

# T R a i L S

## Public Library Accreditation

*by Tammi Thiem*



After having a couple years off due to the pandemic, Public Library Accreditation is now scheduled to resume this year. The list of libraries has been restructured to stretch over a five-year period rather than the previous three-year requirement.

The application process may be a daunting task, but it can be looked at as an opportunity. By stepping back and looking at your community with a different perspective, you may discover new ways that the library can be of value. I am sure all of you public librarians have goals in mind: programs you would like to do, people you would like to reach, presenters you would like to feature, activities you would like to try. Think of the Community Needs Response Plan as the chance to put all those terrific ideas in writing. Who knows, maybe this is just what you need to get motivated to move forward with those plans!

Now, where to start? There is a 2022 [recording](#) available about the whole process, so that would be a great starting point. If you attended one of these virtual workshops, terrific! It is nice to have the recording available for those who could not attend and as a resource for everyone. This likely answered many questions that you did not even know that you had.

Now, I am going to share my horrifying story about accreditation from when I started working at a public library. Keep in mind that I can laugh about it now, my world did not end, the library did not shut down, and it was a valuable, learning experience. Please do not judge me, and here goes:

I started work at a public library in June of 2013. What a shock to realize all the duties that a librarian needs to do! By October of that year, I was feeling more confident with learning the collection, interacting with the patrons, ordering books and supplies, planning programs, and managing all of those behind-the-scenes tasks to keep everything running smoothly. I had even successfully made it to the new fiscal year with a fresh new budget, and I had started taking some library college courses at the Central Community College.

The library phone rang, and it was Richard Miller with the Nebraska Library Commission wanting to know why I had not submitted my application for library accreditation. Oh dear. I had no clue what accreditation even was. It turns out that the library board's certification had lapsed, also, so the library was not even eligible for accreditation. I felt like an absolute failure. Richard assured me that I could try again next year, and I vowed to make it happen.





# At the TRails Office

## Childhood STEM in the Library Workshop

*by Tammi Thiem*

On Monday, May 23rd, the Three Rivers Library System hosted a workshop about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for children and how librarians can add this concept to their libraries. The workshop presenters were Dr. Jane Strawhecker and Dr. Paula Thompson from the University of Nebraska in Kearney. The workshop was held at the Central Community College in Columbus.

The workshop was a great success! Nearly 30 attendees were able to experiment with hands-on games, kits, and supplies so they could really explore how things worked. They created bridges strong enough for 21 elephants to walk across. There were a variety of kits to try out. At the end of the workshop, each library received a Code and Go Robot Mouse Activity Set and the choice of one of the other kits.

Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act were used to provide this educational opportunity. This project is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



## Library Board Breakout Box Challenge

*by Tammi Thiem*

United for Libraries provides lots of excellent information about the roles and responsibilities of library boards. To make a dull topic a bit more fun, I created a Breakout Box Challenge that uses the information found within those documents. For starters, the library boards read a blurb about Melvil Dewey in order to locate a key. Some of the other challenges are a crossword puzzle, a pigpen cipher puzzle, and a few more. The boards who have taken on this challenge have all been successful, so congratulations to them!

If interested in doing this with your library board, please contact me to set up a date and time. This activity is worth one continuing education credit per attendee, so it is a fun and educational way to obtain those necessary library board CE credits!



# Meet the TRaiLS Board

**Lisa Macke**

*Creighton Public Library*

My name is Lisa Macke and I am currently the Library Director at Creighton Public Library. This coming August will be the start of my 7th year at the library. I honestly never thought that I would work in the library let alone be the director. A friend of mine suggested I apply when this job came open. I was hesitant, but it was one of the best decisions I could have made! Little did I know when I took this job that you are not only the librarian, you become it, therapist, jack of all trades, etc.

