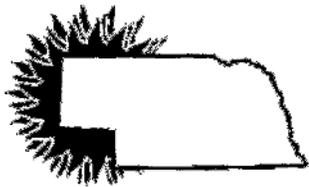


Panhandle Sun



The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

April/May 2008

Regional Library Systems Awarded Grant For Wii Gaming System

The Nebraska Library Commission has awarded the six Regional Library Systems a 2008 Library Improvement Grant to purchase a Wii gaming system and games for use by Nebraska libraries! Wii gaming is not just something to enjoy at home anymore. Libraries all over the country are starting to offer game-nights and gaming tournaments with the Wii gaming system. Senior centers are also holding gaming events.

Gaming is not just for kids; it is enjoyed by people of all ages. Video games provide social interaction, test problem solving skills, develop team skills, and are lots of fun. According to Steven Johnson, author of "Everything Bad Is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter", video games can teach critical thinking skills. "Far more than books or movies or music, games force you to make decisions. Novels may activate our imagination, and music may conjure up powerful emotions, but games force you to decide, to choose, to prioritize."

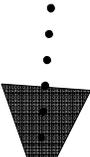
Libraries choose to host gaming programs for a variety of reasons. Wii offers an exciting opportunity for libraries to attract today's gamers of any age. It brings in the young adult crowd and exposes them to your library.

Gaming and literacy have a strong connection. Video games can motivate young children to read, and there are several video games for teens based on popular YA novels.

Whatever your reason, the Panhandle library system will soon have a Wii gaming system available for your library to borrow. It would be great to use at a special event. Then you can see what types of people in your community are interested in gaming to help you structure your own library gaming program. You could host a weekly program and try it out for a month. Maybe it will be so popular that you'll want to try to get your own Wii. You could use it as an outreach tool and bring it to your local senior center. There are just so many options!

The Regional Library Systems plan to set up a Nebraska gaming blog for librarians to see what is happening across the state in regards to gaming. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss gaming in libraries with people from all over, go to the *Game On: Games in Libraries* blog at <http://libgaming.blogspot.com/> There is also a Games and Gaming Members Initiative Group that was formed Jan. 16, 2008 by the ALA Council.

PLS just received notice of the grant award. We have not yet purchased the equipment or games. We will keep you posted. Please call the System office if you have any questions.



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PANHANDLE LIBRARY SYSTEM UPCOMING EVENTS



April 4, 11, 18, 2008 Basic Skills Collection Development

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,
1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff, NE

Time: 10 to noon and 1 to 3p.m.

Cost: \$35.00 for all three classes

Lunch is on your own.

Register with Nebraska Library

Commission, toll free 800-307-2665, or

www.nlc.state.ne.us and click on

“Library Training”

April 11, 2008 College of DuPage, Soaring to Excellence

Trends, Fads, or Folly: Spotting the Library Trends
that Really Matter.

Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. (MST)

WEBCAST

Register with Nebraska Library Commission at:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us> and click on “Library

Training”

April 13—19, 2008 National Library Week

This year’s theme is “Join the
cycle of knowledge”

<http://www.ala.org>

April 14, 2008 Nebraska Author Tour with Ben Mikaelsen

“Becoming the author of your own life”.

Location: Goodall City Library, 203 West A Street,
Ogallala, NE

Time: 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Margie Harrison, toll
free 888-879-5303,

E-mail: mharrison@nlc.state.ne.us

April 19, 2008 Midwest Technology Education Expo

Location: Civic Auditorium, Omaha

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (CDT)

April 24, 2008 Northern-Public Librarians Meeting

Location: Crawford Public Library,
601 Second Street, Crawford

Time: 3pm

Topic: Summer Reading Program

Please register one week before the meeting with the
PLS office.

April 30, 2008 Children’s Day / Book Day

<http://www.ala.org>

May 6, 2008 NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) & School, Children’s and Young people’s Section (SCYP) Spring Meetings

Location: Sidney Public Library, 1112 12th Avenue,
Sidney

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00, payable to NLA Public Library and
Trustee Section

Morning snack and lunch will be provided.

