

*The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System*

May/June 2013

Are Printed Books Going Away? By Eric R Green MLS MA

In the age of ever-increasing e-books, Nooks and Kindles one of the questions, I as a Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission hear is “Are hard and soft cover books going to be obsolete in the future?”

I’ve also heard this question from some technologists for years now who seem to think that all information, including books, will be online or digital. My first reaction to this is to tell people to “get a spine” and assure them that not all-older technology will be going away in the digital age. Moreover, yes the book is a form of technology, even though it does not require electricity or a computer chip to be considered technology, a concept lost on some in society today.

The first version of the book dates back to 2500 BC Mesopotamia, which took the form of clay tablets and I hope was not in the form of a Greek romance novel. The history of the evolution of the book from the earliest days has “turned many pages,” to include the printing press in 1450 AD to yes the Electronic ‘book’ around 2000 AD. One can envision the next possible step in its evolution would be an individual who can access any book with a single thought transferred to a computer chip implanted in the cerebral cortex of the brain.

Even so, there will always be some who would prefer to curl up to a book printed in real ink on real paper pages in front of a real fireplace (not holographic) while drinking real wine and listening to disco on 8-track tapes.

To be fair Kindles and Nooks are helpful to many who travel a lot and like to read on their flights without having to take many books with them on the baggage-limited Airlines. In addition, these readers are helpful for those who also have limited living space. For an example, also those living in small New York City closet-sized apartments, crowded with the 16 inherited cats from their rich Aunt Lucy’s estate.

While visiting the rural schools and public libraries in the Nebraska Panhandle, the library staff informs me that young people, K-12 are still reading many printed books and are still fascinated by the excitement of a ‘page turner.’ Even though young people seemed to be ‘wired’ to technology like no generation before, there is no indication, they are not going to turn away from their books.

Even though bookstores are closing across the country, this is no indication that printed books will not be here in the near future. There are more variables in play; one possibly is an indication a bookstores lack of business skills understand marketing or that fact that book-publishing industry charges too much for books especially when citizens can check them out at their public libraries.

It’s possible the unified theory in physics will be discovered before the argument whether printed books going away are finally settled. Therefore, are printed books going away? No. So curl up with your book in your favorite chair and put on a log in your real fireplace, although it might be preferable to listen to Mozart instead of disco.

*“There is no friend as loyal as a book.” Ernest Hemingway*

*Eric R Green MLS MA*

Eric R Green -Panhandle Library System Coordinator

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## **Does your library need a Web site? The Nebraska Library Commission can give you one for free.**

The Nebraska Libraries on the Web project has been around since 2010 and is open to any public library in the state of Nebraska. If you're looking to move your library's Web site away from the version created with FrontPage back in 2002, have more than just a single page on your city or town's Web site, or create your library's first Web presence this service is for you. As a participant here's what you get:

- Nebraska Libraries on the Web uses the open source WordPress platform which currently supports more than 63 million Web sites around the world.
- WordPress is nearly infinitely customizable with more than 1,700 base themes to choose from and more than 24,000 plugins that can add nearly any feature that you'd want. If you need more server space or a new feature just ask.
- Multiple user accounts for your staff are available, providing you the ability to give different staff members different levels of access to your site.
- When you sign up the Nebraska Library Commission will provide you with some default content including a contact form and a calendar for your site. From there all you need to do is supply any additional information you'd like. All work is done through simple forms; no coding experience is needed.
- NLC staff provides all of the support and training you'll need along with a community of more than 50 other Nebraska libraries who currently host their Web site with us.
- NLC staff takes care of all of the software updates, security issues, and backups. All you need to do it provide the content.
- The system is hosted in-house at the Nebraska Library Commission and is connected to the Internet through the network of the State of Nebraska. This guarantees both highly reliable speeds and uptime of any service provider in the state.

And how much will it cost your library to participate? Nothing! We provide all this at no cost to you. All we ask is that you keep up with posting new content to your site on a regular basis and allow us to insert a small link back to the project's site and the NLC.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information head over to <http://libraries.ne.gov/> and click on "Want to Participate?" You can also contact Michael Sauers via e-mail at [michael.sauers@nebraska.gov](mailto:michael.sauers@nebraska.gov).

