

From the Director



Let's talk about books for a bit, shall we? There are a few things that I'd like to mention to get us back up to speed now that we are all looking forward to getting back to normal.

Here's a couple of short takes about some current trends in publishing.

Mergers ahead?

Back in December, it was announced that Bertelsmann, the owners of Penguin Random House, was looking to purchase Simon & Schuster pending regulatory approval. I've seen differing estimates on how much of the US market this merged company would control, but usually it is somewhere between 20% to 35%. Two major authors organizations (The Authors Guild based in the US and the Society of Authors based in the UK) have raised objections, as well as other publishing houses.

This merger probably won't have much immediate impact on libraries, but it would mean that even fewer companies control most of the supply of titles available both in physical form and access for ebook lending.

New questions about content

There has been a lot of press over the past few years on books being pulled from publication. Some are based on the content of the book, others on the reputation of the author, and others with no explanation given. Now this isn't a new thing, but the talk about it outside of literary world seems to be growing with lots of pundits taking sides and making their cases. The larger discussion on if it is correction or cancellation is outside the scope of this article.

We are going to see an impact on libraries as our own selection policies will be under a microscope. I've had non-library people tell me that librarians caused the decision to no longer publish some books by Dr Sues, although in reality most librarians were surprised by the news.

There is also increased interest by state lawmakers to introduce new laws that would create new legal issues with some potentially really crazy results. There was a particular one introduced in Georgia that if a book in a school library was challenged by parents to be pulled from the collection and was determined to be OK
(continued on p. 4)

In this Issue:

Page 1,4—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—CASTL Wrap-up

Pages 4—News Around the System

Page 5—10—Other News and Flyers

Page 11—System Spotlight

Calendar

- April 12, D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read Day
- April 10-17, Money Smart Week
- April 15, [Teaching Technology in the Library](#), p. 5
- April 17, National Haiku Poetry Day
- April 23, [CASTL online, "Transforming Teen Services"](#)
- April 25-May 1, Preservation Week
- April 30, [Dia: Children's Day/Book Day](#)
- April 30, National Arbor Day, SELS Office Closed
- May, National Mental Health Awareness Month
- May 1, Free Comic Book Day
- May 1-7, [Choose Privacy Week](#)
- May 4, National Star Wars Day
- May 5, National Cartoonists Day
- May 7, [SELS Training Extravaganza](#), 9:30-12:30, p. 7
- May 7, [From Advocate to Activist](#), 2-3, p. 8
- May 23-25, [Golder Sower Reading Open House](#), p. 9

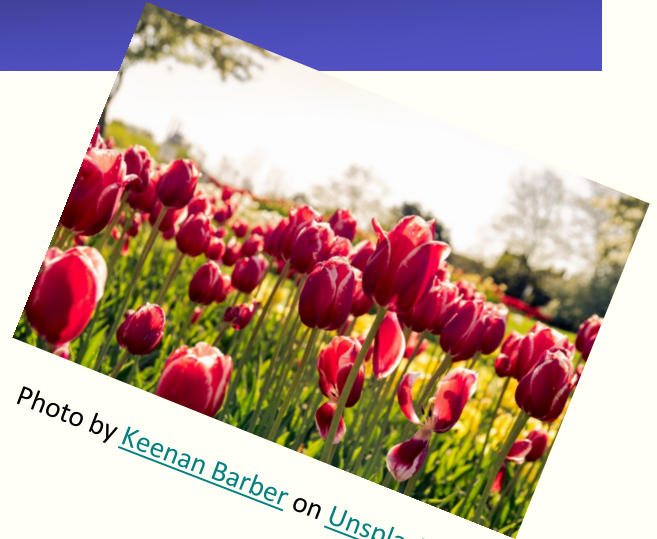


Photo by [Keenan Barber](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Photos of the Month



Prepping for Central City Public Library's Interior Painting Project. —photos by Sara Lee

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

April 23
 Online—Zoom, 10-12
 "Transforming Teen Services"

May 21
 Online—Zoom, 10-12
 "How Long Should I Keep These Papers?"