Register by April 30, 2008 with

Richard Miller at: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us

More upcoming events...

May 9, 2008 College of DuPage Soaring to Excellence

The Library Challenges and
Opportunities: Tools of Engagement: Attracting and
Engaging Library Users

Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. (MST)

Register with Nebraska Library Commission at:

<http://www.state.ne>.

[us](#) and click on “Library Training “

May 12—18, 2008 Children’s Book Week

www.cbcbooks.org

May 13, 2008 PLS Board Meeting

Location: Bluffs Business Center,
1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff
Main floor conference room

Time: 10:00 a.m.

May 9, 2008 Central-Public Librarians Meeting

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,
1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff, NE

Time: 10 a.m. Topic: College of DuPage

Soaring to Excellence: Library Challenges and

Opportunities: Tools of Engagement: Attracting and
Engaging Library Users

Register one week before the meeting with the PLS
office

May 20 -23, 2008 Workshops at Reta King Library

Location: Chadron State College, Reta King Library,
300 East 12th Street, Chadron

May 20, 9 am-4pm: Welcome to the Social Web

May 21, 9am-12pm: I Blog, You Blog, Weblog

May 21, 1pm-4pm: RSS: A New Way of
Communicating

May 22, 9am-4pm: Introduction to Web Page
Creation with XHTML

May 23, 9am-4pm: Style Your Web Site with CSS

May 22, 2008 Statewide Open Source ILS Symposium

Location: College of Saint Mary, Omaha

June 19, 2008 Southern-Public Librarians Meeting

Location: Kimball Public Library, 208
S Walnut, Kimball

Time: 10am

Topic: customer Service

Register one week before the
meeting with the PLS office

July 18, 2008 State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting

Location: Chadron

Time: 9am-2pm

July 25, 2008 PLS Annual Meeting

Location: WNCC, 371 College Drive,
Sidney

Time: 9am-9:30am Registration;

9:30am-12:30pm Annual Meeting; 12:30pm Lunch;

Cost:\$12.00 payable to PLS

Register by July 17, 2008 with PLS

PLS Member Library Spotlight- Farm and Ranch Museum

2930 M Street, Gering Phone: 308-436-1989

Website: www.farmandranchmuseum.com

Many of you may know of the Farm and Ranch Museum in Gering, and I bet you have visited the Museum and attended one of their many community events. I visited the Museum shortly after I arrived in Nebraska. I attended their fall Harvest Festival in September, and a winter celebration with delicious bean soup and an invigorating horse & wagon ride around the 100 acre property. The Farm and Ranch Museum is yet another wonderful panhandle community asset. And, did you know...it also has a library!

The library, just as the Museum, is run entirely by volunteers. Jack Preston is the leader of the library volunteers. There are currently six active volunteers – others are waiting to be trained. It was just natural that Jack would take on the challenge of starting, maintaining, and running a museum library. “It’s my thing”, he says.

Awhile back, Jack took a Technical Services class to learn about library cataloging and help him develop a library archives policy. The semester-long class provided him with the structure and foundation of cataloging. He now has a Library Archives Policy for the Farm and Ranch Museum and is doing some copy cataloging.

After extensive research and site visits, Jack selected PastPerfect collection management software. It is a total museum package. It catalogs books, art, photos, objects, geology, and more. It utilizes MARC records. Eventually, the database will be searchable on their website. Jack decided to use the Library of Congress as the classification system. He says he selected LC because it is the classification system used primarily by research and academic libraries. The materials in the Farm and Ranch Museum collection would most often be found in university libraries, which helps in copy cataloging.

So what is actually in the Farm and Ranch Museum collection? Lots of things! There are approximately 5,000 books, “thousands” of journals and magazines, and over 10,000 other items. These other items include slides; negatives; operators manuals; maps; photos; postcards; advertising items, like pens, bullet pencils, and yard sticks; receipts; and finding aids. Finding aids provide information about a specific collection and collector, and often include an inventory. The Museum has archives from Lockwood, Great Western Sugar, and the Sishc Foundry. Howard Sishc was a recent Volunteer of the Year. Lots of people donate items! The day Jack and I spoke, the Museum received several hundred magazines, and a seed mosaic made by a farmers wife in 1962. The seed mosaic was donated by Community Christian School in Scottsbluff.

