

Panhandle Library System Has A New Coordinator

Hi. I am Terri Raburn and I am the new Services Coordinator for the Panhandle Library System. This is a big career change for me as I have worked in the archives field for the past 12 years.

I worked as a library page at the Holdrege Public Library from 1998 to 2000. In 2000 I joined the staff of the Nebraska State Historical Society's Library/Archives as an assistant curator. I worked as a reference assistant and photo researcher. In 2005, I accepted a position at Emporia State University's archives as reference supervisor. I started my MLS degree while working at ESU. In 2006, I accepted a new position as Director of the Nebraska United Methodist Archives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I earned my BA from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in History and Art History, and finished my MLS through Emporia State University's distance education program in 2009.

I moved from Lincoln, NE to Scottsbluff in March and am excited about living in this area. I enjoy being able to drive for miles and look at all of the sites that Nebraska has to offer.

I look forward to getting on the road and meeting everyone in the Panhandle System libraries and being able to help promote all of the services we have to offer.

Whenever you are in Scottsbluff, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. I will be in the office most of April getting used to my new surroundings and duties before I start traveling around to the libraries.

I will be attending an Administrative Meeting in Omaha on April 18th, 2011. This will be a great opportunity for me to meet with the other five system administrators and find out how their systems are run and maybe pick up some pointers on how to improve our system.

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PLS Summer Reading Workshop

The 2011 PLS Summer Reading Program Workshop was held March 18th at the Alliance Public Library. The theme this year was “One World, Many Stories”. Over 18 Public Librarians attended the workshop. It was a fun day that started off with signing in, coffee, rolls, and introductions. Next came Jody Crocker’s craft and project ideas that are always informative and enjoyable. Jody keeps the ideas and crafts simple and easy which the librarians appreciate. Sally Snyder gives great book reviews. She has a way of making the books come to life, especially the picture books. She also gave some reviews on Nonfiction Picture Books, Beginning Readers & Early Chapter Books, Fiction for Grades 2-5, Nonfiction for Grades 2-5, Fiction for Younger Teens, Nonfiction for Teens, and Fiction for Older Teens. Sally is the Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission. There was also an interaction storybook theater which Sally and Jody led with the help of some of the librarians. This workshop is really a good way of hearing others ideas and suggestions. Everyone who attends will walk away with some new

knowledge in many different areas. The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) states working to provide public summer reading program materials expand their horizons when they children cannot travel far away to Brazil to learn about the varied children will not even travel beyond what they might have in common other people and places around the their horizons while reading about other lands; listening to others who have traveled or lived elsewhere; and enjoying the music, dance, games, and stories of other cultures. “One World, Many Stories” will help accomplish all of this.



The Collaborative is a grassroots consortium of libraries with high-quality for children. Children travel. Of course, many New Zealand or China or world we live in. Some their home state to discover and how they differ from world. But they can expand

Picture Above: Librarians participating in one of the workshop programs.

Left Picture: Sally Snyder giving book reviews.

Right Picture: Librarians during one of the craft projects.



Libraries and Mobile Services

By Cody W. Hanson

Mobile devices are ubiquitous in today's society, and there's no evidence that that is going to change. According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, as of mid-2010, 82% of American adults own a mobile phone or a mobile computing device that works as a phone. It is crucial for librarians to understand mobile devices and provide services through them.

I'm sure your library is cash-strapped, underresourced, and understaffed. Development of tools and services that target mobile likely seems a distraction, a drain on your time and attention. It might feel like it's the flavor of the month, blustery conference paper fodder that's unlikely to pay off in real service to users.

What evidence would provide a good indication that the day had come for your library to focus concerted efforts on mobile services? If nearly all Americans owned cell phones? Maybe if a large percentage of those phone owners demonstrably used their device to access the internet? Perhaps if smartphone sales began to approach sales of PCs? If major information service providers were shifting their focus from the desktop to mobile devices? If the trend turned away from mobile devices mimicking the functions of desktop computers, and instead desktops began to emulate mobiles? Maybe if there was evidence that traditional desktop connectivity wasn't reaching people who could be reached on their mobile devices?

