



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



I have had some conversations with librarians recently about weeding their collection, specifically about how much to weed each year. This is a topic that all libraries of every

size have to think about, so let's talk about it.

First of all, for those new librarians who are reading this, weeding is the process of taking materials out of your collection. This includes removing items due to poor condition, the content being outdated, or that it just isn't being used.

There used to be a 3% a year guideline for public libraries in this state in the accreditation guidelines. There is still an area in the current process where you can get points toward your accreditation if your 3-year weeding percentage is 3%, but it isn't mandatory. Other types of libraries may have other guidelines, so refer to them as needed.

So why weed your collection? Like gardeners weeding their gardens to create a healthier environment for their chosen plants to grow and to be seen, libraries weed to make their collections healthier and more attractive to readers.

Removing books increases circulation. There is a huge amount of anecdotal evidence that when librarians

finished a really thorough weed of their collection, they saw their circulations numbers go up. Possible reasons this works are that it makes the "good stuff" more visible, it makes the whole collection more conducive to browsing, and so on.

There has also been some research on providing choices in stores that suggests that having fewer options on the shelf leads to higher amounts of product leaving the shelves. Look up "jam experiment decisions" in Google for some brief overviews of the phenomenon or "choice overload" in your favorite research database related to either psychology or business marketing.

Even in libraries that are focused on research instead of leisure, weeding helps your collection provide accurate information, and increases use. I was helping a new school librarian weed their collection, and the teachers mentioned that they looked forward to being able to use the library in their classes again since all the inaccurate stuff was off the shelves.

Just like you only have so much shelf space, I only have so much space to write this article so hopefully I was able to convince you why you should weed your collection. In a future article, I'll talk about some tips on how to do it.

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Calendar

February 14, Valentine's Day

[February 16, CASTL, Superior Public Library, 10-3](#)

[February 17, Database Roadshow at Ashland Public Library, 9:30-3:30](#)

February 19, National Chocolate Mint Day

February 20, President's Day, SELS OFFICE CLOSED

February 24, Big Talk for Small Libraries, see p. 9

February 26, National Pistachio Day

February 27, National Polar Bear Day

March—National Women's History Month & National Craft Month

March 2, [National Read Across America Day](#), Birthday of Dr. Seuss

March 3, National Employee Appreciation Day

March 9, National Get Over It Day

March 5-11, [Teen Tech Week](#)

March 16, [Freedom of Information Day](#)

March 21, NLA Advocacy Day

March 30, CASTL, Kilgore Memorial Library, York, "Online Periodicals"



Photo of the Month



Harvard Public Library left up the tree after Christmas and it has become a Valentine's Day tree. They are getting some very nice comments on it. They also have candy in a jar with hearts on it to hand out, plus coloring pages for the little ones.

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

February 16

Superior Public Library
“Making Space: Administrative Weeding”

March 30

Kilgore Memorial Library
York
“Online Periodicals”

April 21

Pawnee City Public Library
“Marketing Policy”

May 19

Nelson Public Library
“Fundraising”

June 23

Wahoo Public Library

July 21

Wymore Public Library

Our January CASTL theme was “Bibliostat and Your Annual Report.” Sam Shaw went through each part of the Bibliostat interface with the group assembled at Tecumseh Public Library.

Why do libraries collect and turn in statistics to the Nebraska Library Commission through Baker and Taylor’s Bibliostat tool? There are several reasons: 1. The Nebraska Library Commission is required by Nebraska law to collect statistics from the state’s libraries, 2. The statistics are used in the accreditation process (required for many grants), 3. It is required to receive state aid, and 4. The data is useful in strategic planning, evaluation, and advocacy.

Some of the tips from Sam were to click on the button to show last year’s data, to always click on “Save” before continuing to the next page and to avoid using Chrome. “Edit Checks” will occur when your figures fall out of the normal or expected range (a red “x” appears asking for an explanation). For these, you explain the situation by using the federal note field associated with the question. After you have answered, the red “x” is replaced by a green check mark. When you are entirely finished, click submit. Once submitted, your survey will be locked and you will need to contact Sam to make any changes. Sam will also review your data and possibly ask follow-up questions, normally via email. CASTL participants had a chance to ask questions and volunteer information, such as the fact that when counting participants in a children’s program, you count all bodies present (including adults).

There is a supplemental survey as well. This enables the Nebraska Library Commission to keep its information on library staff, members of the library board, hours, online services, etc. up to date.

