

## From the Director



“How much is too much?”

That question is a great philosophical debate about many parts of life, but today I’m going to focus on something near and dear to librarians – call numbers and

spine labels.

Most of you reading this use Dewey Decimal system, a few use Library of Congress, Cutter Expansive, SuDoc or some other non-Dewey system, and a few have devised their own in-house system. I’m not here to espouse the virtues of one or the other but talk more about implementation.

The first thing I want to talk about is the length of your call number. I have seen suggested call numbers for books either gathered from the Copyright-in-Publication information on the book’s copyright page, or from the various forms of copy cataloging. There is nothing wrong with this practice at all, however you may want to tweak it a bit as I’ve seen some that have call numbers that are 8 digits past the decimal point. Most people can only keep 7 digits numbers in their short term memory – so for quick stops to the library to get a single book, this creates a small barrier to use.

As you process titles for shelving and review the cataloging, make sure it makes sense for your collection and patron usage. If you have a small

collection, then sometimes using shorter call numbers is the best cataloging practice, especially in areas where you don’t have very many books in a particular area. For example: if you only have 5 books about cats – do really need to go to Dewey Number 636.808870 about a book on how to train pet cats, when the book would be just as easily found in your collection with the call number of 636.8?

Another thing to think about is the use of other spine label stickers to note things like genre, reading level, or information that might help the reader decide if the book might be a good fit for them. These can be very useful but can easily be overdone, making it hard to even see the title of the book on the spine.

Some use color-coded stickers to provide information, but please do make sure there is also an additional method of getting that information, such as shape of the sticker or an infographic or word on the sticker, as color-blind patrons would not find just a color useful. About 4.5 percent of people are colorblind – so in a population of 250 people, 11 of them could have some sort of color blindness.

To prevent this particular column from being too much of a good thing, I’ll end with this. Remember that while there are many excellent ways of sorting and labeling books and other materials in your library, your goal is to make sure your patrons can find what they are looking for – by your cataloging, labeling, and shelving practices.

### In this Issue:

Page 1—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 17, National Ellis Island Family History Day

April 21, [CASTL, Ashland Public Library, "Creating Scavenger Hunts and Passive Activities with Canva"](#)

April 23-29, [National Library Week](#)

April 25, [National Library Workers' Day](#)

April 28, Arbor Day (SELS Office Closed)

May, Mental Health Awareness Month

May 4, Star Wars Day

May 5, National Cartoonists Day

May 6, National Scrapbook Day

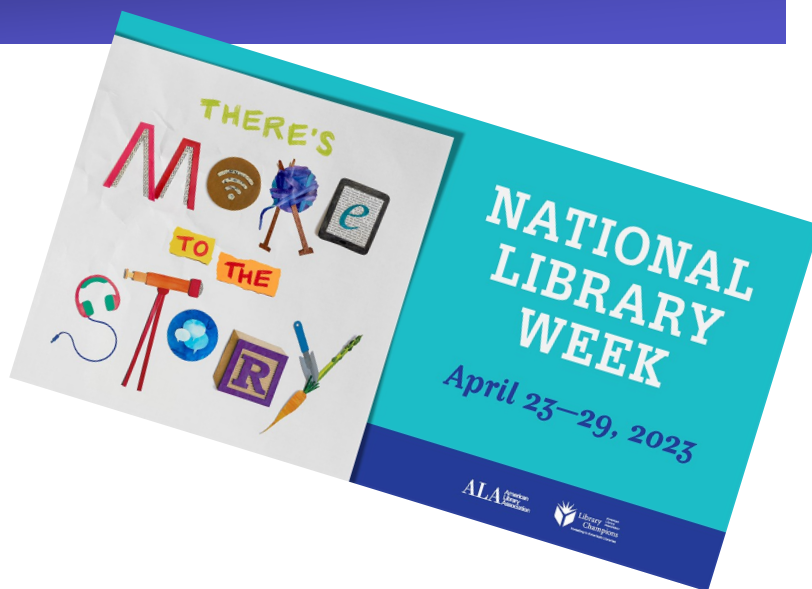
May 12, [Seward Memorial Library, SELS Training Extravaganza](#)

