

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

Your System Board:

*Sherry Crow
Kristi Hagstrom
Ann Matzke
Debra Moninger
Linda Nickel
Megan Svoboda
Kathy Thomsen
Janet Wilke
Laurie Yocom
Joan Davis, Emeritus*



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HELP FOR SOMEONE WHO STRUGGLES WITH PRINT

You probably know this person. She is a retired teacher who began reading large print books because of macular degeneration. The selection of titles is limited, and she has been asking about other resources so she can keep abreast of current bestsellers.

Or you might know this gentleman. After a long career as a salesman, he has been looking forward to leisure time when, as a history buff, he can explore books about the settlement of the American West. But a stroke affected his ability to handle a book.

The Talking Book and Braille Service is free for any Nebraskan

- Who cannot read regular-sized print because of visual impairment;
 - Who cannot hold a book or turn its pages;
 - Who is unable to read or handle books due to accident, illness, surgery, or medication, even if the disability is temporary;
- Who has been certified by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy as having a reading disability, such as dyslexia.

The Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service, working with the Library of Congress, offers a wide collection of audio books that includes best-sellers, short stories, westerns, biographies, history, mysteries, and romances. This national collection is supplemented by books and magazines about Nebraska or the Great Plains, recorded in the Library Commission's own studios. The collection includes many of the selections used in community book clubs.

A digital player is loaned to each reader. Designed for ease of use and excellent sound quality, it has large buttons and can accommodate headphones for private listening. All materials are mailed directly to borrowers and returned postage-free.

Individual application forms for free talking book service can be downloaded and printed from: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/TBBS/applyforservice.aspx>; or a supply of application forms will be mail to your library upon request. If the individual qualifies because of visual or physical disability, the front of the application can be certified by a librarian, or by a medical doctor, eye doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, rehab counselor, or social worker. Reading disability such as dyslexia must be certified by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy.

For additional information, please contact 1-800-742-7691, or nlc.talkingbook@nebraska.gov.

David Oertli, Director
Talking Book and Braille Service



Today's Libraries Connect (E-)Readers but Face Roadblocks

Guest Editorial by Mary Jo Ryan,
Nebraska Library Commission

Nook. Kindle. iPad. Your local library. You've heard of all of these and you know that all four deliver digital content. But, according to the Pew Internet Project, most people don't know that U.S. public libraries provide ebooks and other digital resources. They are unaware of the fact that today's libraries offer books in a variety of formats—and so much more! Our Nebraska libraries continue to change and offer new services and programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. The number of Nebraska public libraries offering e-books has more than doubled in the last two years, with fifty percent now offering the service. This is just the latest chapter in the story of our commitment to reading, knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans.

Libraries help readers find authors, and authors find readers. We do this by selecting locally relevant materials, and through programs like One Book One Nebraska, as well as other collaborations with authors and publishers. Libraries also are engaged in growing and supporting the next generations of readers – encouraging children and young adults to read for fun and for success in school and life. But libraries face roadblocks. For the first time ever, we are barred from purchasing some materials our communities deserve. Right now, several of the largest trade publishers (known as “the Big Six”) refuse to sell e-books to public libraries. As a result, Nebraskans are not getting a fair deal. If our libraries' digital bookshelves mirrored the *New York Times* fiction best-seller list, we would be missing half of our collec-

tion on any given week due to these publishers' policies.

On the other hand, other publishers – including hundreds of smaller, independent presses and a rising tide of self-published authors – do understand the value of placing books in libraries. A recent report from *Library Journal* found that more than half of all library users report purchasing books by an author they discovered through the library. Publishing is not just another industry. It has special and important significance to society. Libraries complement and actively support this industry by supporting literacy and seeking to spread an infectious and lifelong love of reading and learning. Library lending encourages sampling new authors, topics, and genres. This experimentation stimulates the market for books, with the library serving as a discovery, promotion, and awareness service for authors and publishers. Every publisher must allow libraries to lend e-books so libraries can continue to work toward the mission of access for all.

But even if the publishers change their policies tomorrow, Nebraska libraries would have difficulty accessing the local funds to purchase all the ebooks and audio books that library customers need. Library customer demand continues to outpace supply. To address this, the Nebraska Library Commission has requested direct state funding to expand ebook and audio book borrowing access for Nebraskans. With an investment of less than 50 cents per person, Nebraskans can be assured that local libraries will do their best to continue their commitment to reading, knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans. For more information about Nebraska eReads, contact Francine Canfield, NE Library Association Advocacy Chair, 402-331-7636, fcanfield@cityofralston.com.

