



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

October/November 2007

SOWINGS

Do We Need Dewey?

Lisa M. Voss

What if you started a revolution, and nobody noticed? That's what happened at the Perry Branch Library in Maricopa County, Arizona. The Maricopa County Library District opened its newest branch to a parking lot full of eager customers, with all the things most libraries have: bookshelves, a trained staff, a circulation system and a catalog. What the Perry Branch doesn't have, though, is the Dewey Decimal system. Marshall Shore, the county's adult services director, explained that they wanted to make the library as "customer-friendly as possible" (Whelan 14). When they opened their doors on June 11 of this year, the classification system beloved of librarians everywhere, and omnipresent in our nations' public and school libraries, was absent. What did library users think, when they noticed this cataclysmic, seismic shift in library organization? Well, according to Shore, they didn't. Notice, that is. He reports that the happy Perry Branch customers had no trouble finding what they wanted in the 31,000 item collection. Not one person, he reports, "said 'What happened to my Dewey?'" (Whelan 14). The library even had extra staff on hand to help with the anticipated chaos, but Shore reported that "people said they were just browsing" (Whelan. 14).

To say that nobody noticed this bold move is not quite accurate. The CUSTOMERS didn't notice, but the rest of the Dewey-using community certainly did. The decision made by the Maricopa County Library District to dispense with Dewey has reverberated through the library world in the few short months since the Perry Branch opened its doors. It seems that everybody's talking about it, and everyone has an opinion. After all, the Dewey Decimal System is part of what defines a library. It allows us to impose order

on chaos. It gives us the power to find things we need in an organized, dependable fashion. Without Dewey, how will our patrons find what they are looking for? Well, Marshall Shore offers a different take on Dewey in the library. He feels that Dewey often "confused and frustrated patrons." Besides, he noted, it's not a "fail-safe" system (Whelan 14). It says a lot about what customers think of our treasured classification system that Shore "hasn't received one negative complaint" about the set up of the new library (Whelan 14). The Perry Branch's bookstore-like arrangement, with books shelved "by topic, and alphabetized by author's last name" has been such a big hit with library users that Maricopa County is considering opening all its future branches in the same way (Whelan 14).

Wow. Just think about that for a moment. A whole system of libraries without Dewey on the shelves. Customers wandering around, browsing through a collection organized by topic. No more librarians speaking in code, directing people to the "364.152 Section", or the "641.5's." Patrons in Maricopa County's new libraries will be directed to the True Crime section, or the cookbooks.

Could it be that we are not really talking about a revolution, but evolution? This is not about how we classify, catalog and shelve the books-not really. This is about the relationship between library staff and library users. It's about what our users expect from their library, and what we can do to meet their expectations. It's about the fact that the people we used to refer to as "patrons" have evolved into "customers." And, on a more disturbing level, it's about the big disconnect between how we see libraries and their mission, and how library users see them. Here's another bombshell for those of you just recovering from reading the opening paragraph - in many cases, those perceptions are miles apart.

If you don't believe that library users think of their libraries in very different ways than library staff do, you need to take a little field trip. Next time you're near a bookstore of any decent size, especially one of the national chains (I know, you NEVER go into THOSE places—only your small, local bookstores), go inside. What you'll find out if you can bring yourself to venture in, is that your customers DO go there. When I go to my local Barnes and Noble, I see so many of my library regulars that I feel like I'm still at work. What are they doing? They're browsing through the sale books, drinking coffee, talking on their cell phones and typing on their laptops. They're over in the CD section, listening to music on the store's headphones, and leafing through the magazines, or chatting with friends. More importantly, they are finding books to read and purchase. Without Dewey. Without us. All by themselves. And most importantly, they are making the bookstore exactly what they want it to be. And the bookstore parking lot is full, at all hours of the day and night, because the store's owners know that letting people's expectations shape how the store operates is what brings those people through the door.