May 14, Mother's Day

May 18, CASTL, Davenport Public Library, "Friends and

Foundations" May 31, [Seward Memorial Library, "Golden Sower](#)

[Reading Day"](#) June 7, ["School Librarians in the Digital Age,"](#) via



# Photos of the Month



On Saturday, April 8th a great crowd got to watch the Many Moccasins Dance Troupe perform at the Auburn Library. They showcased their native culture through dance and storytelling. —Heather Koeneke

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

April 21

Ashland Public Library  
 “Creating Scavenger Hunts and Passive Activities with Canva”

May 18

Davenport Public Library  
 “Friends and Foundations”

June 23

Zoom only  
 “Open Meetings Act Refresher”

July 28

Bruun Memorial Library  
 Humboldt  
 “Summer Reading Successes”

On March 24 library director Mary Statz, assistant Dawn Shaw, and the library board of Nelson Public Library hosted our CASTL meeting on the topic of weeding.

There are a number of benefits that result through weeding. One is the gain of space for new books. You also save time for yourself and your library users because you can more quickly find books that are actually wanted. The collection also becomes more attractive when the shelves are not stuffed and when worn and old books are removed.

Scott presented a few items, such as the website where you can find the CREW manual, which includes weeding guidelines ([the website is linked here for reference](#)). The Crew manual's weeding criteria can be summarized with the acronym MUSTIE, where:

1. M=Misleading. Not factually accurate, often because the book is out of date.
2. U=Ugly. Worn badly, so that the book would be unappealing even if mended.
3. S=Superseded. New edition of a much better book on the subject.
4. I=Irrelevant to the needs and interests of the library's community. (For example, you don't need a history book from a county that is across the state.)
5. E=Elsewhere. The book can easily be obtained from another library if one of your patrons needs it.

One of the first discussion items was how to handle series that are taking up a lot of shelf space. Practices varied, with some weeding the first part of the series, some weeding everything up to the last few books, and some making sure they kept series intact.

For those who weeded in series, it was noted that they could either loan the books from neighboring libraris or use ILL (Interlibrary Loan). It was also noted that this is true for any book that is weeded--it can almost always still be obtained via ILL, if needed.

Some remarked that the use of physical audiobooks (CDs) and DVDs is decreasing. For this reason, these librarians are often buying very few audiobooks and/or DVDs, and are letting their collections of those materials shrink. However, the situation varies by community. For example, in some communities there is a large portion of the population that cannot afford internet and streaming.

Scott noted that the CREW manual guidelines are just that; they are guidelines, and not rules.

Finally, it was mentioned that sometimes a book doesn't need to be weeded even if it hasn't circulated for a while. For example, displays, creating book bundles, reader's advisory, and Facebook posts can bring hidden gems to the attention of library users.

# Upcoming Basic Skills Classes

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

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
May 8—May 19	Intellectual Freedom/Core Values	April 4—May 2
June 5—June 16	Reader's Advisory	May 2—May 30
July 3—July 14	Reference	May 30—June 24

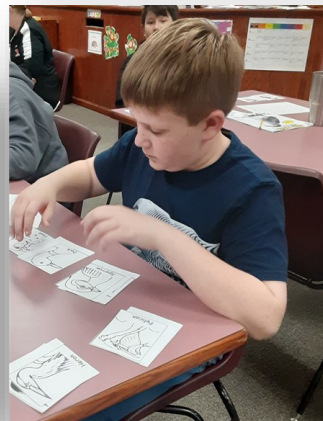
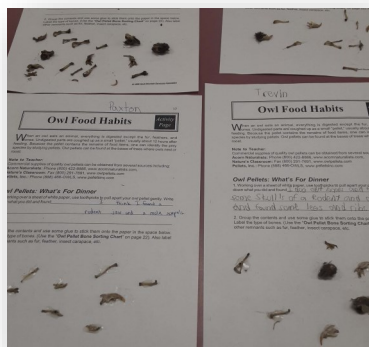
# News Around the System

