



## FALL ALREADY?!

*Article by Tammi Thiem*

Fall is right around the corner. School has started for 2020-2021, and it looks vastly different this year. There are many new challenges that greatly affect the library world. The conversations among school librarians and public librarians include so many distinct topics that would have seemed bizarre at this time last year:

- Should we allow patrons to browse the stacks?
- How do you enforce hand sanitizing?
- How long does everyone quarantine books?
- Where and how do you quarantine your books?
- Are masks required or recommended in your library?
- Do you have plastic shields at your desks?
- Have you taken out all of the toys and seating?
- Are you limiting how many patrons are allowed in the library?
- What do you use for cleaning and sanitizing your library and how often?
- How do you maintain social distancing?

The weekly Zoom meeting hosted by the Three Rivers Library System allows the opportunity for this type of discussion and more. The schedule through 2020 is posted on the Nebraska Library Commission calendar. If you are unable to attend, feel free to watch the recording, as these are saved as unlisted on the TRLS YouTube channel.

If you enjoy social media, please be sure to join the Three Rivers Library Facebook group if you have not yet done so. It is a great platform for sharing ideas and information with one another. I love how interactive it can be, as librarians are great at working together and offering advice and

guidance.

The library accreditation cycle has been waived this year, and board certifications have been pushed back for now. However, the library surveys will start in November, due in February. As we have discussed, this year will likely be an asterisk year, as there is no way to compare these statistics to any other year in our libraries' histories.

Librarians have done the best they can during these trying times, and most community members do respect and appreciate the challenges that have been overcome to provide services. Even though the statistics may seem less than normal, they will also reflect the creative resources used by librarians to best suit their communities' needs. There are more virtual learning opportunities than ever before happening this year. Many conferences have made that shift, and this allows some librarians the chance to attend when they may not have been able to go if the conferences were still being held in person. It also allows librarians to attend sessions that are held simultaneously through virtual opportunities. That eliminates the well-known struggle of deciding which session to attend during in-person events. There are some silver linings within these dark times of uncertainty.

Watch for future news of the Nebraska Library Association's "Tiny but Mighty Libraries" that may be coming soon!

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](mailto:tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com). My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- A Socially Distance Story Walk
- A New Phase in Librarianship
- 55th Annual Neihardt Day
- Chalk the Block
- Upcoming Webinar Classes
- Book Reviews
- Scholarship Experiences

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## AT THE TRAILS OFFICE

### New Items on Libib

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The TRaiLS Office has recently gotten new book kits to borrow! Since we've gotten a bunch of new titles lately, once a week we're updating our blog to feature each new title which we're calling Fresh Book Fridays, so check it out for a mini synopsis. We're also getting new STEAM kits, so stay tuned for more information about those showing up on our website.

Even though there's a pandemic happening, we're still mailing out book kits from the office. If you'd like to check out a book kit for your book club or reading circle, you can place a title on hold. If you have any issues (or have never borrowed a kit from us before), feel free to email Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com).

#### Did You Know:

Sam Shaw wrote a wonderful blog post entitled [How Much Do Libraries Benefit the Community?](#) Libraries are a great resource to its community, and it's an uplifting read as libraries across the state begin reopening.

Check out all the available book kits at <https://trails.libib.com/>

### Stay in Communication with TRaiLS!

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Even though we're not meeting in person currently, it's important for librarians to stay in contact with each other. So be sure to check out the TRaiLS Office [Facebook page](#)! Check it out to see what other librarians are discussing or if you have a question to crowd-source.

Also, we've got a [YouTube channel](#)! From there you can watch the Annual Meeting or check out our recent Zoom Meetings (just ask Tammi for the unlisted link). We're always happy to help and figure out what we can do to bring our region together during this trying time.

### Giveaway Items

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At the office, we're constantly setting aside books we no longer use and we'd like to give them to any libraries that may need them, so head on over to [trails.libib.com/i/give-away](https://trails.libib.com/i/give-away) and see if there's anything your library would like.

If there is, send Chelsea an e-mail at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) and she can mail those items out to you.



## 2020 VIRTUAL ARSL CONFERENCE

This year, the ARSL Conference will be virtual from September 28th—October 2nd, 2020. The focus of the conference is *SOAR with Libraries: Sharing Our Amazing Resources* and you can [register online](#).