But, you say, we are LIBRARIES. We are not businesses and should not be run like them. We have a sacred duty to collect and preserve knowledge and to make it available to the public, regardless of their ability to pay. To which much of our public would say: "Blah, Blah, Blah. Yadda Yadda Yadda. Hey, do you have wireless in here?" Yes, WE know about this sacred duty, and we all value that part of our mission or we wouldn't be doing what we're doing. We have to realize, however, that we no longer hold the keys to knowledge and its sources in the same way we did before the Internet came along. Those laptops that people are hauling around render much of what we used to do and represent obsolete. They can set up in the cafe at the bookstore, or at a table in our library, and find what they're looking for faster than we can say "How may I help you?" Yes, we offer free access to books, music, audiobooks and so much more—that's what sets us apart, and part of what people expect from us. Then why are so many of these same people also spending time in a commercial space that charges for access to all of the things we offer for free?

The answer to that question lies in our reaction to the Perry Branch doing away with Dewey. While it is true that Perry's arrangement will not work for all libraries, it might work very well for many. The central idea here is that you will never know if you don't try. Finding better ways to serve our customers means letting go of some things that, while they matter immensely to us, just don't work for them. Changing things on the fly is second-nature in a retail setting. If one display doesn't sell a title, then move it—it's really quite simple. In the library world, however, we don't DO risk-taking. We are the classifiers, the catalogers, the imposers-of-order. We love labels and systems and sub-headings. When we were the gate-keepers to all knowledge, these things were essential to our craft. The people who came through our doors were willing to jump through our hoops and learn our secret code, to find what they were seeking. Today, that's all changed. Customers shuttle happily between library and bookstore, the commercial and the institutional worlds. We have made our libraries inviting to many more types of users, and now we have to figure out what they want and how to keep them coming in.

Dispensing with Dewey seems radical, even reckless. But it is just the beginning. It has to be. We may continue to look down on for-profit operations like the big bookstores, but they don't care. They don't have to, because they have a code of their own that keeps them in business—put the customer at the center, and think about what they want. In a follow-up article on the Perry Branch, Marshall Shore was asked why the MCLD did things the way they did. He answered that "they actually talked to their patrons before the library was constructed" (Kenney 9). What they found out—that 80% of their users came to the library, not to search for a specific title, but to browse—mattered to the library's planners. They could have ignored what their users said they wanted. They could have looked back and reasoned, "This is how we've always done things, and we know best." But instead they asked, "How do our library users want it done?" And how did Maricopa County residents want their new library to do things? According to Shore, "they wanted it to be as easy to use as a bookstore" (Kenney 9). Okay, Melvil—classify THAT !

Kenney, B. (2007) "Desert storm." *School Library Journal*, 53 (8); p. 9

Whelan, D. L. (2007) "Arizona Library Ditches Dewey." *School Library Journal* 53 (7); p. 14

December is “ditch Dewey” month at Seward Memorial Library!

After discussing a School Library Journal article at a CASTL meeting, the idea of reorganizing the non-fiction section of the library was proposed at a staff meeting. The unanimous thumbs-up from staff was all that was needed to put this project on the schedule. Shortly after this staff meeting, a retiree from another library in Seward came in wanting books about Texas. After going to both the 917.64 and 976.4 sections to gather her books, staff commented on the upcoming change in organization. This patron was thrilled to hear about it! Making the non-fiction collection more directly accessible to patrons makes the cost and effort of re-labeling thousands of titles insignificant. Currently staff is developing subject categories and subcategories that will take the place of Dewey numbers, with the actual transition scheduled to take place in December - the slowest month of the year at our library.

The new year will bring with it the new non-fiction section; we can't wait to introduce our patrons to it! They're going to love it!

-Becky Baker, Director

025.4 or Library Organization

DeWitt: Dewey or Don't We?

Kim McCain the media specialist for Tri-County Schools in DeWitt has also pitched a proposal to the school called “Dewey or Don't We” which suggests that the media center explore a new system for organizing the non-fiction area of the library. Her reasons for ditching Dewey are:

- they're a small library media center so a transition is reasonable
- the current non-fiction collection needs to be reworked whether they stick with Dewey or not
- there's a backlog of books ready to be cataloged
- students are more than keyed in to Web 2.0 and the move toward users defining, categorizing and labeling content, making the media center audience ideal for evaluating a new system of organization.

