

From the Director



As we continue to find ways to connect to each other during this pandemic, much of our communication has moved to online video communications, such as web-ex, facetime, Zoom, and other such platforms. This

has been both a blessing and a curse.

There have been many times over the past few months where I've been in a meeting and some of the other attendees are talking about how this was their third, fourth, or fifth web meeting that day. Our kids are also going through this as some are still in virtual school rooms all day.

While I'll be the first to admit that this is still a great way to hold gatherings, especially during this time to keep each other from passing on Covid, we can have too much of a good thing. "Zoom burnout" is becoming a real phenomenon. The sensation of meeting through computer screens is close enough to real-life that the parts that aren't there cause the brain to try to compensate. Our brains can also become distracted by the multiple backgrounds, the different camera angles – all the little differences so to stay involved in the discussion we force our attention and therefore straining ourselves.

Here are some tips to help make web meetings a better experience for yourself and others.

1. Limit the number of web meetings you hold and attend. So many people are holding web meetings now. The workplace, vendors social groups you may be involved in, family & friends. Yes it is great to see people's faces – but it can be too much.
2. Use alternate communication methods. Do you really need video of each other? If not – maybe use a phone call instead. Does it have to be "live"? Maybe an email discussion would be fine?
3. When in a meeting, minimize distractions. For example: Use a plain background if possible. Mute the microphone when you aren't speaking so the background noise doesn't come through.
4. In long meetings, build in breaks so people can get up and move away from the camera. In your own life, try not to schedule back-to-back web meetings.

In the end, online meetings are just part of our lives now. We can't avoid them, but we can be smarter about them.

Some more resources for you:

Harvard Business Review: <https://hbr.org/2020/04/how-to-combat-zoom-fatigue>

Business News Weekly: <https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/15728-zoom-burnout.html>

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Calendar

- October 15, National Get Smart About Credit Day
- October 17, [Nebraska School Librarians Day](#) (see p. 9-11)
- October 17, [AFCON Annual Meeting](#) (see p. 7)
- October 19, National Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day
- October 20, National Youth Confidence Day
- October 23, [CASTL, Crete Public Library, "Highlights from ARSL"](#)
- October 18-24, [National Friends of the Library Week](#)
- October 26, National Pumpkin Day
- October 31, Halloween
- November, National Picture Book Month
- National Native American Heritage Month
- November 1, National Authors' Day
- November 8, National STEM/STEAM Day
- November 8-14, [International Games Week](#)
- November 11, Veterans Day, SELS Office Closed
- December 4, [Summer Reading Program Workshop](#) (Zoom, see p. 8)



Photo of the Month



Hebron staff and patrons recently enjoyed this gift of flowers from a library visitor from Hawaii!

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

In addition to the CASTL meetings listed below, SELS is also hosting Zoom meetings.

October 23
Crete Public Library
“Highlights from ARSL”

November 19
Kilgore Memorial Library
York
“Bibliostat”

December 18
Gilbert Public Library
Friend

Jorene Herr and her board members Elaine Croston and Sandy Stalder hosted us for the September 25th CASTL in Humboldt at Bruun Memorial Library.

Not surprisingly, COVID-19 came up immediately as a subject. Libraries have had various ways of handling reopening and have also had different results in measures such as print circulation statistics and eBook circulation statistics. Patrons are coming back to the library, but not in the same numbers as prepandemic. Occasionally staffing has been affected by childcare or health concerns, and as a result some libraries have not returned to the full number of hours they formerly offered. It may even be that a few of those hours, depending on the community, are not needed.

During the pandemic libraries have remained vital to their communities. Even when their doors were locked, some mentioned that they still offered print and fax services because there was no where else in town where those items were available. That was in addition to curbside service. It was noted that if libraries have to close their doors again, they will still offer services to their community.

Some other discussion followed of how libraries are limiting the number of people in the building at one time, of quarantining items, and of summer reading and outdoor Storytimes.

Finally, two sites for tracking the status of COVID in your county are: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ece0db09da4d4ca68252c3967aa1e9dd> and <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

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>
November 16—Nov. 27	Library Finance	October 12—November 9
Nov. 30—December 11	Library Services to Children & Teens	October 26—November 20
December 14—January 4	Intellectual Freedom and Core Values	November 16—December 7

News Around the System

You Are Invited to Celebrate with Lauren Riedesel!

