tomb of the Golden Bird* by Elizabeth Peters
- *Uncommon Carriers* by John McPhee



If you would like to borrow these items please contact the System office at 800-569-4961 or <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. If you would like to see list of all available items (including magazines routed), go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.



ALA in Washington, D.C.

by Sherry Houston



I went to the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. It was my first time for Washington D.C. and my first time to go to an ALA Conference. I enjoyed both immensely although I liked ALA more than Washington D.C. Washington was HOT! When I got off the plane in Omaha, I said, "Yes, wind!" So those days when it is blowing 50 mph in Nebraska, remind me that at least we have a breeze.

(Just Wondering.....Do you think Sherry and Susan really went to ALA in Washington, D.C.????)

Here is my list:

Funniest incident: When I went to hear Julie Andrews, a 20-something girl from a Washington D.C. library, who was sitting next to me, said "Who is this anyway?" and I said "Julie Andrews", blank stare, I said "You know 'Mary Poppins', Sound of Music", more blankness, "You know 'Climb Every Mountain', 'Spoon Full of Sugar', etc." She replied; "Oh yes, I might". She left shortly after that.

Funniest author: Melissa Fay Greene, *There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Africa's Children*. She has 9 children and really was hilarious. She would be an excellent author to perk up ones spirits. I have to admit I haven't read the book and didn't want to spend the \$10.00 they wanted for one, but if the book is as light-hearted and well written as she speaks, it would be worth reading. She takes a very serious subject and gives it humor. I'm checking it out from the library.

Author who needed a hug: Editor with the New Orleans Times Picayune, Jed Horne seemed very, very weary. I asked how things were as he signed my book with no one else in line and he said, "Give us 5 more years." He received a Pulitzer Prize for his part the newspaper's coverage of Hurricane Katrina, and wrote *Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City*.

Authors I would like to go to lunch with: The FOLUSA panel consisting of Tom Oliphant, author of *Utter Incompetence*, Thomas Ricks, author of *Fiasco, The American Military Adventure in Iraq* and Robert McGovern, author of *All American: Why I Believe in Football, God and the War in Iraq*. After their presentation, the person sitting beside me, said "We can go home now, we have heard the best". I wanted the panel to last all day.

Starstruck author incident: Markus Zusak, author of *The Book Thief*. Not only did he write a great book and is from Australia, but he did a nice presentation and he is really cute! (Also a FOLUSA presenter.— Everything FOLUSA did was top notch)

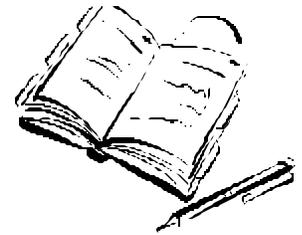
Most life altering speaker: Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, affirmed the importance of children's libraries and librarians. School and Public Libraries need to be one of the safe places for children in today's society. Second place goes to a very passionate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., (who was such a good speaker, I missed the Book Cart Drill Team World Class Championship, but there is always You Tube!)

What else I missed: Garrison Keillor spoke at the same time as the Coretta Scott King Award breakfast. I am really glad I went to the Coretta Scott King Award breakfast as it was so full of life and energy, and I left the conference on a really high note, but I would like to have heard Garrison Keillor. He wrote an article called 'A trip to the library can restore your faith in democracy' which I read in the Salt Lake Tribune, but which is available on e-library. Just search the title. It was in the July 1, 2007 issue. It is so good I hope you will look it up, and if you can't find it or don't have access to e-library, we will mail it to you.

Can you tell that I really enjoyed hearing the speakers and the authors? I went to one techie thing and decided I don't want to listen to anymore tech stuff on this trip-maybe it was the heat, so I just concentrated on seeing and hearing all the writers and speakers I could. Macy's Department store was across the street from the hotel, but the only time I went through it was when I took the wrong exit from the metro and somehow ended up in Macy's and I didn't even buy a thing.

If you get a chance, go to a major conference, it was really a wonderful time.

