

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



When Your Board Has Questions...

When your Library Board has questions, many times they come to you, the Library Director. Here are common questions they may ask:

What are the responsibilities of the library board?

Here is [a link](#) to a very specific list of Library Board responsibilities vs. Library Director responsibilities.

What is the Nebraska Open Meetings Act?

Here is [a link](#) to a recent episode of [NCompass Live](#) with Scott Childers and Christa Porter discussing the answer to this question.

How does a Library Board evaluate its effectiveness?

[This link](#) will take you to a Self-Evaluation for Library Board Members.

Which Nebraska State Statutes govern public libraries?

Here is [another link](#) to an episode of [NCompass Live](#), titled "Chapter 51 and Beyond." This [link](#) takes you to the [Nebraska Legislative website](#) to see the official wording of Chapter 51.

Why does a library need policies and who writes them?

[This link](#) takes you to Chapter 3 in the Nebraska Library Board Manual which will explain everything about library policies.

What should the Library Board do if a citizen complains about library material?

[This link](#) is also in the Nebraska Library Board Manual. This section covers Intellectual Freedom and Reconsideration Forms.

Our Library Director left, now what do we do?

Technically, they won't ask you this because you may be the Director that has moved on to bigger and better things, but it is important that they know the Regional System Director is here to help. Please make sure they are aware that I am here and willing to work with them to get through all of the above questions plus any others they have.

NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Game Night at the Library
Page 2

Continuing Education
Page 3

Book Club Kits
Pages 5

System Services
Pages 8-9

Deb's Preschool Project
Page 11

Mark Your Calendars
Page 16

BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling
Stephanie Branham
Jody Crocker
Jamie Dennis
Sherrie Dux-Ideus
Jane Hilton
Lisa Mount
Jennifer Norton
Kina Stefka
James Tidei

Game Night at the Library

Why would people come to the library to play games?
Come to this workshop for the really fun answer to that basic question.

The Central Plains Library System has a collection of games that people of all ages like to play, and we will loan them to you. Come and see what we have, make suggestions for others to purchase, and maybe we'll even play a round or two.

Lexington Public Library

Tuesday, March 18

2:00 - 4:30 pm

You will earn 2.5 CEs.

[Click here to Register](#)

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Puppets!!!

We will be doing a group purchase of Folkmanis puppets [<https://www.folkmanis.com/>] again this year. If you are interested in getting any of these amazing puppets to include in your story time or virtual programming, now is the time to order them so you get the best discount. Prices are expected to increase soon.

Puppets will be 1/2 of the price listed on the website. The company requires 15% of the final cost as a handling fee on all orders. Central Plains Library System will cover the shipping to your library.

Orders are due APRIL 1, 2025.

Please email your orders to: cpls.nicole@gmail.com



BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	available any time
3/4 - 3/15	Library Governance	1/29 - 2/26
3/18 - 3/29	Library Technology	2/12 - 3/8
3/17 - 3/28	Library Technology	2/3 - 3/7
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging*	2/17 - 3/21 Self-Paced
4/14 - 4/25	Library Finance	3/3 - 4/4

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2025 Basic Skills Schedule and to register for any of the classes.

NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)

To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

[NCompass Live: Fostering Healthy Communication in Your Library](#)

Feb 5

[Register](#)

[NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: AI and Social-Emotional Learning for Early Childhood](#)

Feb 26

[Register](#)

[NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech](#)

Mar 19

[Register](#)



Makerspace Conference

The Nebraska Library Commission in conjunction with the Nebraska Innovation Studio is working to bring you the 2025 Nebraska Makerspace Conference scheduled for November 4 & 5, 2025. It will be held at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center in Lincoln. The Commission has set up a web page for the 2025 Conference that will be updated as plans solidify at:

<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/libraries/maker/index.2025.Conference.aspx>

There you will find a few basics about the upcoming conference. Although the conference lineup and schedule will not mirror the 2021 conference, you can get a flavor for what could come together tapping many of the same organizations that were brought together three years ago. You will notice that we included a link to the 2021 conference flyer on the 2025 conference webpage to give you an idea of the caliber of sessions we would like to offer later this year. We are asking for your help to develop sessions that will appeal to either or both makerspace experts and those who are just beginning to learn about makerspaces (and those that fall in between).

