



We are here to help YOU!

Article by Tammi Thiem

I recently signed the biennial agreement for the Three Rivers Library System, and we created a two-year service plan. Most of you have written strategic plans, as they were previously called, and community needs response plans, as they are now known, for your libraries. You know from experience that compiling this information really makes you ultra-aware of your goals, purposes, ideals, and potential. It can be satisfying to have the information all spelled out, ready for action. It can also be a bit overwhelming and daunting to recognize the meaning behind the words.

The purpose of the Three Rivers Library System is to help the libraries within the region. Here are some of the basics that are included:

1. Training and consulting with libraries on service planning.
2. Training and consulting with libraries on public library accreditation.
3. Training and consulting with libraries on trustee/library board governance and certification.
4. Training and consulting with libraries on public library certification.
5. Training and consulting with libraries on children and young adult services.
6. Technology development and training including E-rate.
7. Training and promotion of OverDrive (Nebraska eReads), Nebraska's statewide eBook and digital audiobook collaborative.
8. Training and promotion relating to statewide databases licensed by the Commission through NebraskAccess.
9. Training and consulting with libraries on library personnel management.
10. Training and consulting with libraries on library services for multicultural / diverse populations.
11. Instruction and promotion of the Basic Skills classes.
12. Training and promotion of the Talking Book and Braille Service.
13. Aiding the Commission in providing training and promotion, or in other ways, with other initiatives of the Commission.

Of course, this is not a complete list, as no one can predict the various needs of a librarian at any given time. That is okay, as that helps keep the job exciting! Librarians are fabulous to work with, and I look forward to doing more in-person activities and visiting libraries around the region. Without knowing exactly what libraries may need, the information and suggestions provided by librarians is valuable, as that can help guide the focus of workshops and training. If you want to learn more about a topic, chances are that others do, too. Please share your ideas!

Another thing for you to share is your knowledge and experience. In-person SKILLS (Sharing Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions) meetings are coming up in August, and virtual SKILLS meetings will continue while there is interest. These are the perfect platforms to learn from other library professionals. After all, who can better understand the complex and unique issues that librarians deal with daily than another librarian?

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



Calendar of Events

Basic Skills Classes

Collection Management* with Denise Harders
 Class Dates: 16 August 2021 - 27 August 2021
 Registration Dates: 12 July 2021 - 6 August 2021

Programming & Outreach with Christa Porter
 Class Dates: 30 August 2021 - 10 September 2021
 Registration Dates: 26 July 2021 - 20 August 2021

Community & Library with Sam Shaw
 Class Dates: 20 September 2021 - 1 October 2021
 Registration Dates: 16 August 2021 - 10 September 2021

Management / Supervision with Holli Duggan
 Class Dates: 18 October 2021 - 29 October 2021
 Registration Dates: 13 September 2021 - 8 October 2021

(* required class)

SKILLS Meeting

Online
 23 July 2021
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Niche Academy Public Library Demonstration
 Online

23 July 2021
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online
 27 July 2021
 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

SKILLS Meeting

Lied Lincoln Township Library
 3 August 2021
 9:30 am - 11:30 am

SKILLS Meeting

Online
 3 August 2021
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Those Grants are Waiting for YOU! Workshop

Online
 5 August 2021
 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Nebraska Libraries on the Web

Any public library in the state of Nebraska is eligible for the program to get a website hosted through Wordpress and the Nebraska Library Commission.

An interested library director should check out [this blog](#) that will explain some frequently asked questions as well as the contact form to get started.

TRaiLS Annual Meeting

Midland University

6 August 2021
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Nebraska Public Library Accreditation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Public Library Accreditation program** has been suspended for 2020 and 2021. The Nebraska Library Commission plans to resume the program in 2022. All Accreditation expiration dates have been extended by 2 years.

Be sure to check out the Nebraska Library Commission's page about accreditation, where there are helpful links that detail the accreditation process and how the Community Needs Assessment works.

There are three levels of accreditation: Gold, Silver, and Bronze with a total of 275 points available.