The March 19th CASTL was held via Zoom and dealt with two topics. Hannah Phipps, the 211 Helpline Coordinator at United Way of the Midlands talked about the benefits of 211 for libraries and library patrons. Scott Childers, executive director of Southeast Library System, spoke about Open Meetings Law, including some of the ways it has changed over the years.

211 is designed to provide aid with non-emergency human needs. The 211 helpline is available 24/7 via phone, by text at 898211, online at <https://www.ne211.org/>, and via a new app. To get the best service, it is best to call 211 directly, because the information specialists there are very familiar with the database.

While the top needs served are utility service payment assistance and rent payment assistance, 211 is also designed to connect with physical and mental health resources, employment supports, and quite a bit more. 211 helps librarians by making it possible to simply hand out the 211 card as a quick answer to questions, rather than having to conduct a thorough investigation.

On the topic of open meeting law, it was noted that both governing and advisory boards fall under open meeting law. Announcements of board meetings must allow a reasonable time of notice of the meeting (10 days is often used). In a change to the law from last year, cities must publish their notices in a newspaper, with the exception that 2nd class cities and villages may choose posting in a newspaper or three conspicuous places (the places must remain the same) within the city or village.

Closed sessions may held for only a small number of reasons in state statute. No votes may be held in closed session, and personnel may object to their evaluation being discussed in closed session.

Scott discussed much more regarding open meeting law. The entire Open Meeting Law PDF, the recording of the CASTL topics (partial for 211), and the 211 Slides are [available here](#).

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of upcoming classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
May 10—May 21	Intellectual Freedom/Core Values	April 5—May 3
June 7—June 18	Reader's Advisory	May 3—June 1
July 5—July 16	Reference	May 31—June 25

News Around the System

Happy Spring from the Schmid Law Library!

By Keelan Weber

This year we are celebrating our colleagues and the books they love with our monthly display titled, “We Love Books!” Every month we feature three people (staff, faculty, and administrators) and four of their favorite books, no explanation required. There’s been a mix of all time favorites and current favorites but overall, no shortage of great books to explore. To make the display available to those working remotely as well as in person, we’ve created a [LibGuide](#) to go along with the physical display. Highlights of the displays include “grab slips” that a passersby can take with a list of books and authors, and a QR code that leads to the LibGuide. The LibGuide contains every month’s book lists.



From the Director

(continued from p. 1)

to stay in the collection, then the publisher of the book would have to make the book available for free online for all Georgia school districts. So, either way— the publisher & author loses.

More readers

Let’s lighten the mood a bit. Looking at trends for the nation, more people are reading, and readers are reading more than before. Granted, for a lot of people had a more time to do it over the past year, but hopefully we will see some of those new readers continue. This could be a good opportunity to look at what you did over the past year to make getting reading material easier to get for your communities and think about if you can continue those services. It may not be feasible for all, but at least consider it.



**WHAT THE TECH DO PEOPLE NEED?
HOW CAN THE LIBRARY HELP?**

April 15, 2021

1-5 PM

Here's what we will cover in this workshop:

- Identify the tech skills adults really need
- Learn how to teach tech using tried and true methods of library programming & outreach
- Explore new ways to market necessary services
- Brainstorm & share ideas

Instructor: Amanda Sweet

Hosted by SELS



**Nebraska
Library
Commission**





THURSDAY,
APRIL 15,
2021

WHO: Clark Charbonnet, Biblionix CEO; and your fellow librarians IN PERSON.

WHAT: Join us for a day of discussion and learning! This will be an open forum with an opportunity for libraries interested in the [Biblionix Apollo ILS](#) to learn more, as well as current users to ask questions, get feedback from your peers, learn how others utilize various features, and more.

WHERE: Seward Memorial Library, 233 S. 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434.

WHEN: Thursday, April 15, 2021.

9:00 a.m.	Refreshments, introductions, open forum begins.
12:00 p.m.	Break for lunch.
1:00 p.m.	News from Clark, open forum continues.
3:00 p.m.	Tentative wrap up.

COST: FREE to attend, although lunch is on your own.

