

## From the Director



As a follow-up to last month's article discussing shelving fiction by genre, let's talk more about different genres of fiction.

First of all – there really isn't an authoritative number of fiction genres. I've seen numbers as low as 5 and then one that made a case for 144 different genres. Some people include "literature" as a genre, others do not. Some merge science fiction and fantasy and others drive a hard divide between the two. Many genres have subgenres, like steampunk, cozy murder, alternative history just to name a few.

So if you have decided to shelve all or part of your fiction in ways that gather books with similar genres together, what do you do to decide what genres to use? I'll repeat what I said last month – listen to your patrons.

For example: The Anytown Library has a lot of users who continually ask for Inspirational Fiction. These users are currently about 30% of total circulation and are regulars, coming in multiple times per month, and do not want to reread titles. The only other major genre being asked for there is Western, but nowhere near the amount of the above and those users are happy with rereading their favorite authors. With this in mind, the Anytown Library has decided to move

any fiction work that fits the inspirational fiction genre into its own section. They will also think about moving Western if the trends change, or those readers start asking for more options than their favorite titles or authors.

As you can see – splitting into genres doesn't have to be an all or nothing choice. You could certainly take the most frequently asked for genres into a separate space while leaving others in general fiction. There are a few libraries that don't physically split genres but instead notates them with stickers on the book spine. Other libraries don't do any splitting but teach interested users how to use the catalog system to find books suiting their genre preferences.

Hopefully I've made the case that you don't really need to find some master list of all the possible genres, you just need to listen to your patrons and adapt to their searching habits.

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# Calendar

July 15, National Gummi Worm Day

July 17, World Emoji Day

July 18, National Ice Cream Day

July 30, CASTL, [“The Census and Librarians,”](#) Crete Public Library

August, National Wellness Month

National Go Back to School Month

August 1, National Friendship Day

August 2, National Coloring Book Day

August 4, National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

August 6, National Water Balloon Day

August 9, National Rice Pudding Day

August 10, National Lazy Day

August 20, [“End the Stigma of Mental Illness,”](#) via Zoom

September 2, [Joint Youth Services Retreat,](#) via Zoom

October 12-14, [NLA Conference, “The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times”](#)



# Photos of the Month



*Provided by Joanne Neeman. For more, see p. 4*

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

July 30  
Crete Public Library  
"The Census and Librarians"  
10-3

August 27  
SELS Meeting Room  
"Summer Reading Successes"  
10-3

Our June 25<sup>th</sup> CASTL was held on Zoom with the theme being "Those Grants are Waiting for YOU!" Tammi Thiem shared her knowledge about grants and then opened the floor up to discussion, where several librarians in attendance contributed further information.

Tammi noted that often libraries do not have enough funds for programming, renovation projects, or items on a wish list, and that grants can be a great way to make things happen that would not otherwise be possible.

Because Tammi had quite a number of needs while she was director of Genoa Public Library, she wrote about 40 grants from 2013-2019 with a success rate of nearly 94%. Those grants were written for a Makerspace, collection items, board games, STEAM kits, Toddler Concept kits, Legos, toys, building repair, and more.

She shared one mistake that she made. She won a Walmart grant for \$1000 but she knew nothing about the process and overlooked one of the conditions of the grant, which was providing publicity for how the grant was used. For that reason she was ineligible for a grant from Walmart for a few years. As she noted, one learns from mistakes!

She suggested several good sources to learn about grants:

- <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/grants.aspx>
- <http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/>
- <https://tlcdelivers.com/library-grants/>
- <https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/>
- Google!

Tammi noted that many grants are offered yearly, so you can apply every year. Also, make sure you know their schedules!

Tammi delved then into further details about the process of grant writing. Those can [be found here in her slides as well as the recording](#), and the recording also contains the grant experiences of attending librarians.

## 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>
August 16—August 27	Collection Management	July 12—August 6
August 30—September 10	Programming & Outreach	July 26—August 20
September 20—October 1	Community & Library	August 16—September 10

# News Around the System

## The Lincoln Children's Museum Visits Beatrice

*Provided by Joanne Neemann*

*(Continued from p. 2)*

The Lincoln Children's Museum came to the Beatrice Public Library Wednesday, June 16, and did a craft and team block construction with the school age kids.



## IRL at Ashland Public Library

*Story and pictures by Tanya McVay*

Ashland Public Library hosted Among Us IRL (in real life) for 6th-8th graders. The event was a great success. It was fairly easy to run, and very low cost. We are thankful for our employee Eva who put it together for our library. All the participants said we should have it again. We did learn that the cards that say if they are an imposter or not need a flap, so they can close them up and no one can sneak a peek!