RVLS Calendar



August 2007

9—NEBASE Annual Meeting 2007, Lincoln Cornhusker

16—Introduction to Web Page Creation with XHTML., Lincoln, NLC

September 2007

6—Style Your Web Site with CSS, Lincoln, NLC

14—Board Meeting at Mary Nelson's house, Plum Creek, NE

18—Writing Grants for Youth Projects, North Platte— (See page 10)

26—Fall Workshop 2007 at ESU#9, Hastings, NE—(See insert)

October 2007

4 — Fall Workshop 2007 at North Platte Community College, North Campus—(See insert)

5— Fall Workshop 2007at ESU#11, Holdrege, NE—(See insert)

4-6—Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Concordia University, Seward. Go to www.cune.edu/plumcreek for complete information.

22-26—Nebraska Library Commission's Thinking Outside the Borders Institute, <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/think/intro.html>

23—Author/illustrator Jan Brett will be signing books in Kearney from 5-7 pm at Hastings Books Store, 9 West 39th Street., Kearney, NE Telephone # (308) 234-1130.

24-26—NLA/NEMA Convention, Kearney, NE, <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/>

24—“Image Is Everything” Nebraska Regional Library Systems' Pre-Conference, 9:30-3:30, Holiday Inn, Kearney.

24—Read Aloud Nebraska Presents Mem Fox NLA/NEMA Pre-Conference, <http://www.readaloudnebraska.org/events.htm> —(See insert)

24— Computer Hardware Confidence, John Seyfarth, Pre-conference, Kearney Public Library 8:30-11:30 or 1:00-4:00 —(See insert)

25-27—“Novel Secrets: A Novel Retreat in Three Acts,” Writing Conference, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, NE. For complete details, go to www.NLSharp.com.

26-27—Nebraska Center for the Book Nebraska Book Festival; see <http://www.unl.edu/NCB/> for details.

February 2008

13—NLA Legislative Day

October 2008

15-17—NLA/NEMA Annual Conference



Nebraska the Good Life

I have a question for you. When did Nebraska become the poster child for hick states? In two good books I've read this summer I've been taken aback at the one-sided portrayal of Nebraska and Nebraskans.

Ann Patchett's, "The Magician's Assistant", is basically divided into two parts – the New York part and the Nebraska part. All things of beauty and intelligence are in the New York part. That leaves all things of not beauty and limited intelligence for the Nebraska part.

As the story moves to Nebraska you can feel it slow down to what I guess is perceived as a Nebraska pace. The featured family resides in a trailer house and lives a mundane country life. So of course they are enthralled when a sophisticated person from the Big City comes to spend time with them. Big City lady is won over by the little country hicks charming but clunky life.

I thought the whole Nebraska hick-culture thing was just a fluke until a few books down the road I read a National Book Award Winner, "The Echo Maker", by Richard Powers. The setting is Kearney but not the vibrant shake-'em-by-the-heels-we're-doing-business-here Kearney. No, the Kearney Powers envisions is only one step away from having tumbleweeds blowing down the streets. *"The arid chain stores along the strip gave way, in a handful of blocks, to gingerbread Victorians with wraparound porches. Just past these lay the core of an old downtown. The ghost of a prairie outpost, circa 1890, still looked out from the high, squared-off brick storefront facades... he passed something called The Runza Hut, sealed up and dark, hiding its purpose from foreign interlopers. ...Kearney had been conceived on too grand a scale, back when they gave land away for free, back before the place's real destiny became clear. Its lanes were laid out in a grid of numbered streets and avenues as if it had been in danger of sprouting into a full-scale Manhattan against the epic emptiness enclosing it."*

Or how about this jewel: *"In a field two miles out of town he passed a boxy green brontosaurus combine that was ravaging the rows of standing corn. The fields gained a stark, minimal beauty in dying. Nothing could ever sneak up on you here in these blank horizons. The winters would be the hardest of course. ... He looked out over a grain-fringed rise at an old farm just one upgrade beyond sod house. He pictured himself in one of these gray-white clapboards, connected to humanity by no medium more advanced than radio."* No medium more advanced than radio! Oh, please, does this guy know about GPS systems on tractors? Does he realize that the Internet is available just about everywhere? Even out here in the sticks! So here was another book where you get the not so subtle hint that Nebraskans are a nice but backward group

I decided to switch to non-fiction, where my home state would be safe from scorn, and picked up the book, "If I Am Dead or Missing", a heart-wrenching story of relationship abuse. Thirteen pages into the book I run into a passage about the author's summer vacation at a campground where she had the possibility of being the most un-cool girl there. Ah, but she is saved from that fate by the arrival of a girl from Nebraska who takes that title hands-down.