I am very thankful for the help of the Nebraska Library Commission for the basic skills courses to get me in the know of everything entailed with the library. Also I am very grateful for the other librarians. It is so nice to be able to ask others for help when you need it. I was a System Peer Coordinator for a short while. Once that ended, I was happy to be asked to serve on the TRaiLS Board.

I have been married to my husband Jeff for 20 years and we have 4 children Hollie 16, Hanna 12, Harper 11, and Holden 2. We live in the village of Brunswick.

## TRaiLS Scholarship Opportunities

TRaiLS offers scholarships for any of our librarians or media specialists to apply to. Our [Continuing Education Scholarship](#) is for any major conferences, like the Public Library Association Conference or American Library Association Conference, as well as more local conferences. In the past we've helped librarians attend a Makerspace Conference, Read Aloud Nebraska Conference, Computers in Libraries, YALSA, and many more.

You can apply online for a scholarship at: <http://bit.ly/trlsScholarshipApp>

We also have a scholarship for libraries to get speakers from [Humanities Nebraska](#) to speak at their library. There are tons of speakers to choose from and lots of topics to consider. What would your community love to learn more about?

## TRaiLS Lending Library

TRaiLS has a pretty robust lending library that is constantly being updated and changing. Librarians and media specialists can check out what kinds of items we have at: <https://www.libib.com/u/trails>. Our largest collection is our [Book Kit Collection](#) which has 146 titles to choose from. Librarians and media specialists can browse the titles or, if there is a specific theme in mind, use the filters on the sidebar to see what titles fall under that category, whether it's a timeframe or a keyword.

We also have a collection of [STEAM Kits](#) which include button makers, coding games, Cricut accessories, Breakout EDU kits, Unsolved Case Files, and problem solving games. Our Breakout EDU kits have been a fun project that Tammi has been working on to create different types of challenges for our librarians to use. For instance, there are Breakout Challenges for some books in our collection, general themed challenges, as well as a challenge for Library Board and Trustees. Once you borrow a [Breakout EDU Kit](#), you can print out the [challenges from the folder](#) and get started. To access the ever updating folder, go to: <https://bit.ly/BreakoutChallenges>

We're happy to mail out any kits we can and our intrepid director, Tammi Thiem, often delivers kits and offers demos to any librarian who would like to learn more. If you'd like to borrow them, email Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) to set it up.

## Basic Skills

(\*Required Class)

### Library Policy

Registration Dates: 20 June 2022 - 15 July 2022

Class Dates: 25 July 2022 - 5 August 2022

### Collection Management\* with Denise Harders

Registration Dates: 11 July 2022 - 5 August 2022

Class Dates: 15 August 2022 - 26 August 2022

### Programming & Outreach with Christa Porter

Registration Dates: 25 July 2022 - 19 August 2022

Class Dates: 29 August 2022 - 9 September 2022

## NCompass Live Shows

### Talking Book and Braille Service: Continuously Evolving

Show Date: 13 July 2022 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Learning Opportunities and Resources from WebJunction

Show Date: 20 July 2022 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Pretty Sweet Tech: CES 2022 and Libraries

Show Date: 27 July 2022 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Building a Reading Community Through Podcasting

Show Date: 3 August 2022 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Reinventing Programming Kits

Show Date: 10 August 2022 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:  
[How to Be an Antiracist](#)

Mackenzie Marrow is the new librarian in charge of book clubs at the Nebraska Library Commission and wants to share with everyone the hidden gems in the [NLC's Book Club Collection](#). Below is an excerpt, but to read the full details go to [Mackenzie's blog post](#).