McCain also reasoned teaching without Dewey could stress the importance of students navigating different systems in libraries and the need to think in broad terms about how to use multiple organization systems, not just Dewey. She's investigating the possibility of using the Book Industry Study Group (BISAC) subject headings and subtopics as a place to start, and then alphabetizing by author's last name.

McCain said: “As the Tri County Library Media Center moves forward, our primary goals have to be what is best for our students to find information. Ditching Dewey is definitely thinking outside the box.” And, certainly a visible response to what might be a natural fit for the library in serving youth.

2007-2008 Board Meeting Schedule:

December 14 (Lincoln-Governor's Mansion starts 10 a.m.)

February 15 (Location to be announced)

April 24th (start at 1:00 p.m. at James Arthur vineyard)





October

October 21st – 27th: National Friends of Libraries Week – www.folusa.org/sharing/national-friends-week.php. The celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library.

October 22nd: Reception for Thinking Outside the Borders Institute at James Arthur Vineyards. For more information go to page 7.

October 24th - 26th: NLA/NEMA Conference in Kearney. For details go to: www.2007nlanema.info/.

October 26th: Soaring to Excellence – Mapping the Library Landscape: Every Library Worker a Trend Spotter, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The teleconference is provided as a webcast or via satellite and coordinates and URL will be sent out via e-mail about a week prior to the program. For more information contact Laura Johnson – ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us or (800)307-2665, or to register go to: www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/.

October 26th – 27th: 2007 Nebraska Book Festival in downtown Lincoln. For more information go to: www.nebraskabookfestival.org.



November

 **November 1st & 15th: Collection Development Basic Skills Course** in Seward from 10 to 3. For more information and to register go to the Nebraska Library Commission training schedule at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp.



November 9th: CASTL Meeting in Auburn, meeting starts at 10 a.m. with Lisa Voss from Lincoln City Libraries providing information and resources for Readers Advisory. Afternoon includes the Round Robin – and this month's book discussion is – *Dead Ex* by Harley Jane Kozak – who is one of the keynotes at this year's NLA/NEMA conference in Kearney.

 **November 9th: Sally Gardner Reed workshop** at Wahoo Public Library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sally, Executive Director of FOLUSA, will talk about how Library Friends raise funds at the local level, as well as provide additional information on successful Library Friends Groups. See page 8.

November 9th: Nebraska Library Commissioners Meeting at NLC from 9:30 to 12. The meeting is open to the public. For more information contact Maria Medrano-Nehls at: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us or (800)307-2665.

November 12th – 18th: Children's Book Week – Rise Up Reading – www.cbcbooks.org/.

November 16th: State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) meeting at Grand Island Public Library from 9:30 to 2:30. Meeting is open to the public. For information contact Maria Medrano-Nehls at: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us or (800)307-2665.

 **November 29th: Fall Colloquium with Michael Stephens**, see page 9.

December

December 5th: Style Your Web Site with CSS at Nebraska Library Commission from 9 to 4. Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is the language that gives you the power to make your web pages look the way you want them to and allows you to give your site a consistent look across all of your pages in less code than you'd imagine. Ultimately, designing your Web site using CSS allows you to accomplish more work, in less time, and make your site easier to manage over the long-term. (Attendees must have a working knowledge of HTML and/or XHTML before attending this workshop.) To register go to the NLC training calendar at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp.



December 6th: CASTL Meeting at Roca Country Inn, Roca 10 a.m-3 p.m.

December 12th – 14th: NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) Annual Conference at the Cornhusker Marriot in Lincoln www.nacone.org/



December 14th: SELS Board Meeting in Lincoln at Governor's Mansion 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

March



March 24th – 29th: Mark your calendars and make plans now to join us on a **Road Trip to PLA** in Minneapolis. See page 10 for details.



The **Struckman-Baatz Public Library** in Western sponsored the juggling act “The Throwing Picasso’s” during the town’s annual “Old Settler’s” celebration this past July. The program was presented on the outdoor stage in the city park. People of all ages attended and everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening.

Barbara Schwisow, Director



The lift used to change all of the light bulbs over the stacks area of **Seward Memorial Library** - first time since we've been in the building - four years now.