On the conference webpage you will find a “Call for Session Proposals” form that can be completed and submitted by those who want to offer a session, demonstration, or lead a making session at the conference. Even those interested in serving on a panel in a makerspace subject may submit a more loosely-defined proposal. (NOTE: Session proposals will be accepted for consideration as they come in. Closer to the date, a final submission deadline will be communicated to you.)

If you have any questions or input that would be helpful in our efforts, please send those my way.

JoAnn S. McManus
Coordinator
2025 Nebraska Makerspace Conference
Email: joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov



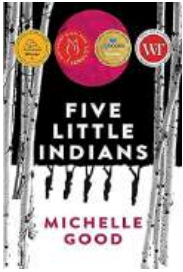
Tech Soup is a great resource. If you are not currently a member, you should look at the discounted technology that they offer. A recent restocked item in their catalog is Office Standard software with Excel, One Note, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word for \$40.

NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



Spirit of Steamboat by Craig Johnson

Sheriff Walt Longmire is in his office reading *A Christmas Carol* when he is interrupted by a ghost of Christmas past: a young woman with a hairline scar and more than a few questions about his predecessor, Lucian Connally. With his daughter Cady and undersheriff Moretti otherwise engaged, Walt's on his own this Christmas Eve, so he agrees to help her.



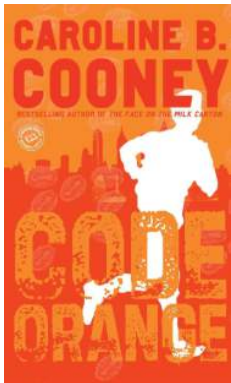
Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

Taken from their families when they are very small and sent to a remote, church-run residential school, Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of detention. Alone and without any skills, support or families, the teens find their way to the seedy and foreign world of Downtown Eastside Vancouver, where they cling together, striving to find a place of safety and belonging in a world that doesn't want them. The paths of the five friends cross and crisscross over the decades as they struggle to overcome, or at least forget, the trauma they endured during their years at the Mission.



How to Stitch an American Dream: A Story of Family, Faith and the Power of Giving by Jenny Doan

Over the last decade, the Doan family business has grown from Jenny's corner shop to become the largest supplier of pre-cut quilting fabric. In this memoir, Jenny reveals the full the behind-the-scenes story, from her humble beginnings as a homeschooling mom, to the remarkable success she's so well-known for today: the Missouri Star Quilt Company. In her heart-warming style, she invites you on her remarkable journey to overcome hardship and ignite the power of giving—all while revitalizing a small town along the way.



BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

The prolific author, Caroline B. Cooney is best known for her suspenseful YA books, most notably her 1990 novel, [The Face on the Milk Carton](#). A lifelong learner, when Cooney turned fifty, she moved to Manhattan for school, inspiring the setting for today's spotlight **Code Orange**. Cooney's novel takes place in 2004, a time when the city is still marred by the tragedy of the September 11th attacks but recovering.

Cooney writes in a young teen voice that's not only realistic but fun! Despite the weight of the world on his shoulders, Mitty is funny, charming, and a little self-deprecating. What makes **Code Orange** stand out from other YA thrillers, is that commitment to well-researched science. Not only does Cooney include a bibliography at the end, but her work was commended by the [National Science Teachers Association](#) as an "Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12". Written in 2005, **Code Orange** is surprisingly still relevant. Mitty's fear of quarantine and what viruses can do to the body gives an interesting reflection to the COVID-19 pandemic that would come almost 15 years later.

This set has **23 copies**. Find the Request Form [here](#). See Mackenzie's [full review here](#).