*Using a memoir approach, How to Be an Antiracist follows Dr. Kendi through his formative years, experiencing racism as a Black man and acting upon it himself. The narrative works as a starting point for those new to the antiracist ideology by examining ethics, intersectionality, and the history of racism/race from a first-person perspective. How to Be an Antiracist encourages its readers not just to be opposed to racism but to see how it affects every aspect of our lives and to challenge it.*

## Calendar of Events

### United for Libraries Learning Live

Online

12 July 2022

1:00 pm

### SKILLS Meeting

Online

28 July 2022

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### SKILLS Meeting

Madison Public Library

1 August 2022

9:30 am - 11:30 am

### SKILLS Meeting

Scribner Public Library

2 August 2022

9:30 am - 11:30am

### Annual Meeting

Bancroft Public Library

5 August 2022

9:30 am - 4:00 pm

### United for Libraries Conference

Online

9 August 2022

### SKILLS Meeting

Agnes Robinson Waterloo Public Library

16 August 2022

9:30 am - 11:30 am

### SKILLS Meeting

Verdigre Public Library

18 August 2022

9:30 am - 11:30 am

### SKILLS Meeting

Online

25 August 2022

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Youth Services Retreat

Camp Carol Joy Holling (Ashland)

1 - 2 September 2022

### ARSL 2022 Conference

Chattanooga, TN

14 - 17 September 2022

# Library News

## La Vista Public Library's Oceans of Possibilities

*by Rachel Bachman*

This summer, at the La Vista Public Library we are leaning into Oceans of Possibilities as a theme in the children's section. Our bulletin board has been converted into the open sea, as we encourage patrons to play "I Spy" together and see how many special fish they can find. The reading nook normally known as the C Circle has become the "Sea" Circle and is now covered with pool noodle coral and streamers. Finally, we are encouraging our young readers to grab a good book with a paper mache octopus friend, who is using all his legs to carry books. Because as all devoted readers know you can't pick just one!

Creating unique and memorable moments in the library is our community's way of inspiring young readers to pick up a book and get lost in an ocean of possibilities.



## Genoa Public Library's Campout Adventures

*by Tammy Johnson*

We are enjoying a successful SRP this year! Our theme of Campout in the Library with an emphasis on caring for nature has been a hit. We start each session at our city GreenSpace, just down the block from the library and do outdoor activities and then do a 'StoryWalk' to the library where we end our time with a craft. Each week we do some fun crafts and at the end I will put them together for each child using binder rings so they have a keepsake of the SRP and the fun they are having!

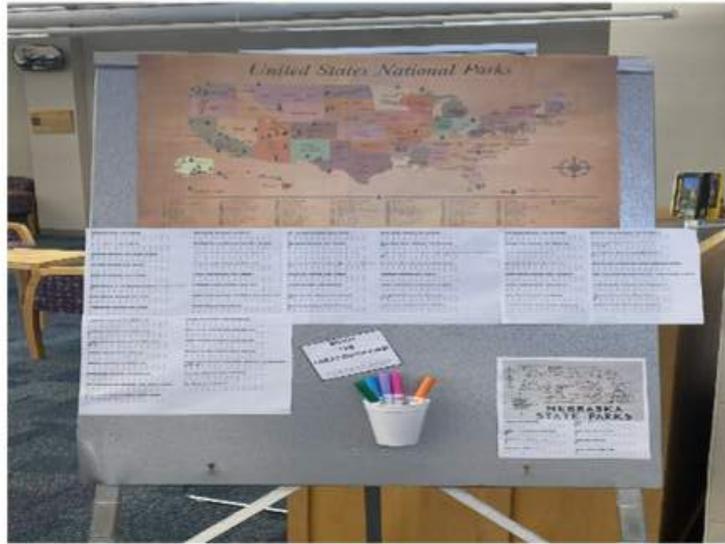


# Library News

## Bellevue University Library's Outdoors Map

*by Alicia James*

To celebrate Great Outdoors Month in June as well as National Parks and Recreation Month in July, we set up a display in the Bellevue University Library. This display features a map and listing of all the national parks in the country and a map and listing for the Nebraska state parks. Students and staff are invited to stop to mark off which locations they have visited. We are enjoying getting to see how many places our community has traveled to!