If so, then that day is today.

The changing face of the digital divide

Libraries have long been at the forefront of advocacy for increased broadband internet access, particularly for the poor and for rural Americans. Mobile may not yet be the ideal solution for rural users, but the demographics of mobile internet usage show encouraging signs of increased access among groups that have long been underrepresented among internet users in the United States. The report "[Mobile Access 2010](#)" [3] from the Pew Internet and American Life Project notes that Latino and African-American adults are more likely than their Caucasian peers both to own mobile devices and to use them to access the internet. While 80% of white adults own mobile phones, among African Americans and English-speaking Latinos the rate of ownership is 87%. Of all American adults with cell phones, 38% use them to access the internet, but black and English-speaking Hispanic users far outstrip the average—at 46% and 51% respectively. Pew's survey was conducted in English, so data on those who only speak Spanish was not available.

The day for mobile services has come

The evidence is compelling. The vast majority of Americans now own cell phones. Nearly half use them to access the internet. In the fourth quarter of 2010, manufacturers shipped more smartphones than they did traditional PCs. Underrepresented groups are accessing the mobile internet in impressive numbers. Google is developing for mobile first and the desktop second. Apple is in the midst of making its desktop computers behave more like its mobile devices. If your library, like mine (and every library I can think of), has been transformed by desktop computing and internet access, now is the time to take action and be proactive in providing robust services to mobile users.

News From Panhandle Libraries

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library—Renovation Project

A photo update on the construction at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. The final ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 2011.



← The new addition of the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is home to an enlarged children's library and a new teen corner.



Comfortable seating area in the Information Commons of the newly remodeled library.

→



← These study tables are in the fiction section of the library.



Boxes of books waiting to be unpacked in the Information Commons of the library.

→

Upcoming Events

NCompass Live – Tech Talk with Michael Sauers

Date: May 25, 2011

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (MT)

For more information or to register go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ncompass/ncompasslive.asp>

Basic Skills: Organization of Materials

Date: June 6 – July 1, 2011

Time: Open

Location: Online Earn 2 CE/Hrs

Registration Fee: \$10.00 due prior to the first class

Contact: Laura Johnson at 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665 or laurajohnson@nebraska.gov

2011 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

Date: July 10 – 14th, 2011

Time: Begins at 1:00 p.m. on the 10th

Location: St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, NE

Contact: For more info or an application, call Kathy Tooker at 800-627-7884 or ktooker@rwindstream.net

Basic Skills: Library Governance

Date: July 11 – July 22, 2011

Time: Open

Location: Online Earn 2 CE/Hrs

Registration Fee: \$10.00 due prior to the first class

Contact: Laura Johnson at 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665 or laurajohnson@nebraska.gov

Panhandle Library System Annual Board Meeting

Date: July 29, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Contact: PLS Office 308-632-1350 or 888-879-5303 or jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org

PLS/NEMA Workshop

Date: August 2, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

More info to follow, but MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR AUGUST 2, 2011

Panhandle Library System
Board Minutes, Tuesday, March 29, 2011
Bluffs Business Center, Scottsbluff, NE

President Floyd Smith III called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and announced that the meeting would be conducted to follow the open meeting laws of Nebraska. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Floyd Smith III, Dixie Riley, Sue Shaver, Kendra Caskey, and Merrilene Wood. Rick Caudillo, Sara Brennemann and Beth Trupp were absent. Jeralyn Clapper, Richard Miller, and Roberta Boyd were also present.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Merrilene made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2011. Motion was seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Round Table: Kendra reported that Ogallala has lost its City Manager. He will be relocating to Iowa after May 28, 2011. The Goodall Rec Center will be getting a new expansion. The Library Board has opted not to join the PLS Shared Automation Project this year.

Sue reported the Hemingford Public School Library has been busy weeding books and also doing lots of student testing.