## Dorchester School Library Fills Many Rolls

By Deb Burrows

Since becoming a librarian in 1988 , I have always wanted to make sure that whatever the topic was in class, that the student retained a bit of knowledge from our interaction. Therefore, a hands-on activity to help retain that knowledge, was something I have added at the end of each class for many years. STEAM is nothing new for our students. Combining art, technology, science, math, and other subjects has been the norm in library class for at least the last 16 years. Library and learning is synonymous in our world. To the right, after reading the book *Lizards*, 3rd graders Aleah Wendelin and Adesyn Kemerling make dinosaur pencil toppers. Visiting the library always includes checking out a book. Baila Brandt and Lillian Pracheil wait their turn (bottom right). At the bottom left are bones found from dissecting owl pellets during 6th grade

library class. Finally (bottom middle), Landon Shaw, 6th grade, sorts bird cards according to the function of their beak.



## Karen Gettert Shoemaker in Crete

By Joy Stevenson

The Crete Public Library had the honor of hosting author Karen Gettert Shoemaker on March 26 as part of its quarterly Crete Lecture Series. Karen discussed her book "The Meaning of Names" and told stories about her grandparents, including their struggles with the anti-German sentiment so prevalent at the time and connections between the grueling plague they lived through and the Covid-19 pandemic.





# SELS Training Extravaganza

at Seward Memorial Library

## May 12, 2023 Schedule of Events

Lower Meeting Room		Upper Meeting Room
9:30-9:55	Registration and Refreshments*	
9:55-10:00	Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions*	
10:00-11:00	<b>Deploying Soft Skills in the Library Setting</b> With Lacey Rogers, UNO's Criss Library*	
11:00-11:10	Break	
11:10-12:00	<b>Learning to Be Resilient: Lessons from Young Adult Literature and Teen Programming</b> With Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede, UNO Library Science Program	<b>How the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can Help Libraries</b> With Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist
Noon	Lunch*	
1:00-1:50	<b>Localizing Your Catalog</b> With Shoshana Potocka, Cataloging Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission	<b>Grants for Libraries from the Nebraska Arts Council</b> With Joshua Brown, Education Programs Coordinator at the Nebraska Arts Council
1:50-2:00	Break	
2:00-2:50	<b>Canvaholic</b> with Kelly Kenny, president of the Nebraska School Librarians Association	<b>Requirements for Charitable Gaming: Bingo and Lotteries/Raffles</b> With Gail Ross and Carri L Fitzgerald, Nebraska's Charitable Gaming Division
2:50-3:00	Please fill out the evaluations!	

\*Lower Meeting Room

**Only \$25 including a catered lunch!**

**[Register here.](#) For full details, [click here.](#)**

*This training is for both library staff and library board members. In the past, some libraries have closed and made this a staff training day.*



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WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 24,  
2023

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WHO: Biblionix (via Zoom) 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: Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Refreshments, introductions, open forum begins.   |
| 12:00 p.m. | Break for lunch.                                  |
| 1:00 p.m.  | Open forum continues.                             |
| 1:30 p.m.  | Q&A Session with Biblionix, 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.

QUESTIONS can be directed to:

Becky Baker at (402) 643-3318 or [Becky.Baker@SewardLibrary.org](mailto:Becky.Baker@SewardLibrary.org),  
Sarah Johnson at (402) 759-3416 or [SJohnson@CityOfGeneva.org](mailto:SJohnson@CityOfGeneva.org)

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## REGISTRATION:

Complete this [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#) for each person attending from your library. Registration deadline is May 19, 2023.