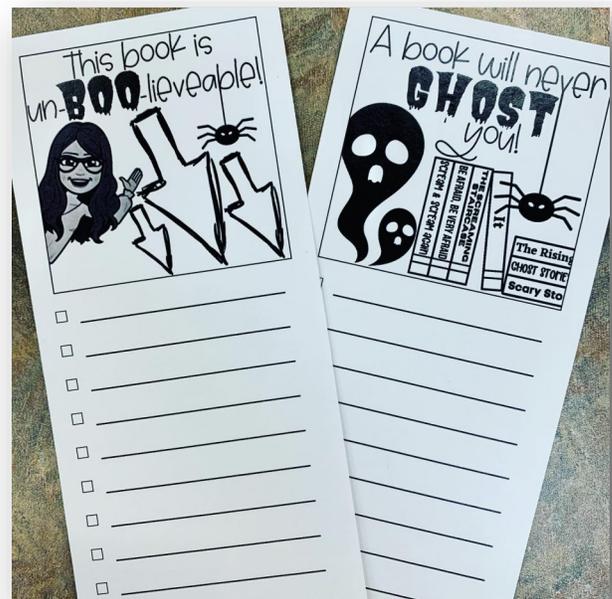
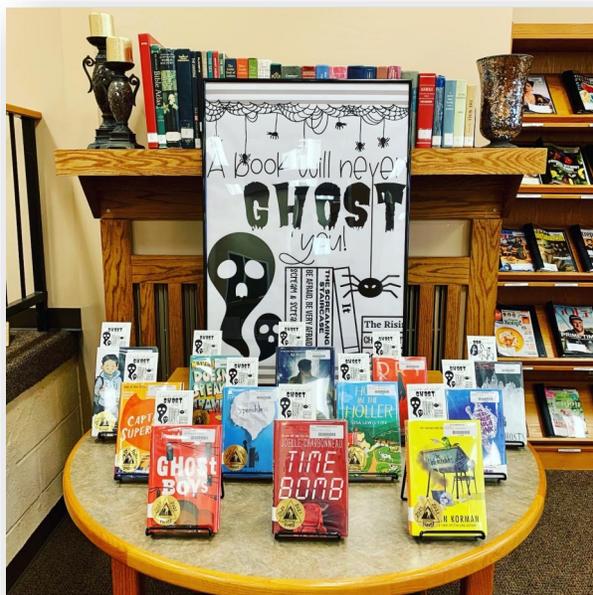
Provided by Joanne Neemann

On Saturday, October 31, there will be an All Day Open House Reception from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm to celebrate Lauren Riedesel's retirement. The location is the Norva Price Room at Beatrice Public Library. You are invited to help celebrate Lauren's many years of service to the Beatrice community as Director of the Beatrice Public Library!



A Seasonal Display from the Aurora Huskies Media Center

Photos by Emmy Fiala



News Around the System

Pawnee City Public Library Enjoys Summer Reading Success

Provided by Colleen Morehead

Pawnee City Public library's summer reading program was a great success due in large part to volunteers and community donations. Twenty super dedicated readers completed the program by reading a combined total of 482 books and taking home 136 craft/activity packets. To celebrate their successes, the summer readers were rewarded with a drive-by pizza party. Parents drove into the parking lot; each reader came to the library portico to receive a medal, certificate and bag of surprises; and each family received a large pizza and 2 liter bottle of pop to take home and enjoy. Pawnee City Public Library Foundation purchased the pizza and pop.



News Around the System

Wedding Takes Place at Seward Memorial Library

Provided by Charlotte Baldinger

Even though Covid has disrupted many library programs and activities, one significant event took place as planned. Seward Memorial Library was the location for a wedding on October 3. The bride and groom grew up in the library. They participated in many years of programs and the



staff watched them go from picture books to chapter books to novels. During their teen years they were active participants in the weekly Library After Hours program which focused on building relationships through games, activities, and experiences when the library was closed to the public. While the teens kept the staff on their toes, the result was that 16 years after sharing time together in the library, these two adults were married in one of their favorite locations. We were touched by their expressions of appreciation.

East Butler Library Tries an Online Book Fair

By Heather Kavan, East Butler Librarian, Dwight/Brainard

We tried hosting an online book fair with Chapters Books and Gifts instead of a regular book fair this fall during parent/teacher conferences. Pictured are a few of the goodies that we received from the attempt:



Other News

The NLC Offers 2 CE to Library Staff for Attendance at AFCON

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska will this year have as its theme for the Annual Meeting “Current Topics in Intellectual Freedom in Libraries.” The careful reader of the following session descriptions will notice that they all approach topics of intellectual freedom from the angle of patron access. What sort of library programs are available to patrons, and what process should librarians use in deciding what to program? In the digital realm, are library materials limited or are they available in such quantity that the hungry and curious mind has all it needs? We invite you to join us on October 17 (via Zoom) in this exploration! Register by October 15 at <http://bit.ly/2020afcon> to receive a Zoom link. The agenda is as follows:

10:00 AM Introduction by President John Bender

10:05 AM Public Library Programming: Achieving the Balance with Vicki Wood.

Public Libraries strive to be inclusive in their program and event offerings. Community pushback and protests can lead to self-censoring and fear of offering programs considered controversial by some members of the community. How does the Library decide what programming to include, and how does it protect the rights of all community members to be seen, heard, and to feel safe in the library, while staying true to the ideals of Intellectual Freedom? (Includes 10 minutes for questions)

10:45-10:50 Presentation of Academic Freedom Award to Brenda Ealey

10:50-10:55 Break

10:55 Balancing the Books with Devra Dragos.