Sessions will include topics such as: strategies for the first year of directorship; community wellbeing; policies and procedures; children’s

literature; teambuilding, and so much more. The focus of ARSL is supporting rural and small libraries, which can be a valuable resource.

Representing the uniqueness of rural libraries, ARSL provides resources to empower librarians to deliver excellent service for their communities.

## GRANTS

Applications for the [Youth Grants for Excellence](#) are currently open until 7 October 2020. The program is designed to encourage innovative projects for children and teens via creative thinking, risk-taking, expanding current programs, and new approaches to address problems and needs of children and young adults in your community. Check out the [NCompass Live](#) on September 23rd, 2020, which will provide an overview of the NLC grants.

Also, there’s the [Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund](#), which provides a matching grant to public libraries in Nebraska with a population of less than 3,000. For this grant, there are three distinct areas of focus: Planning for Accreditation Grants, Enhancement Grants, and Facilities Grants. Download the [guidelines](#) if you’d like to apply.

### UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS COURSE AND REGISTRATION DATES

Class Dates:	Class Title:	Registration Dates:
9/21 - 10/2	<a href="#">Community &amp; Library*</a>	8/17 - 9/11
10/19 -	<a href="#">Management/Supervision</a>	9/14 - 10/9
11/2 - 11/13	<a href="#">Leadership</a>	9/28 - 10/23
11/30 - 12/11	<a href="#">Library Services to Children &amp; Teens</a>	10/26 - 11/20

\* Required class

### Calendar of Events

[Library Card Sign Up Month](#)

September

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
17 September 2020  
4:00 pm—5:00pm

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
22 September 2020  
9:00 am—10:00 am

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
30 September 2020  
10:00 am—11:00am

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
8 October 2020  
11:00am—12:00pm

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
13 October 2020  
12:00pm—1:00pm

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
21 October 2020  
1:00pm—2:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
29 October 2020  
2:00pm—3:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
3 November 2020  
3:00pm—4:00pm

[TRLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom  
11 November 2020  
4:00pm—5:00pm

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Blair Public Library's New Phase of Librarianship

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#### *Article by Gayle Roberts*

As with all of our libraries, Blair was thrown into a new phase of librarianship. From the beginning, we were never completely shut down. Staff was sent to work at home, with only two people working from within the library at one time. Our city took our safety very seriously and we felt comfortable working with the new restrictions.

Our drive-through window was a life saver for us and the community. We pulled holds, processed them and handed them out to the patron through the window. It is a push through window, much like the banks have, so we were able to disinfect and reuse without concern. Our city administrator had asked us if we could put together an activity to hand out to the families with kids in order to provide some type of entertainment or learning experience. The staff immediately went to work and for March and April handed out activity packets, which included a stem project and a craft project. We then transformed our summer reading program to a thirteen-week program (instead of 8 weeks). 3,900 packets were made (300 for each week). The packets included games, puzzles, a stem project, 2 craft projects, a science experiment and our weekly reading log and bingo game. Participants are earning Brag Tags and beads for all their reading logs. Any materials needed for the craft projects were included in the packet (including dirt, clay and play-dough!).

We chose to do only a few things online – storytimes (3x per week) and science experiments! Although our patrons did enjoy those, and the guessing game we did on Facebook every Friday, we did not do the online sign ups or book tracking. Our community is much more about that personal touch. We were thrilled with 657 sign ups!! We were going to be happy with 200.

Once we were all back in the building together, we were able to finish the projects we started at home; plus we shifted, relabeled, and weeded our shelves so we would be fresh when we started opening. We have opened, full hours (but not fully staffed) and with some restrictions. So far, things have gone well and we're averaging 92 people a day. Far cry from our usual 400, but we're ok with that.

I think everyone has experienced a range of emotions throughout this whole period and we now live with lots of uncertainty. Our challenge is to figure out new ways we can provide service without endangering ourselves or others. Perhaps as a group, we can continue to brainstorm and address our patron's needs. We are in this for the long haul. Congrats to everyone for making it this far!!!! You are all rock stars!

### Hartington Public Library's Story Walk

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#### *Article by Kim Emanuel*

There is a great sidewalk that runs through Felber Park here in Hartington. It has a canopy of mature trees and it winds through the playground, past the courts and the golf course and goes around the pool. Beyond it being very well traveled and very scenic it also offered a lot of space. So it was the perfect spot for the Hartington Public Library's summer Story Walks. This year we set up four separate stories; Mother Bruce, Snail Crossing, Don't Feed the Coos and The Catawampus Cat. Pages were numbered and displayed under plexiglass on wooden boards and placed far enough apart to support social distancing. Each story remained up for at least two weeks before a new book took its place. Families and kids were able to stroll through the park and read some very cute books!