There are five categories in the application: Governance/Planning, Resources, Services, Cooperation/Collaboration, and Communications.

If accreditation seems overwhelming, feel free to reach out to your friendly neighborhood TRaiLS Director, Tammi Thiem.

SKILLS Meeting

Lied Battle Creek Public Library

9 August 2021
9:30 am - 11:30 am

SKILLS Meeting

Online

11 August 2021
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SKILLS Meeting

Keene Memorial Library

16 August 2021
9:30 am - 11:30 am

What Do I Do With All These Papers?

Online

17 August 2021
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online

19 August 2021
9:00 am - 10:00 am

SKILLS Meeting

Bellevue Public Library

23 August 2021
9:30 am - 11:30 am

SKILLS Meeting

Online

24 August 2021
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Youth Services Retreat

Online

2 September 2021
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Library News

Louisville Public Library: Mini Book Sale

Submitted by: Michelle Daniels

Hello everyone, I just thought I'd share something we started in March 2020 that has been successful for us.

Covid is horrible for sure but, it did give me time to accomplish a ton. We went strictly to curbside service only. My super awesome volunteer (NLA Outstanding Volunteer award winner) and I were able to go through all of the books in our library. This meant we needed to get rid of a ton of things. We started putting books outside on a table with a note saying "Take as many as you want. If you can make a donation to the library, put it in a ziplock bag and place in book drop." We specified that the money donated would be used to get another bookcase made for the library. So from March –December 2020 we raised \$600 having books out on the table 3 days a week. I was pleased with this because we are such a small community and no one was leaving their homes.

We are continuing to place books out on our table. Our sign now specifies we are going to use the donations for new furniture. Pre-Covid we invested in a Keurig and put together a little coffee station. We are trying to make a cozy little sitting room. Nice new furniture will give the library a great first impression, as this will be the first thing new people will see when walking in.

Hartington Public Library: Spies for Summer

Submitted by: Tami Anderson & Kim Emanuel



Miss Tami and Miss Kim called all special agents to the Hartington Public Library to celebrate National Library Week in April. During the week, kids could use spy glasses to locate the scavenger hidden items throughout the library. During a special story hour session, kids listened to mysterious stories, maneuvered thru laser fields to retrieve stolen book covers to solve the puzzle. They created their own disguises to take home. The older kids participated in the library's 1st Lock box challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. They worked together on a CIA mystery, deciphering codes and puzzles that allowed them to diffuse their bombs before time ran out. Rolls and coffee, and door prizes ended the week.



Columbus Public Library: Tails & Tales Children's Summer Reading

Submitted by: Brad Hruska

It is hard to believe that warm weather is finally upon us and that schools will be letting out for a well-deserved summer break. The Columbus Public Library (CPL) is ready for area students and families with this year's summer reading program entitled, "Tails & Tales!"

Every week beginning June 7th, the library will host a wide range of exciting events and activities around the Columbus area, including at our temporary location (2419 14th Street) still in downtown Columbus. On Mondays, entertaining movies will be shown at CPL in Room 127 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Children and guests are encouraged to come with pillows and blankets in tow to enjoy these family-friendly flicks. Tasty, individually wrapped snacks will be provided to make the experience even more memorable!

On Tuesdays, in-person presentations will take place from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Area youth will partake in several engaging programs conducted by well-known organizations like Crane River Theater Company of Kearney, Wildlife Encounters of Gretna, Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery of Bellevue, and the Omaha Children's Museum. Most of these events will take place in Frankfort Square, just a block west of the library.

Wednesdays at the library from 10:30-11:30 a.m. are designated for those students entering grades 4-6. The Columbus Public Library has collaborated with Columbus 4-H to offer the tween program, "CPL Wildlife Explorers." This hands-on program will allow students the opportunity to learn about animals from around the world while conducting experiments, preparing the perfect pizza with help from skilled Pizza Ranch team members, and venturing to the Henry Doorly Zoo, free of charge.

