

### From the Director

January 2015

It is the beginning of the new year so let's pull out the crystal ball, dust it off, and see what will be affecting libraries in the next year.

On a national level, mobile technology usage will continue to grow and become more and more the first choice for information gatherers. It is projected that smart phone use will overtake other forms of phone use this year. It can actually be cheaper for a family to get a cell phone data plan than broadband internet to the home and with inexpensive smart phones throughout the market, expect to see usage increase across a wide demographic area. That said, Nebraska will see slower overall adoption due to large areas of the state still having poor data coverage from the cell phone carriers. In all types of libraries, users and staff continue to bring in their own devices expecting to be able to connect to Wi-Fi, and also expecting a large amount of services to be provided through apps and mobile-friendly webpages.

Politics will continue to be a central piece of people's lives in our area of the state. Keystone, Obamacare, the predicted stalemates between the Legislative and Executive branches at the Federal level and a new governor at the state level all will be on policy makers' minds for the near future. I've already talked to a few public librarians who have seen some drastic changes at their local level, and some library organizations are going through massive changes in their leadership and hierarchy. The politics of getting funding and buy-ins from those in authority could change dramatically for some libraries in the state this year. On the other hand, those changes also present opportunities to find new allies and new enthusiasm for what a library can do for a community.

Right now there may be people from four different generational groups working in the same organization, but Millennials will become the largest demographic in the workforce this year, causing some different management philosophies to come into play. Expectations of what "library work" is will really shake up this year, especially in places where Millennials are the majority of the work force or in administrative positions.

Along the same lines, the library will continue to morph to be less about information and more about connecting to the local community, no matter the type of library. Traditional reference usage will continue to decline while demand for programs and collaborative work spaces will grow. This will be a slow but noticeable change over the next few years.

So with that, I'll put the crystal ball away and wait until next year to see if I'm anywhere near correct.

Scott Childers, Executive Director



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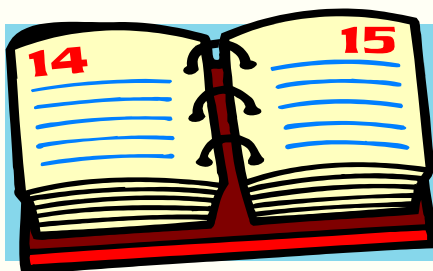
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# CALENDAR

January 2015

January 13th—Accreditation Training Session, Seward Memorial Library

January 15th—First Super Bowl Game, 1967

January 19th—Martin Luther King Day, SELS Office Closed

January 21st—Squirrel Appreciation Day

January 25th—Opposite Day

January 29th—Puzzle Day

January 30th—Birthday of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1882-1945

February 5th—World Nutella Day; Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 63

February 12th—CASTL Meeting at Virgil Biegert Public Library, Shickley

February 13th—Annual Public Survey (Bibliostat/Dollars for Data) Deadline

February 14th—Valentine's Day

February 16th—Presidents' Day, SELS Office Closed

February 20th—Metropolitan Museum of Art opened, 1877

February 28th—Floral Design Day

## Photo of the Month



The tradition of making gingerbread houses has outgrown the Fairmont Public Library, and was held at the American Legion, with 27 builders on hand. Photo by Wanda Marget.

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 9  
Aurora

February 12  
Shickley

March 19  
Hebron

April 17  
Wahoo

May 22  
Beatrice

June 11  
Syracuse

December’s CASTL meeting was held on the 19th, at Kilgore Memorial Library in York, hosted by Deb Robertson. To begin the meeting we discussed makerspaces and everything involved with setting one up. There are different types of makerspaces—multimedia, engineering, crafting, and computer programming, to name a few. After some discussion, it was agreed that makerspaces are basically an extension of programming, where people can come in to work and to learn. Most folks found that workshops led by talented people are more successful than standalone spaces containing tools & materials. There’s also been good feedback from adult/kid workshops where everyone learns & works together. Google Maker Camp is a great summer makerspace resource for kids, with tools and programming provided. There can also be passive makerspaces, such as standalone craft stations with supplies & instructions, or VHS to DVD transfer stations. There’s several ways to create a makerspace, but they all have the same goal—learning, creating, and developing new ideas.