The Museum has also produced its own materials. There is the *Farm and Ranch Photo Book: a Collection of Historic Photos Capturing the History of Farming and Ranching in Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming*. They wrote the text and obtained the photos for the book. Initially, the Star Herald and the Farm and Ranch Museum published the book together. Now, the Museum has ownership rights. They also have a DVD, *Farming in Western Nebraska 1938-1945* (Glen & Leo Kellet). It is footage filmed by the Kellets on 8mm film from a hand wound camera. The Museum received a Humanities Grant to produce the VHS. The Farm and Ranch Museum wrote the text. Both the book and the DVD can be purchased from the gift shop at the Museum.

With over 100 volunteers and a brand new 7,500 Sq. foot admin building, the Farm and Ranch Museum is going strong. Jack’s love of libraries is helping to get the archives cataloged and make it accessible to the public. Back in the 1950’s, Jack took his 72 year old grandpa to the Scottsbluff Public Library for some westerns. It was his grandpa’s first visit to a library and he continued to use the library for 15 more years! That’s why when you ask Jack about the library he says, “its my thing”. *Margie Harrison*

Community Support & Library Partnership in the Panhandle

The Friends group of the **Sidney Public Library** is really growing! The group organized a ‘Library Lovers’ Month” fundraising event with weekly drawings and prizes. Their book sale is every week. During tax season, a few ladies have volunteered to help people with their taxes on Saturdays. The Library also has a Jr. friends group, with mostly boys participating. They had an Easter Egg Extravaganza.

The **Gering Public Library** received a grant from the Union Pacific Foundation to purchase the Rosetta Stone Language Program. The Friends also had a fundraising event where they sold books autographed by John Grisham.

The **Scottsbluff Public Library** has joined Nebraska’s ONE Library consortium. Patrons now have access to the databases of all ten libraries in ONE Library. The Library switched to a new automation system, as a part of the transition. They now use Sirsi. Scottsbluff also joined Nebraska OverDrive Libraries for downloadable audiobook service. The Library’s Friends group and volunteers have been hosting numerous fundraising events for the Scottsbluff Public Library Expansion Project. Paving with Pennies, Pancake Feed, and a rocking chair raffle are just a few of the recent fundraising events.



Children pave the Scottsbluff Public Library’s meeting room with pennies! They have their pennies in the wagon and the children pulled the wagons down the street to the library. The kids were thrilled to be involved in the fundraising efforts for the library expansion project.

Panhandle Communities Participate in Focus Groups for Nebraska Library Futures Conference

A Nebraska Library Futures conference with over 100 invited participants will be held in June 2008 with the intention of bringing fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and fostering direction, partnerships and collaboration. Prior to the conference focus groups are being held across the state to gain feedback from library staff and board members, library users, library non-users, and community members who have a stake in the growth and development of library and information services. Several library directors in the Panhandle are holding focus groups with community members, volunteers, and library boards.



Focus group at Broadwater Public Library



Lodgepole Public Library holds a focus group

Panhandle Library System Summer Reading Program Workshop



A “buggy” skit!



Deb Carlson wins a prize!



Readers' theater fun



Making ladybug hats

PLS New Additions:

BOOKS:

Library Service to Spanish Speaking patrons: A Practical Guide by Sharon Chickering Moller. 2001

DVDs:

Soaring to Excellence: People Watching with A Purpose "Meeting Needs Before They Need It." College of DuPage Press. 2008

Librarian 2.0 ELS/SELS Fall Colloquium 2007
:-presenter Michael Stephens

Call the PLS office to borrow these titles, and any of our professional resources

One Book One Nebraska 2008 Website Now Available

Nebraskans are invited to read the contemporary memoir, *Restoring the Burnt Child*, by Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, as a part of the 2008 One Book One Nebraska statewide read. Gov. Dave Heineman launched the statewide initiative with a proclamation encouraging all residents of Nebraska to participate by reading the book, joining community book discussion groups, and participating in local community events.