There was a brief discussion of Nebraska Statute 51-213 regarding annual reports. It requires library boards to make a report to the city council or village board by the second Monday of February. The statute specifies which statistics must be included. The report must also be verified by affidavit of the officers of the library board.

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
February 27 —March 10	Library Governance	January 30—February 16
March 20—April 14	Organization of Materials	February 17—March 9
April 10—April 21	Reader’s Advisory	March 13—30

News Around the System

Central City Public Library Stays Busy

Information provided by Central City Public Library

During the entire month of February the public can stop by the Central City Public Library for a mysterious rendezvous.

They will fix up their patrons with a blind date (with a book of course). Staff select a variety of books and wrap them up in plain brown paper so that people won't know the "identity" of their blind date until they get it home. While disappointment with the "date" is a possibility, some will wind up really enjoying a book they would not otherwise have chosen.

There will also be a Pinterest party where participants make decorative, wooden blocks, an instructional program on Twitter, and a Spy Academy, among other activities!



3D Humanities Exhibit in Milligan

Information provided by Milligan Public Library, Photo by Shirley Brunkow

The Milligan Public Library received the 3-D Bill of Rights Exhibit from the National Archives and Nebraska Humanities. It has been on display at the library since the middle of December and will continue through February 28. Shown in the picture are the story time boys and girls after holding a discussion about the Bill of Rights. The picture was taken by Shirley Brunkow, who is in charge of story time each week. Area schools and the public were notified of the display.

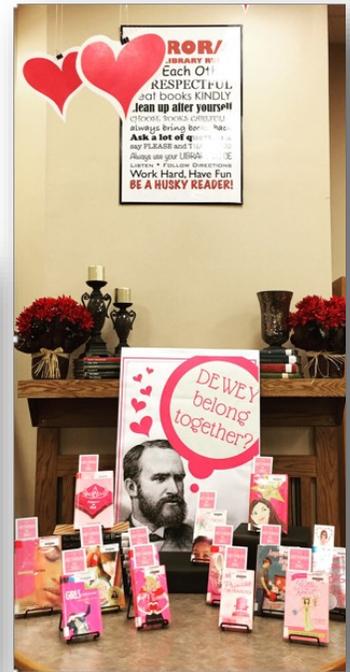
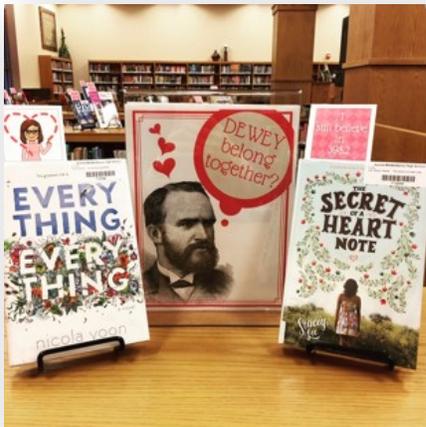


News Around the System

February Displays and Books

Provided by Emmy Fiala

These are the February library displays and bookmarks at the Aurora Middle/ High School Media Center.



Playful Penguin Storytime

By Terry Olson

Hebron Secest Library has been busy with our children and adult programming. On February 4th, a lively, fun group of children enjoyed the Playful Penguin story time! The children learned about these unusual birds that spend most of their lives in water. Tacky the Penguin was enjoyed by all. Penguins Love Colors was the featured book and was the inspiration for our colorful craft project!

On February 26th at 2:00pm, Hebron Secest Library is sponsoring a free adult program: Celebrating Western Heritage 1846-1897. (See more information on page 12.)



News Around the System

2017 is a Year for Celebrations

By Charlotte Baldinger

Seward Memorial Library will be “celebration central” during 2017! This year the City of Seward and Seward County will celebrate their 150th anniversary along with the big \$150 for our state of Nebraska. The library kicked off the year, which will be filled with “150” events, by launching the Fit for 150 program. Patrons formed teams and weighed in during January with the goal of losing a combined total of 150 pounds by September 30. Those participating would like to earn the \$150 prize as well as feel healthier in 2017. The library will continue to promote awareness of our heritage with monthly presentations, including February 26 when we feature Laura Ingalls Wilder’s birthday at 2 p.m. Check our library calendar and you are invited to join in our celebrations!