In the afternoon, the round-robin discussion of what everyone in the system has been up to was held. Several libraries were having holiday book sales or giveaways, such as a “free book tree”. There were also several suggestions for programming during the holiday season, such as book clubs & discussions, showing historical DVD’s, and visits from Santa. There were several ideas brought up as to how to run a successful wine-tasting event, & how to get people from the community involved. Several libraries are already doing pre-emptive work on accreditation and strategic plans for the new year, and there were a few questions about how to handle grants & the upcoming changes to the E-Rate program.

### What is CASTL?

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Each meeting has a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what’s going on at their library, followed by a training discussion or presentation. There is CE credit available for all attendees! See the schedule on the left for where we’ll be meeting next!

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. 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 Open</u>
1/26/15—2/6/15	Communication	12/19/14—1/16/15
2/23/15—3/6/15	Reference	1/16/15—2/13/15
3/9/15—3/20/15	Intellectual Freedom	1/30/15—2/27/15

# News Around the System

## What I Learned from LEGO's @ the Library

By *Monica*

*Tidyman*

Because we discussed makerspaces last month I wanted to touch on what I learned from hosting two LEGO® days. For our LEGO® days I brought my boys' LEGO®'s from home. We had one drawer of a rolling cart full of original LEGO®'s with another drawer having some Duplo sets like Bob the Builder and Winnie-the-Pooh. I also brought Mega-Block sets we had and more Duplo's. My assistant also brought a large box of some large toddler-type LEGO®'s. We set a minimum age of 8 years old for this two hour event.

What I was not prepared for was how short the attention spans of some of the participants were. It probably wasn't thirty minutes before some children were wandering out of the room to find books to read or wanting to play on computers. The girls especially were quickly bored and unruly.

The boys were not as rowdy, but the majority didn't last long in the meeting room. They were pretty content with books and computers for a time, but when they started getting antsy I changed tactics. I ended up sitting down with them and became the official brick finder. I also talked to them and learned many things about LEGO®'s I didn't know.

1. Separate LEGO®'s from MEGA-BLOCKS®. If you stick them together, they are really hard to get apart.
2. The actual LEGO® instructions, if you read them, tell you to separate the LEGO®'s out by colors.
3. Girls and boys at this age can't stand one another.
4. Because they can't stand each other, girls and boys in the 8-12 age range don't tend to mix even when stuck in a large room together.



So, armed with all of this knowledge, I set out to do the next LEGO® day much different.

First, I set up the room different. Instead of having tables set up around the outer perimeter of the room with a large space in the middle, I pushed two large tables together in the center and still had one table to the side with our large window area as an additional work area. My hope was that this made access to the LEGO®'s easier for all. (Continued on [page 5](#))

## LEGO's @ the Library (cont.)

Secondly, I grabbed some containers from home and off and on during the week worked on separating the bricks by color. Yes, they would still have to dump them out to find some of those miniscule pieces (which I also learned are called "studs" and actually come in handy in some creations) but maybe the piles would be color coordinated.

Then providence smiled on me and someone was selling LEGO® sets on a local Facebook Buy-Sell-Trade. One set was in what I what call "girl" colors. I snatched those up with the thought of making a "girl" table that would maybe help occupy those rowdy girls.

What a difference all of this made! We had way more teamwork between builders, the girls worked together and made a beautiful house using "their" LEGO's as well as moving to the "boy" table to finish the creation. We didn't have children wandering in and out and losing interest until the last 20 minutes.

I hope our experience helps you in planning your own LEGO® day.



## Brass Book Added to Seward Memorial Library

By Charlotte  
Baldinger

On December 12 four men carried a special book into the Seward Memorial Library. The 5.5 ft. tall brass book is a donation from Geis Steel Tech. This unique addition to the library's lower level has a story. The letters missing from its metal pages were cut out in 2007 and used in



a Vietnam monument located in California. Geis' uncle served in the "brown-water navy" during the Vietnam War, and this personal connection gave him the motivation for both projects. The staff welcomes this beautiful sculpture to its new home in the library.

## Driver's Education Resources Now Available at York

By Deb Robertson Kilgore Memorial Library in York has added [Driving-Tests.org](http://Driving-Tests.org) to its online resources. This resource, developed by several national partnerships including the Governors Highway Safety Association and the National Safety Council, provides online practice driver's education tests. Simply go to <http://driving-tests.org/library/> to apply for free access to this resource for your library. The link they provide to each library is specific to our state and is branded with



your library name. Applications for the pro-bono program for non-profits must be submitted before 12:00 PM EST on January 15, 2015. If accepted, all fees will be waived for the duration of your participation. To view the resource through York's instance go to <http://libraries.ne.gov/york/e-resources/#training> and click on the Driving Tests link. If anyone would like to learn more they can contact Deb Robertson at [drobertson@cityofyork.net](mailto:drobertson@cityofyork.net).