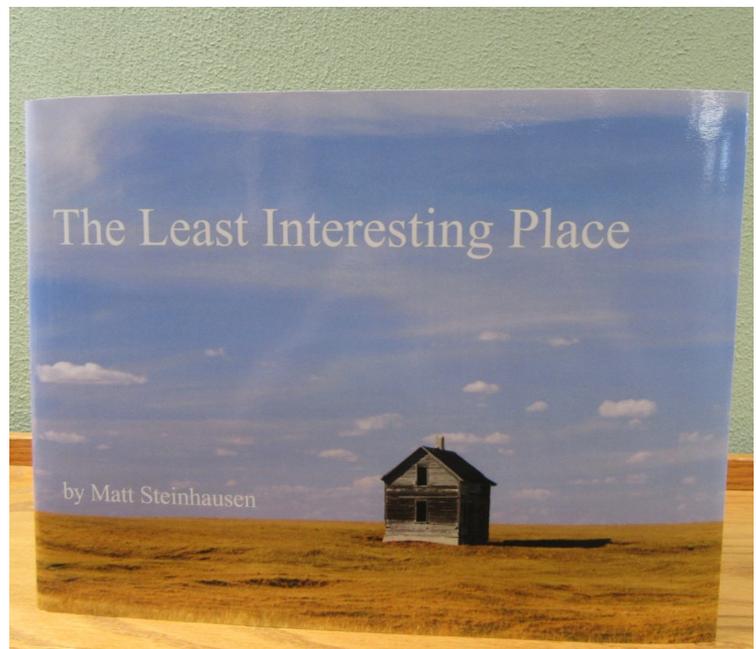
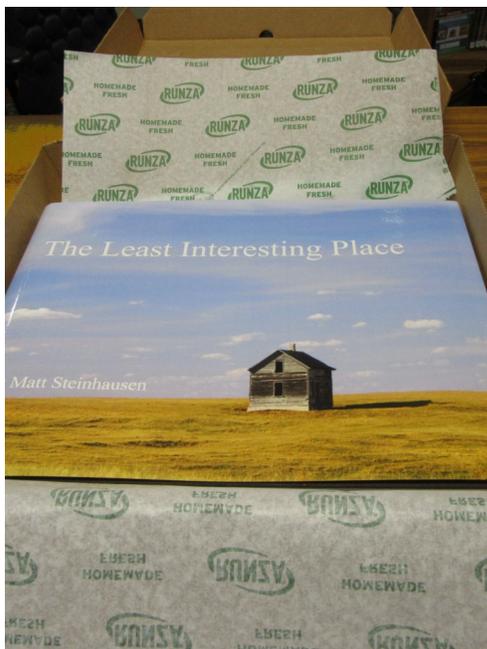
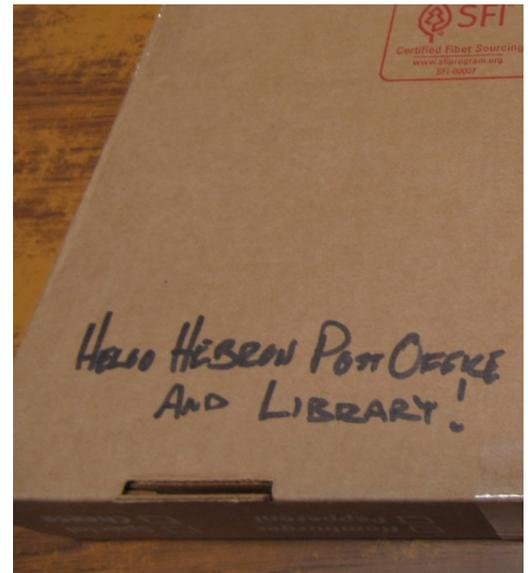
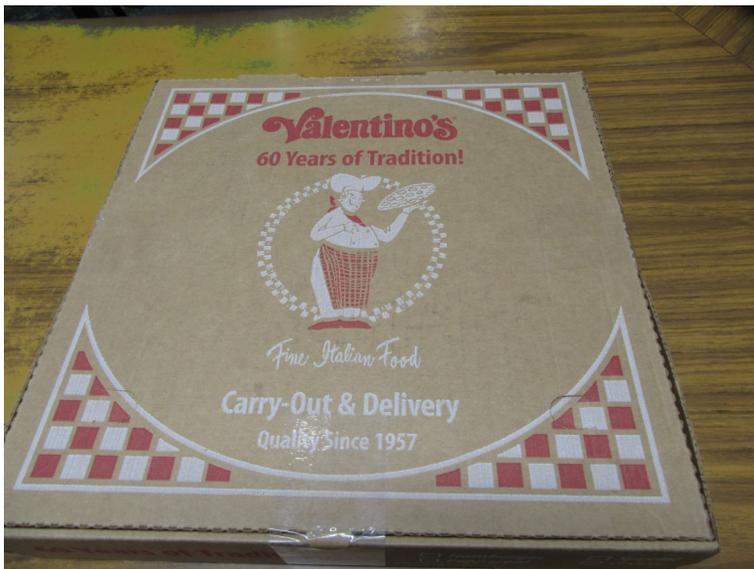
# News Around the System

