



Welcome, 2022!

Article by Tammi Thiem

Do you make New Year's resolutions? Many people do, but not so many of those people actually follow through as the year marches on. It is a challenge to commit to new habits!

Resolutions are actually goals, and librarians always have goals. These goals are reflected in the Community Needs Response Plans that are part of the Public Library Accreditation process. Goals appear on the libraries' calendars as programs are planned for patrons of all ages. Goals fill the librarians' calendars as personal development opportunities are offered. Goals take place in School Libraries and Academic Libraries as librarians tackle the new semester. Goals are part of the growth process in the ever-changing world of librarians.



There are 24 public libraries in the Three Rivers Library System that are scheduled for Accreditation in 2022. Goal-setting will be a large part of that process. Public librarians are also diligently filling in the Public Library Survey, and some of them are setting the goal to keep information more organized for next year's report. Some librarians are identifying areas that are weak within their libraries and setting goals to strengthen those areas. Perhaps a structured weeding regiment of collections is a goal for 2022 for many librarians.

I have many professional goals for 2022. I intend to be more organized. I have a physical planner that helps me keep on task, and I also use Google Calendar as an online organizational tool. I would be lost without these things, but I plan to add more detail this year. I often reflect on the things I have done, and it is frustrating to try to decipher my own vague notations. I have notebooks filled with jottings of ideas and goals – some completed and some still hopeful. I am making the resolution to review these regularly to make sure I am not letting anything potential slip through the cracks. This will also allow me to see progress made and checklists completed.

Some of my goals for 2022 have outside influence. I intend to visit all of the libraries in the TRAILS region, but that will depend on the pandemic. That has certainly thwarted my goals for 2020 and 2021, but I have hope for the new year. Likewise, workshops and meetings will hopefully be in-person, but it is great that online versions are also an option. I have a lot of great ideas for 2022 workshops bouncing around in my brain, so it is my goal to make those ideas happen.

I hope every librarian makes a New Year's resolution for self-care and mindfulness. These past couple of years have really highlighted the importance of that, so that should be a strong focus of 2022. Remember the airplane mask analogy: Help yourself first, then help others.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to contact me. My email address is tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com. My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!

At the TRAILS Office

CLASSIC NOVEL TITLES

Unscramble the circled letters. Send that nine-letter word to trls.assistant@gmail.com to be entered into a drawing for a prize!

Across

1. Wuthering _____ by Emily Bronte
5. In Cold _____ by Truman Capote
6. The Lion, the Witch and the _____ by C.S. Lewis
8. _____ Plan by J.M. Barrie
9. Crime and _____ by Fyodor Dostoevsky
12. Pride and _____ by Jane Austen
13. The Lord of the _____ by J.R.R. Tolkien
14. Great _____ by Charles Dickens
15. The _____ in the Fire by J.D. Salinger
17. Brave New _____ by Aldous Huxley
18. A _____ of Dances by John Kennedy Toole
20. One _____ Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
21. The _____ of Wrath by John Steinbeck
22. Anna _____ by Leo Tolstoy

Down

2. The Age of _____ by Edith Wharton
3. Call of the _____ by Jack London
4. The _____ of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
6. Alice's Adventures in _____ by Lewis Carroll
7. Little _____ by Louisa May Alcott
10. To Kill a _____ by Harper Lee
11. The _____ Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
15. Charlie and the _____ Factory by Roald Dahl
16. The _____ of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
19. Jane _____ by Charlotte Bronte

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheBookDesigner.com

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS:

This Month's Topic: Friends of the Library & Library Foundations

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 2 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

4 February 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Bennington Public Library

7 February 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at St. Edward Public Library

10 February 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Lied Randolph Public Library

11 February 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at John A. Stahl Public Library (West Point)

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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Scholarships

Don't forget to check out our [scholarships page on our website!](#) It outlines all the scholarships we offer (as well as gives you the option for scholarships not listed). It also links you to the online application. If you ever have any questions or concerns about the process, ask Tammi! She'll be happy to walk you through the process.

Meet the TRaiLS Board

Megan Tomasiewicz

Secretary

Hello! My name is Megan Tomasiewicz and I currently serve as the secretary of the TRaiLS Board. I have worked as the library director at Tekamah Public Library since 2017. This coming year will be my fifth year working as a librarian.