The library's Storytime program will take place on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Children will enjoy listening to whimsical tales read by talented guest readers and leave the event with a fun balloon creation. To conclude the 2021 summer reading festivities, participants will be encouraged to show off their surfing skills, race down the water slides, and enjoy the lazy river at the Pawnee Plunge. After splashing around, participants will be invited to a hotdog and potato chip luncheon served up by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library.

Registration for the 2021 "Tails & Tales" summer reading program will begin for all ages on Tuesday, June 1, and continue through July 23. Families are welcome to sign up either in-person or online by clicking the Beanstack link on the Columbus Public Library's website (www.columbusne.us/library) or the library's Facebook page.

So if you are looking for summer fun the whole family will enjoy, look no further than the Columbus Public Library. This year's "Tails & Tales" summer reading lineup is sure to please everyone in your household. If you have any questions regarding CPL's children's summer reading program agenda, please contact me at (402) 562-4205.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Tuesday, June 1, all ages' registration for the 2021 "Tails & Tales" summer reading program begins!

Don't forget that the library's children's department offers a monthly calendar highlighting the many events that take place in the Children's Room. To have this agenda sent to your inbox, email me at bhruska@columbusne.us.

Valparaiso Public Library:

Submitted by: Deanna Priefert

Valparaiso youth from 3 years to going into 5th grade have been showing up at the library on Thursday evenings to learn about animals. During our Tails and Tales Summer Reading Program, the kids have been posing investigative questions to search out answers about animals. One question posed was, "Why are tails different?". For example, some tails are "fluffy", some have "scales", and some have "fur", while others do not. In our reading

throughout the week, we discovered tails are used for many different purposes. "Fluffy" tails on a squirrel are used to help them balance. Tails without "fur", like on a mouse, help animals climb. So many things about animal tails can be learned through the magic of books! In Valparaiso, we have also been busy building a "word" wall with wooden blocks. Each block is labeled with a "special" word that the kids discover in their weekly reading. Maybe it is a new word or a funny word or maybe it is your name found in the book you randomly picked to read! Each block labeled with a word is added to a growing stack of blocks. How many "special" words will we discover and how high will our word wall be by the end of summer?

Verdigre Public Library: Bringing Animals to Summer Reading

Submitted by: Katie Hollmann

Sydney and Adam Kumm (photo right) dressed as a matador and senorita for an in-library showing of Ferdinand, one of several movie matinees for Summer Reading Program.



Reagan Novacek and Ace her dog (photos below) came for "Bring Your Pet to the Library". Reagan gave Ace a grand tour, showed him her kindergarten photo in the school annual and then read a board book to him. It just made my day!



Louisville Public Library: Grant Success

Submitted by: Michelle Daniels

Take advantage of every grant opportunity you can. My library is working on a Foundation so we can apply for even more and I can't wait.

I haven't gotten every grant I've applied for, but then, I have received one that I never believed I would, you never know. In one case, there were just so many applicants it went to a library who hadn't received it the previous year like we had.

Since July 2019, when I took the librarian position, I've received almost \$8,000 in grants. I've received Covid Cares Grant, Youth for Excellence Grant, Census Grant, Dollar General Summer Reading Grant, Pilcrow Foundation Grant, and Libraries Transforming Communities Grant.

Keep your eyes and ears open and apply for everything you can. I do not have a college degree and I'm still working on my librarian accreditation classes. So what I'm trying to say is: if I can get them, so can you!

Columbus Public Library: Tails and Tales Teen Summer Reading

Submitted by: Jessica Wilkinson

This year's Summer Reading is going to be packed with a lot of exciting programs! Make sure to keep an eye on the Columbus Public Library Facebook page, Instagram, and Beanstack page for all of the activities.

We are all moved in to our temporary library for the next two years, so all of this summer's programs will be held in person! Registration week will begin May 31, with the first program being held on June 1 at the Columbus Police Station (1PM). We will get to meet the Columbus K-9 unit.