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# GOLDEN SOWER READING DAY

Wednesday, May 31  
9:00am-12:30 pm

Take this chance to read the 2024-2025 potential picture book nominees. The books will be set out to read, we will have a list of the books for you to annotate, and you can enjoy refreshments while you read!



**Seward Memorial Library**

**REGISTER HERE!**

# School Librarians In The Digital Age

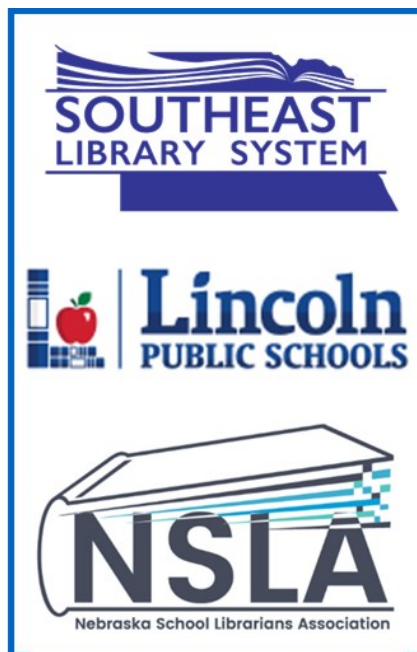


Image courtesy of the AI system DALL-E2

## Topics:

- ChatGPT: Exploring Potential & Pitfalls of AI in Education
- Promote Your Library by Maintaining a Meaningful Library Website and Engaging through Social Media
- A Digital Studio in Your School Library

**June 7**

**9 am – 12 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**[Register here by June 5](#)**



## Library and Information Services

Fall 2023 Online Course Offerings

Aug. 21, 2023 – Dec. 15, 2023

Enrollment for Fall Semester 2023 opens

Monday, April 10, 2023



### **LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services**

*Marty Magee, Instructor*

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundation Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

### **LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies**

*Michael Straatmann, Instructor*

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

### **LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum**

*Patty Birch, Instructor*

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

<i>Fall 2023</i>	<i>Spring 2024</i>
<b>Libr 1010</b> Foundations of Library and Information Services	<b>Libr 2100</b> Reference Resources and Services
<b>Libr 2250</b> Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	<b>Libr 2210</b> Develop and Organize Collections
<b>Libr 2940</b> Library Science Capstone Practicum	

### **New changes...**

Beginning Fall 2023, the LIBR 2210 Cataloging & Classification course has been merged with the LIBR 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries & Information Agencies class. The new combined class is LIBR 2210 Develop and Organize Collections to be offered in Spring 2024.

And the Library & Information Services Certificate has been reduced from 18 credit hours to a 15-credit hour program.



For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see:

<https://www.cccneb.edu/lis/>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration,

