

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

APRIL/MAY 2006

Your System Board:

Joan Davis
Maxine Erpelding
Gail Irwin
Penny Jeffrey
Mary Koch
Laura Martinsen
Kristina Owen
Michelle Self
Stacy Vogel



Meridian Library System
Suite B
3519 Second Avenue
Kearney NE 68847

Phone: 800-657-2192

Phone: 308-234-2087

Fax: 308-234-4040

Email:

sosenga@frontiernet.net

Website:

www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/

PLA National Conference—Boston 2006

As always, I will try to share some of the highlights of this conference with you in this newsletter issue and the summer issue.

The first event I attended was a pre-conference on Crossing the Aisle—Reader's Advisory for History—Fiction and Non-Fiction. This was an excellent introduction to the historical fiction genre. The keynote speaker, Sarah Johnson, shared the following Guide to Historical Fiction Subgenres.

The Basics:

Traditional Historical Novels: Entertaining, straightforwardly-told novels that portray a historical period, place and its inhabitants as realistically as possible. Benchmark authors include Jean Auel, Jean Plaidy, Sharon Kay Penman and W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear.

Multi-Period Epics: Chronological fictional snapshots of one historical period, or about a particular cultural/ethnic group, which show how a place and its people have changed over time. Benchmark authors include James Michener and Edward Rutherford.

Sagas: Historical novels that focus on characters' domestic lives and family relationships, especially over multiple generations. They may occur in multi-volume series. Benchmark authors include Alex Haley, John Jakes, Eugenia Price, Catherine Cookson and Philippa Carr.

Western Historical Novels: Novels set in the historical American West, from the mid-16th century through the mid-20th century, which incorporate significant historical detail and a strong sense of place. Benchmark authors include Louis L'Amour, Larry McMurtry, Jeanne Williams, Don Coldsmith and Elmer Kelton.

Genre-Blending:

Historical Mysteries: Novels in which detectives from past eras serve justice by solving crimes, using techniques appropriate to the time period. Benchmark authors include Margaret Frazer, Anne Perry, Ellis Peters, and Elizabeth Peters.

(continued on page 4)

The CHIRS Road Team Is Coming Your Way!

by Teresa Hartman

Is it a NASCAR racing team? Is it a lost Paris-Dakar rally team? No, it's the CHIRS Road Team of 2006! CHIRS librarians will be traveling Nebraska highways this April to visit public libraries. During each visit, team members will deliver new display materials, discuss upcoming CHIRS training opportunities, and describe plans for the new Go Local Nebraska initiative (<http://www.unmc.edu/library/golocal/>). Each visit will also be a time to catch up on ways that your library and patrons use the CHIRS services, and how the CHIRS librarians can best work for you and with you in the years to come.

The CHIRS Road Team will be making their travel schedule during March, and plan to visit as many public libraries as they can. If you would like the CHIRS Road Team to visit your library, please send an email to thartman@unmc.edu.



CD/DVD Cleaning/Repairing

The South Sioux City Public Library has purchased a machine to clean and repair CDs and DVDs. We are charging \$2 per use. If you have any repair/cleaning needs, we are happy to do them for you. We are also cleaning/repairing patron CDs/DVDs. Just let me know that they are coming, we will take care of them and bill you for repair/cleaning plus postage to mail them back.

Kathy Jacobs, Director

South Sioux City Public Library

2121 Dakota Avenue

South Sioux City, NE 68776

Phone: 402-494-7545



Trustee Citation Award Nominations

It is time to think about nominating your outstanding trustee(s) for the Trustee Citation Award. Here is the criteria for the award.

Criteria:

The recipient must be a member of the Trustees, Users and Friends Section of the

Nebraska Library Association. Send three letters of support for your nominee with your letter of nomination by July 10th to the TUFSS Chair, Maggie Harding, PO Box 98, Crete NE 68333. Selection will be made on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Contribution toward the implementation of sound, efficient library policies resulting in the advancement of library service within the community.
2. Contribution toward the strengthening of library services outside the area of the local community (regional, statewide or national).
3. Effectiveness in serving jointly as the library's spokesperson to the community, and the communities' spokesperson to the library.



Meritorious Service & Mari Sandoz Awards

The NLA Citation Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2006.

The **Meritorious Service Award** is given annually to a person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation.

The **Mari Sandoz Award** recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

Nomination procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.
2. At least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination are required. Such letters may provide further information about the nomination.
3. The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.
4. More information and lists of past recipi-

ents may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/handbook/handbook8.htm>

5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by May 30, 2006.

Mail to:

Sally Payne, Chair NLA Citation Committee

Sump Memorial Library

222 N Jefferson St.

Papillion, NE 68046

Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail to spayne@sumplibrary.info



Woman's Day magazine wants to learn how the library has changed lives

The magazine announced the editorial initiative in its March 7 issue, which reached subscribers last week. In the issue, the magazine declares that libraries are magical places and asks readers to submit their stories in 700 words or less. Stories can be sent to womansday@ala.org from now until May 10, 2006, when the promotion closes. Four of the submissions will be featured in an upcoming issue of Woman's Day.