Souper Bowl Supper: Honoring their MVP's

Pawnee City Public Library director Lola Seitz and assistant Colleen Morehead hosted a Souper Bowl Supper to honor their Most Valuable People: members of the library board, members of the library friends and foundation, and library volunteers. Lola gave a brief report on number of volunteer hours spent to benefit the library and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. Guests enjoyed getting to know each other through sharing fun facts about themselves while enjoying the home made soups.



News Around the System

Auburn Public Library Celebrates Library Lovers Month

By Heather Koenecke, Photos by Heather Koenecke

To celebrate Library Lover's Month, we are offering Blind Dates.....with Books! We have adult as well as youth dates available. The youth are having a lot of fun with it! Once the Rate your Date cards are turned in, we will have a drawing for prizes.



February is...

Library Covers Month

Go on a *Blind Date...*
with a book!

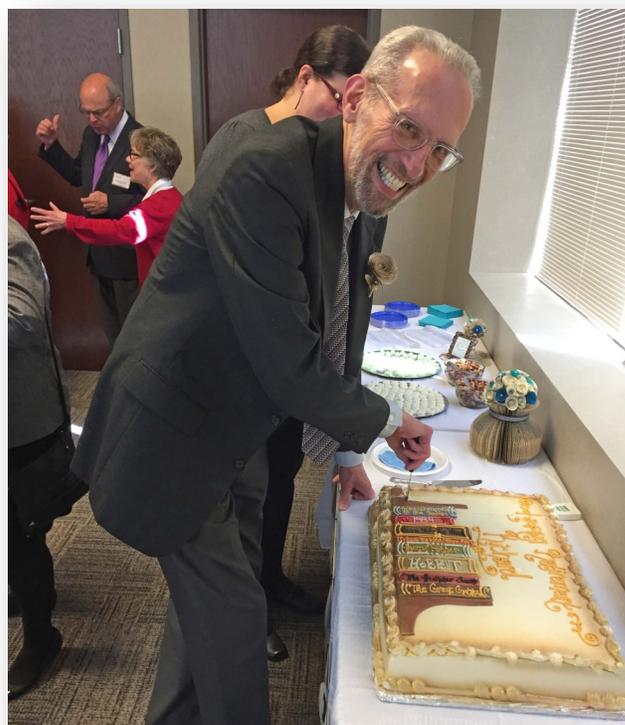
Here's how it works...

- o Browse the clues attached to each wrapped book and select your reading match.
- o Check the book out.
- o Wait till you get home to unwrap it!
- o Read it and enjoy!
- o Or be sure to spend at least a few minutes with your date.
- o Fill out the enclosed "Rate your Date" card and drop it in the box for a chance to win prizes.
- o If you don't like the book, it's ok. Neither our feelings nor its feelings will be hurt!

Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy.
I have no cover, so read me maybe??

Richard Miller Retires from the Nebraska Library Commission

Richard Miller is a familiar face to many of the librarians around the state. He has helped librarians understand state law, aided library boards and directors with a multitude of issues, and played a key role in the accreditation process for public libraries. He served 20 years at the Nebraska Library Commission, with previous stints as the Southeast Library System Director, various roles at the Missouri State Library, and Director of the Montana State Library. Pictured below is Richard at his retirement party—cutting the cake decorated with a bookshelf of books. He will officially retire on March 5th.



News Around the System

Love Monster Craft Day at Clarks Public Library

By Barbee Sweet

The second annual Craft a Love Monster Day was held at the Clarks Public Library. The library had collected empty Kleenex boxes for the kids to turn into Love Monsters. They could then take them to school for their Valentine's Day box. It was lots of fun to see all the kids get creative!



News Around the System

Watch Party: “Big Talk from Small Libraries”

Southeast Library System and Seward Memorial Library are hosting a watch party for the Big Talk from Small Libraries online conference on February 24 between 8:45 and 5:00 pm. You could watch from your desk (in that case go to the [official registration](#) page). Or you can join with others in watching the conference. If you [register here](#) you will help give us a count for those expected to attend at Seward



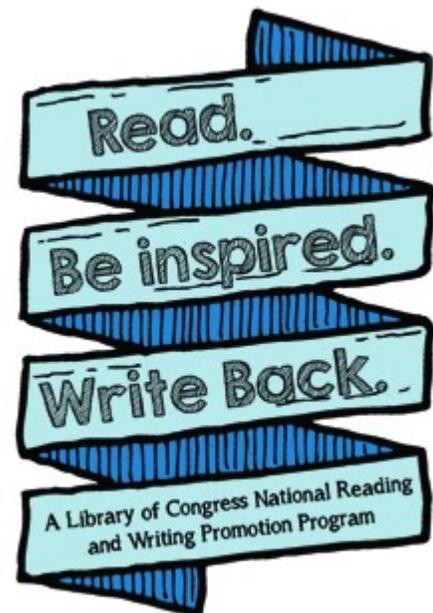
Memorial Library. Bring your lunch and favorite snacks, or chip in for pizza. We will forward your CE information to the Nebraska Library Commission.