The Website, funded by University of Nebraska Press and hosted at the Nebraska Library Commission, can be accessed at www.onebookonenebraska.org. It features book discussion materials, a downloadable poster and press kit to help libraries publicize One Book One Nebraska activities, information for library loan of book club kits, and a calendar of events. The site also includes information about how to schedule the author for an event in your community and how to apply for funding from the Nebraska Humanities Council. Public programs sponsored by not-for-profit organizations may be eligible for funding assistance from the Nebraska Humanities Council. For more information about Kloefkorn's program, *O the Stories We Tell: Did That Really Happen?*, see

www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/speakersindex.html and www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/hrceligibility.html for application and eligibility requirements.

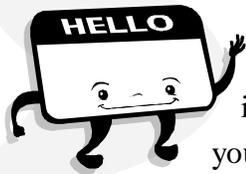
Nebraska librarians pointed out the importance of audio and large-print versions of the book and the University of Nebraska Press graciously granted permission for the Nebraska Library Commission to reproduce the book in audio CD and large print manuscript formats. These formats will be available for loan only through Nebraska libraries and only in 2008. Reproduction or copying of the book on CD or in large print is expressly forbidden. Nebraska libraries can borrow the book in these alternate formats by contacting Reference/Information Desk at the Library Commission, 800-307-2665, 402-471-4016, e-mail or through the Regional Library Systems. Nebraska public and academic libraries can e-mail Jennifer Wrampe to order a copy of the book on CD and/or the large print version for the library collection. The book on CD and the large print manuscript are free of charge to libraries, but must be returned to the Nebraska Library Commission at the end of 2008. Since there is a limited number of the book in these formats, please plan to share copies between libraries.

One Book One Nebraska 2008 is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press. Local libraries and other cultural organizations are participating in One Book One Nebraska events throughout 2008. A lively discussion is under way on the Nebraska Library Commission Blog. Join the discussion and post your comments at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/books_reading, posting titled "What tools would help libraries take advantage of the One Book One State opportunity?"

PLS Scholarship Recipients Tell us About Their Experiences:

Why Go to the NEMA/NLA State

Conference? By Carole Matthews, Media Specialist, Hay Springs Public School; Recipient of PLS Continuing Education Scholarship.



Because it's good for you. It does not strengthen your immune system, but it does build your networking system. I wrote a segment for the "2007-2008 Golden

Sower Handbook" and was delighted when I was able to meet, in person, the woman I had corresponded with over the past months. Someone sitting next to me at a session will say something or mention a website that is the answer to a question or problem I have been working on for months. A suggestion -- take a supply of business cards to hand out to those new friends.

It builds strong bodies (carrying all those free samples and brochures around), and builds your knowledge. Podcasts? I learned about and heard examples of student-created podcasts. In these podcasts, students told about the book they had read using an interview format. We learned what equipment was needed and that podcasts are really not that difficult to create. Storytelling -- not only did I learn why storytelling is an important tool to add to my program, but I also learned and practiced some techniques.

Sally Snyder always has a book talk session centered on books that are just right for the years' summer reading program.

Don't forget all the vendors' booths. There are always drawings to take a chance on. This year the Para group set up a scavenger hunt. There were tropical theme items at about 30 vendors booths. They handed

out booklets with the items listed and the object was to visit all the booths and collect stamps (*Crayola* stamper markers) from all of them. Yes, I did collect all the stamps and received a T-shirt as my prize. Great idea and a great excuse to visit all the booths.

This year a number of the handouts and PowerPoint presentations from the sessions were put online. I think this is a wonderful idea. Sometimes sessions are fuller than expected and people run out of handouts. It is also a great way to get some information from a session that was during the same time as one you attended.

If you can do it -- attend a state conference. It will help you grow professionally and personally.

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By Karen Beguin, Kimball Public Library; Recipient of PLS Continuing Education Scholarship.

As the recipient of a scholarship, I was able to attend the NLA/NEMA 2007. Being a first time attendant, I wasn't sure what to expect. It was a great experience. The featured speakers and workshops were enjoyable and informative.