Week 1 (June 6-12)

Color War- Come participate in our first color war. Be prepared to be doused in multiple colors in this dodgeball like game. For best results, please wear white. (June 8 @ 1PM)

Movie Day- Eat popcorn and watch an Anime movie at the library. (June 10 @ 1PM)

Week 2 (June 13-19)

Terrarium- Build your own mini world. (June 15 @ 1PM)

Game Day- Play board games, use the Nintendo Switch and Xbox, and eat some snacks. (June 17 @ 1PM)

Week 3 (June 20-26)

S.T.A.R. Escape Room- Join us at the S.T.A.R. Escape Room to see if you can escape one of these amazing rooms. (June 22 @ 1PM)

Pop Culture & Cosplay Day- Wear your best cosplay costume to the library! We will have multiple activities happening during this hour. (June 24 @ 1PM)

Fandom Friday- Watch a dinosaur roaring good movie with great snacks! (June 25 @ 1PM)

Week 4 (June 27-July 3)

Paws & Claws- Join us at Paws & Claws to meet some of the animals that they have up for adoption. (June 29 @ 1PM)

Among Us Day- Work on an Among Us craft, while watching some Among Us videos. (July 1 @ 1PM)

Murder Mystery Dinner- We will be hosting our first Murder Mystery Dinner Friday night. Make sure to come and sign up to participate! (July 2 @ 1PM)

Week 5 (July 4-10)

Movie Day- Eat popcorn and watch a movie at the library. (July 6 @ 1PM)

Sensory Bottles & Ice Cream- We will be making ice cream and using glitter! (July 8 @ 1PM)

Week 6 (July 11-17)

Tie Dye- Join us at Frankfort Square to tie dye some shirts! Please bring your own white shirt. (July 13 @ 1PM)

Frankenbeanies- Give new life to old, cast-off toys. Warning: small stuffed animals will be harmed in the making of this craft. (July 15 @ 1PM)

Week 7 (July 18-24)

Wildlife Encounters- Wildlife Encounters will be at the United Methodist Church to share some of their animals with us! Address: 2710 14th St, Columbus, NE 68601 (July 20 @ 1PM)

Popvinyl Craft- Paint your own Popvinyl figure! (July 22 @ 1PM)

Week 8 (July 25-30)

Zoo Trip- Spend all day at the Henry Doorly Zoo. We are taking 15 teens, so make sure to register in advance! (July 27 @ 7AM)

Henna Tattoos- Two Henna Tattoo artists will be coming to the library. Make sure to bring your signed parent permission slips. (July 29 @ 1PM)

Party @ the Plunge- Join us at the Pawnee Plunge for our final Summer Reading party. (July 30 @ 10AM)

We are still going to have Anime Club throughout the summer. Anime Club will be the first & third Thursday of the month at 4PM. All teen activities are subject to change without notice. Questions? Call Jessica at 402-562-4203 or email Jessica.Wilkinson@columbusne.us for more information.

Verdigre Public Library: ALA Grant in Action

Submitted by: Katie Hollmann



Verdigre Public Library has enjoyed using the ALA Grant: Libraries Transforming Communities (\$3,000). We sponsored "Flood Resiliency for Verdigre: A Panel Discussion" in April 2021. It was a bit of a puzzle to plan for both in-person with pandemic safety precautions and livestreamed and it was so rewarding to partner with state organizations like the NE Department of Resources and Nebraska Strong Recovery Project. With the grant I was able to experiment with new kinds of advertising, hire help for sound, livestreaming and emcee-ing and make both technology and collections purchases for the library. Part of the grant included ALA online classes on leading community conversations--interesting and helpful, I thought.

The photo shows our rented venue, livestreamer, emcee, five panelists and elected representative Senator Tim Gragert (asking question).

Louisville Public Library: Working Smarter, Not Harder

Submitted by: Michelle Daniels

We received the Libraries Transforming Communities Grant from the ALA. Our board had been discussing what we were going to do for our strategic planning so this couldn't have come at a better time.