I am a Nebraska native. In my spare time I enjoy writing, creating art, gardening, playing video games, and of course reading! I am currently working on a novel and that consumes a lot of my free time. In true librarian fashion, I have three cats. I also have a white Pomeranian named Bjorn.



Like many small town librarians, I fell into this profession by accident. I graduated from Wayne State College in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. I was worried that my professional skills would not align with my job when I was hired as library director. How wrong I was! Not only have many of my skills come in handy, I also have had a great support system from day one.

I am so grateful for the Nebraska Library Commission's programs that help people like me get "up to speed" on how libraries work. The continuing education courses, meetings, workshops, and other helpful events have made a huge impact on me professionally. I have met so many wonderful, helpful people.

That is why I jumped at the chance to serve on the TRaiLS Board. Our industry has faced a lot of heartache and challenges within the last two years, and I am proud to offer support to my fellow librarians however I can. Contact me anytime at teklibdirector@gmail.com or (402) 374-2453.

Past TRaiLS, Present Knowledge

Behavior Tips!

Article by Gail Formanack
(Originally published in TRaiLS Volume 1, Issue 1 - February 2015)

Is your library filled with kids after school as they seek a place to gather when the weather is too cold to hang out outdoors? Do you sometimes struggle to find the balance between creating a welcoming environment for young people while also accommodating the needs of your older patrons? A former colleague recently shared some concerns about the behaviors of the after school group in his small town library, so I thought I'd share some "teacher tips" that may help you cut down on some unwanted behaviors.

1. Consistently communicate expectations for behavior. Perhaps post a few simple rules that you can point to when kids need a reminder.
2. Utilize attention getting and non verbal techniques. Raising your voice to shout over their voices can just escalate the noise problem. When doing a group activity or story time, a simple statement such as "1,2,3, eyes on me" can help gain their attention. The key is to wait until voices are silent before continuing.
3. Give directions explicitly and visually. Break down the steps, and tell kids to wait for your signal to begin.
4. When planning children's activities, plan for transitions every 10-20 minutes. Attention spans for kids can be rather short, even for older school-aged children.
5. Have some "finished early" activities ready to go for those who race to complete the craft or activity.
6. Endeavor to make a positive connection with a child every time they visit the library. Know their names and use them. Remember and remark about their reading interests. If you have exhibited a genuine caring for the child, you may only need to deliver a frown or shake of the head to redirect any unwanted behavior.

Basic Skills Classes

(* Required Class)

Customer Service* with Christa Porter

Registration Dates: 3 January 2022 - 28 January 2022

Class Dates: 7 February 2022 - 18 February 2022

Library Governance with Denise Harders

Registration Dates: 31 January 2022 - 28 February 2022

Class Dates: 7 March 2022 - 18 March 2022

Library Technology with Amanda Sweet

Registration Dates: 14 February 2022 - 11 March 2022

Class Dates: 21 March 2022 - 1 April 2022

Introduction to Cataloging*

Registration Dates: 21 February 2022 - 18 March 2022

Class Dates: 1 April 2022 - 30 April 2022

Library Journal's Star Libraries of 2021

Every year, Library Journal publishes a list of **Star Libraries**. In total, Nebraska had 16 Star Libraries for 2021! Below is a list of the Star Libraries in our regional system, so be sure to reach out to them and tell them congratulations!

- Blair Public Library & Technology Center - 4 Stars
- Creighton Public Library - 5 Stars
- Hartington Public Library - 5 Stars
- John A Stahl Library - 4 Stars
- North Bend Public Library - 3 Stars

Calendar of Events

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

26 January 2022
2:00pm -3:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

3 February 2022
3:00pm - 4:00pm

SKILLS Meeting

Bennington Public Library

4 February 2022
9:30am - 11:30am

SKILLS Meeting

St. Edward Public Library

7 February 2022
9:30am - 11:30am

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom

8 February 2022
9:00am -10:00am

SKILLS Meeting

Lied Randolph Public Library

10 February 2022
9:30am - 11:30am

SKILLS Meeting

- Oakland Public Library - 5 Stars
- Plainview Public Library - 5 Stars
- Springfield Memorial Library - 4 Stars

John A. Stahl Library (West Point)
11 February 2022
9:30am - 11:30am

Congratulations to all the Nebraska libraries!