Geesh! Am I just attracting books that bash my state? Oh, well, now that I've gotten that off my hick chest I feel much better. And by the way, even though the first two books are Nebraskaphobic, they still are well worth adding to your summer reading list. So there you go, those authors were right about one thing.

Nebraskans are real nice folks!

Submitted by Cathy Mohnike



Writing Grants for Youth Projects

Are you a librarian who works with youth and you are from an accredited public library in Nebraska?

Do you have a good idea for a youth grant or just an idea?

Come to the Writing Grants for Youth Projects workshop.

Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission would like to help you write a youth grant.

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Place: North Platte Community College, North Campus
1101 Halligan Drive

Time: 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.

Bring ideas of a project you would like for your library and Sally will help you get a significant start on your project. Youth grants are due Oct. 19, 2007.

Writing Grants for Youth

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Library: _____ phone: _____

This workshop is free.

Mail by Friday, Sept. 14, 2007 to: Republican Valley Library System, 2727 West 2nd St. # 233, Hastings, NE 68901 or call 800.569.4961 or e-mail rvlsasst@inebraska.com





LIBR 1010 WW INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

4.5 Quarter Hours

Online Fall Term 2007

September 4, 2007 – November 20, 2007

Orientation: Saturday, September 8, 2007

In Omaha: 3:00-5:00 p.m. UNO Kayser Hall 541

Parking is free on Saturday. The closest lot is the "Faculty" lot on the south side of Kayser Hall. The elevator is in the center of the building. Room 541 is on the 5th floor.

In North Platte: 11:00-1:00 p.m. North Platte High School Media Center

Students unable to attend orientation need to email the instructor Carrie Turner at carrie-turner@westside66.org before the orientation session.

This course is designed to provide the student with a broad overview of the library and information science profession. The role of the Library Technician Assistant in library and information environments will be examined.

This course will provide students with an understanding of introductory concepts in libraries and information services:

- A brief history of libraries
- Different types of libraries
- Typical functions in today's libraries
- Current issues in library and information science
- Key terms used in the library profession
- Resources useful to Library Technical Assistants
- Issues relevant to information literacy
- Technology in libraries
- Career options in libraries and information environment

General Registration Begins – May 16, 2007

Payment Deadline – August 6, 2007

This course is a requirement for the Library Technology Assistant Associate of Arts Degree offered by the Nebraska Community Colleges.

Prerequisite: College level reading and writing skills. Ability to use web browser and Internet search engines. Ability to save and back-up files to a local drive on a computer

For questions regarding course content and organization, contact:

Carrie Turner, M.S. El. Ed.

Instructor, LIBR 1010 WW

Metropolitan Community College

402-238-3315

carrieturner@westside66.org

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:

Gretchen B. Schaeffer, M.A, MLS

Academic Advisor

Metropolitan Community College

402-457-2376

gschaeffer@cccneb.edu

Nebraska Library Leadership

The 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute was held in Schuyler at St. Benedict's Monastery. The beautiful weather and setting created a terrific week for all the participants.

Terri Johnson from North Platte Public Library was one of the participants. Terri's report from the Institute is on Page 4.



The Commissioners from NLC visited on Thursday evening and Friday.

Pictured are: Rod Wagner, Director; Patrick Gross, Jean Ahrens, Mary Nelson (RVLS Representative), John Dale, Carol Spencer and Velma Sims-Shipley.

During the week, the attendees created a vision statement reflecting their observations about what a library should be in 2007. This is the statement the 2007 Library Leadership group authored:



2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

VISION STATEMENT

The 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute embodies a customer-centered library community that:

- **Reflects our diverse population, fosters global discourse, and is a vital and active hub of cultural experience and exposure for its constituency.**
- **Targets the needs of current and prospective users in order to engage and connect them with resources, services and opportunities.**
- **Integrates innovative technologies with traditional information to create dynamic physical and virtual environments.**
- **Motivates a responsive, committed staff who enthusiastically supports the strategic vision of our library community.**

Summer Reading Program News.....