**PLS Board Meeting**  
**1-8-2013**  
**10:00 AM Railway Plaza**                      **Corrected 3-13-2013**

**I. The PLS Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Floyd Smith III.**

Board members present were Floyd Smith III, Beth Trupp, Terry Christensen, Rick Caudillo, Roberta Boyd, Dixie Riley and Sue Shaver. Absent were Kendra Caskey and Merrillene Wood. Also present were Debbie McCall and Jeri Clapper.

**II. Review & Approve Minutes from November 13, 2012, PLS Board Meeting**

In the November 13, 2012, minutes it should state that Beth Trupp was absent. Motion to approve the correction to the November 13, 2012, minutes was made by Rick Caudillo and seconded by Dixie Riley. Motion carried.

**III. Reports**

**a. District Reports District C (Dixie), District D (Sara), other district Reports**

Beth had no report. Floyd said WNCC was interested in joining the Pioneer Project but he isn't sure they did. Roberta said Deb Carlson and Nancy Escamilla picked 100 children's books for the "I Read 100 books." Rick said Banner County School 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students all have laptops. The labtops are Dell and Acers. Rick said they have a student learning English as a second language. A computer translator program helps teach him. Rick said their library is getting a lot of use. Dixie said Chappell has Overdrive and held a teen reading program. They are still working on the basement.

**b. Committee Reports:**

**i. Annual Meeting (Kendra & Sue)**

Sue and Kendra will find a date for the annual meeting. The budget is \$900.00. Betty Armstrong is also on the committee. Sue asked if there is any important information the committee should know. Sue said Kendra is on leave until March.

**ii. Nominating (Roberta & Dixie)**

Roberta had the wrong email address for Dixie. This is Merrillene's first term but Roberta said Merrillene didn't know if she wanted to run for her second term on the PLS Board. Terry talked to Allison to see if she would like to be on the PLS Board. The nominations will go out by March 1, 2013. Roberta thought the nomination committee could speak at the PLS Summer Reading Program on March 20, 2013, at WNCC Sidney.

**iii. Public Relations (Floyd & Beth)**

Floyd and Beth had no report.

**iv. Scholarships (Merrillene & TC)**

No report. Debbie said she did contact Abby Yellman and Martin McAndrew to send an article to put in the PLS Newsletter.

**Board Meeting cont.****v. Technology (Sara & Rick)**

Sara needs the names of the libraries that received the BTOP grants.

Floyd will be refurbishing 8 computers to be given to small libraries. Sara asked Floyd what these computers will have. Floyd said the computers will be wiped cleaned and will have an operating system on them. The libraries will need access to the internet in order to receive a computer. The computers will be on a first come first serve. Floyd will put Windows XP on the computers. The libraries will receive the computer, keyboard and mouse at no charge. For tech support they can contact Floyd. Rick will type up a form to ask libraries if they want a computer. Rick said his principle has many grants and Rick will email that information.

**c. Shared Automation Project Report: (Floyd Smith III)**

There is a meeting on January 17, 2013, at the Prairie Winds Community Center. Floyd received a letter from Prairie Winds charging him \$50.00 for each meeting. Floyd told Tammy he won't pay the fee as the PLS board didn't approve that cost. Tammy said she will talk to the city as the city owns the Prairie Winds Community Center.

The Panhandle Library Consortium has 21,968 patrons that have access to 171,901 titles and 216,923 items. The PLS Consortium reports need to be tweaked. The system automatically updates overdue notices. Beth said they were getting those updates as an email and now they're not.

**d. PLS Coordinator Report: (Debbie & Jeri)**

Debbie said she had withheld too much social security tax for 2012. Debbie said the Social Security Administration will take 2 to 3 years to send us a refund. PLS will refund Debbie and Jeri.