### Holiday Fun in Palmyra

By Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted a holiday open house with several unusual holiday displays. Pictured is Glenda Ostrander and family as they view Glenda's collection of pine cones. About 50 people attended the open house.



### Preschool Reading Group in Polk



A meeting of Polk Public Library's Preschool Reading Group. The group had a craft day and also celebrated a birthday, in this photo from November. Photo by Ann Garey.



## Seward Memorial Library Launches Pokemon Club

By Charlotte  
Baldinger

On December 9, a stream of excited children hurried to the lower level conference center at Seward Memorial Library. Most of these young patrons had cards in their hands as they grabbed a chair and sat down at a table. What was the topic that created such a stir in the library? Pokémon! One of the staff members had assured us that “if we invite them they will come!” Over 30 Pokémon fans came for the first gathering of the new Pokémon Club. They were ready to play with their special Pokémon card decks. To the staff’s amazement the group needed little instruction or supervision. This short winter experiment may return. Those who participated in December loved coming, and since our community currently has a strong interest the staff is planning some meeting variations for the future. Pokémon is alive and well at the Seward Memorial Library.



## Food for Thought Event in David City

By Kay Schmid

Join in the fun at Noon on Wednesday, January 21st as local artist Amy Tomasevich shares stories of her art career and her future plans at the Hruska Memorial Public Library in David City. Amy will showcase some of her most recent artwork. Dale’s Food Pride will provide the refreshments. Reservations are required. Call 402-367-3100 to reserve a seat.



## SELS Friends Say THANK YOU!

By Becky Baker

The SELS Friends ended 2014 with a bang, thanks to all of you!

The November Barnes & Noble book fair was very successful because of your shopping expertise! Including donations from gift-wrapping, the SELS Friends made just over \$400. Wow! We haven’t received this much in a long time. Thank you!

And, almost 90 fans attended the final Hobbit movie in December, making it one of our most successful private showings ever! It is a shame that this series had to end. We thank all of you who’ve supported our private movie showings and associated door prize drawings over the years.

Watch for details about the 2015 Aged to Perfection event coming in April, and thanks for your support of the Southeast Library System and its Friends group!



## Opening Your Doors to Writers

By Becky Breed

Writers and libraries go together. What better place to meet with other writers, to discuss ups and downs of the writing process, or perhaps, to get together to write. There are several types of writing groups: literary associations which feature readings and talks by guest speakers, critique groups whose members come together for the purpose of receiving feedback on their work, and the least common, the generative writing group, so called because its main purpose is to generate writing, to get something down on paper. The generative writing group has something special to offer because everyone can participate and everyone has a story or two to tell.

The generative writing group may be just what is needed to bring writers together. Many of us have a novel inside waiting to be written. Or, we want to compile those special family stories into a treasured collection. But we don't know how to get started. A generative writing group provides the support and structure for writers to begin these projects and for their writing to thrive.

This kind of group can be as few as two or as many as, well, eight or ten. To get started, folks will need a table and of course, chairs, and that's all the capital investment that's needed to host a generative writing group. A group needs a room with a door because all the stories that bubble up get people excited and they want to talk. In a library, if a writing group is writing and sharing their stories, the other patrons might be distracted, or more likely, they'll want to join in!

What about training and resources? The generative process has five steps to follow, and these steps will be outlined in the next newsletter with follow up workshops offered by SELS this spring. SELS is co-sponsoring these workshops entitled, "Opening Your Doors to Writers", to promote the important work of libraries connecting with their wider communities. Participating libraries will need to have in their collections the book, *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life*. This resource includes over thirty-five writing exercises, strategies to combat writer's block, and tips on how to start a generative writing group. Also, information will be provided at the workshops about a writing website with over ninety writing narratives and exercises to choose from.

Authors have supported libraries for a long time. They believe in the important mission of the library system and are some of the most faithful patrons. Maybe now is the time to sup-



port authors and let them know you value their business and support. Opening Your Doors to Writers is a great way to begin.