Librarians can promote the initiative in their library by downloading free promotional tools from the ALA @ your library® Web site, <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/wdchangelives.htm> Tools include a sample press release, downloadable logos, sample newsletter copy and flyer.

In the same issue, Woman's Day highlights the two winners from last years editorial initiative, which asked people why they would want to research their family trees at the library. The four-page article features librarians Howard Gruenberg from the Urbana (Ill.) Free Library and Shellie Cocking from the San Francisco Public Library guiding the winners through library resources to help them discover new parts of their family history. It also includes a sidebar with tips on plotting family history from ALA member Stephen C. Young of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Young is chair of the genealogy committee for the Reference and User

Services Associations (RUSA) history section.

The ALA partnership with Woman's Day began in 2002 with a series of workshops for aspiring writers led by writers from the magazine. It has developed into a multi-program partnership that has resulted in approximately \$4 million in library-related editorial coverage in five issues of the magazine, donated ad space and an online book club featuring ALA members.

The writing workshops will kick off again this year during National Library Week at 10 community college and public libraries throughout the country. Currently, the Woman's Day online book club features YALSA members book recommendations for young adults, and beginning this summer, the book club will highlight RUSA members. The book club is available by visiting www.womansday.com/community.

Woman's Day is a Founding Partner of The Campaign for Americas Libraries, the ALA's multi-year public awareness and advocacy campaign to promote the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st century.



Step Up to the Plate @ your library®: Baseball Hall of Fame Named Campaign Founding Partner

The American Library Association is pleased to announce that the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is the latest Founding Partner in @ your library®, The Campaign for America's Libraries, ALA's national, multi-year public awareness and advocacy campaign about the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st century.

As a Founding Partner, the Hall of Fame is co-developing with ALA a new baseball literacy program that will launch at the end of April. Entitled "Step Up to the Plate @ your library®," the initiative continues the program originally developed with Major League Baseball, which successfully concluded in 2005.

"To be a founding partner in the Step Up to the Plate @ your library initiative is a wonderful extension of the Baseball Hall of Fame's education mission," says Dale Petroskey, president, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. "The collaboration of such an historic museum with an organization of the ALA's distinction will further promote the importance of 21st century literacy and encourage a love of libraries and baseball as two of our greatest national pastimes."

The Hall of Fame is creating all new baseball trivia questions for the program, as it has done for the last several years. Questions will be organized by age group (10 and under, 11-13, 14-17 and 18 and over) and address five topic areas: women in baseball; African-Americans in baseball; Hispanics in baseball; Major League Baseball; and ball parks.

The Hall of Fame also is providing new prizes and incentives for the program. The 2006 Step Up to the Plate grand-prize will be a trip for two to Cooperstown to attend the museum's World Series Gala event on Saturday, October 21, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hall of Fame.

Twenty first-place prize packages also will be awarded (five in each of the four age groups). They will include a commemorative hardbound copy of the Hall of Fame Yearbook; Hall of Fame t-shirt; commemorative set of 20 Hall of Fame baseball cards; DVD copy of the classic baseball movie, "The Sandlot;" miniature souvenir Akademia Pro baseball glove; and a Jackie Robinson History Lives poster from ALA Graphics.

More information about "Step Up to the Plate @ your library" will be released later this month on the @ your library Website at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary, including prizes and incentives for libraries that bring in the most entries and resources to help libraries promote the program locally.



Crossing the Aisle: Reader's Advisory continued from page one:

Romantic Historical Novels: Emotionally engaging novels focusing on the love relationship between two people, most typically a woman and a man. Three categories, depending on the novel's scope and the history/romance balance: romantic epics, romantic historicals and historical romances. Benchmark authors include Jo Beverley, Sara Donati, Roberta Gellis, Georgette Heyer, M.M. Kaye and Maggie Osborne.

Historical Adventure: Fast-paced, action-oriented historical novels with heroic protagonists who travel far and wide in their quest for adventure, to fight the enemy, or to face off against nature. Benchmark authors include James Clavell, Bernard Cornwell, C.S. Forester and Patrick O'Brian.

Historical Thrillers: Suspenseful stories set in the past that feature intelligent protagonists (usually male) who find themselves in perilous situations, with potential danger always around the corner. Benchmark authors include Caleb Carr, Ken Follett and Alan Furst.

Literary Historical Novels: Lyrically written novels that use historical settings, eloquent language, and multi-layered plotlines to convey contemporary themes. Benchmark authors include Tracy Chevalier, Susan Vreeland and Sarah Dunant.