The DVD rotations are down to 10 libraries. Sara was concerned about the DVD letter of agreement. The times are shorter for each rotation than in the past years. The agreement says four DVD sets per year. The DVD's were sent out by February 1. Each library gets one collection for 2½ months. Jeri said the PLS office has to clean the DVD's and each year we purchase new DVD's. Libraries are not following instructions. Sara said we should review the agreement before next year. Jeri said we bought three new rotations for this year. She said the libraries may get one or two new DVD's in each collection. Sara said the patrons really like the DVD rotations. Jeri said some of the DVD's are not getting checked out. May need more family and children's DVD's. Floyd said we should review the agreement and see if there are any changes to be made. Floyd asked Sara to talk to Vicki for input on possible changes. Debbie said the agreement states each library gets four collections, but they were only getting three. Debbie changed the agreement to four collections per year. Jeri said the PLS owns a DVD cleaner that takes all the scratches out of CD's and DVD's.

**e. Nebraska Library Commission Report: (Rod Wagner)**

The report was read at the meeting.

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**Board Meeting cont.****IV. Old Business****a. Budget:**

Floyd stated that he and Debbie need to work on the budget. Floyd said the numbers don't match on Debbie's print out of the financial reports.

Mileage went up to .56.5 per mile. Board members should have been reimbursed from the interview on 11-14-12.

**V. New Business**

a. Floyd said Eric Green was hired as PLS Coordinator and will begin work at the PLS office on January 28, 2013. Floyd said we should have an orientation during the day or at noon. The PLS Board will need to discuss what we want him to do. We need to agree if we want Eric to stay in the office for a month or visit our members. Dixie would like Eric to do the public librarians' meetings again. We will have a welcome lunch for Eric at El Charrito's at noon on Friday, January 25, 2013. Send RSVP's to Debbie. PLS Board members can bring their directors to the luncheon.

Floyd said the Internship Grant is due February 15, 2013.

**VI. Upcoming Events / Announcements**

The PLS Summer Reading Program meeting is March 20, 2013, at WNCC Sidney, Room 116. The next PLS Board meeting is March 12, 2013. January 30, 2013, is Advocacy Day in Lincoln. Willa Cather's book, Oh! Pioneers are the One Nebraska One Book for 2013.

Beth said she weeded some of her children's books for anyone to have. They are at the PLS office.

Floyd said we should be getting a coordinator's report similar to Margie's.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Secretary,  
Terry Christensen

**Revised 3-13-2013**

**PLS Upcoming Events**

**May 13, 2013** Children's Book Week

**May 14, 2013** PLS Board Meeting -10:am – 115 Railway Street Conference room

**June 19, 2013** Open Meetings Law Workshop, Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering, 6:30 to 9:00pm, (No meals served.) Cost \$150 for your entire Board

**July 19, 2013** PLS Annual Meeting – Valentino's, 55 River Road, Ogallala – 10am to 12:30pm. Cost \$15.00

**July 19, 2013** PLS Board Meeting 1:30pm—Ogallala

NLC Training and Events Calendar: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar>

PLS List Serve: [pls-l@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pls-l@nlc.state.ne.us)