Supply Not Meeting Increasing Demand



Increased use of downloadable digital books by Nebraska public library users



Increase in number of times Nebraska public library users had to wait for downloadable digital books



Increase in number of downloadable digital books held by Nebraska public libraries

(Five-year trends)



The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) of ALA has announced that you may now register for Teen Tech Week here: www.ala.org/teentechweek. The annual celebration of digital literacy and technology via the library will be held March 10-16, 2013. Their slogan this year is: Check In @ your library.

YALSA is encouraging libraries to throw open their physical and virtual doors and showcase the outstanding technology they offer for teens and their families, from services such as online homework help and digital literacy-focused programs to resources like e-books, movies, music, audiobooks, databases and more.

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association and is aimed at teens, their parents, educators and other concerned adults. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens gain the digital literacy skills they need—with the help of libraries—in order to be successful in school and prepared to participate in a 21st century workforce.

Registrant benefits include a free webinar on maker spaces with Hilary Kolos from Dreamyard and materials from TTW Partners, such as database trials, books and more. For more information and to join, please visit the Teen Tech Week website.

March will be here before we know it!

Road Trip to ALA!



The American Library Association Annual Conference is being held in Chicago this summer. The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems have received word that we received a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission to help with the costs of chartering a bus for library staff that want to attend. As a requirement for the grant, we will need at least 30 Nebraska riders—which we're pretty confident we can accomplish. Plans are to leave on June 27th and return on July 2nd. We are not sure at this point whether or not we will need to charge riders a fee—but if we do, at the most it would be in the range of \$50-\$100. If this sounds of interest, please call or email the System Office and let us know as soon as possible.

Don't forget that the System Office has the following equipment for loan:

- 2 Accucut cutting machines with dies
- 2 eReaders

For full information, check out the Services drop down menu on our home page.

Public Libraries Invited to Apply for Internship Grants

Applications due Feb. 15, 2013

Award amount: \$500 – \$1,000

The Nebraska Library Commission's Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills program offers support for internships through grants to accredited public libraries. In partnership with the Nebraska Library Association and funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, the internship grants increase awareness about library professions and education and the opportunities for employment in Nebraska libraries.

So, what can your library do with the internship program?

- Share your enthusiasm for library education and the library profession
- Expand your programming
- Bring in fresh faces
- Show interns what happens behind-the-scenes
- Partner with other library types to show the variety of work settings

Internship grants range from \$500 to \$1,000. A library may provide one 100-hour internship during the summer months that might last eight weeks, or two 50-hour internships during the school year that might last ten weeks, depending on the needs of the library and the scheduling needs and qualifications of the internship candidates. Library grantees will recruit, select, and hire their interns. Usually, interns are hired as contract workers and paid on a stipend rather than an hourly wage, but the terms of employment are determined by the library's governing body. Interns provide valuable assistance with library service activities and local library programming. Library staff help introduce interns to the joys of library service careers. Partnership projects involving collaboration between a public library and another type of library will be given special consideration.

To apply: Applications are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15, 2013. More information is available on the Now Hiring @ your library@ website, at <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Internships.asp>.

Disaster Planning Using dPlan.org

Is your institution ready to deal with a disaster today?

Disasters can come in all shapes and sizes, from natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes) to emergencies resulting from an accident (burst water pipe), deferred maintenance (leaking roof), or negligence (fire or mold). An effective response will be determined by how well prepared you are to deal with a disaster.

Disaster planning is an essential component of preserving your institution's collections. With a written disaster plan, libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other collection-holding institutions can reduce the risk of disaster and minimize losses. dPlan is perfect for small and medium-sized institutions that do not have in-house preservation staff. dPlan is also valuable for large library systems or museum campuses that need to develop separate but related plans for multiple buildings, locations, or branches.

dPlan can help you create a plan for disaster prevention and response. Enter data into the online template to create a customized disaster plan for your institution. This plan will help you: prevent or mitigate disasters, prepare for the most likely emergencies, respond quickly to minimize damage if disaster strikes, and recover effectively from disaster while continuing to provide services to your community.



Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
Lexington Public Library
January 11, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Laurie Yocom called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Sherry Crow, Kristi Hagstrom, Linda Nickel, Debra Moninger, Megan Svoboda, Kathy Thomsen, Janet Stoeger Wilke, and Laurie Yocom were present. Also present was System Director Sharon Osenga and Richard Miller from the NLC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Linda Nickel moved and Kristi Hagstrom approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Sherry Crow moved and Linda Nickel seconded to approve previous minutes with corrections to the spelling of Laurie Yocom's last name. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence this quarter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sharon reviewed the budget to date and bills through the end of December. We are on target with spending so far this fiscal year. Kristi Hagstrom moved and Janet seconded to approve the bills through December 31, 2012. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

NLC REPORT: Richard Miller reported. 2013 Big Talk from Small Libraries: Successful, 500 participants, but would like more Nebraska presenters. Serving Spanish-Speaking populations online workshop: hopefully it will be taped because many interested even though distance and date makes it difficult. NLA Advocacy Day, Jan. 30, 2013: funds available. Heath Mellow is the new chair of appropriations. Teen Tech Week March 10-16. Easier Access to Census Statistics: <http://census.gov/easystats/>. Let's Build Nebraska: online resource to mobilize volunteer and nonprofit opportunities www.letsbuildnebraska.org. NCES Academic Library Survey: on biannual cycle for online survey. Public Libraries Survey: annual online survey. One Book One Nebraska: Republican Library System owns, but Meridian and other library systems looking to get book bags <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. United for Libraries: ALTAFF name changed. Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS): new forms so must say BARD or it is out of date. NCompass Live: Upcoming sessions discussed, CE doubles for presenters and Richard encourages you to volunteer your expertise. Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills: Internship grants available and discussed how interns are used.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Sharon reviewed her written report. Work Shops: Keeping Up with Technology was well received; the popular summer reading workshop with Jody Crocker and Sally Snyder will be in Oconto on March 7th; Youth Services Day in Grand Island Public Library will present Babies & Me for storytelling strategies (bring dolls to practice).

Week of Weeding: Last year's success inspired doing this again. The date will be January 14th – 19th and an e-reader will be awarded to one lucky participant.

Regional Library Systems: Discussed grant written to the Kiewit Foundation for partial funding of 2013 Leadership Institute; Panhandle Library Systems director position filled by Eric Green; Eastern and Northeast Library Systems are currently without directors.

Discussed: Susan Sapp created a personnel policy template for public libraries. We have a paper template and a recording that is being edited. It should be available to our libraries this spring and summer.

Library News: Marcy Andersen is new director at Thomas County Library in Thedford. They are signing up for Overdrive. Sharon visited with Marcy on Tuesday.

Michelle Archibeque at Burwell Jr-Sr High School is remodeling library. Sharon and Richard Miller met with Loup City Director to discuss reporting issues with combined school and public library – issues like accurate patron numbers and staffing statistics.

Business:

System Survey: Discussed. Next time we should allow the option for more than one choice to be marked.

Discussed eReaders that the system owns and whether or not they should be given as door prizes at upcoming meetings. The board decided to send out another written offer for libraries to borrow them in case they would be helpful for training with older models or fill some other need. We will revisit the need to keep in inventory at the next meeting after seeing response to reminder that the system has them available.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be a phone conference call on Wednesday, April 24th at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT: Linda Nickel moved and Kristi Hagstrom seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debby Moninger
Secretary/Treasurer



**Celebrate National Library Week
2013 with the theme: Communi-
ties matter @ your library.**



Take advantage of four education tracks with two programs in each by attending this national conference via streaming video!

Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems have purchased a site license for this symposium. The location will be Lexington Public Library, 907 North Washington, Lexington.

There is no charge for this workshop. Lunch is on your own. Note that there are programs scheduled over the lunch break so you might want to bring your lunch!

Schedule:

Table with 2 columns: Time and Session/Track details. Rows include 10:00-10:15 Introduction by Eve Poole, 10:15-11:15 Administration/Leadership Track, 11:30-12:30 Administration/Leadership Track, 12:30-1:30 Lunch Learnings, 1:30-2:30 Marketing/Customer Service Track, 2:45-3:45 Marketing/Customer Service Track, and 4:00-5:00 Closing Session.

Full information on sessions/speakers may be found at: <http://www.ala.org/pla/education/springsymposium>

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Library: _____

I plan to attend: ___ Administration/Leadership Track ___ Youth Services Track
___ Marketing/Customer Track ___ Technology Track

Please send registration form by March 18th to:

Meridian Library System
816 East 25th Street, Suite 7
Kearney NE 68847

Or e-mail: sosenga@frontiernet.net

Dig Into READING



Summer Reading
Program Workshop

Thursday, March 7
from 10:00—3:00

Oconto Public Library

Even though it's cold outside, summer is not as far off as you think! Prepare to make your Summer Reading Program a success by joining us for this workshop. Discover ways to use this year's slogan and provide fun activities for all ages.