Christian Historical Novels: Novels in which the authors share their own deeply held Christian beliefs via thoughtful stories about characters who struggle to live godly lives in an imperfect world. Most often used to refer to evangelical fiction; also called "inspirational fiction" by publishers. Benchmark authors include Gilbert Morris, Tracie Peterson, Michael Phillips, Francine Rivers and Bodie and Brock Thoene.

The Outer Limits

Time-Slip Novels: Creatively written novels that help readers imagine that slipping from one time period to another is indeed possible. Benchmark authors include Barbara Erskine, Jack Finney, Kage Baker and Anya Seton.

Alternate History: Novels that examine alternative possible outcomes for past events, exploring how history may have changed as a result. Benchmark authors include Harry Harrison, Harry Turtledove, Newt Gingrich and William Fortschen.

Historical Fantasy: Historical novels that contain elements of the fantastic: magic, supernatural powers, mythical creatures, and the like. Benchmark authors include Marion Zimmer Bradley, Barry Hughart, Rosalind Miles and Judith Tarr.



Green Darkness by Anya Seton is one of my favorite historical fiction novels. I first read it in college and was intrigued to find it on the bibliography for this the Reader's Advisory program. This time slip novel begins in 1968 but travels back to

the 1550's. The characters in 1968 are other characters in their 1500's incarnations. This is a novel about righting a wrong in the past before happiness can be found in the present. Highly recommended for those of you who like historical fiction!



Something Happened at the Library

This was the last program that I attended and was a fun way to end the conference. Presenter Rob Reid is a former Children's Librarian and this was a hands-on action filled session. Below is a wonderful book rap that could be used when you are meeting with a group of kids to talk about books.

"The Rappin' Rob Library Rap"

I'm Rappin' Rob and I gotta job and that's tellin' kids about books.

So lend me an ear...get over here! And don't give me no dirty looks.

I'm a storyteller, a pretty nice feller. There's no need for you to be wary.

Get your act together, get light as a feather and

fly down to the library.

We g-g-got...We g-g-got...We g-g-got...B B B B
B-Books on...

Boys digging holes,
Boys swallowin' keys,
Chrysanthemum,
Minerva Louise.

A Winn-Dixie dog
And froggies that flew,
A princess diary and a
Click Clack Moo!

Olivia the pig,
The Redwall crew,
The Stinky Cheese Man
And others—PU!

We got your sideways stories

From a wayside school;
Or is it wayside stories
From a sideways school?

Yo! Yes? Chicka Boom
And a Zin! Zin! Zin!

A Lon Po Po,
I Spy! We Win!

Hey! Junie B. Jones!
You know that we got her,
And how could we ever
Forget Harry Potter!

We g-g-got books!

Now I've said my rap, think I'll take a nap. Hope
my dreams aren't scary.

'Cause when I wake up all new, I'll find that my
dreams have come true

'Cause I'm going to the library!

Rob's Humor Tricks of the Trade:

1. Prepare Your Audience—"Storyteller Warm-ups" from *Something Funny Happened...*
2. Be Expressive.
3. Find Your Voice.
4. Experiment
5. Create Material—"She'll Be Driving a Bulldozer" from *Storytime Slam*.
6. Pace Yourself.
7. Avoid Inappropriate Humor.
8. Have Fun.

What gets the loudest laughs from the kids?

Believe it or not: "Two Little Blackbirds" from
Family Storytime.

GRAB THEM! BOOKS WITH REAL GUY APPEAL

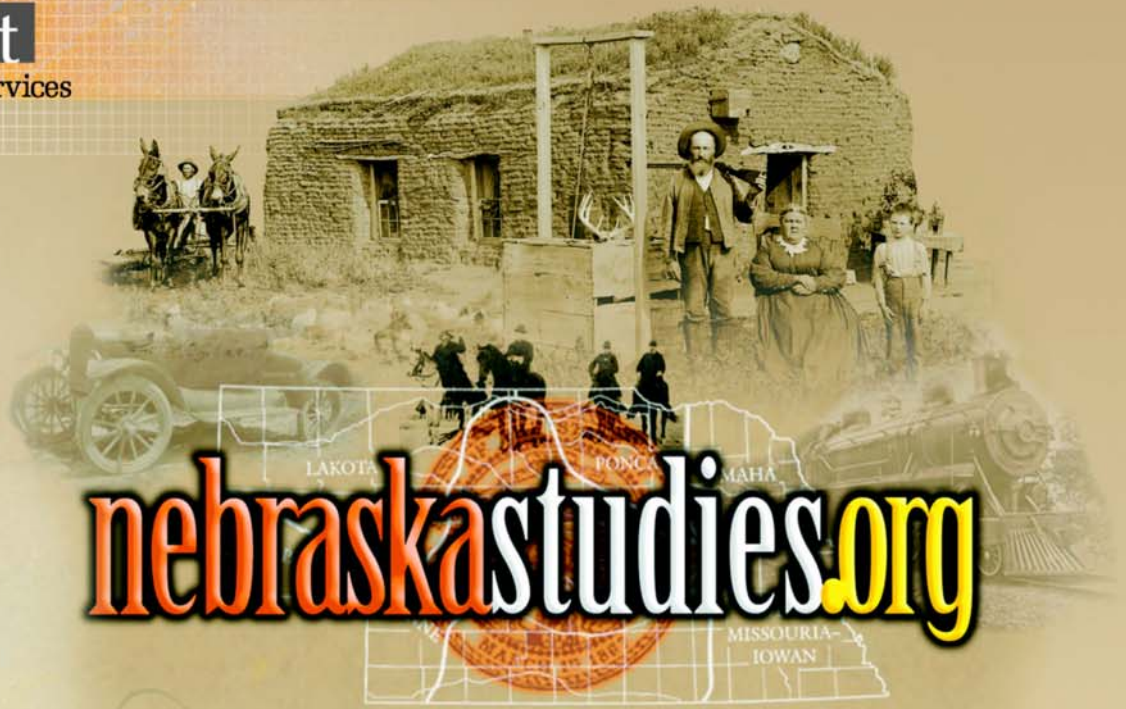
compiled by Kathleen Baxter for PLA 3/23/06