PLS Website: <http://pls.panhandlelibraries.org>

# PLS Pictures



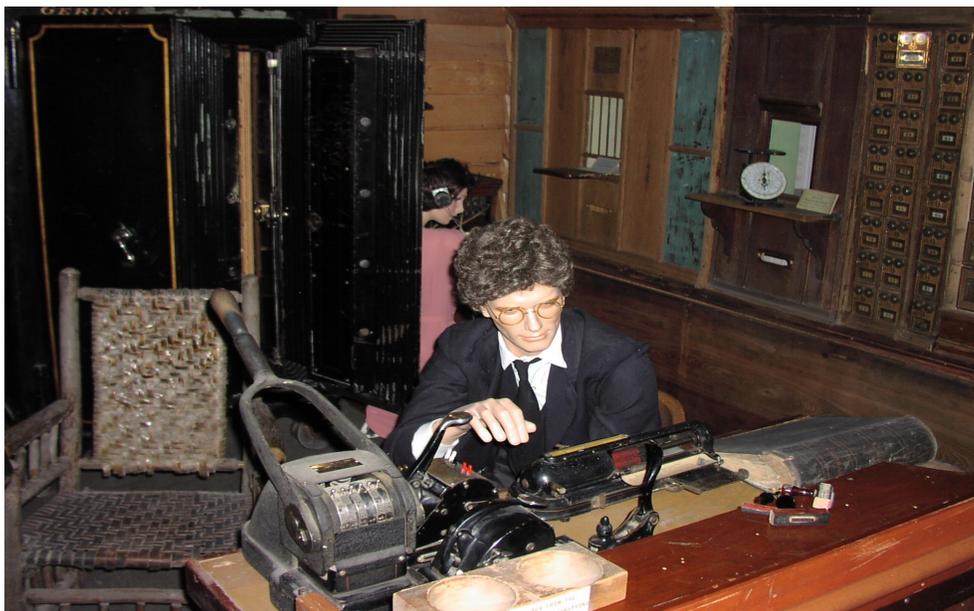
**On March 12th Bridgeport Library Director Tammy Howitt-Covalt helps break down wall to make room from for the library expansion .**



**Construction going on at the *Farm and Ranch Museum* in Gering for the *Legacy of the Plains*.**



**On March 20th Jody Crocker of McCook Public Library presents for Summer Reading in Sidney.**



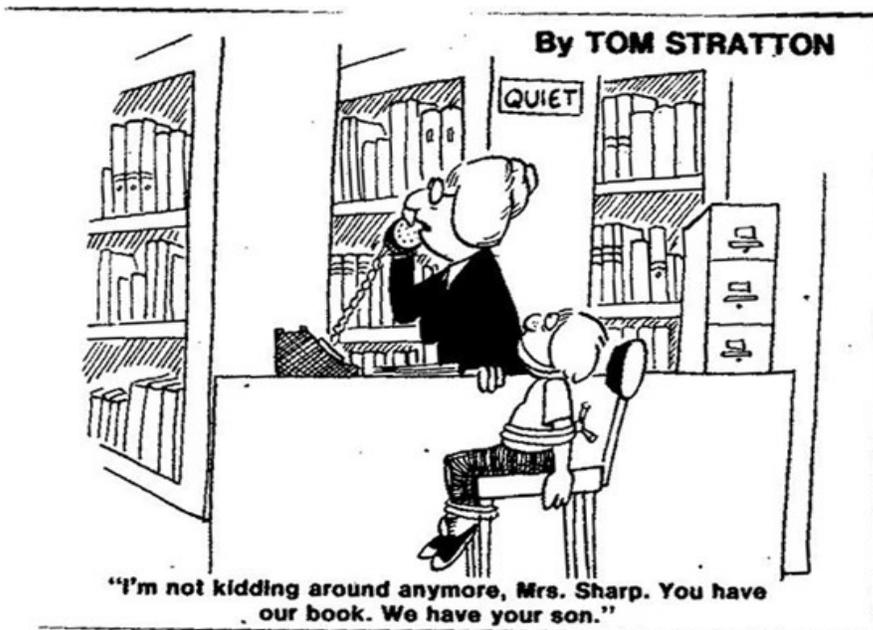
**Eric and Debbie at the PLS Office?**

**Panhandle Library System**  
**115 Railway St Suite -C114**  
**Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

**Phone: 308-632-1350**  
**Toll Free: 888-879-5303**  
**Fax: 308-632-3978**  
**Website:**  
<http://pls.panhandlelibraries.org>

**PLS Board of Trustees:**

- Floyd Smith III, President
- Beth Trupp, Vice President
- Terry Christensen, Secretary
- Sara Brennemann
- Kendra Caskey
- Rick Caudillo
- Dixie Riley
- Sue Shaver
- Merrillene Wood



**Counties Served:**

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

Eric Green PLS Coordinator

E-mail: [eric.green@nebraska.gov](mailto:eric.green@nebraska.gov)

Debbie McCall, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: [dmccall@panhandlelibsys.org](mailto:dmccall@panhandlelibsys.org)

Jeri Clapper, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: [jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org](mailto:jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org)

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