Becky Baker, Director

Dorchester passed a bond to build a new school this past month which is to be done in two years. Of course this means new school library- which is exciting!

The 2nd item is that **Dorchester Public School** library celebrated (is celebrating as we speak) Teen Read Week. We had the following events:

Goth puppet making contest, cartoon drawing contest, Coke versus Pepsi taste challenge, funny videos running each morning. We gave LOL @ your library tattoos to those who made puppets and LOL mini pens to those who drew cartoons.

-Deb Nerud Vernon, Media Specialist

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Janet Lu, Head of Public Services Librarian, at **Nebraska Wesleyan University** in Lincoln will receive a YWCA Lincoln Tribute to Women Award on October 26th. The award recognizes and honors efforts to aid the less fortunate, to create a nurturing environment and to improve opportunities for all women. Janet is one of the founders of the Lincoln Chinese Cultural Association (LCCA) to promote Chinese cultural heritage and international understanding within the city. Janet works with the Asian Community and Cultural Center playing a key role in organizing social activities which enable Chinese women to play an active, productive role in the wider community. Janet has served as a commissioner for the Lincoln Lancaster Women's Commission. Through the Lincoln Public Schools and the Nebraska Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau she makes a wide variety of presentations on Chinese history and culture to promote diversity education through out the state. The Nebraska Library Association named her Mentor of the Year in 1992 and Nebraska Wesleyan University granted her it's prestigious White Award for Internationalization for her efforts in promoting international education. She also received Wesleyan's Advocate for Diversity Award.



Our congratulations go to Janet and her work within and outside the library walls!

Books Honored by Nebraska Center for the Book



**THE NEBRASKA
CENTER FOR
THE BOOK**

The 2007 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year's winners are:

- **Children/Young Adult:** *Tomorrow the River*, Dianne E. Gray, Houghton Mifflin Company
- **Cover/Design/Illustration:** *Things We Don't Know We Don't Know*, Matt Mason, The Backwaters Press
- **Fiction:** *The Floor of the Sky*, Pamela Carter Joern, University of Nebraska Press Flyover Fiction Series
- **Fiction Honor:** *The Cleanup*, Sean Doolittle, Bantam Dell, a Division of Random House, Inc.
- **Nonfiction:** *The National Grasslands*, Francis Moul, Photography by Georg Joutras, University of Nebraska Press Bison Books
- **Nonfiction Honor:** *Toast to Omaha: A Cookbook*, Junior League of Omaha, Quebecor Books
- **Poetry:** *Things We Don't Know We Don't Know*, Matt Mason, The Backwaters Press

Award winners will be honored at the Nebraska Book Festival, www.nebraskabookfestival.org, at a presentation in the Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda, at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 27.



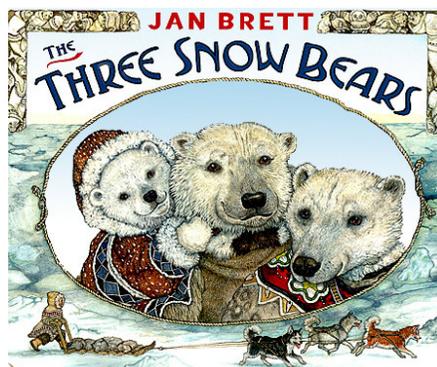
News and Notes

Author Jan Brett

Author Jan Brett is scheduled to be in Kearney on Tuesday, October 23rd. This is the evening before NLA preconferences occur. If you are traveling to Kearney on the 23rd, you may want to check this out!

Her website, www.janbrett.com lists the following visit information:

5.00 PM – 7.00 PM
 Hastings Bookstore
 9 West 39th Street, Kearney, NE 68848
 308-234-1130



We the People Bookshelf Grant

The American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would like to invite public and school (K – 12) libraries to apply for the fifth annual *We the People* Bookshelf grant. Part of the NEH's *We the People* initiative, the Bookshelf is a grant program that encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year, *ALA and NEH* are offering 3,000 sets of classic books for young readers on the theme "Created Equal." To apply, simply complete the online application by describing how your library will create a theme-related program that highlights the Bookshelf titles. The application is available at www.ala.org/wethepeople and should take less than one hour to complete.