Author	Title	ISBN	Grade
Lauber, Patricia	WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT TUBS, TOILETS, AND SHOWERS	0689824203	2 - 4
Goodman, Susan	THE TRUTH ABOUT POOP	0670036749	2 - 5
Davies, Nicola	POOP: A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE UNMENTIONABLE	0763624373	2 - 5
MacDonald, Fiona	A MEDIEVAL CASTLE	0872263401	
Simon, Seymour	GUTS: OUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	00602546522	1 - 5
Solway, Andrew	WHAT'S LIVING IN YOUR BEDROOM?	1403448450	3 - 6
Fradin, Dennis Brindell	WITH A LITTLE LUCK: SURPRISING STORIES OF AMAZING DISCOVERIES	0525471960	4 - up
Masoff, Joy	OH, YUCK! THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EVERYTHING NASTY	0761100711	4 - 9
Bagert, Brod	GIANT CHILDREN	0803725566	1 - 5
Scieszka, Jon	GUYS WRITE FOR GUYS READ	0670060070	5 - up
Settel, Joanne	EXPLODING ANTS: AMAZING FACTS ABOUT HOW ANIMALS ADAPT	0689817395	4 - 6
Fredericks, Anthony D.	CANNIBAL ANIMALS: ANIMALS THAT EAT THEIR OWN KIND	0531117014	3 - 5
Montgomery, Sy	THE TARANTULA SCIENTIST	0618147993	4 - 9
Cerullo, Mary M.	THE TRUTH ABOUT GREAT WHITE SHARKS	811824675	4 - 8
Markle, Sandra	GREAT WHITE SHARKS	157505731x	3 - 7
Editors of TIME For Kids with Adrienne Betz	SHARKS! (Time for Kids Science Scoops Confident Reader 3)	0060576332	2 - 5
Siy, Alexandra	MOSQUITO BITE	1570915911	2 - 5
Coren, Stanley	WHY DO DOGS HAVE WET NOSES?	1553376579	2 - 5
Lauber, Patricia	THE TRUE-OR-FALSE BOOK OF DOGS	0060297670	1 - 4
Halls, Kelly Milner	ALBINO ANIMALS	1581960123	4 - 8
Sloan, Christopher	HOW DINOSAURS TOOK FLIGHT: THE FOSSILS, THE SCIENCE, WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW, AND THE MYSTERIES YET UNSOLVED	0792272986	4 - up
Chin, Dr. Karen & Thom Holmes	DINO DUNG: THE SCOOP ON FOSSIL FECES (Step into Reading Step 5)	0375927026	1 - 3
Kudlinski, Kathleen V.	BOY, WERE WE WRONG ABOUT DINOSAURS	0525469788	K - 4
Hort, Lenny	DID DINOSAURS EAT PIZZA? MYSTERIES SCIENCE HASN'T SOLVED	0805067574	K - 3
Larson, Peter/Kristin Donnan	BONES ROCK! EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE A PALEONTOLOGIST	193122935X	4 - up
Jenkins, Steve	PREHISTORIC ACTUAL SIZE	0618535780	all ages
Putnam, James	MUMMY	0679838813	4 - up
Wilcox, Charlotte	BOG MUMMIES: PRESERVED IN PEAT	0736813063	3 - 6
Deem, James M.	BODIES FROM THE BOG	0618354026	4 - 8
Markle, Sandra	OUTSIDE AND INSIDE MUMMIES	0802789665	4 - 7
Tanaka, Shelley	MUMMIES: THE NEWEST, COOLEST & CREEPIEST FROM AROUND THE WORLD	0810957973	4 - 7
Hawass, Zahi	TUTANKAHMUN: THE MYSTERY OF THE BOY KING	0792283546	4 - up