Morning Session:

Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission, will share book reviews of books you can use in your program.

Share your own ideas for using this theme!

Lunch: Included in the registration fee.

Afternoon Session:

Jody Crocker, McCook Public Library, will present ideas to help make your program a success!



Registration Form

Name: _____

Library: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail check and registration fee of \$20 per person to:

Meridian Library System
816 East 25th Street, Suite 7
Kearney NE 68847

In case of inclement weather, please check to see if the workshop has been rescheduled.

Children's Services Workshop

April 18, 2013 from 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Grand Island Public Library, 211 North Washington

Morning:

Storytelling Tips and Techniques

Presented by Sandra Wallick

Lincoln City Libraries



Afternoon:

Babies and Me Storytimes

Presented by Alice Boeckman

Bellevue Public Library

(Bring a baby doll with you for practice!)

Registration Form

Name: _____

Library: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail registration form plus \$10/person to:

Meridian Library System
816 E 25th Street, Suite 7
Kearney NE 68847

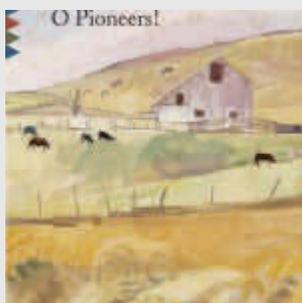
Lunch is on your own.

WEEK OF WEEDING

3448 items were weeded by eleven participating libraries. Linda Rosentreader from Ansley Public School Library is the winner of the Kindle E-Reader. Congratulations! Items weeded included books, cassette books, videos, atlases and encyclopedia sets from dates as early as 1907.



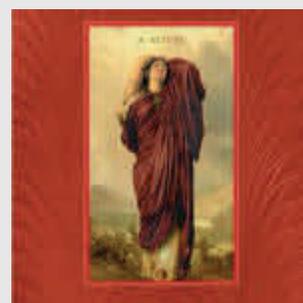
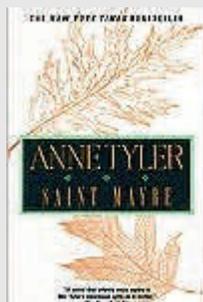
NEW BOOK CLUB TITLES



One Book, One Nebraska, 10 copies
Includes Leader Guide and Discussion Guide

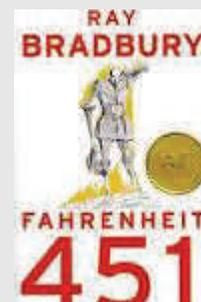
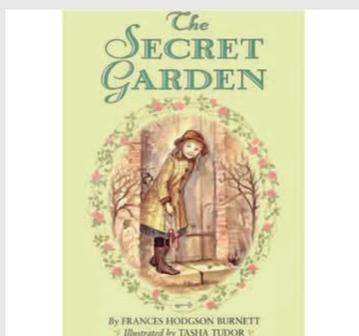
The Red Tent, 10 copies

Saint Maybe, 10 copies



Fahrenheit 451, 8 copies

The Secret Garden, 10 copies



You may reserve any of these titles by contacting the System Office

NEW!

Why Your **NEBRASKA** Public Library is Important

Percent of Nebraska public libraries that provide homework resources.

68%

88%

Libraries that assist their users with accessing and using e-government services

Libraries that host technology training sessions for the public

86.4%

82.2%

Libraries that provide the only free internet access in their communities

Number of Libraries with improved broadband internet access speed since 2010

39.3%

74%

Libraries providing wireless internet access

▶ **140** Nebraska Public Libraries loan e-books - that's 52% (40% last year) of Nebraska public libraries. The state population served by these libraries:

1,424,584

▶ **78%**

of all Nebraska RESIDENTS

▶ **2,327** Number of free computers available to the public.

AMAZING!

An increase of

▶ **20%**

compared to 2010

Number of registered **NEBRASKA** library users

1,024,376

Number of resources in **NEBRASKA** libraries

7,529,369

Sources: 2010-2011 Nebraska Public Libraries Survey (222 or 82% responding).

Hoffman, Judy, John Carlo Bertot, and Denise M. Davis. Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2011-2012. Seventy-five Nebraska libraries participated.



Nebraska Library Commission

For more information see www.nlc.nebraska.gov/stats/