Also, if another library in a different part of the system would like to host a showing, go for it!

Teachers and Librarians Invited to Host Letter Writing Clinics

Books make a difference in the lives of Nebraska young people. We know this because they say so in the letters they write to authors for the **Letters About Literature** competition. In her 2014 winning letter to Gary Soto Sydney Kohl says, “The work inspired me to be true to myself, and also taught me the importance of each and every small perk in life. Our time on Earth is short, and might not be perfect, but as long as we take advantage of the opportunities given to us, maybe that’s okay.”

Nebraska teachers and librarians are invited to apply for \$300 grants to conduct Letters About Literature Letter Writing Clinics. Funding will be provided to introduce students to the Letters about Literature (LAL) contest and letter writing techniques, and to work with them to select books and craft letters to the authors. Grant funds can be used for items such as instructor honorariums, supplies, marketing, small participation prizes, etc. Applicants will target their efforts to specific age groups: grades 4-6, grades 7-8, or grades 9-12



For more information about the LAL Letter Writing Clinic grant (due March 30), see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/lalwritingclinics> or contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665, joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov



FEBRUARY 17

NEBRASKACCESS DATABASE ROADSHOW

Dive into the databases provided by the Nebraska Library Commission to all Nebraskans.

Have you not yet had a chance to learn all the ins and outs of Nebraska's still relatively new database package? Or do you need a refresher? If so, then this workshop is for you. You will also earn 5 CE through your participation.

This activity is supported with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

This is a chance to get in-depth training on NebraskaAccess databases!

Help with research, reader's advisory, genealogy, school assignments, and more!

Trainers: Susan Knisely and Allana Novotny

Sponsored by:



**ASHLAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

9:30 – 3:30

Lunch on Your Own

Register at

<http://bit.ly/NebraskAccess>

NLA Sponsors Bus to June ALA Conference

Nebraska Library Association (NLA) is excited to be able to offer the opportunity to ride a chartered bus to Chicago for ALA 2017.

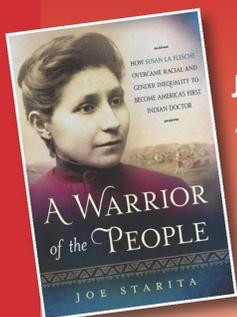
If you've not been a part of a librarian road trip - now's the time. It will be on a chartered bus with Arrow Stage Lines leaving for Chicago on June 22nd and returning on June 27th. The bus will leave on June 22nd from Lincoln, with a pick-up point in Omaha and arrive in Chicago that same day/evening. Plans would be to arrive by Opening Session. Then the bus will leave immediately following the Closing Session on June 27th and be back in Nebraska that same day. The cost is \$85 (roundtrip) for NLA members and \$125 for non-members. NLA will use Legacy Funds to help with expenses. Registration for ALA Annual Chicago 2017 opens on February 2nd, 2017.

NLA wants a minimum of 30 passengers for the Road Trip . For that reason bus registration is encouraged by February 28th in order to gauge interest.

If you have any questions, contact Brenda Ealey, Nebraska ALA Chapter Councilor, at b.ealey@lincolnlibraries.org
 Register here: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/events/register.aspx?id=920929>



Nebraska authors signing in Seward

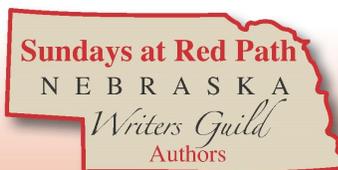


Joe Starita, author of *A Warrior of the People*, a biography of America's first Indian doctor, will speak about and sign his book.

Sunday, February 19 • 1:00 p.m.



548 Seward St., Seward, NE • 402-643-2282
www.sewardchapters.com



Laura Madeline Wiseman and Charlene Neely present a poetry reading and discussion as part of the "Sundays at Red Path Writers Guild Authors" series.

Sunday, February 19 • 2:00 p.m.