After spending the last months of the school year online, the Story Walks offered an alternative to screen time, that engaged the kids, got them moving and kept them reading! We had some great feedback from our community. Whether it was kids and families excitedly asking when was the next story was coming out or others noticing the steady stream of readers in the park, the comments were all very positive. We even had one mother mention how exciting it was for their child to count along with the pages. We asked a regular grade school patron to become our Story Walk police. She made daily trips along the path, making sure all the story boards were in order and gave us a daily report.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### The Madonna School's Most Avid Patron

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*Article by Janet Sobczyk*

Some schools are back in session in person, including Madonna School and Community Based Services in Omaha, NE. Thanks to guidelines from the NE Library Commission for cleaning and quarantining books, our library is ready for students. It's a good thing, too, because the first thing this student asked when he saw me on the first day of school was, "Can we still check out books?" He has been the most avid patron of our little library, and his face was filled with concern and hope.

When I answered, "Yes, with some new rules," his expression changed to relief and happiness. It does a librarian's heart good to see the positive impact books still have on our students!



### The Neihardt Foundation's 55th Annual Neihardt Day

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*Article by Marianne Reynolds*

It was a beautiful summer day as over 85 people gathered on the grounds of the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft, NE, on August 2nd, for the 55th Annual Neihardt Day. By Nebraska Legislative Proclamation, the first Sunday in August is set aside for the celebration of Nebraska's Poet Laureate in Perpetuity, John G. Neihardt.

This year's festivities were led by Ron Hull, friend of Neihardt and NET Senior Advisor, who acted as emcee for the 53rd year. Tim Anderson, who wrote the Neihardt biography "Lonesome Dreamer," spoke about Neihardt's life and the influence of place on his writing. Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason shared his experiences in that role and read selections from his work. The afternoon was rounded out with a performance of the Hoop Dance by the Many Moccasins Dance Troupe, performed right outside the Sacred Hoop Garden on the Neihardt grounds. A glitter tattoo and balloon animal artist provided child-friendly fun.

The event also kicked off a year-long centenary celebration of Neihardt being named Nebraska's Poet Laureate.

As one participant wrote, "It was a perfect day!" This annual celebration gives Nebraskans the opportunity to reflect and find inspiration from the life, times, and works of John Neihardt. Neihardt is well known for his works "Cycle of the West" and "Black Elk Speaks."

Neihardt Day will be held again on August 1, 2021. Make plans to join the fun!

The event was sponsored by Cuming County Visitors Bureau, Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Neihardt Foundation. The John G. Neihardt State Historic Site is an affiliate of History Nebraska.

For more information visit [neihardtcenter.org](http://neihardtcenter.org).

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Lied Pierce Public library's Chalk the Block

*Article by Dawnn Tucker*

The daycare kids stopped after school on their way to daycare to Chalk the Block.



### Columbus Public Library's Feature on Outlaw History

*Article by Kelli Keyes*

We are so happy to announce that we are having a program September 17, Thursday evening at 7 pm. The "Outlaw History Through Stories and Music" program, sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, will be held in the Art Gallery at the Columbus Public Library. Presenters Marci Broyhill and Teresa Kay Orr grew up along Highway 12, Nebraska's Outlaw Trail. Their rural experience and research are incorporated into melody and narrative poetry. PowerPoint and props will help them to educate, while entertaining their audience about obscure, colorful, complex characters and situations of the Western Movement. Some of the characters covered are Doc Middleton, Kid Wade, outlaw's wife, rustlers vs vigilantes, and law enforcement. Face covered outlaws and in-law invited! (but not required)



## Outlaw History

Stories & music by Marci Broyhill and Teresa Kay Orr.  
All ages invited.

SEPTEMBER 17 AT 7PM • ART GALLERY

2094 14th Street, Columbus, NE  
402-564-7170 | [www.columbusne.org/library](http://www.columbusne.org/library)

Funded by Humanities Nebraska



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA



## INFORMATION STATION

### PubMed at the Public Library – MCR Webinar Series

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*Article by Kiara Comfort*

The new version of PubMed.gov makes accessing this research easier than ever for the general population, with automatic term mapping, best match searching, and better webpage layouts and features. PubMed is already a popular tool in life sciences libraries, because students will always have access to it while they have an internet connection.