OTHER NOTES:

- 5 CEU's for Nebraska Certification will be submitted to NLC on your behalf.
- Bring a laptop and your EXTERNAL Apollo username/ password if possible.
- Masks are strongly recommended and attendees will be social distancing.
- While this date does conflict with the SELS's "Teaching Technology" workshop, SELS libraries are invited to attend the April 27 version of this workshop hosted by the Three Rivers Library System.

QUESTIONS should be directed to either of these two hosts:

Becky Baker at (402) 643-3318 or becky.baker@sewardlibrary.org,
Sarah Johnson at (402) 759-3416 or sjohnson@cityofgeneva.org

REGISTRATION:

Complete the online registration form at <https://forms.gle/CuFKtbaioPBSyQoP6> for each person attending from your library. Registration deadline is April 14, 2021.

SELS Training Extravaganza

Sessions:

1. "7 Wonders – 7

Lessons: Reasons to Have
Hope in the World" with
Dean Jacobs.

2. "Fact vs. Fiction: Critical Thinking

In the Age of Fake News" with
Dr. Chris Haeffner.

3. "What You Need in a Patron Behavior
Policy " with Christa Porter

May 7th

9:30—12:30

Via Zoom

Register by May 5th at

<http://bit.ly/2021extrav>

Supported in part by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and/or state funding appropriated by the Nebraska legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission .

This event is funded with generosity from the four Nebraska Systems and NLA.

NLA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

FROM ADVOCATE TO ACTIVIST

A presentation by EveryLibrary's John Chrastka

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 AT 2:00PM CST

This session looks at how our current advocacy model is failing libraries. We explore strategies and tactics used by some of the best community organizers, political action committees, and politicians. We will emphasize the resources and skills that librarians and library staff need to develop if they want to have the political and community support needed to increase support and funding.



John Chrastka, founder of EveryLibrary, is a long-time library trustee, supporter, and advocate. Mr. Chrastka is a former president and member of the Board of Trustees for the Berwyn (IL) Public Library (2006 - 2015) and is a former president of the Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) multi-type library system. Previously, he was Director for Membership Development at the American Library Association (ALA). He is a member of ALA, the Illinois Library Association (ILA), and the American Political Sciences Association (APSA). He was named a 2014 Mover & Shaker by Library Journal and tweets @mchrastka.

**FREE FOR NLA
MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS.
REGISTER AT [NEBRASKALIBRARIES.ORG](https://www.nebraskalibraries.org)**

GOLDEN SOWER READING DAY OPEN HOUSE

CHOICE OF DATES: MAY 25-27, 9-1 PM

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

233 SOUTH 5TH STREET, SEWARD, NE

GET ACQUAINTED WITH 2022-2023 POTENTIAL PICTURE BOOK NOMINEES. WE WILL HAVE ALL OF THEM AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO READ!

Register at <http://bit.ly/2021gsower> to choose the date you would like to attend. The event may be cancelled if there is a surge in COVID cases. Please don't attend if you are feeling sick or have a fever. We ask that you socially distance and encourage you to wear a mask.



THE NEBRASKA
Golden Sower Award



Read Aloud Nebraska Fall Conference

November 5, 2021

Save the Date!

Joint Virtual Youth Services Retreat

September 2, 1-5

Save the Date!

Join us for presentations on Native American culture and literature, BiblioHop storytimes, the “best” children’s and teen books, and self-care. We will also host author Sarah Prineas and have time for networking.



System Spotlight

Sharing Craft Ideas on Pinterest



For some time now, we have had an experimental collaborative SELS Pinterest Board that allows for the sharing of craft ideas between libraries.

In order to contribute to the board, you must be given access to it. Then you can pin or place ideas in it (usually pictures with links). This SELS board would likely appear in your Pinterest account as the last of your boards.

If you want to take part, send Todd (at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com) the name or email address associated with the Pinterest account you use for programming or craft ideas. To see what our board looks like (39 ideas), go to <https://www.pinterest.com/selsne/>. We hope you decide to contribute, because for this to really work, we need more pins!

Southeast Library System

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

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

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