Applicants have the option to submit an application on behalf of a single library, or to apply on behalf of multiple locations within a system or district. Guidelines, programming, ideas, and the online application are available at the web site above until **January 25, 2008**.



Image courtesy of [Julie Paschkis](#)

Sponsored by the Eastern Library System

Does your library need more money?
If the answer is yes, then you won't want to miss this program on:

**How to *Raise* More Money on the local Level
for Your Library**

Presented by **Sally Reed**, Executive Director of
FOLUSA (Friends of Libraries USA)

Who should attend:

- Librarians
- Library Friends
- Public Library Trustees
- Foundation Members



Wahoo Public Library
 637 North Maple Street
November 9, 2007
 10 am - Noon
 2 CE hours credit

\$5 each or \$10 for three from the same library (checks to ELS)

Name: _____

Library: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Eastern Library System 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12 Omaha, NE 68144

Please check one
 _____ Librarian _____ Friend _____ Trustee _____ Foundation

2007 Fall Colloquium

Librarian 2.0



What?

Librarian 2.0 is a "strategy guide" for helping users find information, gather knowledge and create content. The most important traits of Librarian 2.0 include: Librarians 2.0 plans for their users ~ Librarian 2.0 embraces Web 2.0 tools ~ Librarian 2.0 controls technolust ~ Librarian 2.0 makes good, yet fast decisions ~ Librarian 2.0 is a trendspotter ~ Librarian 2.0 gets content ~ Librarian 2.0 also listens to staff and users when planning, tells the stories of successes and failures, learns from both, celebrates those successes, allows staff time to play and learn, and never stops dreaming about the best library services.

How? Why?

Join your peers—discuss & discover.

Michael Stephens, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science in River Forest, IL. A frequent, and sometimes keynote, speaker at library and technology conferences around the world, he was named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2005. He serves on the editorial boards of several major journals and is a prolific author. Michael authored *Web 2.0 for Libraries: Best Practices for Social Software*, and writes a monthly column in Library Journal with Michael Casey entitled "The Transparent Library." His blog, Tame the Web, is read avidly by many librarians.

Thursday, November 29, 2007 5:30-9:30 p.m.

at The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

Yankee Hill 1 & 2

333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Michael Stephens
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion

Dinner: Arbor Buffet

Fresh garden salad, fresh seasonal fruit, fresh vegetable tray with dip, Chef's potatoes or rice, two Chef's fresh vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and milk. with Stuffed Lemon Artichoke Chicken and Seafood Newburg for entrees.

The Arbor Buffet also includes assorted Cornhusker cakes and pastries.

The Fall Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System & the Southeast Library System.

This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

YES! I want to participate in the Fall Colloquium 2007: Michael Stephens

Name _____ Library _____

Work phone _____ Work email _____

Send completed registration form & payment of **\$35.00** to: **Eastern Library System**, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144. **Deadline: Tuesday, November 20, 2007.**



OF COURSE THERE'S A BUS TRIP!

This will be the fourth annual Road Trip– we're heading up north for the Public Library Association 2008 Conference.

March 24-March 29, 2007

Use the bus trip to network with your peers, catch up on your sleep, finish that book, or watch a movie. But most of all, use the bus for the opportunity to attend a national conference for **FREE!** That's right, thanks to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, and to a grant* from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be no cost for the bus ride. (Riders are responsible for their own hotel arrangements and conference registration.)

The PLA National Conference has a reputation for excellence and offers attendees more than a hundred high-quality educational programs, world-class speakers, a bustling exhibits hall, and countless networking opportunities and social events, making the conference one of the most popular and successful events for the public library world.

The 2008 conference promises more of the same in Minneapolis, a city that continually tops travel destination lists for its cutting-edge architecture, vibrant arts scene, award-winning theatre, tax-free shopping, and renowned restaurants.