Cooney, Caroline B. **Code Orange**. Random House. 2005



COLOR OUR WORLD™



Summer Reading Workshop

Join us to prepare for a colorful summer. Hear about summer reading book picks, participate in demonstrations of crafts and activities and learn about event opportunities!

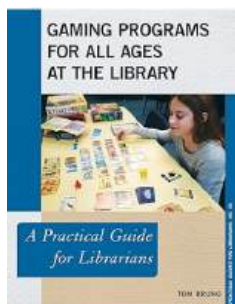
We'll all be together in Kearney!!

Wednesday, February 26th

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission

New Books for the System's Professional Library

Gaming Programs for All Ages at the Library by Tom Bruno



This book shows you how you can launch and support gaming programming in your library, including: how to make the case for library gaming with your administration, how to acquire and loan gaming materials (whether or not you have the budget for them!), how to publicize your library gaming programming, and how to incorporate other library units into the gaming experience. Everything from acquisitions to budgeting to circulation is covered in this practical guide.

What Every Library Director Should Know by Susan Carol Curzon



In this unconventional management book, Curzon presents a different take on traditional library management tools. Through personal narrative and anecdotes from other working professionals, she presents the many everyday challenges one meets as a library manager.

Who Comes Next? Leadership Succession Planning Made Easy by Mary C. Kelly and Meridith E. Powell



Leaders leave. It's inevitable. It might even happen today. Are you prepared? Every organization needs a plan for leadership succession, but few leaders know how to start the process. WHO COMES NEXT? solves that problem and easily guides you through the steps of creating a viable succession plan.

Don't Forget About...



Reader Zone

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission have teamed up to provide access to Reader Zone. This web-based software lets you create paperless reading logs. Your students and patrons can report their progress through the Reader Zone app or via the Reader Zone website. You will be able to see statistics and reports without having to compile them yourself. **This program is free for your library.** If you are not familiar with Reader Zone, [click on this link](#).

You will be able to create multiple "groups" to best serve your community's needs. For example - you might create a group for young readers that has the goal based on the number of books read per week, one for teens based on number of minutes spent reading per month, and then one for adults that has per-page milestones.

This system is available to public, school, and academic libraries year-round for reading programs for all ages. [Click here to sign up now!](#)

Contact denise.cpls@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Big Talk from Small Libraries

The conference will be broadcast online on Friday, February 28, 2025, from 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service.

The full schedule for the 2025 Big Talk from Small Libraries online conference is now available! All the details are on the [Schedule Page](#).

Information about the presenters is on the [Speakers Page](#).

If you haven't registered yet, now is the time to jump over to the [Registration Page](#) and sign up! **The conference is free and open to anyone in the world to attend!**



CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

Would you like to have a live performance at your library?

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers. Browse the Speakers Bureau Catalog: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/catalog/>.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Buffalo Bill's Nebraska by Jeff Barnes
- Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train by Charlotte Endorf
- Grit 'n' Gumption by Cherrie Beam-Callaway
- Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest by Jeff Kappeler
- Meet Buffalo Bill by Terry Lane
- Music of the Plains by David Marsh
- Nebraska Territory Stories by David Seay
- Overland Trails: The Children on the Trail by Renae Hunt

The Central Plains Library System will provide the administrative fee for each library in our System that books a Humanities Nebraska program this year. That means you can have a terrific live performance any time, without cost for your library.

1. First, contact the performer.
2. After your program details are finalized, fill out the form on the Humanities Nebraska website: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf>, print it out and mail it to the address on the bottom of page 2.
3. When completing the form, include the following on the bottom of the first page: "Please bill to CPLS."



AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

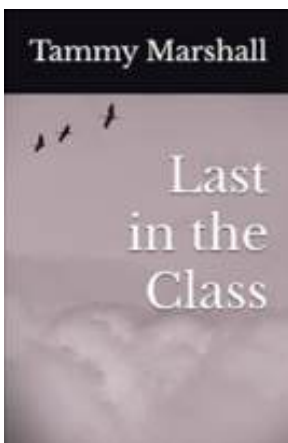
Here are some new additions:

A Very Woodsy Murder by Byron, Ellen
The Murder at the Vicarage by Christie, Agatha
The Diva Goes Overboard by Krista Davis
The Mighty Red by Erdrich, Louise
Beautiful Ugly by Feeney, Alice
End of Story by Finn, A. J.
The Last Word by Griffiths, Elly
Camino Ghosts by Grisham, John
Sandwich by Newman, Catherine
A Talent for Murder by Swanson, Peter
The New Couple in 5B by Unger, Lisa
One Perfect Couple by Ware, Ruth
Golden Hour by Woods, Stuart

Nebraska Author, Tammy Marshall

Tammy Marshall recently completed her seventh novel, *Last in the Class*. She lives in Neligh and is ready to travel. Tammy says:

I am hoping to make a lot of appearances across the state to promote [my seventh book] and to share my writing journey, so if you'd care to host me...please let me know. I'm happy to drive any distance as long as you are willing to have me! Please visit my website if you haven't ever done so. There, you will see all the prior appearances I've done as well as a lot of information about me and the other things I write. Here is the link: [Tammy Marshall's website](#)



After her high school graduation in 1960, Ginny Drummond left her small town in Iowa, vowing never to return. Years later, though, she attends her 50th class reunion--an event with life-changing ramifications for her and William Fairchild, the classmate who befriends her. The reunion is momentous for all their classmates because of an anonymous letter and its contents promising riches to the last surviving member of their class. Ginny and William initially believe the letter to be a joke, but things soon turn deadly because someone will stop at nothing to be the last in the class.

ARSL Awards for Libraries and Library Workers are now open!

Awards will be based on nominees' accomplishments during the preceding year (January–December 2024), with the exception of the Distinguished Service Award that can take into account nominees' career-long community engagement. Nominators will be asked to describe their nominees' commitment to ARSL's Organizational Values, as well as the strength of their professional practice in the focus area of the award for which they are being nominated.

Individuals or organizations can be nominated for multiple awards, but will only be able to win one award per year. Self-nominations and nominations of eligible libraries/library workers by non-library individuals or organizations are acceptable.

All recipients will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony at the 2025 ARSL Conference. In addition to receiving their award, all recipients will receive one (1) complimentary conference registration (\$300 value) each so they may be honored in person and celebrated by their ARSL community.

Complete your nominations by February 25, 2025.

[Submit Your ARSL Award Nominations](#)

[Learn More About the ARSL Awards](#)



Gov. Pillen Announces Jewel Rodgers as Nebraska State Poet

The state poet serves a five-year renewable term as an advocate for poetry, literacy and literature in Nebraska. Duties include giving public presentations and readings, leading workshops and discussions, and providing outreach in schools, libraries, literary festivals and other venues in communities throughout Nebraska. The person must be a full-time resident for at least three years prior to the application deadline and must remain a resident while serving as state poet. They must demonstrate not only professional success as a poet, but also community service in advancing poetry in Nebraska and an ability to interact effectively with an audience.

Rodgers has been a spoken word poet for more than a decade and has performed in schools, festivals, community settings, conferences, public events and other venues. She has written and performed for the city of Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), University of Nebraska – Omaha (UNO) and upon request for public officials like Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, Congressman Don Bacon and Gov. Pillen.

She has received numerous accolades, including being a 2022 Union for Contemporary Art Fellow, a 2023 Andy Warhol Populus Fund Grantee, and a 2024 finalist in the Blackberry Peach Poetry Slam.



