

From the Director



There was a study done a while ago on people commuting in London who had to take a new route to work due to labor strikes.* One of the results was that an unusual amount of

people kept their new route when their old one reopened. That may be interesting, but what does that have to do with libraries? Read on to see.

We all saw the usage of library resources change dramatically over the pandemic. Usage of eBooks and other online content generally went up. Many libraries continued physical book checkouts through new methods such as curbside pickup or even delivery. Instead of people browsing the stacks, they gave requests for specific titles or relied heavily on library staff recommendations.

Here's another little wrinkle that some of you may have noticed – your patron's interest grew in different genres and subjects than before. Many people were trying new things while stuck at home. They tried new hobbies and learned new skills. Tastes in types of stories also changed, as

some readers began to avoid certain areas of fiction, such as books featuring dystopian themes or ones using a worldwide spread of disease as a plot point, in favor of lighter fare. Some commentaries also noted an increase in people rereading books.

This brings up scenario in the first paragraph. Will this forced change in our communities create new continued patterns of use? For example: will we need to now provide more baking books, or will the amateur bakers trend slow down as more and more people return to pre-COVID activities? Will our young adult genre collections become lighter and more positive, as opposed the previous trend of darker & grittier? Did our customers really like the pickup or recommendation services that libraries added and now expect them to continue?

*A brief summary of the study can be found at: <https://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/cp455.pdf> . The full study can be found: <https://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp1372.pdf>

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Calendar



May 13, National Frog Jumping Day

May 16, National Barbecue Day

May 17, [WordPress Workshop](#), p. 7

May 21, [CASTL Online, "What Do I Do with all These Papers?"](#)

May 24, National Scavenger Hunt Day

May 23-25, [Golder Sower Reading Open House](#), p. 8

May 31, Memorial Day, SELS Office Closed

June, Rainbow Book Month

National PTSD Awareness Month

June 1, National Go Barefoot Day

June 4, National Doughnut Day

June 5, National Prairie Day

June 8, National Best Friends Day

June 9. National Donald Duck Day

September 2, [Joint Youth Services Retreat](#), p. 9

Photos of the Month



Photos by Linda M. Dux. For more, see p. 4

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

May 21

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"What Do I Do with all these Papers?"

June 25

Online—Zoom, 10-12

July 30

Crete Public Library
"The Census and Librarians"
10-3

August 27

SELS Meeting Room
"Summer Reading Successes"
10-3

At our April 23rd online CASTL Sally Snyder (of the Nebraska Library Commission) and Laura England-Biggs (of Keene Memorial Library, Fremont) presented the topic "Transforming Teen Services: Computational Thinking, Connected Learning and YOU!" Sally and Laura both went to a training to enable them to teach four week online courses on the topic to youth services librarians in Nebraska. Eventually, through the training of library staff, it is hoped to impact 110,000 teens nationally.

There are four modules: Connected Learning, Computational Thinking, Child & Youth Development, and Educational Equity. There are rules for participation in a training, such as confidentiality and a maintaining a nonjudgmental attitude.

Connected learning is about the intersection of interests, relationships, and opportunities. In the online course they use Canvas, Flipgrid, and Padlet. There are assignment responses expected each week, plus there are four one-hour Zoom meetings. During the course, participants work to fill out forms in order to evaluate two programs they have offered to teens and to score those programs in various categories. For example, one item that they are asked to score on a scale of one to five is to what degree "Teens feel free quit new subjects that they find uninteresting."

They also consider that there are five types of assets to consider when planning: people, associations (informal groups of people), institutions, physical assets (buildings, spaces, etc.), and connections. These can be placed on an asset map using Google Maps. Driving around the community to notice exactly what is there can be a big help.

Computational thinking was also covered. Computational thinking is everywhere and includes breaking down a problem into its component parts, pattern recognition, automation, and abstraction. Approaches include tinkering, creating, debugging, persevering, and collaborating.

To see the complete presentation, [click here](#).

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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>
June 7—June 18	Reader's Advisory	May 3—June 1
July 5—July 16	Reference	May 31—June 25
July 26—August 6	Library Policy	June 21—July 16

News Around the System

Fairbury Public Library Starts its Summer Reading Program

Provided by Linda M. Dux

Fairbury Public Library has already started its Summer Reading Program. For the first special program, Kesha Eldridge brought her tropical birds to the library, resulting in a great turnout.