Bookmark www.placonference.org and check back often for updated information on registration, conference programming, special events, travel, and insider tips on everything Minneapolis has to offer. **John Wood**, former executive with Microsoft and founder of Room to Read, will help kick off the conference with an inspirational account of how he left his corporate job to change the world. **Kevin Nealon**, of 'Hanz & Franz' fame, will do the closing keynote.



Early Bird registration for the PLA conference ends January 18, 2008.

Pick-ups for the bus will be in Lincoln, Omaha, & South Sioux City.

So sign up today to join Road Trip 2008!

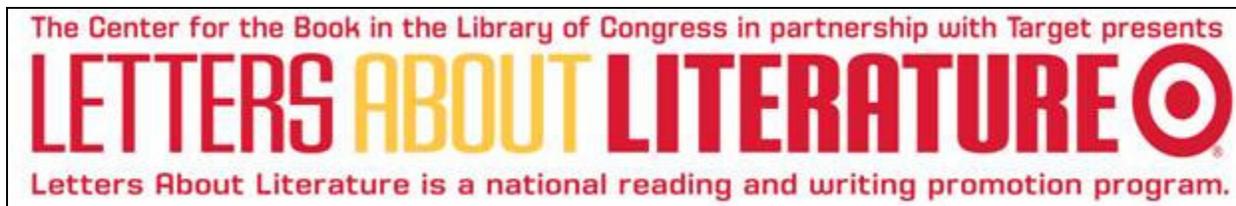
Please let us know your serious interest as early as possible, so that if we need to reserve a larger bus we can!

Sign up deadline: March 3rd, 2008

Contact Jenni Puchalla, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505
jennip@alltel.net or 800-288-6063/467-6188

*This project was supported in part by a Continuing Education and Training grant, awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

**If space permits, each rider may bring a non-library affiliated guest, who, according to grant stipulations, would be required to pay \$100.



Library of Congress Sponsors National Reading and Writing Contest for Young Readers

- State and National Winners Will Be Selected
- National Winners Will Earn a \$10,000 Reading Promotion Grant for their Community School Library

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program for young readers in grades 4 through 12, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The contest is sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers.

Judges representing the Nebraska Center for the Book will select the top essayists in the state on three competition levels: Level I for young readers in grades 4 through 6, Level II for grade 7 and 8 readers, and Level III for readers in grades 9 through 12. Entries in each state will be assessed on three criteria: content, or the writer's achievement in addressing the contest theme; exposition, or the writer's use of language skills; and voice, the writer's style and originality of expression.

State winners will receive a \$50 Target Gift Card. Each state winner will then advance to the national competition. A panel of judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will then select six national winners (two per competition level) and twelve national runners-up (four per competition level). Each national winner will receive a \$500 Target Gift Card. In addition, they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of \$10,000 for their school or community library. National winners will be instrumental in deciding how the library funds will be spent. The 12 national runners-up will win a \$100 Target Gift Card, *plus* they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of \$1,000 for their school or community library.

The required entry coupon and a copy of the "how to enter" guidelines are available at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/lal/aboutcontest.html. Contact lal@epix.net for free teaching materials (including lesson plans, blackline masters, writing samples, and assessment checklists) for schools, libraries, and home school partnerships. **Deadline** for entries is **December 14, 2007**.

Target sponsors Letters about Literature as part of its commitment to supporting education and early childhood reading. Target recognizes the integral role reading plays in shaping a child's future, because reading is the foundation for life-long learning and success. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, and safe families and communities. Today that translates to \$3 million every week.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. For information about its activities and national reading promotion networks, visit www.loc.gov/cfbook.

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The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

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As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, bringing together people and information. The most up-to-date news releases from the Nebraska Library Commission are always available on the Library Commission home page, www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on News Releases.

Copyright Law– Part 2

This article is the second of a six-part series on copyright for educators and public librarians.

Copyright law has its base in the United States Constitution, "The Congress shall have Power . . . To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries . . ." (United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8). Title 17 of the United States Code incorporates the Copyright Law of the United States of America as enacted as Public Law 94-553, 90 Stat. 2541, on October 19, 1976. To assist in the goal of promoting "the progress of science and useful arts," the Copyright Law not only protects the rights of the author or inventor, it contains provisions for rights of the users.