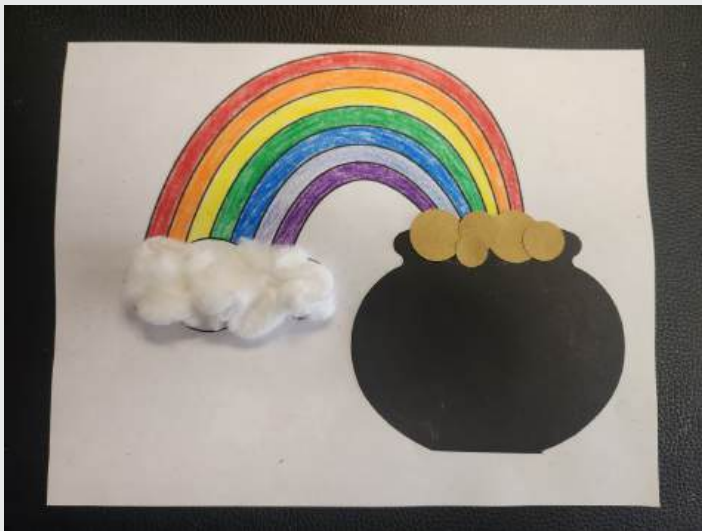


System Services Spotlight

Deb's Preschool Projects

These craft projects feature shapes made by the System's die cutting equipment. Our intent is to save our CPLS librarians valuable time each month. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at cplsasst@gmail.com. There is no charge for this service.

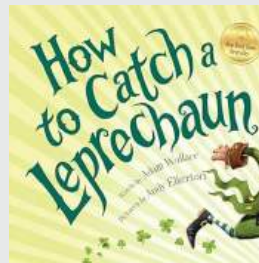
I expect to see a leprechaun lurking near this delightful pot of gold.



The children will need markers or crayons representing all the colors of the rainbow to start this project. They will also need school glue to affix the pot at the end of the rainbow, to add the gold coins to the pot, and to stick the cotton balls over the outline of the cloud.

Place your order for the craft materials before February 17, 2025.

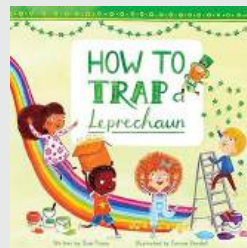
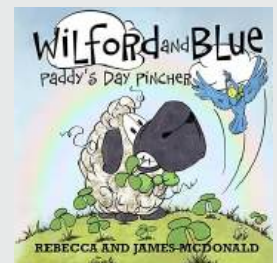
Book Suggestions:



How to Catch a Leprechaun
by Adam Wallace
Ages 3-6 years old

Wilford and Blue Paddy's Day Pincher

by Rebecca and James McDonald
Pre-K - 1st grade



How to Trap a Leprechaun
by Sue Fliess
Ages 3-6 years old



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

You may be looking forward to attending a training opportunity that will come up in 2025. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Who should the check be made out to _____

Other information _____

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2024, thru June 30, 2025, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.



\$20,000 in Internship Grants Awarded to Public Libraries

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded Nebraska Library Internship Grants totaling \$20,000 to sixteen Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska’s public libraries. “The internships are a great opportunity for students to get involved in library work. Beyond earning money and gaining valuable work experience, the student is exposed to the broad range of library services and programming. Internships provide an opportunity for the student to view the library as a viable and satisfying career choice. In addition, interns bring a fresh perspective and their own unique talents to the library,” said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. Student interns will learn about library work as they shadow staff, assist with day-to-day library operations, and implement special projects.

The following CPLS libraries were awarded 2025 internship grant funding:

- Garfield County Library, Burwell
- Gibbon Public Library
- Lexington Public Library
- Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library, Orleans
- Shelton Public Library



Funding for the project is supported and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.



Accredited Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director Christa Porter recently announced the accreditation of seven public libraries across the Central Plains Library System.

Porter stated, “We are dedicated to helping Nebraska libraries meet Nebraskans’ information needs. The Library Commission continues to work in partnership with Nebraska libraries and the regional library systems, using the Public Library Accreditation program to help public libraries grow and develop.”

Public libraries in Nebraska are accredited for a five-year period. To learn more about this process and to see a complete list of all accredited Nebraska public libraries, go to [Accreditation Status](#).