The most important aspect for me was the fellowship between the librarians from all over the state. I am looking forward to my next convention.

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Another PLS Scholarship is Awarded!



The PLS Scholarship Committee awarded Allison McBride, Media Specialist at Alliance High School, a scholarship to help her attend the 2008 Nebraska Educational Technology Association Conference this April. We look forward to hearing from Allison about the knowledge she has gained through this opportunity.

Congratulations Allison!

Celebrate School Library Media Month

To help observe School Library Media Month (SLMM) during the month of April, school library media specialists can find public service announcements (PSAs), links to fun activities, and other tools on the AASL Web site. Several PSAs, created by Carmen Agra Deedy, award-winning author of 'Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale,' convey the importance of school library media programs. To listen to the PSAs and take advantage of the other tools available for SLMM, visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/aasladvocacy/schoollibrary.cfm>. You could have the PSAs aired on local radio stations and make them a part of your school's broadcasting system. For information on how to get PSAs aired on your local radio station, visit <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=bbwlinks&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=133105>.



Mountain Plains Library Association Conference April 30—May 2, 2008

Registration is still open to attend the joint conference of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Utah Library Association in Salt Lake City. They've got a great line up of engaging speakers. Plus, it is MPLA's 60th birthday and they are having a birthday bash! For registration and conference information go to: <http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/index.php>



Have You Seen These Websites...

Better World Books

www.betterworldbooks.com

Are you running out of space with all the donations you receive? Better World Books will sell discarded and donated material from libraries—generating funding for both libraries and nonprofit literacy initiatives. The program is free. Check out their website for FAQ's and donation guidelines.



Good Search

www.goodsearch.com

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Many of the participating nonprofits are schools and libraries. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! Go to their website for more info and to add your library, Friends group, or foundation as a charity

NOZA Charitable Gift Database

www.nozasearch.com

TechSoup Stock has teamed with NOZA to make its searchable database of charitable giving available to U.S. nonprofits and public libraries. Easily search over 30 million donation records from over 3,000 cities across the U.S. to find potential donors for your cause. This powerful online database can help boost your fundraising efforts by showing individuals, companies, and foundations that have made charitable contributions to organizations like yours in the past.

My Hound

www.myhound.com

sign up for e-mail notifications of new CD and book releases, concerts, tour dates, and other events. This website tracks new releases and events for any author, actor, or musician.

Creating Nebraska Memories the Easy Way



Is your library, local historical society, museum, or other local cultural heritage organization mulling over ways to get your historical photos, documents, slides or other items onto the web so more than just those who visit your physical space can see what you have to offer? Has your institution considered adding your materials to the Nebraska Memories project? (<http://www.memories.ne.gov>)

We know that our cultural heritage institutions have little time or money to spend on digitization projects so we are offering options to libraries, museums and historical societies around the state to help them get their precious items on the web at no charge through the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project.

The Commission recently received a grant from Nebraska's State Records Board allowing us to purchase equipment to create a mobile scanning center. This mobile scanning center can help us quickly get your items into the Nebraska Memories project, providing instant access to digitized images of Nebraska's history and culture in a collective, searchable database on the web.

The only thing you need to do is pick out the items you would like to add to the project and have some

basic information about these items on hand. We will work with you at the beginning of the project to find out what items you have that would be a good fit for Nebraska Memories.

So you may wonder how this works? First, contact us by phone or email so we can discuss the items you want to add to the project. We may even come to your library or museum to see your collection. One of our staff will then visit your library with the mobile scanning center and scan your images for you. There is no charge for this service. We can start with up to 50 items and discuss doing more as the project progresses.

We will then work with you to fill out EZMetadata forms either on paper or online so we have some basic descriptive data about your historical materials. This would include any information you have about the item such as a date, creator or location. Our staff will use this basic information about each item and create the cataloging or metadata record describing your item.