Often educators determine that since schools are not for profit institutions, thus they have cart blanche in using copyrighted materials. Educators do have expanded rights to use copyrighted materials as defined as Fair Use. "Fair use" has been interpreted to include those limited uses which are not likely to deprive a publisher or an author from income (Dr. Ken Crews). Educators must have an instructional objective aligned with the materials used in a face-to-face classroom setting.

The term Fair Use appears in Section 107 of the Copyright Law which follows:

Copyright Law of the United States Section § 107. Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 106 and 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use the factors to be considered shall include- (1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes; (2) the nature of the copyrighted work; (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work. The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.

Section 107 has evolved into the **Four Factor Fair Use Test**:

- * What is the purpose and character of the use?
- * What is the nature of the work to be used?
- * How much of the work will you use?
- * What effect would this use have on the market for the original or for permissions if the use were widespread?

All four factors must be considered to satisfy the Fair Use Test.

Dr. Ken Crews has developed a very helpful checklist for determining if the Fair Use Concept applies. It is available online at www.copyright.iupui.edu/checklist.htm.

Copyright and Fair Use in Education, NLAQ NLA Quarterly, Vol. 34, No. 4, Winter 2003, page 25-30, www.nebraskalibraries.org/nlaquarterly/2003-4-Brunken.htm

Please send an email to me if you want a complete bibliography of my recommended copyright law resources or have a copyright law question. Phyllis Brunken pbrunken@cox.net *I am not an attorney* and this article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law.

We had a good time wishing Maggie Harding, and her husband Gene, well as they pick up Nebraska roots and move to Colorado. Nebraska's been fortunate to have Maggie active in the library world as a public library director in Crete, Executive Director of Nebraska Library Association (NLA), as an officer with the NLA Trustee, Users, Friends Section



(TUFS), on the board of Southeast Library System, in the archives at Nebraska Library Commission, and as an overall advocate for libraries to elected officials at all levels. Here are a couple of pictures from her farewell party at Old Chicago on September 21st.

These photos are from some of the activities that happened to celebrate "Banned Books Week" – which included a display on banned books, and an esteemed librarian, film producer,



teacher & student panel on the issues of censorship at the College of Journalism. Becky Pasco was on the panel and shown here with a book on the challenged list. Number one on this year's most challenged list from the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom was: *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, an award winning children's picture book, based on a true story.



Joyce Fleming, Bonnie Pinkerton (seated), and Jan Aronson dress in period clothes at the **Weeping Water Open House** celebrating the 90th birthday of the library. They had 219 visitors on September 15, 2007—very close to the 254 who signed the guest book on opening day in 1917!



Congratulations and you, and the library, look great!



Always record holders in our books! Most of the 2007 SELS Board is swinging— on the world’s largest porch swing in Hebron.



Youth Service Retreat! Clockwise: Believe it or not, we’re learning Spanish; Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library & Gordon Wyant, Bellevue Public Library; Guess who?



SELS Board Meeting Morton-James Public Library - Nebraska City August 30, 2007

Attending: Board Members Present: Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries); Scott Childers (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Ken Gunselman (York College Levitt Library); Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City); Kim McCain (Tri-County schools, DeWitt); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library); Kris Rogge (Johnson); Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools);

Also Present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Becky Baker (SELS Friends representative, Seward Memorial Library); Susan Knisely (Nebraska Library Commission)

Board Members Absent: Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center Library); Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora)

President Willnerd called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

I. What's New Around the System: Olivigni reports that Crete Public Library had busy summer and reminded attendees of the upcoming NLA/NEMA conference. Frank reported that Greenwood Public had some much needed repairs done to the library, such as a new back door and a replacement wall. Baker reported that Seward Memorial Library had a record setting month for circulation in June. McCain reported that Tri-County Schools has started the new school year, and had a open house that had both media centers open to show parents the facilities. Rogge reported that a building for new library in Johnson will be going up. Knisely reported that the database roadshow was well attended, but is now down to 5 stops. Online training for online databases is available now. Bernthal reported that two new librarians have joined the UNL Libraries, Joy Roberts in cataloging & Toni Anaya as multicultural librarian. Hegr reported that for the Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City, September looks like a busy month. The CSpan BookTV bus is making a stop in Nebraska City, a preview of Ken Burn's series "The War" will be held, two times on the 20th & the 22nd. Gunselman reported that York College lost a worker due to budget cuts, but she comes back and volunteers. Willnerd reported that there are five new media specialists in Lincoln Schools district. Two new schools are under construction and another one to is about to start. The CSpan BookTV bus will also stop in Lincoln on Sept 12.