There are difficult challenges to be faced in building and maintaining a collection of popular eBooks and digital audiobooks for public libraries due to numerous, expensive, and constantly changing publisher models for selling to libraries. (Includes 5 minutes for questions)

11:15-11:20 Break

11:20 The Electronic Academic Library: Licensing Resources Versus Ownership and Implications for Access with Jim Shaw.

College and university libraries commonly spend 75% to 85% of their acquisition’s budgets on electronic resources. That is how they provide access to many thousands of electronic books, research journals, historical archives, and other resources. Many may not appreciate, however, that libraries do not actually own electronic resources, but instead purchase licenses which permit use within certain parameters. Spending so much on electronic resources necessarily implies that when budgets are cut, some of those licenses will not be renewed and access for everyone is lost. Libraries have been able to leverage electronic resources in ways that provide more to their users than ever, but this new era could prove volatile and create further separation between the haves and have-nots. (Includes 10 minutes for questions)



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2021 SELS Summer Reading Program Workshop

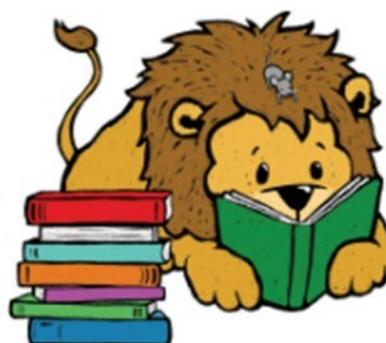
Via Zoom

December 4

9:30 am—12:30 pm

Register at <http://bit.ly/2021srp> by December 1

Register to enjoy a virtual tour from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, find out about books that will work with the summer reading theme, hear about summer reading activities from UNL Extension, and learn about a few crafts, as well as some highlights from the SRP Handbook that you might want to try.



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Nebraska School Librarians Day

Saturday
October 17th

Register:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSLD2020>

9:00-9:30	Zoom Room Opens
9:30-9:45	Welcome & Intro
9:45-10:30	K.C. Boyd Advocacy Presentation
10:40-11:10	Choice Sessions
11:20-11:50	Choice Sessions
12:00-12:50	Lunch, NSLA Business Meeting, Updates from NDE, Giveaways
1:00-1:30	Conversations & Community Submit ?s & topics for discussion
sponsored by University of Nebraska Omaha Library Sciences Program	



Nebraska School Librarians Day

Saturday

October 17th

Register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSLD2020>

Cost

\$30 Members/\$60 NonMembers
 \$15 Student Members/\$30 Student NonMember
 (all nonmember reg includes 1 yr membership)

K.C. Boyd

So What Are You Going to Do About It?
 School libraries and the existence of the school librarian has become a point of discussion for school districts across the country. While some districts respect and support the work of these essential practitioners, other districts have opted to eliminate them. So what are you going to do about it? The time has come for school librarians to fight back with a different message unlike other messages used before. Join K.C. Boyd for a lively discussion on advocacy, activism and effectively fighting against unjust and unfair practices in K-12 education.

Choice Sessions

Can't decide which choice sessions to attend? No problem! All Choice sessions will be recorded and available for registrants to view.

Choice #1

The Googl-y Librarian: What tools can you use to supercharge your library?
 In this session you will walk away with ideas and tools that you can use in your library tomorrow! We will focus on four tools that you can leverage to increase student learning, literacy, and engagement...whether it's in the classroom or at home

Choice #2

It'll never work: Innovative school library ideas that paid off!
 In our ever-changing school library world, sometimes a suggestion for something new is deemed off the wall and met with responses of "It'll never work." This session will be full of innovative school library ideas that paid off for librarians across the state as well as resources to help your own "crazy" ideas come to life!

Choice #3

How to Genrefy Your Fiction Collection:
 Are you considering genrefying your fiction collection? This session will provide you the research and a plan to successfully genrefy your library! Easy-to-follow steps backed up by research to increase your circulation

Choice #4

Creating a Motivating and Engaging Library Environment:
 Hear about challenges and gains, COVID's repercussions, dancing through politics, and just plain luck

System Spotlight

CASTL

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Officially known as “Conversations Among Small Town Librarians,” each meeting has a themed discussion or presentation. There is also a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what’s going on at their library, ask questions, and talk about solutions to issues in a confidential setting. And, of course, we eat! CASTL offers you a monthly break from your library and wonderful support from your fellow directors. Normally, a CASTL counts for 4 CE credit. For information on upcoming CASTL meetings check page three of this newsletter and sign up for the CASTL email list by contacting Todd at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com. Currently we wear masks during the meetings and limit the number of attendees to remain safe. In addition, we are currently hosting one hour Zoom meetings.



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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