Floyd appointed Roberta Boyd to finish out Lori Hartman's term on the PLS Board. He presented her with the pin given to all new board members

Floyd asked Roberta to report on the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library since Rick was absent and unable to give his report. The library will be closed April 4th through the 16th so the staff can get moved into the new addition. The Adult Services Librarian hopes to start an adult program when the move is completed. The ribbon cutting for the new library addition will be held in June.

PLS Committees: Annual Meeting – Terry reported the Annual Meeting will be held July 29th at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. He is having a hard time getting a hold of the other committee members by email or getting them to answer his. A discussion followed and some other communication options were mentioned. Tech – Floyd reported the Shared Automation Project is moving forward. Nominating – Dixie reported there have been no new nominations for the upcoming open board seats. Kendra suggested that we mention this at the Annual Meeting and try to get some of the younger library staff on board. Dixie asked that Jeri send out another email to all libraries in our system reminding them of the nomination deadline. Scholarship – Merrilene reported there are no scholarship applications at this time. There is one nomination for the Advocacy Award. She asked that Jeri send out an email regarding the scholarships and awards. Public Relations – Rick and Beth were absent.

Nebraska Library Commission Report: A copy of the NLC Report was passed out to each board member. Richard Miller from NLC was visiting and gave the report.

PLS Financial Reports: The reports were included in the board packets.

PLS Federal Fund Breakdown: A breakdown of the state and federal funds we receive was given to each board member

OLD BUSINESS:

PLS Car Lease: Floyd presented the options for the PLS vehicle, renewing the lease, buying the vehicle outright, or finding a new vehicle. If we buy the lease out it would cost \$10,809.35. If we return the vehicle it would cost \$1,497.50 for wear and damage. A discussion about mileage, size and room of the vehicle, maintenance, insurance, etc. followed. Kendra made a motion to pursue the loan to pay off the vehicle contingent on the interest rate and amount of payment. Dixie seconded it. Terry took a roll call vote. The vote was unanimous to pursue the loan with First State Bank.

Shared Automation Project: PLS has received a \$25,000 LSTA grant to be used for the PLS Shared Automation Project. There are 17 libraries signed up and 1 pending to participate in the project. The project has begun to move forward. Arthur County Library is the first one to have the Alexandria software installed. Their records are being transferred over to the new system.

DVD Rotation Update: Jeri gave an update on the final figures for the DVD Collections. After deducting all expenses from the service fees collected, there was a \$208.09 profit.

PLS Committees: Merrillene brought up combining the Nominating and Scholarship committees that was in the last board minutes. Kendra mentioned that personal contact was more effective than just sending out emails. Dixie stated that maybe there should be more than one board member on some committees. Terry suggested that the Annual, Tech, and Public Relations committees should have two board members on each committee. A discussion followed and Floyd stated that if changes were made, we would have to change our PLS policies accordingly. Kendra suggested that this may be something we should have the new coordinator look at and get her input. The board members agreed and Floyd asked that this topic be added to the agenda under old business for the May board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

PLS Coordinator: Floyd announced the new PLS Coordinator, Terri Raburn, will be starting April 4th, 2011. He gave a brief description of her background and qualifications.

Administrative Assistant/Hrs: Floyd gave a brief explanation about keeping Jeri's hours extended through June to work with the new coordinator and how those hours will be compensated.

PLS Annual Survey done by Survey Monkey: The survey from last year was passed around for the board members to review. Some of the questions were not applicable at this time. It was suggested that the new coordinator take control of this year's survey since there might be questions she may want to add to give her information on what the librarians needs are and their expectations from her.

Upcoming Events /Announcements: A list of upcoming events was included in the board packets. Terry mentioned the NLC Michael Sullivan Workshop on April 12th at the Alliance Public Library. Richard Miller invited anyone to attend the Broadband Forum at the Gering Civic Center tomorrow from 1-4 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

The next PLS board meeting will be May 10, 2011 at the Bluffs Business Center, main floor conference room at 10:00 a.m.

Terry Christensen
Secretary

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Counties Served:

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

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