- Ashland Public Library - 3 Stars
- Atkinson Public Library - 5 Stars
- Central City Public Library - 5 Stars
- McCook Public Library - 3 Stars
- Ravenna Public Library - 3 Stars
- Saint Paul Public Library - 5 Stars
- Wymore Public Library - 3 Stars

SKILLS Meeting
Online via Zoom

16 February 2022
10:00am - 11:00am

SKILLS Meeting
Online via Zoom

24 February 2022
11:00am - 12:00pm

School Librarians in the Digital Age

Nebraska School Librarians Association and the Nebraska Library Systems are hosting a joint event for the month of January. [Check out these digital panels](#) and learn all about the resources and tools for school librarians.

Big Talk From Small Libraries
Online

25 February 2022
8:45am - 5:00pm

NLA Advocacy Day

3 March 2022

Library News

Bellevue University Library's Winter Donation Drive

Article by Alicia James

The Bellevue University Library hosted its annual Winter Donation Center from November 1 to December 10, 2021. This year the drive collected items for four organizations: the Bellevue Food Pantry, the Nebraska Humane Society, Youth Emergency Services, and the Assistance League of Omaha. Donations covered a wide variety of things including books for all ages for the Assistance League, food and enrichment items for the Humane Society, as well as hygiene products and home goods for the Emergency Services program. Thanks to the generous students, staff, and faculty at the University we were able to collect nearly 700 individual items for these wonderful local organizations. Staff delivered the donations to the organizations after the completion of the drive in December. It was a successful drive and we look forward to helping our community again next year!



Creighton Public Library's Tree Lighting

Article by Lisa Macke

Creighton Public Library hosted Lighting of the Tree on Sunday, December 5th. We had a local photographer come in to take pictures for free of their kids with Santa & Mrs. Claus. The photographer uploaded the photos onto Facebook and people could get them from there. We read *Twas the Night Before Christmas* in Nebraska and then the kids wrote letters to Santa. Not knowing how this would be having it on a Sunday, we ended up with approximately 50 adults & children attending. In the spirit of Christmas, we also host a Kids Christmas party. We will watch a movie, have a snack & make a craft.

New this year to the library we are going to host a Noon Year's Eve party on November 30th. We will get pizza, make party hats, countdown to 12pm and have a good time.

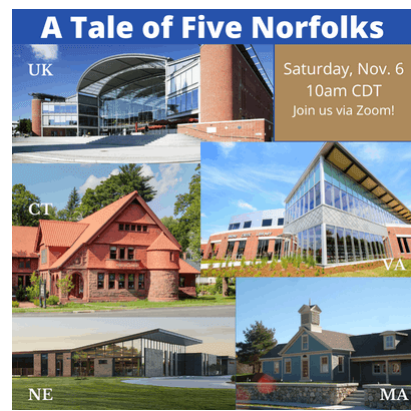


A Tale of Five Norfolks

Article by Jessica Chamberlain

The Norfolk Public Library recently hosted a unique program on Zoom. We were approached in March of 2021 by Libby O'Neill from the Norfolk Public Library in Massachusetts. Much like our Norfolk, her

Norfolk routinely gets mis-dialed phone calls for other Norfolks around the country. After seeing a neighboring community do a Zoom program with their namesake city in England, Libby was inspired to do something similar. She gathered together the Norfolks in Nebraska, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia and England and we all brainstormed a program to do together.



The program started with each Norfolk sharing a little about their community. We started from the oldest Norfolk in England, and worked our way west to the youngest Norfolk in Nebraska. Following that brief introduction, each Norfolk answered some uniform questions, like, "How do you say the name of your town?" and "Who is the most famous person from your town?" I was surprised to learn that, like our Norfolk, all of the American Norfolks have multiple acceptable pronunciations of their names. The Norfolks in Massachusetts and Connecticut even say "NorFORK" like the Nebraska town sometimes.

Each town then shared a tour of its library. The libraries were all so different. Virginia has a multi-branch system for its population of nearly 250,000 people. Massachusetts has a recently renovated and expanded modern library. Connecticut's library is a gorgeous, wooden work of art built by a donor and it continues to be funded by that donor's endowment. The library that participated from Norfolk, England was actually not their public library, but a memorial library that was created for the 2nd Air Division of the United States Air Force. And, of course, our library here in Nebraska was my favorite. While all different, all are vibrant reflections of the communities they serve. If you're curious to watch the program, the recording is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/-4b2B7A4jIQ>.