## Hebron Secrest Library and the Mysterious Pizza Box

*Provided by Judy Kassenbaum*

The Hebron Secrest Library recently received a very unusual package in the mail. Upon opening it, there was not a pizza, but instead a wonderful book we had ordered. This was a first for us and the post office. They were very curious about the pizza box delivery.

Following are pictures of the box before opening, and the unusual paper the book was wrapped in. It is a great book with a collection of more than 25 years of Nebraska photographs and stories.



# News Around the System

## Clarks Public Library Enjoys Successful Summer Reading Program

*Provided by Barbee Sweet*

Barbee says, "We had a great summer program this year! Fontenelle Forest came to teach us about raptors, we had Keith West & Miss Kitty put on a magic show, and we had Joan Wells show us trick roping."



# News Around the System

## Fairbury Public Library Hosts Special Programs

*Story by Debbie Aden, Photos by Debbie Aden and Tim Linscott for the Fairbury Journal News*

About two dozen people, families of all ages, attended a Nebraska Game and Parks Native Wildlife program at the library on June 3rd.



On June 14th, at least 250 people attended the Henry Doorly Zoo Summer Reading Program held at the Bonham Theater. Chaotic, but fun!



Tim Linscott, cropped

# News Around the System

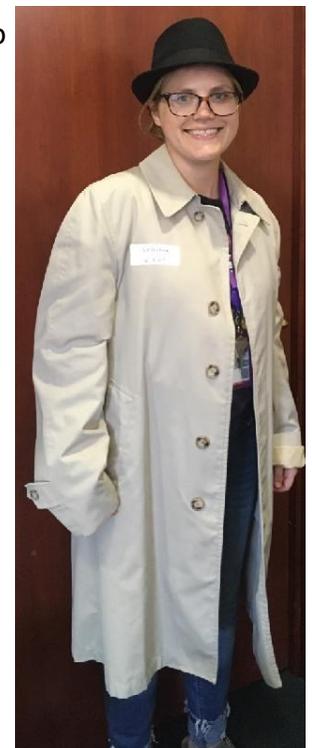
## Escape in the Library

*Provided by Charlotte Baldinger*

During July Seward Memorial Library is providing daily opportunities for patrons to solve problems and escape while in the library. The animals are missing from their habitats in the zoo. Who let them out? Young children wearing safari hats are encouraged to hunt for the five animals who escaped, return them to their homes, and search for clues to determine who is guilty of freeing the creatures. Six hidden boxes with unusual locks must be found and opened to discover the answer for who is the culprit.



Older children and adults visit another locked room to help Detective Violet solve the problem of a missing children's author who is capable of mysteriously traveling through book pages and has not returned. Thinking outside of the book is needed to rescue Dr. Francis. Participants find clues in strange places; work with puzzling information and tackle lock combinations before they reach the surprise finale. Reservations are required and small groups form teams competing for the shortest rescue time. The staff is thankful for a very creative librarian who can imagine these situations and build the scene. Her skill allows patrons to share a memorable experience with librarians playing a new role in an unusual setting. *(On the right is a picture of a librarian turned Detective Violet, as well as a photo of a marble run which contains clues.)*





# End the Stigma of Mental Illness

[Register here](#) for this presentation via Zoom on August 20 (10am—12pm) to find out from Conner Oberhauser and Todd Schlechte about their experiences with mental illness, to arm yourself with facts, and to find out how libraries can aid those needing help for themselves or their loved ones.

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

THE NEBRASKA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS  
PRESENT THE

# 2021 ONLINE JOINT ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT!

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

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

# System Spotlight

## Donations

One way some people choose to make donations is by designating an organization as the recipient of funds through Amazon Smile. If you want to set that up for your library's friends or foundation group, we'd be happy to help.



SELS is also a nonprofit. Donations to SELS go toward services not covered by our grant agreement with the NLC. Scholarships for events and library science classes, costs around the annual Front Porch Award and other special projects come out of donation dollars. We are able to accept donations directly and via Amazon Smile purchases.

### 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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