514 Seward St., Seward, NE • 402-540-6929
www.redpathgallery.com



Laura Madeline Wiseman



Charlene Neely

JOIN US IN WELCOMING THESE AUTHORS TO SEWARD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

Celebrating Western Heritage 1846-1897

U LONGHORNS U COWBOYS U TRAIL DRIVES

Presented by Gary and Margaret Kraisinger

Through years of research and mapping, Gary and Margaret documented the fascinating history of the largest cattle trail systems delivering longhorns from Texas to the north. Cattle trails play an important role in the history of the American West. During this time period the American cowboy icon was born. In 2016 Kraisingers received both the Wrangler and Six Shooter Awards for the Best Nonfiction Book of the Year and were featured in the *American Cowboy*.



**Where: Courtyard Terrace Apts. Activity Room
(Blue Valley Assisted Living Facility)
at the corner of 1st Street and Road M**

When: Sunday, February 26th, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Free Program sponsored by Hebron Secrest Library - The public is welcome to attend and visit with the speakers.

**SELS Training Extravaganza
May 12
Seward Memorial Library**

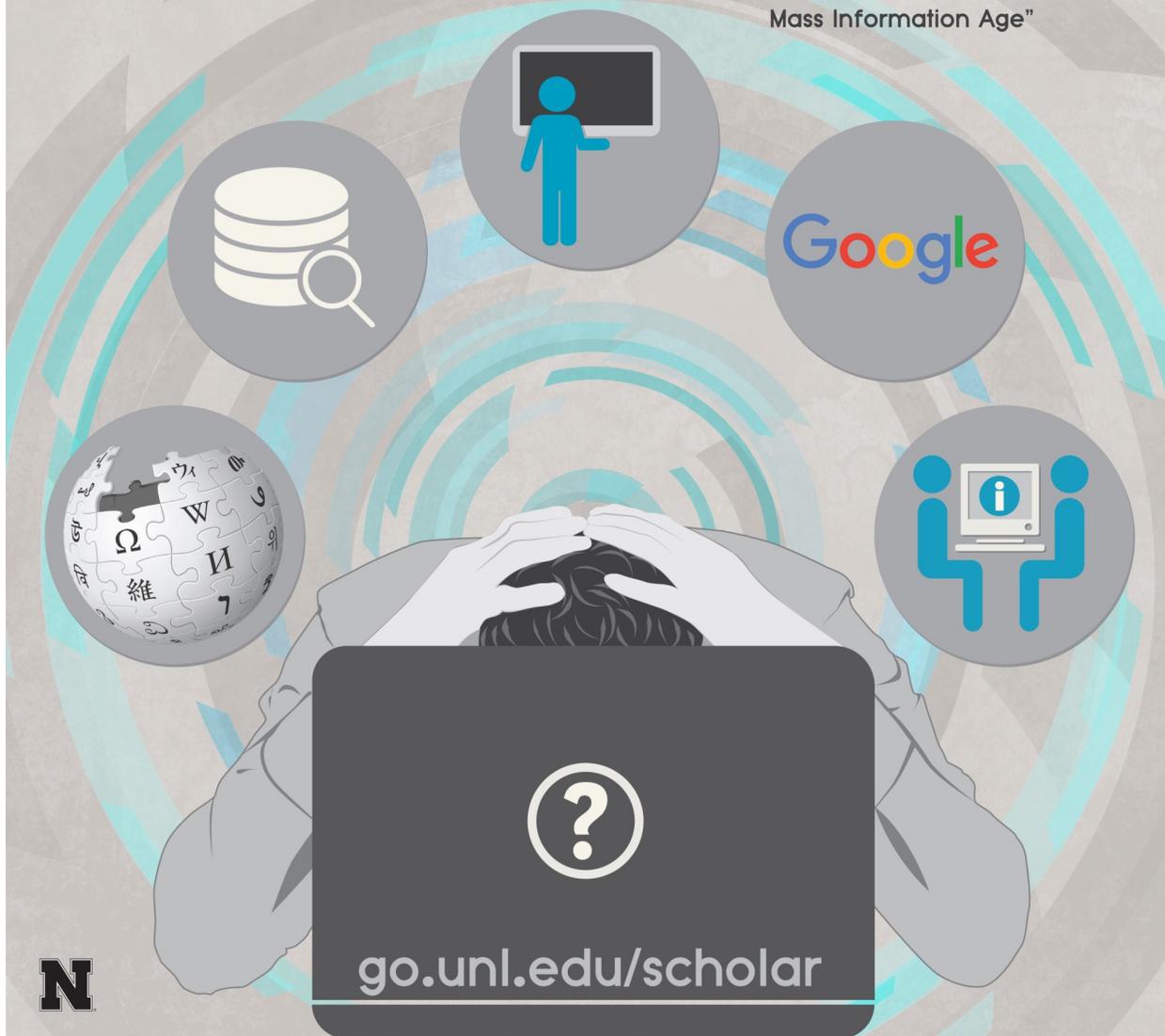
How Today's Students Conduct Research

March 16
10AM

Room 218
Love Library

Keynote Presentation
Dr. Alison J. Head
Founder & Director of
Project Information Literacy

Followed by
UNL Faculty Panel Discussion
"Critical Literacies for the
Mass Information Age"



N

go.unl.edu/scholar

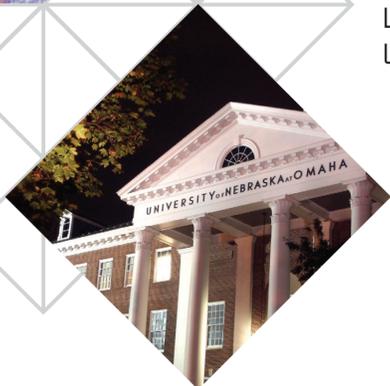
100% ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAMS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

▶ online.nebraska.edu/library



“My today started when I took my passion to the next level. I’ve always loved reading and loved the world that books could take me into. Although I was busy with my children at home and my career working in a school, the library science program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha helped me further pursue my passion. It gave me flexibility for my busy schedule, exposed me to real-life opportunities to experience a spectrum of libraries and prepared me for future trends in libraries. I love being a librarian and the role I play in being a gateway to knowledge.”