GRAB THEM! BOOKS WITH REAL GUY APPEAL

compiled by Kathleen Baxter for PLA 3/23/06

Author	Title	ISBN	Grade
Raczka, Bob Jackson, Donna M.	UNLIKELY PAIRS: FUN WITH FAMOUS WORKS OF ART THE WILDFIRE DETECTIVES: HOW FORENSIC SCIENTISTS FIGHT CRIMES AGAINST NATURE	0761329366 0395869765	3 - up 3 - 7
Jackson, Donna	THE BONE DETECTIVES: HOW FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGISTS SOLVE CRIMES AND UNCOVER MYSTERIES OF THE DEAD	0316829358	5 - 8
Watkins, Richard	GLADIATOR	03952656X	4 - 8
Jeffrey, Gary & Kate Petty	JULIUS CAESAR: THE LIFE OF A ROMAN GENERAL (Graphic Nonfiction)	1404202390	4 - up
Kent, Peter	GO TO JAIL! A LOOK AT PRISONS THROUGH THE AGES	0761304029	3 - 6
MacDonald, Fiona	YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN A MEDIEVAL DUNGEON: PRISONERS YOU'D RATHER NOT MEET	053112312x	4 - 8
Butterfield, Moira	PIRATES & SMUGGLERS (Kingfisher Knowledge)	0753458640	4 - 8
Barretta, Gene	NOW & BEN: THE MODERN INVENTIONS OF BEN FRANKLIN	0805079173	K - 3
Smith, Lane	JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE & BEN	0786848936	
Johnson, Dolores	ONWARD: A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLAR EXPLORER MATTHEW HENSON	079229714x	4 - up
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	HITLER YOUTH: GROWING UP IN HITLER'S SHADOW	0439353793	5 - up
Nicholson, Dorinda Makanaonalani	REMEMBER WWII: KIDS WHO SURVIVED TELL THEIR STORIES	0792271793	4 - up
Whiteman, Dorit Bader	LONEK'S JOURNEY: THE TRUE STORY OF A BOY'S ESCAPE TO FREEDOM	1595720219	4 - up
Bausum, Ann	FREEDOM RIDERS: JOHN LEWIS AND JIM ZWERG ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT	0792241738	5 - up
Demarest, Chris L.	ALPHA BRAVO CHARLIE: THE MILITARY ALPHABET	0689869282	K - 3
Doeden, Matt	THE U.S. MARINE CORPS (Blazers: the U.S. Armed Forces)	0736827390	3 - 9
Savage, Jeff	THE X-GAMES: SKATEBOARDING'S GREATEST EVENT	0736827072	3 - 9
Agee, John	SMART FELLER FART SMELLER AND OTHER SPOONERISMS	078683692X	4 - up
Hopkins, Lee Bennett	OH, NO! WHERE ARE MY PANTS? AND OTHER DISASTERS: POEMS	0688178618	1 - 4
Macy, Sue	FREEZE FRAME: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS	0792278879	4 - up
Stewart, Mark	THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (Team Spirit)	1559530066	2 - 5
Krull, Kathleen	HOUDINI: WORLD'S GREATEST MYSTERY MAN AND ESCAPE KING	0802789536	3 - 5
Walker, Sally M.	SECRETS OF A CIVIL WAR SUBMARINE: SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THE H.L. HUNLEY	1575058308	4 - up
Stewart, Robert with Clint Twist & Edward Horton	MYSTERIES OF HISTORY	0792262328	5 - up
Yolen, Jane & Heidi Elisabeth Yolen Stemple	THE MARY CELESTE: AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY FROM HISTORY	0689810792	2 - 5
Holub, Joan	HOW TO FIND LOST TREASURE IN ALL FIFTY STATES AND CANADA TOO!	0689826435	4 - up
Baxter, Kathleen A./Michael Dahl	GOTCHA COVERED: MORE NONFICTION BOOKTALKS TO GET KIDS EXCITED ABOUT READING	1591582253	
Prelutsky, Jack	IT'S SNOWING! IT'S SNOWING! WINTER POEMS (An I Can Read Book)	006537167	K - 4
Katz, Alan & David Catrow	WHERE DID THEY HIDE MY PRESENTS? SILLY DILLY CHRISTMAS SONGS	0689862148	all ages



nebraskastudies.org

Bringing History to Life



*"I just
took a look at
www.nebraskastudies.org
and all I can say is, 'Wow!'
We will be using this site
as our history text. Wow!"*

**- Diane Willadsen,
Teacher, Elmwood-Murdock**

One click on the Nebraska Studies Web site (nebraskastudies.org) offers teachers, students and history buffs access to archival photos, documents, letters, video segments, maps and more – capturing the life and history of Nebraska from pre-1500 to the present. Begun in 2000 as a partnership between NET (Nebraska Educational Telecommunications), the Nebraska State Historical Society and the State Department of Education, Nebraska Studies is a window into day-to-day living within the context of larger historical events.