Plymouth Library Hosts Annual Spring Open House

Provided by Ellen Vorderstrasse

Plymouth Library hosted its Annual Spring Open House on April 21, 2021. Activities included Cricut demonstrations, Nebraska Overdrive sign-ups and demonstrations, snacks, and library tours. The photos show library customers enjoying themselves!



News Around the System

SELS Training Extravaganza a Hit



Dean Jacobs was our keynote speaker. He has travelled to over 50 countries, and he spoke about the lessons learned on those travels. One lesson he learned was generosity when the people in Sudan paid for his bus fares, giving as their reason that he was a guest in their country.

Dr. Chris Haeffner of Lincoln Public Schools presented on the topic of “Fact vs. Fiction.” In today’s world, it can be very hard to distinguish factual content from untruths. One of the very helpful resources she mentioned was Wikipedia!



Why do you need a Patron Behavior Policy?

- To address user behavior that may interfere with others’ use and enjoyment of the library.
- To protect all library users’ right to access library facilities.
- To ensure the safety of users and staff.
- To protect library resources and facilities from damage.

Christa Porter of the Nebraska Library Commission went into many of the details of library policy making, with a special emphasis on patron behavior policy.

All presenters gave permission for their sessions to be recorded, so if you had to miss the Extravaganza, please contact Todd at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com for the links.

Banning of Books Occurs Nationally and in Nebraska

Every year the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom publishes a list of the 10 most challenged books in the previous year. You will find that list on the next page.

The sixth book on the list is *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story About Racial Injustice*. As covered [in this news article](#) and other news sources, a YouTube reading of this book was removed from an instructional resource list at Papillion LaVista Community Schools. The Nebraska Library Association, the Nebraska School Librarians Association, the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, the Papillion LaVista Education Association, and concerned parents have opposed this action.



Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 156 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2020. Overall, 273 books were targeted. Here are the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020,” along with the reasons cited for censoring the books.

#1 GEORGE

by Alex Gino

Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting “the values of our community”

#2 STAMPED RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU

by Jason Reynolds and
Ibram X. Kendi

Banned and challenged because of author’s public statements, and because of claims that the book contains “selective storytelling incidents” and does not encompass racism against all people

#3 ALL AMERICAN BOYS

by Jason Reynolds and
Brendan Kiely

Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be “too much of a sensitive matter right now”

#4 SPEAK

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel’s inclusion of rape and profanity

#5 THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

by Sherman Alexie

Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author

#6 SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN

A CHILD’S STORY ABOUT
RACIAL INJUSTICE

by Marianne Celano, Marietta
Collins, and Ann Hazzard,
illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin

Challenged for “divisive language” and because it was thought to promote anti-police views

#7 TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

by Harper Lee

Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a “white savior” character, and its perception of the Black experience

#8 OF MICE AND MEN

by John Steinbeck

Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes, and their negative effect on students

#9 THE BLUEST EYE

by Toni Morrison

Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and depicts child sexual abuse

#10 THE HATE U GIVE

by Angie Thomas

Challenged for profanity, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message



WORDPRESS WORKSHOP

May 17, 2021

1-5 PM

Here's what we will cover in this workshop:

- What should I put on my library website?
- New website page layouts and design.
- Using the new WordPress editor.
- Using responsive design
- Share ideas & best practices

Instructor: Amanda Sweet

Hosted by SELS



**Nebraska
Library
Commission**

**DIGITAL
LITERACY
FOR
LIBRARIANS**

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

THE NEBRASKA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS
PRESENT THE

2021 ONLINE JOINT ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT!

Register at <http://bit.ly/2021jysr> by August 31

**SEPTEMBER 2
1-5 PM
VIA ZOOM**

System Spotlight

SELS WEBSITE

Looking for some information about Southeast Library System or its services? Google us from your phone, computer, or tablet. Usually the simple search “sels ne” brings us up as the first result.

When you land on our homepage, you will see blogposts. Usually the first is about an upcoming event.

You can also access a page that conveniently lists upcoming events and meetings, a page with information about each of our book kits, as well as current and previous newsletters, information about the journal article request service, and the details about SELS scholarships. If you haven't already, check out our website at <http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>



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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