If you have some treasures, whether it be a few or a hundred, that you would like to add to the Nebraska Memories site, please consider letting us do the scanning and cataloging work for you. Please contact either Shannon White swhite@nlc.state.ne.us or Beth Goble bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us at 800-307-2665 to get started. For more information visit the Information for Nebraska Memories Participants page and find out more about the project <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>

Making a difference @your library™



Nebraska Public Libraries Meet Local Demand for Quality Information



Children's Summer Reading Program activities at the Atkinson Public Library are supported with state aid funds.

- ◆ **271 Public Libraries in Nebraska**
- ◆ **Materials Checked Out to Nebraskans:**
Adult 7,467,016
Children.. 5,675,667
Total ... 13,142,683
- ◆ **Videos Available to Nebraskans: 256,781**

- ◆ **Local Public Libraries Are Open to Serve Nebraskans:**
..... 425,171 hours per year
- ◆ **Nebraskans Visit their Local Public Library:**
159,732 visits per week
8,306,057 visits per year
- Nebraska library customers would fill **Memorial Stadium** 2 times each week

95% of Nebraska public libraries provide public access to the Internet.

- ◆ **Materials made available to Nebraskans through Interlibrary Loan** (materials shared between libraries):
Loaned 38,379
Received 34,174
- ◆ **Audio Materials Available to Nebraskans: 264,831**
- ◆ **Nebraskans Received Answers to Questions:**
23,422 questions per week
1,217,932 questions per year

Twice as many Nebraskans visited Nebraska public Libraries as went to the movies last year.

- Nebraska library customers would fill **Devaney Sports Center** 11.4 times each week
- ◆ **Library Employees Providing Information Services to Nebraskans: 782 FTE**

Reference librarians in Nebraska public libraries answer more than 1,217,932 questions each year. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Omaha to Scottsbluff.

Data Source: Annual Nebraska Public Library Statistical Data, 2005-2006, collected by the Nebraska Library Commission. Data is based on reports from 80% of Nebraska public libraries.

Open Source: What Is It & Is It For You...

What is Open Source? Online Sessions Scheduled

The concept of Open Source is both simple and complex. Instead of the standard model of purchasing software and doing only what it allows you to do, open source software (OSS) is typically free and allows you to change it to fit your needs. However, as it has been said, OSS is not free as in beer, but free as in kittens. There may be no up-front costs, but that doesn't mean there's no costs in the long run. The costs are just different. In this session, Michael Sauers, the Nebraska Library Commission's Technology Innovation Librarian will introduce you to the concepts behind open source, give examples of some of the most influential OSS packages being used today, and discuss why libraries should be paying attention to this model.

Sessions have been scheduled on April 22, 10:00am - 10:30am and 2:00pm - 2:30pm and April 28, 10:00am - 10:30am and 2:00pm - 2:30pm. To register for one of the sessions go to the Nebraska Library Commission's Training Portal and search on open source.

Statewide Open Source ILS Symposium

Hear from vendors that support open source solutions for libraries, as well as librarians that are currently responsible for the implementation of shared open source catalogs. The Open Source ILS Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. The Nebraska Library Commission invites all Nebraska library staff interested in learning more about open source ILS solutions for libraries to attend the meeting. Speakers will include:

Bob Molyneux – Vice President, Business Development, Equinox <http://esilibrary.com/esi/home.html>.

Josh Ferraro – President of Technology, LibLime & Marc Roberson – Vice President, Library Partners, LibLime <http://liblime.com/>

Elizabeth McKinney deGarcia – PINES Program Director, Georgia Public Library Service <http://www.georgialibraries.org/public/pines.php>

Kathy Rippel – Pathfinder Central Manager, Central Kansas Library System <http://tinyurl.com/28wekv>

Ruth Dukelow – Assistant Director, Michigan Library Consortium <http://www.mlcnet.org/evergreen/>
Details on the agenda, times and registration will be posted soon. If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact Shannon White at swhite@nlc.state.ne.us or 800-307-2665

Award Winning Young Adult Author to Visit the Panhandle

Get ready for the Fall 2008 PLS Author Tour—it's going to be a good one! Natasha Friend will visit schools and libraries in the Panhandle October 7, 8, and 9. Friend's first book, PERFECT, won the Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature and the Golden Sower Award for the state of Nebraska. Her second young adult novel, LUSH, was an A.L.A. Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. Book #3, BOUNCE, was released in September, '07. PLS



Photo credit: Tom Bloom

mailed all media specialists a packet with information about the tour and planning session. There are books available to purchase. Please call the System office to place your order. Anyone who attends the planning session, scheduled for Wed., Sept. 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Bayard School Library will receive a free book by Natasha Friend. In the next newsletter you will receive a poster to hang in your library promoting this great event.