We are sending out surveys to have people fill out about the community and the library as well. We are killing two birds with one stone. Since the information gathered will be discussed at the engagement meeting, we can use the grant money to pay for postage.

The library board is creating a monthly community newsletter. We will be including information about the engagement meetings so we can use grant money to fund this endeavor.

We will be having more than one meeting but our first will be the first week of June. Our plan is to have it outdoors in the high school parking lot. There will be plenty of available parking and we will be near electricity for a sound system. We are renting tents, chairs, etc, and are serving food.

Our first topic of discussion will be lack of internet for school age children. We became aware of this problem in March 2020 when the school had to go virtual. Next we will discuss issues brought up in the surveys.

Columbus Public Library: Robber's Cave, Quilts, and Summer Reading!

Submitted by: Kelli Keyes

For years, access was denied to the infamous and notorious Robber's Cave. Now, Lincoln, Nebraska's only underground attraction is no longer shrouded in mystery. Whether you visited the Robber's Cave legally or illegally, are learning about it for the first time, or are one of the thousands who have returned to the sandstone tunnels for a trip down memory lane, you will enjoy discovering all aspects of the cave's fascinating past at the Columbus Public Library when you come to hear Joel Green tell about his book, "Robber's Cave: Truths, Legends, Recollections". Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 10 at 7 pm. You don't want to miss this!

Joel Green, a local teacher and tour guide, tracks the cave's ownership through the past century and beyond, which has included colorful characters, to say the least. From the legends of use by Lincoln's first brewery, Coxe's Army, and the Ku Klux Klan, Joel not only examines the geological and man-made origins of the cave, but he includes entertaining anecdotes he has collected from guests as well. Robber's Cave is older than the city of Lincoln, and its tunnels are no longer sealed from the public. Come enjoy Joel Green present this story that he has always felt deserves to be told.

Saturday, June 26 at 2 pm, join us as Diane Gubbels shares with us her "Stories of Inspiration: Quilt Show". As her beautiful quilts unfold, so do the stories that led to their creation. As a talented designer and applique artist, Diane allows her creative spirit to speak through her quilts, using fabric and design.

This wife, mother, and grandmother has been sewing as long as she can remember. It is one of her greatest joys to share the work of her hands as she unfolds the stories from her heart.

Diane and her husband Dan live on a farm near Coleridge, Nebraska. They have seven children and five grandchildren.

Diane Gubbels has enjoyed a love of fabric and design since she was a young girl. Inspired by her mother, Diane learned the art of sewing and is passionate about quilting. Diane's quilts are inspired by many life experiences, which become "music in my soul" she says. Sharing that "music" is her goal.

Summer reading for all ages begins June 1 this year! During registration week, we are also offering another opportunity for Food for Fines. Three cans of food will erase all the late fees on one account. When you register for the adult program, your registration ticket is entered into a drawing for a \$25 Pizza Ranch gift certificate. You then take a packet that contains thank you prizes for signing up, a flyer for rules to the Short Story contest, a list of events like those listed above, and two reading logs to get you started on reading! Just read two books, write down the title and author, then turn the ticket in at the library when you come to get more books. You get an immediate prize for each ticket you turn in. You can also register on Beanstack and log your reading online. Online users will be entered into a weekly \$10 Columbus Bucks drawing. All users will be entered into the grand prize drawing of an android tablet. Support your library and have fun by being part of our summer reading activities. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Verdigre Public Library: Fiber is Wrapped Around Downtown

Submitted by: Katie Hollmann

The Verdigre Public Library is pleased to announce a fiber build-out that can be easily accessed in the future by a big chunk of Verdigre's business district. With \$15,000 grant funding from federal and state sources, specifically E-rate Special Construction and Nebraska Universal Service Fund, the library had dark fiber trenched in April 2021. Exterior hook-ups took place in May and the library now has internet speed 100 Mbps x 100 Mbps. Great Plains Communication won the competitive bid to install the fiber. The route of the fiber goes to within a few feet of the bulk of our downtown including the elevator, grocery store, bank, hardware store, two insurance agencies, lumberyard, two salons, craft/UPS store, cafe, two bars, well company, newspaper office plus our local government. The new fiber has the capability of doing internet speeds of 1000 Mbps. Note for libraries: The NLC provided an RFP template (Request for Proposals) which was tremendously helpful during the E-rate application.