The newest addition to the site, "Tri-County" Project," connects historical situations to current issues in water use and conservation as they affect Nebraska and the western United States. Materials include the story of C.W. McConaughy and his long struggle to bring irrigation to Nebraska farmers through a series of lakes and canals, as well as the story of Kingsley Dam and irrigation throughout the south central Nebraska area, beginning with the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s. The module includes biographical and historical information about numerous irrigation proponents of the era, the physical and technical requirements of the mammoth project and includes lesson plans in science as well as social studies.

Telling Nebraska's stories through identifiable places and people draws students into their history. The module provides a fresh perspective on institutions often taken for granted and provides a historical context for discussing environmental, agricultural and energy issues. All segments in the timeline also supply suggested classroom activities and/or lesson plans that match specific Nebraska state education standards.

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and Water for the West provided support for the development of the "Tri-County" Project" module.

Board Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2006
Conference Call

CALL TO ORDER: President Gail Irwin called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Board members answering roll call were: Joan Davis, Maxine Erpelding, Gail Irwin, Penny Jeffrey, Mary Koch, Kristina Owen, Michelle Self, and Stacy Vogel. Also present was Administrator Sharon Osenga.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Maxine Erpelding, seconded by Stacy Vogel, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Penny Jeffrey made a motion, seconded by Kristina Owen, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2005 and January 12, 2006 meetings as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you notes were read from Arnold Public Schools for the four books; Ravenna Public Library for the excellent Youth Services Retreat; Broken Bow Public Library for the Children's Youth Services grant; and, from Litchfield Public School, also for the Children's Youth Services grant.

There was some discussion about the need to further clarify the grant rules but there was general consensus that the rules are clearly stated and that there should be no further obligation to contact an applying entity if the rules are not followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sharon reported we are in good shape as far as the budget. Travel appears to be a problem but her travel has already been, or will be, reimbursed by the NE Library Commission so we are okay there. We will be over-budget on insurance but knew that when the year started. Penny Jeffrey made a motion, seconded by Michelle Self, to approve the treasurer's report and the bills for January – February. Roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Workshops: Board packets included evaluation forms from the Online Reference Workshop and the Youth Services Retreat sponsored by Meridian, Northeast and Republican Valley Library Systems. Aurora worked out well for the Youth Services Retreat and will probably be used again in two years.

Public Library Association Annual Conference: Sharon just returned by PLA in Boston. Good conference and speakers. Noticed a move away from so many technology topics to more traditional ones. Linda Ellerbee was the keynote speaker. The Nebraska Library Commission will reimburse her costs.

Mountain Plains Library Association State Conferences: Sharon will attend 3 state conferences as re-

quired by virtue of being President of MPLA. She will attend New Mexico's April 19-21; South Dakota's September 20-22; and, Colorado's November 9-11. Costs will be paid by MPLA.

Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference: It will be held at the Qwest Center October 25-27. Pre-conference will be a tour and wine tasting at Brownville.

Grants: The systems were awarded an LSTA grant for purchase of MP3 players and iPods to be used for downloadable audio and then loaning them to libraries. Applications for Continuing Ed. grants are now available. At least four of the Systems will write a C.E. grant to bring in Karen Hyman.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

Annual meeting: The annual meeting will be June 16th at Ainsworth. The program will feature a slideshow by Dean Jacobs, entitled, "A Wondrous Journey." He will have books available for purchase. The annual meeting will be at 11:00 followed by lunch and the program. Cost is \$10 and attendance is mandatory for Meridian System board members.

Board elections: Joan Davis goes off the board. Joan expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board. Need a library user to fill her position and can be from anywhere in the System. Sharon needs to have names by May 1. Nomination form was in the last newsletter.

Public Address System Loan Policy: The Nebraska Library Commission bought each system a public address system with lapel mike. Sharon presented a public address system loan policy for our approval. Stacy Vogel moved, with a second from Maxine Erpelding, to approve the policy. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be our annual meeting June 16th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ainsworth Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT: Maxine Erpelding made a motion, seconded by Penny Jeffrey, to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koch
Meridian Library System Board Secretary



**Proper Disposal of Computer Equipment
(Preventing Toxic PC Junk from
Getting into Landfills)
By John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library**

Everyone that possesses and uses computer equipment will have to get rid of it eventually. Unfortunately, computer equipment has a number of toxic materials imbedded within it. So, environmentally conscious librarians (as I am sure just about all of us are) need to be aware of (a) the hazardous nature of the materials within, (b) how to properly recycle computers and (c) how to properly dispose of them.