Kim Gangwish
Library Science
University of Nebraska at Omaha



Why get a library science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha?

- 100% Online Options
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- Field Site Experiences in Many Courses
- High Employment Placement Rates

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Erica Rose
ecrose@unomaha.edu
970.231.7372
online.nebraska.edu/library

Also, ask about our blended master's programs.



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System Spotlight

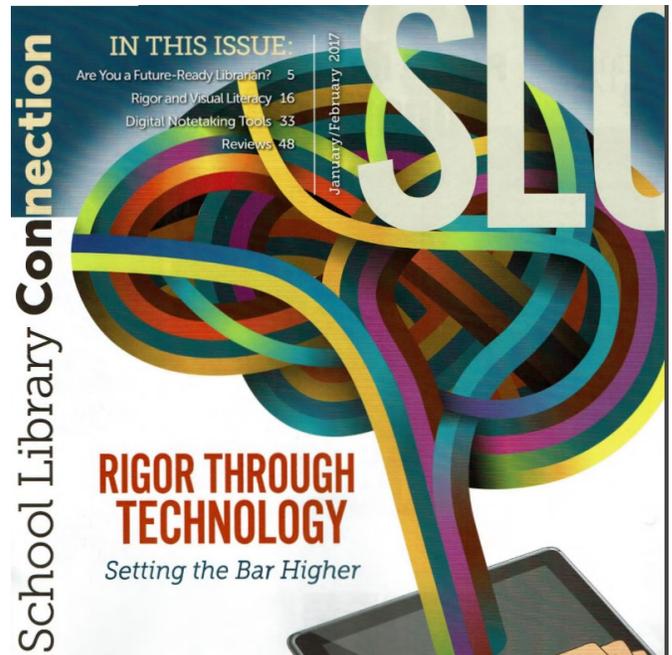
Request articles!

The highly popular Journal Article Request Service works in this manner: Simply email the SELS office at selsne@gmail.com with the journals you'd like to get notifications for, and we'll put you on an email notification list. When a new issue of a periodical arrives at the SELS office, we will scan and distribute the table of contents via email. Then, you can request the articles you'd like to read the most. We can send one scanned copy of an article per institution.

These are the journals currently available:

- **Library Journal**
- **Public Libraries**
- **School Library Journal**
- **School Library Connection**
- **American Libraries**
- **Nebraska Municipal Review**
- **Strategic Library**
- **Young Adult Library Services**

Depending on the number of requests, and due to the fact that we are sometimes out of the office, it may take us a bit to get an article to you. However, if you have a bit of patience, we will get to your request. This service is only for libraries within the SELS service area.



Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

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