More than 300 people came by to sign up for Summer Reading at the **Hastings Public Library**. The SRP Program kicked off with their second annual Heavy Equipment Petting Zoo.

Everyone enjoyed seeing the assortment of large vehicles provided by area businesses. Children were welcome to climb on the equipment and ask questions of the equipment drivers. The air horn on the semi was a big hit!



Musical Get a Clue! – an interactive music program was presented by Sue Schnitzer from Colorado. She really had the kids participating!

“Get a Clue About Drug Dogs” featured Trooper Michael Korte and Maximus of the Nebraska State Patrol.



“Magical Get a Clue” featuring magician Jeff Quinn of Omaha.



Summer Reading Program

continued

Dundy County Library kicked off their SRP on June 19th with 35 preschool children and 33 school-age children participating. The Dundy County High School FBLA were in charge of the program and the children loved hanging out with the BIG kids. I ran the computer for circulation and patron registration, board members stamped the due date and bagged the books. It was quite an assembly line and a very successful event.Submitted by Nana Real

Jody Snogren reported that **Hastings Memorial Library** in Grant had 29 K-2nd graders and 18 3rd-6th graders participating in their Summer Reading Program. They learned about fingerprints, solved mysteries, went on scavenger hunts, created and learned about secret codes and read lots of good mysteries. They also had a Usbourne book fair during the SRP. The kids benefited from getting great books, and the li-

brary benefited by getting new books from Usbourne.

Super sleuths and daring detectives ages preschool through fourth grade won prizes, had special programming and activities during the SRP Program at **Holdrege Public Library**. Featured programs included Preschool Story Hour, Reading Buddies for K-4th grades, Craft Club for 2nd—4th Grades, Afternoon videos, a Mystery Party and more! Fifth—Twelfth grades participated in a teen YNK (You Never Know)@ Your Library Program. Special programs for tweens and teens included: Gamer nights, movies, craft activities, Lunch Bunch and a Mystery Party. The summer reading program was sponsored by First National Bank.

Melissa Whitefoot reported from the **Fairfield Library** that about 10 children participated in their Summer Reading Program. The group met every Friday. The children loved being made into mummies using toilet tissue, dressing up like Egyptians, and learning about fingerprints and researching real life mysteries, On the last day they had an opportunity to

“Ten ways to Bring Wii into the Library”

Schwarzwalder, Jami Voya, August 2007, 227.

If you are thinking about gaming in your library, the August issue of VOYA has some tips if you are using a Wii : Here are a few of the tips:

1. Collect ‘Best of GameCube’ titles for the Wii.
2. Use multiplayer games for open gaming programs and host tournaments.
3. Create a Wii web site with links to Wii-compatible Internet games and sites.
4. Publish or post teen reviews of Wii games.
5. Develop a program to assist teens in creating online Flash games for the Wii.
6. Add Wii games to an established video game collection.

To receive a copy of the entire article, call the System Office or go on-line to www.voya.com



Summer Reading Programcontinued

Clay Center Public Library reports that they had 60 children involved in their Summer Story Hour Groups. They met every Tuesday in June with groups of pre-school and kindergartners, 1st—3rd graders, 4th—6th graders and a “Moms and Tots” program (6 mos.– 3 yrs.).

The younger children had a different topic every Tuesday but they all fit the “Get a Clue @ Your Library” theme.



Two local artists came to speak to the kids. Pictured is painter Bill Hess who taught the kids about mixing colors and how they change and that sometimes it’s a “mystery” what the final result will look like.



Crime-solving detectives, becoming familiar with the library, and learning how to find a special book.

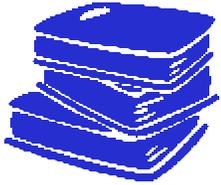


The “Moms & Tots” program was a hit.



To conclude the SRP the children and their families gathered at the park for a puppet show, a picnic and a fingerprinting session.





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“Happiness is like jam.
You can't spread even a
little without getting
some on yourself.”
-Anonymous

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