First, we need to become aware of just what is so toxic and hazardous about the computer equipment that we are ready to dispose of. According to a recent article in the *Galt Global Review*, "Landfill and incinerator facilities are often the final resting place for electronic waste. Computers, cell phones, electronic games, television sets – are piling up with increasing rapidity, ready to be burned or buried. But are you aware that these leftover gadgets are loaded with toxins that can leak into the groundwater or produce carcinogens and toxins. Your computer equipment could contain highly toxic materials. Computer equipment is a complicated assembly of more than 1,000 materials, many of which are highly toxic, such as chlorinated and brominated substances, toxic gases, toxic metals, biologically active materials, plastics and plastic additives."¹

Given this, we librarians need to be good shepherds of our environment, and properly dispose of our obsolete assets. If the computers are not too old, and they are complete, consider donating them to another activity that perhaps can use the lesser capabilities available in these machines. Generally speaking most activities have certain minimum equipment standards, and will require an operational and complete machine (CPU, keyboard, monitor, mouse and the cords). If it is not possible to give them to an activity that can use them as is, or they are not complete, it may be possible to donate them to an activity that can find a home for them. My research today indicates that the Salvation Army in both Omaha and Lincoln will take computer equipment that will run, including incomplete units. They told me today that they

will take CPUs, Monitors, Keyboards, Mice, and Printers. The only problem is that they are only located in Omaha and Lincoln, with no facilities further west or north. So, if you can, the equipment can be dropped off at one of the following addresses in Lincoln or Omaha:

- 82nd and Grover (East of Magelsens) in Omaha
- 84th and Park Drive in Ralson
- 75th and Dodge in Omaha
- 1502 Harland Drive in Bellevue
- 48th and Leiton in northern Lincoln
- 48th and VanDorn in southern Lincoln

If you have equipment that simply needs to be recycled, then there are some recyclers available to take your equipment and recycle it in an environmentally conscious way. Generally, they take any equipment, but there is unusually per pound fee of from \$0.25 to \$0.35. The important thing is that they will separate and properly dispose of the toxic materials and ensure that they are recycled in a manner that does not affect the environment. It is important that before you give them a call before you take the material to them and they will advise you what they will take that day:

- CP Recovery, 7534 F Street, Omaha, 402-331-1630
- Electronic Recyclers, 1528 North 16th Street, Omaha, 402-408-0053
- Computer Renaissance, 330 North 48th Street, Lincoln, 402-564-4040
- Lincoln Action Program, 240 P Street, Lincoln, 402-471-4528

These are the only recyclers that I could find in Nebraska. Hopefully, the information presented here may help you to properly dispose of your obsolete or non-operational computer equipment.

¹ www.galtglobalreview.com/business/toxic_pcs.html, Old PC Toxic in Landfill Sites, Page 1





The Road to the Code

The Road to the Code

Leads to Lincoln . . .

May 20th, 2006 9:30 a.m.

No standing in line for tickets, no fighting Friday night crowds, no searching for parking – just a chance to see a blockbuster movie with library friends and support the Southeast Library System at the same time. The SELS Friends are pleased to announce that on the morning of Saturday, May 20, a special showing of **"The Da Vinci Code"** will be held at the East Park Theater in Lincoln. The movie, directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, premieres at the Cannes film festival on May 17 and will be released in the United States on May 19. Attending the May 20 show guarantees you will be in the know when the movie buzz hits your library!

Advance ticket sales are now available on a first come, first served basis. If you are a member of the SELS Friends, ticket cost is \$7.50 which includes special seating in the Friends VIP section. If you are not a member, general admission tickets are \$10. Admission also qualifies you for refreshment specials and door prizes. Don't delay! Only one showing will be held and seating is limited!

Return this form along with your check made out to SELS Friends to:

SELS Friends
5730 R Street, Ste C-1
Lincoln, NE 68505

You will not receive an actual ticket, but will be checked off a master list when you arrive at the theater. If you are buying multiple tickets (for a book club, for example), either provide us with a list of attendees or be present early to check in the other members of your group as they arrive.

Doors are anticipated to open at 9:00 with the movie starting at 9:30, but as of this writing the movie length has not yet been announced, so this is subject to change. Please check the SELS website, www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/sesys/index.html closer to May for confirmation of starting time.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of \$10 tickets = _____

Number of \$7.50 tickets = _____ (each ticket sold at this price must go to a current SELS Friend – to become a member please visit the SELS website for a registration form)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

gaming@yourlibrary

Public Library Section and Trustees, Users and Friends Section
Joint Spring Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2006 Gering Public Library
Wednesday, May 24, 2006 Lexington Public Library
Thursday, May 25, 2006 La Vista Public Library

Program

8:45-9:30 Registration

9:30-9:45 Welcome from PLS chair Stephen Hunt and TUFS chair Maggie Harding

9:45-12:30 Opening Session

Russ Harper, Librarian at A.V. Sorensen Branch of the Omaha Public Library will enlighten you about the hot topic of gaming@yourlibrary.