CPLS Public Libraries Accredited through December 31, 2029:

- Ainsworth Public Library
- Gibbon Public Library
- Grand Island Public Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Hildreth Public Library
- Loup City Public Library
- Scotia Public Library & Heritage Center

The most up-to-date news releases from the Nebraska Library Commission are always available on the Library Commission Website, [News Releases](#).

Tech Tips From Sherm



I hope everyone is off to a good start for 2025! Here’s a few technology tasks that I like to remind everyone about at the start of the year.

Backups! Are the important data and files backed up on regular basis? With the risk of Ransomware, it’s a more critical task than ever! Recommended backups include: At least monthly exports of the library’s customer/patron information, circulation data, and the collection’s MARC records from the Catalog/ILS (Integrated Library System).

Regular backups of the files on the Staff PCs.

I use the free 5gb Microsoft OneDrive cloud storage and have the files on my PC’s hard drive synch with OneDrive. If your library is paying for Office 365, you get even more storage! Google has this service too. You can also access these files from any PC with the login. This also makes for easy file sharing

Continued on page 15

I also pay for additional storage on Apple iCloud for my iPhone for storing photos and videos. I also periodically copy the photos and videos from my iPhone to my PC.

If the library is not using cloud storage, files should be copied/synched to an external backup drive. At least two external backup drives are recommended so that one is kept offsite (at home?) and they can be swapped out at least monthly.

If the library still has a physical in-house file server and/or ILS server is it getting backed up? Have the backups been validated? Are the backups kept offsite? Is the software still under maintenance and been updated as necessary? You really need to be working on moving it to the cloud if your library still has one of these.

PM (Periodic Maintenance) is necessary to the keep library's computers clean and cool.

- Take the desktop PCs outside, remove the cover, and blow out the dust with compressed air annually. This is especially important if they sit on the floor. Dust buildup interferes with the cooling of the PC's components. Laptops may need to be cleaned too, but take them to a trained service tech for that as they will need to be properly disassembled for this. With the PC out of the way for cleaning, dust the desktop too.
- I do eat at my desk, so I have to shake the crumbs out of my keyboard and hit it with compressed air periodically. I also regularly wipe it and my mouse down with a disinfecting wipe. Many libraries wipe down the Public PCs' keyboards and mice daily.
- Today's optical mice are far less maintenance than the old rollerball mice, but I like to clean the accumulated crud off their bottom sliding pads on a regular basis. If this hasn't been done for a while, it may need to be scraped off.
- Wipe the monitor screens with a soft towel damp with hot water and then dry it with a second soft towel it to eliminate any water streaks and spots. I like to use hot water because some cleaning products can damage the monitors' screen surface.

Windows 10 will be EOL (End-of-Life) in October which means Microsoft will no longer be providing security upgrades for it. Libraries should have plans in place to replace these PCs with new Windows 11 PCs if their current PCs can't be upgraded to Windows 11. Run the [PC Health Check](#) app on them to find out. If they are upgradeable, the Windows 11 upgrade can be found [here](#). Nobody should be using Windows PCs with the Internet that are not currently running Windows 10/11.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with the technology at your library, please contact me.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

February 6	Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
February 13	All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
February 17	Presidents' Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
February 20	System Directors' Quarterly Meeting with the Commission, 10am
February 26	CPLS Summer Reading Workshop, Kearney Public Library, 10am-3:30pm
February 28	Big Talk from Small Libraries Online Conference, 8:45am - 5pm
March 6	Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
March 13	All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
March 17	NLA Advocacy Day, Lincoln
March 18	"Game Night at the Library" Lexington Public Library, 2:00 - 4:30pm
April 3	Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
April 10	All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am
April 17	Central Plains Library System Board Meeting, Lexington Public Library, 10am
April 25	Arbor Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed

A library is not a
luxury but one of the
necessities of life.

~Henry Ward
Beecher

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