This session is geared primarily towards public librarians who might have questions about using PubMed and helping their patrons use the website as well. In this session we will:

1. Describe the areas of research covered in PubMed
2. Describe the content and the history of the MEDLINE database
3. Create a My NCBI account that customizes the PubMed experience
4. Create a search alert

About the Presenter:

Jacob White is a librarian in the Research and Learning Department of A.R. Dykes Library at KU Medical Center. Prior to becoming a life sciences librarian Jacob worked in public libraries and non-profits around the Kansas City area. Outside the library, Jacob enjoys spending time at the lake and playing board games.

Class Date:

Region/Office: National  
Sep 15, 2020  
2:00PM - 3:00PM MT

For more information or to register click here: [MCR Webinar](#).

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### List of Upcoming NNLM Classes for Librarians

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*Article by Kiara Comfort*

- ⇒ Cooking Virtually: Culinary Literacy Programming Online (Sept. 17) <https://nnlm.gov/class/virtually-cooking/26894>
- NNLM Reading Club Presents...We Live for the We with Dani McClain (Sept. 22) <https://nnlm.gov/class/weliveforthewe>
- Mental Health Awareness During COVID-19 (Sept. 23) <https://nnlm.gov/class/mental-health-awareness-during-covid-19/26952>
- ⇒ NNLM Resource Picks: PubMed Central (Sept. 30) <https://nnlm.gov/class/nnlm-resource-picks-pubmed-central/26219>
- ⇒ Connections: Virtual Anti-loneliness Programs in the time of COVID-19 (Oct. 7) <https://nnlm.gov/class/virtual-antiloneliness-programs-covid19/26910>
- ⇒ Effective Health Communication and Health Literacy: Understanding the Connection (Oct. 6) <https://nnlm.gov/class/effective-health-communication-and-health-literacy-understanding-connection/26882>
- ⇒ ABCs of DNA: Unraveling the Mystery of Genetics Information for Consumers (Oct. 14) <https://nnlm.gov/class/abcs-dna-unraveling-mystery-genetics-information-consumers/26026>
- ⇒ Wellness in the Library Workplace (Nov.2-Nov. 15) <https://nnlm.gov/class/wellness-library-workplace/25996>
- ⇒ Will Duct Tape Cure My Warts? (Nov.2-Dec. 11) <https://nnlm.gov/class/will-duct-tape-cure-my-warts-examining-complementary-and-alternative-medicine/21734>

## 2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference

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*Article by Jennifer Praest*

First, I would like to thank the committee for allowing me the opportunity to attend the 2019 ILA/NLA NSLA Joint Conference. Without the grant I would not have been able to attend all the amazing events and sessions they organized and provided.

The first event I experienced was the Lisa Scotoline presentation. This was AMAZING! A Huge shout out to her and the commission for giving everyone a free signed copy of her latest book "Someone Knows"!

The next morning started with a fabulous keynote speaker of Jamie Casap with his presentation titled "the Problem-Solving Generation". Jamie was humorous and sincere. He made me re-evaluate the way I look at our current era and how I can help our youth, our future, succeed. There was one quote that he repeated several times that stuck with me, "Change happens gradually, then suddenly."

Throughout the rest of the day I attended many great sessions. Some of them including, 20 great after school ideas on a shoestring budget, Looking Good: Basic Photos Editing and Graphic Design for Libraries, Escape Rooms: How to use Puzzles & Pop Culture to Create Multi-Generational Programs, and finally Library STEM workshops for Kids & teens. I took away many ideas from each of these sessions and can not wait to implement them in our Library. I also took time to tour the exhibit hall talking with many vendors about new and exciting products and of course grabbing

all those freebies!

Thursday evening, I had the pleasure of attending the Golden Sower Gala. I would very much like to thank the committee for a job well done on this event! The food was delectable, the company was engaging, and the speakers were fascinating! I am humbled that I got the opportunity to talk with and meet each of the three authors.

Friday started out with mini sessions. I attended the following: Library marketing 101, Do Not Pass Go Player One, and lastly, Innovation on a Shoestring, Free & Cheap Tools. I wrote down so many resources from the sessions that I am excited to use and share in the Library!