11:00-11:30 Break

12:30-1:30 Catered Lunch and Update on NLA Business

Librarians continue the discussion stimulated from this years "Spring Colloquium" with Joe Janes, American Libraries Internet Librarian

1:30-2:30 Mary Jo Ryan will discuss "Encouraging Through Mentoring"

2:30-3:00 Maggie Harding will talk about TUFS by- law changes

Registration Form

Name: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Member's Number _____

Location: Gering __ Lexington __ La Vista __
PLS Member __ TUFS Member __ Non-Member __

Registration by May 17, 2006 \$15.00 (includes lunch)
Non NLA-member registration \$20.00(includes lunch)
Make check payable to NLA PLS section and send to:

Stephen Hunt
Plattsmouth Public Library
401 Avenue A
Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

Be a Winner! Link to NebraskAccess Today!

Why? Because...



- It's Free
- It's Easy
- It's the Right Thing to Do

We bet most of your patrons have at least heard of Yahoo and Google - references abound in the popular media - but what about NebraskAccess? Have they heard of it? If not, why not?

If you have a library web site that you use to promote library programs and services don't leave off NebraskAccess, the very service people can access via the web 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! If you're going to offer online services, by all means offer them online!

To learn more about linking to NebraskAccess from your web site, see the following:

- **Logos You Can Use** - Find NebraskAccess image files you can download and use to link to NebraskAccess from your web site. Sample HTML code is provided.
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/logos.html>
- **Add NebraskAccess Links to your Web Site** - Find the instructions and raw HTML code you need to link to NebraskAccess or to individual databases.
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/addlinks.html>

You may also contact any member of the NebraskAccess team for more information:

- Email: nebraskaccess@nlc.state.ne.us
- Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665
- Allana Novotny, Jeannette Powell, Shannon Behrhorst, Susan Knisely



Nebraska Sales Tax and Libraries



The following information on Nebraska sales tax is provided by Ruth Karlsson with the Nebraska Department of Revenue. She can be contacted to answer questions or other inquiries via email: Ruth.Karlsson@rev.ne.gov or via phone: 402-471-5992.

What is sales tax?

- Sales tax is a transactional tax. It is imposed on the transaction called the sale rather than the item sold.
- A sale is the transfer of title or possession of an item or taxable service for a consideration.

Several examples of these sales at a public library are photocopies, computer disks, book bags, bookmarks, etc. Sales tax must also be charged at book sales and items sold at fundraising auctions (even silent auctions).



- A lease or rental is treated exactly the same as a sale because a lease is considered to be a sale.
- Remember: a sale is the transfer of title or **possession**, and since there is transfer of possession in a lease, a lease is a sale.
- There is **no** sales tax charged/collected on: ILL transactions, faxes, non-resident card fees, or the use of meeting rooms.

How is sales tax collected?

- Sales tax is collected by the retailer (including providers of taxable services such as public libraries) who is acting as an agent for the state. The retailer also holds a sales tax permit.
- Sales tax is calculated in gross receipts. The point of delivery determines the tax rate. All transactions are presumed to be taxable. Retailers (including public libraries) must collect the tax or document why they didn't.
- Public libraries should work with their city/village administration concerning the holder of the sales tax permit and the required remittance of the sales tax to the Department of Revenue. This remittance would pertain to the amount of sales tax collected on sales at the library.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR LOAN

The Nebraska Library Commission has purchased a Public Address System for each of the library systems. The self-contained PA system contains a clip-on microphone and a speaker that should produce sound for a large classroom. MLS member libraries may borrow this system at no cost except return shipping for a 10 day period. It is very lightweight (8 pounds) and easy to use. Call the system office at 800-657-2192 if you would like to reserve the PA system for your next meeting. Below are the details of the loan policy:

Loans shall be made from the Meridian Library System (MLS) to an MLS member library but not to individuals for personal use. Loan shall be for a period of ten days, including shipping. Scheduling is on a first request received, first filled, basis.

Use of the P.A. System is free. MLS pays for routine maintenance. The borrower shall be financially responsible for repair of any damages. Definition of damages shall include, but not be limited to, dropping, breakage, power surges, accidental damages, loss of parts. Whether to repair or replacement shall be determined, and arranged for, at the discretion of the System Office.

Borrower shall pick up and deliver the equipment or shall pay insurance and shipping charges to obtain and to return equipment from/to System Office. Equipment shall be insured during shipment. The choice of which delivery service and the required insurance level shall be designated by the System Administrator.

Delivery service _____ Insurance _____

Borrower must provide name of library, contact person responsible for the equipment and its return, address where equipment will be used and contact phone. The phone is necessary for possible recalls. Use by the System Office shall have priority over loans. Equipment may be recalled by the System Office.

I have read and agree to comply with this policy:

Signature of contact person

Date

Address where equipment will be used

Contact telephone _____

Adopted by Meridian Library System Board March 20, 2006.

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

3519 Second Avenue, Suite B
Kearney NE 68847-2911

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kearney, Nebraska
Permit No. 202

I cannot think of a greater blessing than to die in one's own bed, without warning or discomfort, on the last page of the new book that we most wanted to read.

-John Russell

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