## Howells Public Library's Pirate Invasion

*by Dianne Cooper*

Wednesday, June 30, was dress like a pirate day for the last summer reading session at Howells Public Library. The story "The Treasure of Pirate Frank" by Mail Peet and Elspeth Graham was read and then the kids went on a treasure hunt at the park to find items to use in creating their pirate ship picture. After returning to the library, the thirsty treasure hunters were treated to a special drink. Then they completed their pirate ship pictures. Some games were played, then everyone went home with a treasure from pirates items donated or other sea items used during the reading program.



# Scholarship Experiences

## 2021 Nebraska Library Association Conference

*by Kathy Schable*

Another GREAT conference! It was so great to be able to attend a Nebraska Library Conference in person again! I never realized HOW much I missed the personal interaction with other library staff. It was an awesome idea this year to include both in-person and virtual opportunities. I was able to watch all of the sessions from Wednesday and on Thursday, I attended "Recognizing Privilege" presented by Anneka Ramirez, Angela Kroeger, and Elisa Cruz, "Reinventing Programmable Kits" by Erica Rogers, and "Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibility" by Wyatt Packard, Brenda Ealey, Vicki Wood, Todd Schlecte, Tim Lentz, and Carl Harman.

It was interesting to hear the inside story of the book being challenged in the Papillion area. The session on recognizing privilege brought out some points that most of us did not realize placed us in a "privileged" position, but made us quite aware of our patrons and fellow staff members and how we sometimes take for granted things that we assume everyone has access to. The session on programming kits gave some very helpful information that could help us service our communities better when coming into the library isn't always a possibility. The one thing that I really regretted missing out on on Wednesday was the opportunity to participate in the game night. It sounded like so much fun and I would highly recommend it for future conferences. Just having a game room available to socialize after the first day's program might be a fun activity to include at each conference. Thank you again for allowing me to attend this year's conference with the help of the Continuing Education Scholarship. I would highly recommend anyone wanting to attend a conference, but not sure if they or their library can afford it, to consider applying for a scholarship. It has definitely been a blessing for our library.

## Read Aloud Nebraska Workshop

*by Naomi Hemphill*

A scholarship from Three Rivers Library system enabled me to attend the Read Aloud Nebraska workshop in Seward, NE on November 5, 2021. Despite technical difficulties, the RAN workshop was an inspirational reminder of the fundamentals.

Kathi Wagner reminded us of the importance of reading aloud to all ages, as well as the connection formed between reader and listener.

Kim Jocelyn Dickson reminded us of the early start to reading's lasting effects on learning success. Amber and Andy Ankowski encouraged turning reading into a conversation.

Ali Bousquet shared her secrets for garnering community cooperation for successful early childhood literacy.

Vicki Wood recommended informative non-fiction titles that are both interesting and attractive.

Julie Kozisek introduced us to vocal gymnastics. Seven simple tricks to boost our read aloud experiences to a whole new level.

While there were a few new-to-me gems I am including in my personal librarian toolbox, I don't claim to have learned a lot of new information. However, I've experienced renewed reading enthusiasm which enables me to get back out there and empower my community to READ.

# Scholarship Experiences

## 2021 Nebraska Library Association Conference

*by Jenny White*

I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was excited to meet with fellow library folks in person after so long an absence! We were all missing the energy that comes when like minded professionals gather together to share their knowledge and ideas.

I was especially eager to attend the Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibility panel. After just celebrating Banned Book Week in our library, it was interesting to hear first hand accounts of some of the challenged books here in Nebraska and how the NLA was addressing those cases. We all hope that we never *have* to deal with a case of censorship in our libraries, but it is always good to be prepared for when it *does*. I have just completed a review and update of our library's reconsideration policy using their recommendations.

Sally Snyder and Dana Fontaine presented one of the most popular breakout sessions on upcoming children's and middle grade titles. They made sure to point out titles that will tie into next year's Summer Reading Program's theme of Oceans of Possibilities. Everyone walked away with a massive To Be Ordered list for their libraries!