*Becky Breed is the author of Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life.*

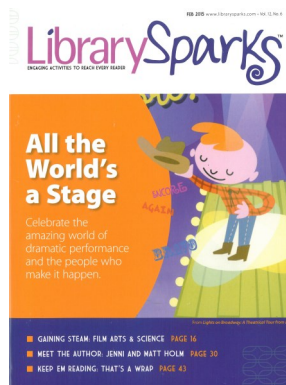


## Enroll to Receive Journal Articles via Email

Professional journal articles are now available via email for SELS members! There are several publications available, and you can enroll to receive an email with the table of contents whenever there's a new issue. From there, simply request the articles you'd like, and we'll get them to you as soon as possible. To enroll in a journal, send an email to [selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com) and let us know which ones you'd like to enroll in.

Available publications:

- American Libraries
- Library Journal
- Library Sparks
- Nebraska Municipal Review
- Public Libraries
- School Library Journal
- School Library Monthly



## An Introduction to Southeast Library System (SELS) Services

With all the changes going on, it seems like a good time to introduce SELS to our new librarians, and to give a refresher on our services to our current ones.

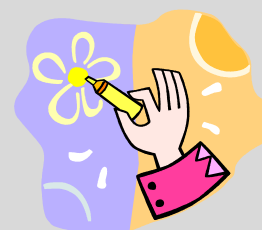
- **Consulting:** Got a question on policy, best practices, or anything else regarding running a library? Give us a call and we'll point you toward the right answer.
- **Journal Article Request Service:** Get professional literature on request through email.
- **Book Kits:** We have a small selection of book kits that you can borrow. We try to get titles the Library Commission hasn't already purchased, with a mix of adult & YA titles.
- **Training:** We offer many training sessions throughout the year of different types, both multi-session regional events and on-demand local sessions.

## SELS is Looking for a Logo!

SELS is looking for a new logo and wordmark. Maybe you are the one who can create them for us!

Here is what the board is looking for in a logo:

- Spotlights location in Nebraska
- Emphasizes a theme of "Connections"
- Minimal use of red in color palate, if used at all
- Identifiable at any size, and in both color and black & white
- Can be identified as library-related



Designs for the related word marks should use sans-serif, license-free fonts. There is a \$50 cash prize courtesy of the SELS Friends for whoever designs the chosen logo! If you have any questions, please contact the SELS office. Please submit any ideas by Jan 31 to [selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com).

## Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties  
of:

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage •  
Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson •  
Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha •  
Nuckolls • Otoe • Pawnee • Polk •  
Richardson • Saline • Saunders •  
Seward • Thayer • York

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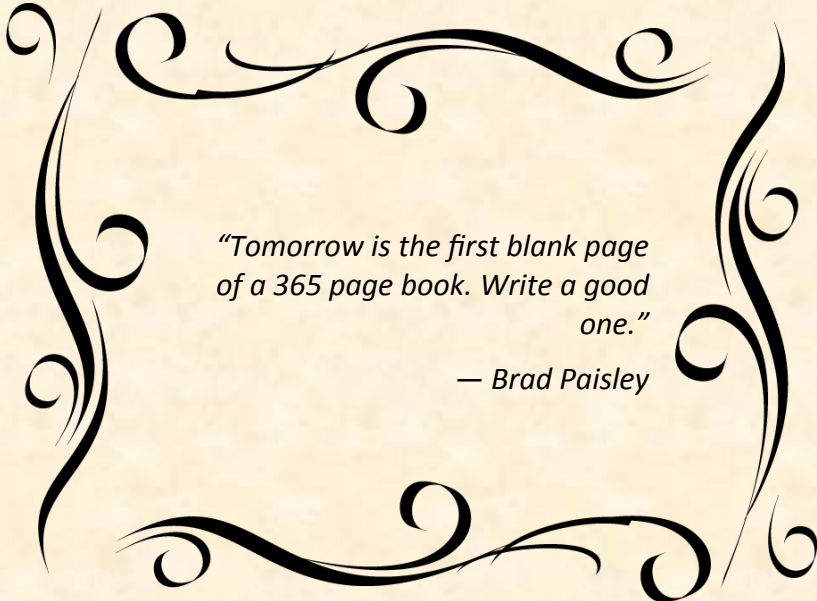
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### Website

<http://www.selsne.org>

**SoLiS** is a publication of the Southeast Library System, and is issued once monthly. We reserve the right to screen and to edit all contributions.

**January 2015**



*"Tomorrow is the first blank page  
of a 365 page book. Write a good  
one."*

*— Brad Paisley*