contact: Dee Johnson [djohnson@cccneb.edu](mailto:djohnson@cccneb.edu),

402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

# From the NLC

## Book Club Spotlight – *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* by Terry Pratchett

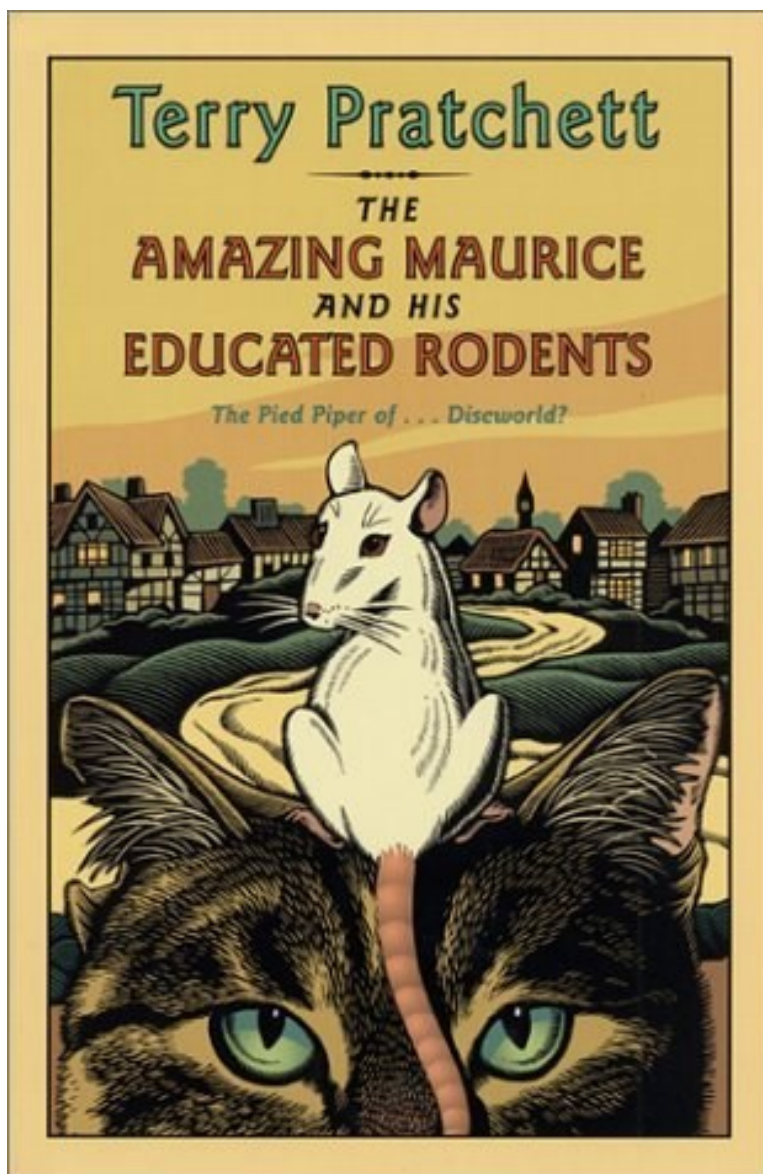
By MacKenzie Marrow (edited)

Magically gifted with speech and consciousness, a clan of self-dubbed “Educated Rodents” and a con artist cat, the “Amazing Maurice,” travel from town to town with a young piper in tow. They successfully run scams where the rats “infest” a town so the boy can pretend to lead them away à la the Pied Piper. Agreeing to one last job, they arrive in the village of Bad Blintz, only to find that the town already has a massive rat infestation. But they can’t seem to find any of these rats anywhere. Realizing that something sinister is at play, the rats, the boy, and Maurice find themselves in more trouble than they ever imagined. And with more than a payday at risk, the newly self-aware rat clan and Maurice don’t know if they can turn their backs and leave the town to fall into ruin. So what’s a cat to do now that he’s got morals and ethics to deal with?

Pratchett is a widely well-regarded author, and for a good reason, with *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* awarded the Carnegie Award for Children’s Literature. It is one of those rare books written in an accessible manner for younger audiences while still treating them as intelligent and capable of

understanding its philosophy. Even though it reads like one, the reader is often reminded that it is not a fairytale and there are dire consequences to be had despite the tap-dancing rodentia. Sure, the book is cute and filled with talking animal shenanigans, but it also shows a grittier side, with rat-on-rat violence, dog-on-rat violence, and laxative-on-man violence. *Maurice* is perfect for a group of YA readers and beyond who love discussing theories and pondering the Big Questions, such as what comes after death? What would it mean to suddenly have consciousness and a moral code? Can community and strength overcome inherent nature? And what would you do in the face of the Grim Squeaker?

Request *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* for your Book Club [here](#). There are 14 copies available (A librarian must request items)



# System Spotlight

## Library Board Training

Did you know that Scott is willing to come out and help you meet the educational needs you have at the Library Board level? He can provide a presentation or workshop that not only will address your board's needs, but count towards Board CE credit! Scott can talk about Nebraska law in regard to library boards, the role of library director and library board, or other topics tailored to your needs. He will also work with foundations and Friends of the Library groups. Contact us for more information!



### 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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