The session on Seeing Your Library Through Your Patron's Eyes was an interesting look at how two PR professionals toured hundreds of libraries and were able to concisely pinpoint areas where libraries excel. They pointed out that the exceptional environment, knowledgeable people, varied collections, interesting programming, and multitude of services that libraries provide are what make libraries truly valuable to their communities, wherever they are located.

I would like to say thank you to the Three Rivers Library System for providing me with a scholarship to attend this year's conference. The comradery and wisdom sharing were very rewarding for me.

## Humanities Program: Hidden in Plain Sight

*by Cedate Shultz*

On April 9, 2022, the La Vista Public Library welcomed author Jeff Barnes and his presentation *Marking Nebraska: Our (mostly) Hidden Historical Monuments*. Through photographs, reporting of historical fact, and personal stories, Barnes introduced us to our State's varied and colorful past and the physical memories left behind.

Attendees of all ages were taking notes and asking questions about how they can locate and visit these markers. There was even a representative from a local student newspaper present. In this challenging post-pandemic environment, Jeff Barnes brought renewed energy and excitement to our library and to the members of our community who are eager get out and explore. Visiting these historical sites and markers is a perfect activity for both the solo adventurer and groups. From the shores of the Missouri River to cow pastures in the panhandle, it is almost certain that members of our community will be road tripping through history this summer.

Thank you to the Three Rivers Library System and Humanities Nebraska for helping us serve our community by making programming like this possible.

• • • • Three Rivers Library System Presents:

# 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

2.5 CE Available  
\$5 Registration  
Fee

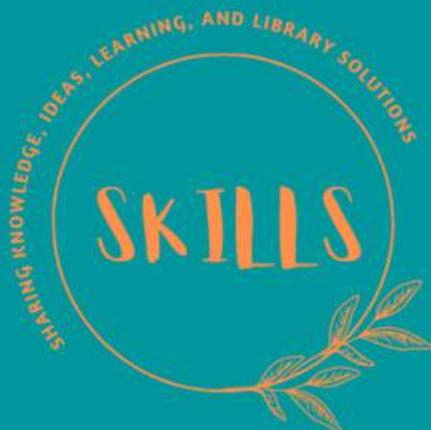
5 August 2022  
at Bancroft Public Library

- 9:30am - 10:00am *Registration*
- 10:00am - 10:45am *TRaiLS Breakout Box Challenge*
- 10:45am - 11:00am *Break*
- 11:00am - 12:00pm *Annual Meeting*
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm *Lunch*
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm *Tour of Bancroft Public Library & John G. Neihardt Museum*
- 2:30pm - 4:00pm *Quarterly Meeting*

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



THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



## **This Month's Topic: Post Summer Reading - Successes and Challenges**

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>

1 August 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Madison Public Library

2 August 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Scribner Public Library

16 August 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Agnes Robinson Public Library (Waterloo)

18 August 2022 at 9:30 am - 11:30 am at Veridgre Public Library



*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.*

# 28th Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat

Camp Carol Joy Holling

(near Ashland)

September 1st & 2nd



Please [register here](#) by August 17th.



## Library and Information Services

Online Course Offerings

**Fall 2022**

**August 15, 2022 – December 9, 2022**

Registration for Fall Semester 2022 opens  
Monday, April 11, 2022

### **LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services**

*Marty Magee, Instructor*

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundation Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

### **LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies**

*Michael Straatmann, Instructor*

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

### **LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum**

*Patty Birch, Instructor*

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- *Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250*

<i>Library and Information Services Online Course Offerings</i>	
<b>Fall 2022</b>	<b>Spring 2023</b>
LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services	LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services
LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	LIBR 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies
LIBR 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	LIBR 2210 Cataloging and Classification

For more information on the Library and Information Services program,  
see: <https://www.cccneb.edu/lis/>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:  
Dee Johnson [djohnson@cccneb.edu](mailto:djohnson@cccneb.edu),  
402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