Genoa Public Library's Winter Displays

Photos by Kimberly Ellenwood



Lied Winside Public Library's Lunch Bunch

Article by Lara Lanphear



Every year Lied Winside Public Library hosts a 4-6 grade book club at our local school called the "Lunch Bunch." We do sign up sheets for each book so there is always a different group of kids reading! Our last book we read, *The One And Only Ivan*, was a big hit. The kids really enjoyed the writing style in this book. We also had some really great discussions about important topics, but their favorite topic to discuss was how elephants like Stella and Ruby, remember everything. A lot of the kids have watched the movie based on this book on Disney Plus so they had a lot of fun comparing the book with the movie.

Bellevue University Library's Halloween Spirit

Article by Alicia James



Bellevue University Library enjoyed getting into the Halloween spirit by decorating for the theme "Haunted Mansion." The decorations were made and arranged to represent different locations from the mansion such as the ghostly ballroom, fortuneteller's table, bride's attic, and the graveyard. The setup included details like a

recreation of Madame Leota's crystal ball, floating ghost dancers in the ballroom, and headstones for various characters in the cemetery. To tie into the Library's theme, for our October student event we held a showing of the "Haunted Mansion" movie the week of Halloween. Several staff members even dressed up as characters from "Haunted Mansion for Halloween."



Madison Public Library's Christmas Craft Table

Article by Lori Porter

The City of Madison held its Annual Christmas in Madison on Sunday, December 5th, 2021 at the City Auditorium. The Madison Public Library had a craft table for the kids to come and make Christmas trees out of sugar cones and frosting, which we then placed in a clear cup with the lid for them to carry without getting icing all over. It was a messy, fun activity enjoyed by all and when they were done each child received a Christmas book to take home. We had so many kids we ran out of cones! So we pulled out the ornament kits for the children to make. The adults enjoyed it because they could go and shop without the children around. After the crafts, the children got to go see Santa who was waiting on the stage for them.



Scholarship Experiences

2021 Nebraska Library Association Conference

Article by Katie Hollmann

The NLA annual conference being a hybrid event worked for me. I was able to attend the day in Omaha and enjoy the haunted Omaha walking tour, thoughtful break-out sessions, new colleagues plus outgoing president Laura England-Biggs' infectious personality and *Hamilton* references. I think she said attendance was about 30% of non-COVID times and half the usual amount of vendors, but it seemed pleasantly busy. I always learn something new and this year was no exception. Did you know there is an NLA "interest group" (not section) called *Tiny & Mighty*? It is to support solo librarians and advocate for rural libraries.

Once back to work I appreciated access to the pre-recorded sessions. It was great NOT having to choose between multiple good-sounding sessions offered at the same time. Over the next two weeks I listened to eight more topics when the library was empty of humans. It was so interesting to hear how other libraries and the DoSpace faced the challenges of COVID, plugging away at providing services. There were even tips on safety practices to keep after the pandemic. I especially enjoyed hearing about Lincoln libraries' booktalks because that's something I don't have the energy to sustain here. And I really enjoyed hearing from the gals making museum exhibits at UNMC. I love to host exhibits and it was interesting to hear from professionals about the intersection between museum and library.

I am very appreciative of the continuing education scholarship from TRLS and I encourage you solo librarians to somehow find a way to attend the annual conferences. They are not only inspiring but fun.

2021 Nebraska Library Association Conference

Article by Sarah Emmi

The 2021 NLA Conference was an enriching experience. The focus of the conference was "Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times". This was my first conference. Due to this, I did not know quite what to expect.

What I found was an eclectic collection of library professionals from all over the state. An exhibition hall with books, vendors, and more. Multiple breakout sessions with socially relevant themes.

The sessions, “Recognizing Privilege” and “Libraries are for Everyone?” were especially powerful. The latter addressed directly some of my own experiences in previous library work, and took me off guard in the process. I found some closure as I listened to other librarians speak about their experiences, mirroring my own. It gave me a lot of encouragement to know that I am not alone in the challenges I have faced on the job.

The value I found in attending the conference has confirmed to me that it is something I should plan on doing annually from here on out. I am grateful for the scholarship from the Three Rivers Library System, without which I would not have been able to attend the 2021 conference and have this experience.

Love writing book reviews? Feel free to pass them along to us to share with the rest of the regional system. Email Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com submit them or any other article you'd like to share. We're always accepting submissions to our TRaiLS Newsletter!