Baright Public Library: Marking Nebraska

Submitted by: Sadie Westfall

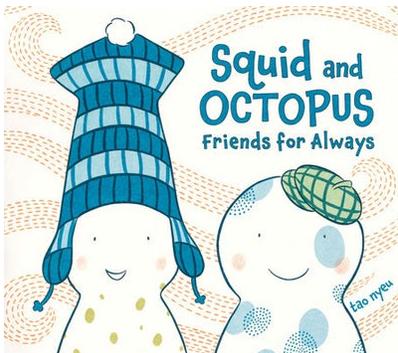
Exploring your home or adventuring out in a new place is something that kept so many grounded during the last year and a half. That includes Nebraska historian, Jeff Barnes, as he prepared his newest book *Cut in Stone, Cast in Bronze*. During his presentation "Marking Nebraska" our community got to learn more about their home state. Exploration through pictures and Mr. Barnes' historical knowledge led us on a journey down old highways, into homesteads, and to the edge of a bluff overlooking the Platte River. Getting to hear about a historical monument nestled on Military Road here in Omaha sparked excitement and an interest to go out and see a remnant of what had once been a highway that is now a suburb. The Ralston community has always taken great pride in their history and the preservation of the memories and physicality (if possible). The ability to look at pieces of this "fly over" state's history is important to our people, reminding them of their roots and also lighting a fire to go out and be present in the preservation of such sites. We are grateful to the Three Rivers Library System and Jeff Barnes for bringing history alive in our library.

Baright Public Library: Marking Nebraska

Submitted by: Sadie Westfall

Exploring your home or adventuring out in a new place is something that kept so many grounded during the last year and a half. That includes Nebraska historian, Jeff Barnes, as he prepared his newest book *Cut in Stone, Cast in Bronze*. During his presentation "Marking Nebraska" our community got to learn more about their home state. Exploration through pictures and Mr. Barnes' historical knowledge led us on a journey down old highways, into homesteads, and to the edge of a bluff overlooking the Platte River. Getting to hear about a historical monument nestled on Military Road here in Omaha sparked excitement and an interest to go out and see a remnant of what had once been a highway that is now a suburb. The Ralston community has always taken great pride in their history and the preservation of the memories and physicality (if possible). The ability to look at pieces of this "fly over" state's history is important to our people, reminding them of their roots and also lighting a fire to go out and be present in the preservation of such sites. We are grateful to the Three Rivers Library System and Jeff Barnes for bringing history alive in our library.

Review Corner



[Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always](#)
by Tao Nyeu

Recommended for kindergarten - 2nd grade.
Submitted by: Carol Tramp

The book is divided into four sections of short stories. The colors used for the book: watercolor yellow, green, blue, and orange. The topic is about friendship, though I found the book to be unenjoyable.

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

Free for NLA members and non-members. Register at nebraskalibraries.org.

THE NLA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

GETTING STARTED WITH LIBRARY ADVOCACY

*A presentation by Dan Brower,
Legislative Committee Chair of the
Missouri Library Association*

Library advocacy can seem intimidating, especially for smaller libraries, but it is simpler than you might think. We'll talk about where to begin, how to make a connection, and how to grow relationships with policy makers. Learn to tell the story of your library and the people you serve to make a difference.

**FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 AT
2:30PM CST VIA ZOOM**

Dan Brower is the Assistant Director of Cass County (MO) Public Library and the Legislative Committee Chair for the Missouri Library Association. Serving on the Legislative Committee since 2014 and as the chair since 2018, Dan works with libraries on advocacy throughout the year. He has led Missouri librarians to Washington DC multiple times to speak with US Senators and Representatives about the importance of libraries.



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