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes for June 29, 2007 was made by Rogge and seconded by Olivigni. Motion carried.

III. Financial Report: YTD Ending balance was \$151.75 and the report has been filed with NLC. The annual meeting expenses look inflated because the timing of last year's annual meeting caused the expenses to fall over to this year. A motion to approve the transactions was made by Bernthal and seconded by Frank. Motion carried.

IV. Administrators Report: Ealey highlighted several of her activities from June 29th, 2007 to August 30th, 2007 as outlined in her written report. She reported a good turnout from the SELS area at Nebraska Library Leadership Institute. On June 9th & 10th, 2008 the Future Search program is doing training in NE. Future Search would be used try and get some statewide direction in libraries. A planning group is working on it. Ealey reported she's trying to have a school-teacher related program of Ben Mikaelson at Tri-County Schools and maybe a program in Mahoney for a public program in April during the week of 14-18. Every library system is going to give a drawing for free admission to the Mem Fox pre-conference. The SELS office had a graduate student looking for a job in rural Nebraska visit to talk about working in rural areas. The next Commissioners meetings are Sept 14th & Nov 9th and SELS should have a person from the board attend. The Sept 14th meeting is in Lincoln. [Note: *The Commissioners meeting was actually Sept 21*] Ealey reminded us of the Nov 29th colloquium with Michael Stephens in Lincoln. A correction from the written report; Diane Ferlatte's storytelling performance is October 3rd, not Nov 3rd. She will be at the Eiseley branch of Lincoln city Libraries at 7:00 am and at the LPS district office at 4:00 pm.

V. SELS Friends: Baker reported that the Friends group is continuing to recruit new members. They have passed official bylaws so the seperated-yet-contacted status is now official. Baker announced the Iron Librarian Sept. 8th event. There will be three events (pitch, scrabble, Yahtzee) with an overall winner. Refreshments for the event are free for SELS Friends members. The SELS Friends website was recently reorganized. Harley Jane Kozak and Sartore books will be sold by SELS Friends along with candy & library themed temporary tattoo books at the upcoming NLA/NEMA conference. Baker reported a great turn out for the Harry Potter movie day. April will be the next "Aged to Perfection" event. Current Friends membership count stands at 29 individual, 7 lifetime.

VI. NLC Report: Knisely reported that Gates Technology training kicked of this week with two day training sessions. Priority was given to public libraries. If space is available, they will open training sessions to other library types. NEBASE had a gaming panel with some good information to show that games are something meaningful to libraries. Knisely gave a reminder that the New NebraskAccess passwords, are coming out and will change soon. A clarification on the Youth Grants for Excellence was presented; schools can get involved in these grants if they collaborate with a public library.

VII. 2007-2008 Meeting Schedule: October 5th (Hebron), Dec 14 (Lincoln), Feb 15 (Fairbury), April 24th (start at 1:00 at James Arthur vineyard)

VIII. Committee Assignments: Consortium Committee – Childers, Frank, Gunselman, Rogge
This committee will look at "big picture" topics, such as needs assessment and future planning.
Continuing Education Committee – Hegr, McCain, Olivigni, Willnerd

This committee will give input on training priorities, contacting potential speakers, and work on Training Extravaganza planning.

Promotion/Advocacy Committee – Elton, Marget, Schmitz, Thomsen

This committee will look at new communication tools, such as wikis and blogs, and advocacy opportunities.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:57 PM

October/November 2007

She had only to stand in the
orchard, to put her hand on a
little crab tree and look up at the
apples, to make you feel the
goodness of planting
and tending
and harvesting at last.

- Willa Cather

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