Professional Development Training: Library Science Courses @ Chadron

Youth Services Librarians and School Librarians looking for some engaging summer professional development and/or college credit should consider the following two UNO library science courses that will be offered this summer in a web-assisted mode on the Chadron campus as part of the new UNO/Chadron Masters degree. The two courses will be meet face to face one day in June, one day in July and one day in August and students will work online in between. Both classes are offered the same weekends to Enhance accessibility to the courses.

Schedule for classes:

TED 8960 850 Children's Literature
Fridays - June 13, July 11, August 1
9AM - 4PM
Wendelin

TED 8806 850 Leadership/Management of Library
and Information Agencies
Sundays - June 15, July 13, August 3
9AM - 1PM
Pasco

Contact Dr. Becky Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu if you have questions or need assistance.

Spring Meeting 2008 in Sidney, NE

The Nebraska Library Association Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) & School, Children's and Young People's Section (SCYP) will host the Spring Meeting at the Sidney Public Library May 6, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will also be held at Grand Island Public Library and Sump Memorial Library. A flyer is enclosed with complete details and registration information.

Topics:

Memberclicks: Learn how to utilize this wonderful tool that the Nebraska Library Association has purchased for our use. Keep in touch with colleagues throughout the state, publicize events at your library and search for other NLA members with similar interests and connections.

Scott Childers, NLA webmaster extraordinaire, will teach us this new tool of the trade.

ROI – Return on Investment: What is your library worth to your community? Do you know how to calculate the dollars and cents (and sense!) value of your library? Spread the word to your customers, board members, elected officials and grant providers about the incredible investment your library offers the community. John Felton and Kit Keller from the Nebraska Library Commission will show you how.

Tweens & Teens – What Makes them Tick: And it's not ALL due to hormones! Join Jodene Glaesemann and Julee Hector from Lincoln City Libraries along with some of your local experts on an exploration of this particular set of library users. Tweens and Teens are the future of libraries. You'll find a way to love 'em (or at least understand them) and offer them what they need during this session.

College of DuPage Programs Sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission

— Register for these programs on the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar.

Soaring to Excellence: Trends, Fads or Folly: Spotting the Library Trends That Really Matter

Friday, April 11, 2008, 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Central Time.

This program examines how these other trends are having an impact on libraries and what libraries are or should be doing to integrate these trends into their services (e.g., gaming is an obvious one that libraries are using to draw the younger generation into the library). The third show is more a series of case studies that demonstrate how libraries are using trend spotting to create the right services for their communities.

**Library Challenges & Opportunities 2008: Tools of
Engagement: Attracting and Engaging Library
Users** Friday, May 9, 2008 (Tentative Date) - 11:00
A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Central Time.

Join our distinguished panel for a discussion of those issues which will shape our libraries and their services in the future.

Scholarships and Grants:

Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness

The American Library Association and the Fetzer Institute, as part of its Campaign for Love & Forgiveness, present "Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness," a scholar-led reading and discussion program for libraries interested in exploring themes of love and forgiveness in everyday life through classic and contemporary literature. Public libraries are invited to apply for grants to support the program in their community. Successful applicants will receive:

- A grant of \$2,500 to be used to support program costs and scholar honoraria.

- Program materials, which include introductory literature and essays on each of the themes, selections for additional reading, and template promotional materials.