To end the conference, I attended the keynote Luncheon with speaker Ted Genoways author of the One Book Nebraska 2019, This Blessed Earth. I found his presentation to be very eye opening and honest. Living and working on a farm in a rural community I see these things daily, many do not!

Again, an enormous thank you to all the presenters, coordinators and volunteers that made the ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference 2019 a colossal success. I appreciate each one of you. The location was elegant, and the accommodations were beyond expectations. I hope to attend the 2020 conference in Kearney so that I can gain more valuable advice on this field we all LOVE!

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## Equity in Action

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*Article by Elisa Cruz*

I have just finished my short course called Equity in Action, as offered by the Library Journal. This course was interesting, useful, and very timely. Thanks to the Three Rivers Library System, I was able to sign up for the class and continue growing as a library professional. The sessions were live, which allowed participants to chat and ask questions to the presenters in real time. In addition, the recordings were made available just in case class members were at work and were not able to stay for the entire session. This was very helpful to me so that I could go back and find pertinent information afterwards.

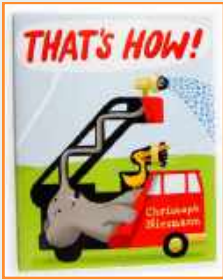
I highly recommend this course for all library employees and professionals. We all need to continue learning about equity. The topics covered during this short class were racism, accessibility, diversity audits, and ways to strive for equity and equality. All sessions and homework assignments were great, but I was particularly inspired by the idea of using history to continue learning about racism and to use that knowledge in order to

actively change mindsets and fight racism. The class leaders asked all attendees to do surveys of the history of the area in which they work (and/or live) to find out more about how the area was developed. Are there still clear areas of divide in the community? I learned many terms about how property owners and landlords used rules and racism to continue to keep black and brown people out of "their" area of towns/cities. This was not particularly new to me as I remember my own family talking about having experienced stuff like this, but I did not know the factual terms for such behavior. Knowing about these barriers and seeing how they persist today has made me more aware of the need to get out of the library, increase knowledge in our community as well as our staff, and bring services to where people are.

Thank you to the Three Rivers Library System for offering financial help to librarians and library staff that enable them to continue learning and being mindful of what our profession asks us to do for our communities.



# REVIEW CORNER



## **That's How!**

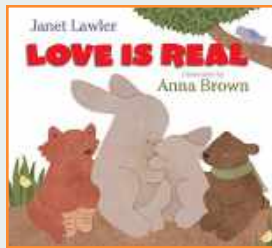
**By Christoph Niemann**

Recommended for Pre-K to 1st grade.

*Article by Latricia Olson*

*That's How!* is a delightful book. A little boy lets his imagination supply the answers when a little girl wants to know how many different vehicles work. Airplanes fly because there are many birds inside flapping away. The propeller on a ship

works because it is really a whale's tail unwinding after being twisted by an octopus. My personal favorite was the monkey inside of a train providing the steam power by cooking a pot of soup. I believe the littlest readers could be encouraged to use their own imaginations and predict what is powering the vehicles. This is silliness as its best.



## **Love is Real**

**By Janet Lawler**

Recommended for preschool—2nd grade.

*Review by Carol Tramp*

Very simplistic pictures that portray the love between different animal families including bears, fox, and bunnies. The book's intent is to show that love is unconditional and can be shown in simple efforts.

## **Walk Your Dog**

**By Elizabeth Stevens Omlor**

Recommended for grades preschool & kindergarten.

*Review by Pat Thompson*

A simplistic book of caring for your dog from morning to evening. Grooming, feeding,

walking, chasing, training, and loving your dog are colorfully illustrated in this adorable book. Very simple words make this a first reader and the detailed illustrations will make for interesting conversations with preschool and kindergarten children.

## **Mr. Gedrick and Me**

**By Patrick Carman**

Recommended for 3rd—5th grades.

*Review by Diane Limoges*

Stanly Darrow needs help. Since his father's death, his family has been in disarray. Dad took care of the kids and the house while mom, an architect, worked in a big office all day. Now

mom works from home and tries to take care of Stanly and his brother and sister. Mom decides they need a nanny. When Mr. Gedrick shows up, everything seems to change so fast no one seems to know what is happening. Written for 3rd—5th grades students, this story reveals the family struggle after a death and a new form of family in a fun way that will help children work through some very tough issues.

Submit news, articles, pictures, or resources for the newsletter to Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com).

Please feel free to email or call with suggestions and comments for the newsletter or system.