Training for the library project director at a national training workshop where they will hear from project scholars, experts, and organizers, and receive a program planning guide, materials and ideas

Books for Babies Matching Grants Available

In partnership with Nordstrom FOLUSA will be granting 20 grants for \$500 each to match \$1,000 raised by selected Friends groups, women's groups, libraries, and other non-profit organizations for purchasing Books for Babies kits from FOLUSA. Grant recipients do not need to be members of FOLUSA. Go to <http://www.folusa.org/outreach/books-for-babies.php> for more information. Here's how it works. Applicants agree to order a minimum of \$1,500 worth of Books for Babies kits, of which FOLUSA will pay \$500. Therefore, the minimum commitment from applicants is \$1,000. Grants will be awarded in two cycles:

- * Cycle 1: Applications are due April 1, 2008.

Recipients will be notified by April 15, and kits must be ordered by June 1, 2008.

- * Cycle 2: Applications are due October 1, 2008.

Recipients will be notified by October 15, and kits must be ordered by December 1, 2008.

Grants will be awarded to organizations that currently have a Books for Babies program in place as well as organizations starting a new Books for Babies program. Grant applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

- * Effective kit distribution plan.
- * Effective use of the kits to connect new parents with their local library.
- * Involvement of the local library.
- * Effective publicity plan for their Books for Babies program.

Questions concerning Books for Babies grants should be directed to (800) 936-5872 or booksforbabies@folusa.org.

Still Time to Apply for the Diversity Fair Scholarship!

WebJunction is awarding a scholarship for one past workshop participant and one state trainer from the Spanish Language Outreach Program to design and present a poster describing their outreach project at the ALA Annual Conference Office for Literacy and Outreach Diversity Fair in Anaheim, CA this June. Scholarship applicants will be selected based on the impact of the outreach activities they have implemented to Spanish speakers following their participation in the SLO program. The deadline to submit applications is April 11, 2008. All workshop participants and trainers are invited to apply for the scholarship. Check out more scholarship details, the scholarship application, and last year's winning project.



Panhandle Library System Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – 10:00 A.M.
Bluffs Business Center Main Floor Conference Room
1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

President Diane Downer called the meeting to order. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Glenda Gamby, Marjorie Harrison (System Coordinator) Eileen Nightingale, Vickie Retzlaff, Jane Schlager, Kathy Terrell. Members absent: Jim Soester, Ruth Walker. Visitors: Rod Wagner (Nebraska Library Commission). Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Round Table: Terry Christensen is on the Alliance Public Library board and sets up some of the programs for the brown bag lunches. At the elementary school teaching library skills and Powerpoint presentations on National Parks to meet requirements of the assessments. Lillian Diedrichsen: replacement of computers in some of the classrooms; Kathy Terrell: Rearranged things at the elementary library and is slowly weeding books at the high school following some suggestions at the November Job-A-Like.

Committee Reports: Annual Meeting: No report; CE/Tech: No Report; Public Relations: Update on the author tour. The committee has run into a few glitches with authors that they are considering. Deb Carlson received an email from author Natasha Friend that the author fees were \$500-\$1000 a day and this did not include travel, accommodations, and meal expenses. The author tour committee will be meeting next week. Scholarship: It was thought that all the money allocated for scholarships had been distributed.

Rod Wagner gave the Nebraska Library Commission report. Rod reported that Deb Carlson has been appointed to the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries. Marjorie Harrison gave the Coordinator's report and the budget report. Marjorie will look into some options for the car lease that is coming up June 1 and she will bring them before the board at the March meeting. Marjorie will look into the cost of renting a car for long trips to Lincoln and other distant cities versus using the system car for these trips because of the mileage limit on the car lease.

A motion was made by Kathy Terrell and Glenda Gamby (2nd) to approve the technology plan. The motion passed with all voting yes. The results of the PLS newsletter survey were looked at and discussed. 61 replies were received from the email survey and since 209 newsletters are mailed to members it was decided that the same survey be put in the next newsletter so that more people will take the survey and return it to the system office. Those who responded to the email survey will be asked to take the survey again. The newsletter is tabled until the next meeting. Upcoming events were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Lillian Diedrichsen
Secretary

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Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes,
Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball,
Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux

Marjorie Harrison, PLS Coordinator

E-mail: mharrison@nlc.state.ne.us

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