

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

JUNE/JULY 2006

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RURAL SUSTAINABILITY/PLA CONFERENCE 2006

Two of our system librarians, Evelyn Ost from Rock County Public Library in Bassett and Trine McBride from Ord Township Library, attended the PLA Conference for the first time. Below are their comments on the experience.

Evelyn Ost:

Several weeks before Christmas, Evelyn Ost, Rock County Public Library, received a call from the Nebraska Library Commission informing her she was one of three Nebraska librarians selected to attend a workshop sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the 11th National Public Library Association Conference being held in Boston from March 21-23. There were three librarians from every state in attendance.

The workshop was a one-day workshop titled, "Promoting Public Libraries: Using Data and Advocacy to Build Support and Funding." The workshop focused on providing practical assistance to small, rural librarians who are looking for examples and tactical guidance on how to better advocate for sustaining public access technologies for their patrons. The Foundation paid for all expenses except food including the \$170 registration to the PLA Conference and scheduled all flight and hotel accommodations according to preferences given by the attendee. Attendees of the workshop were encouraged to attend additional days at the Conference at our own expense so I chose to stay through March 24th.

Before the day ended participants were asked to make two commitments. One was to share what we learned in the workshop with at least one other colleague. Even though you maybe didn't get the opportunity to attend, the workbook we were given is available in electronic format by going to this web address: <http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=12801> The workshop Resource List is also available on this page with live links to each of the resources noted in the workshop notebooks. Find out how you can measure your library's impact, demonstrate your library's value with this data, plan a local advocacy effort, learn what compels local government officials and private library funders to provide funding and renew your energy for advocating your library.

The second commitment was to do at least one new project to

promote library advocacy/usage in the next six months. I chose to conduct a needs assessment survey along with a computer usage survey four times a year and to redecorate our children's section in the next six months to make this section more family oriented and inviting.

In the following days I not only had an opportunity to take a bus tour of Boston but attended the PLA Conference including author luncheons with Jon Scieszka and Jerry Spinelli. You can also take a virtual tour of the Conference by going to <http://www.placonference.org/> where you can download handouts from the numerous sessions offered at the PLA. I encourage each librarian to at least look at the site and choose one session that interests them and use the information to do one new activity in their library. Perhaps you could have fun with some new nursery rhymes from the Trit Trot to Boston session or find out how to Trade Spaces in Your Library with the Money You have Right Now.

Attending a National Public Library Conference before retirement is a dream I had always had. It was a fantastic experience and I encourage every librarian to attend at least one National Conference in their lifetime. Take advantage of the scholarships the NE Library Commission offers and take it all in. The next PLA Conference will be in Minneapolis March 25-29, 2008.

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Rural
Sustainability Workshop
PLA National Conference – Boston 2006
By-Trine McBride
Ord Township Library**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recognize that libraries are increasingly required to demonstrate their value and to advocate for continued support of their services. For rural libraries, operating on limited budgets and small staff, this poses a particularly difficult challenge.

To help meet this challenge, the Gates Foundation provided financial assistance to 148 rural librarians to attend the WebJunction Rural Sustainability Workshop and the PLA National Conference in Boston.

The trainers at the Rural Sustainability Workshop emphasized sustainability for rural libraries can be achieved by measuring our community's needs and our libraries impact, as well as effectively communicating and advocating for our libraries. The process to achieve sustainability includes three steps, 1) completing a community needs assessment, 2) writing a community plan containing goals, objectives and measurable outcomes and 3) advocating to raise additional funds.

Towns and cities use the same three-step process to promote economic development and to ensure sustainability. These are the same steps used by municipality administrators to determine the sustainability of a new fire hall, business recruitment, job creation, business expansion, etc. Just like rural communities, rural libraries need to ensure their sustainability. Library directors and trustees need to view libraries as part of the local business district and understand the impact libraries have on the local economy. Directors and trustees need to assess the needs of the people in the communities, improve services to meet those needs, and create awareness by marketing new or existing services.

In addition to the training on sustainability, the Gates' workshop was an excellent opportunity for networking. The Gates Foundation has the same concept of "rural" as we do in Nebraska. Workshop participants came from communities with populations less than 5000 and library operating budgets under \$120,000. As a result, there was good discussion among librarians concerning the financial and social challenges facing small rural libraries.

Martha Choe, Director of Global Libraries Program for the Gates Foundation, indicated participation in Rural Sustainability Workshop was very successful and future workshops for rural libraries will be offered along with financial assistance for librarians to attend.



As we all know, technology changes so fast it seems we can never keep up! Right now, the “in” technology are iPods and MP3 players. No bigger than a slim pack of playing cards, these players are capable of carrying hundreds of songs and several full-length books plus you can still listen to a recorded podcast from your favorite radio or TV station. They are being used in education to deliver lectures, conferences, etc. Practically every kid has ear buds stuck in their ears while they dial up their favorite tunes downloaded from iTunes or a CD. Libraries are also offering audio book service. Customers come in with their own player and plug it into a computer and download selected books. How handy would it be to be able to take five or six books on one MP3 player when you go on vacation instead of weighing down your suitcase or duffle bag with books? Like all new technology, there are some problems. Some of us can remember the VHS or Beta dilemma years ago; not all iPods and MP3 players can download everything.

While some Nebraska libraries are already offering this service, many have not yet tried it. The Nebraska Regional Library Systems have received an LSTA grant from the Nebraska Library Commission to introduce more libraries to downloadable audio book technology. Each system will have one or more of each type of player loaded with five or six audio books to lend to you, our system members. After some simple training, you can then try the technology in your library and lend them to your customers. You may decide this is a service

you want to offer on a permanent basis. It gives libraries an opportunity to try something new without risk.

—Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System

In the Meridian Library System, we plan on having four of the downloadable audio players. Presently, we have two iPods that will be ready for loan on July 1st. Each will have about a dozen unabridged audio books. Libraries may borrow one device for a three month loan period. To sign up, please contact us at the following address: meridian@frontiernet.net.



DATABASE ROADSHOW

We are pleased to announce that the ninth annual Database Roadshow has been scheduled for summer 2006. The five-hour Database Roadshow will provide Nebraska librarians and media specialists with an overview of the state-funded databases available through NebraskaAccess. The Roadshow will also include a tour of the Librarian's Toolbox, which contains promotional and training material about NebraskaAccess. As in past years, the Roadshow will be divided into segments, with each focusing on a particular database. During each segment we will discuss and demonstrate a database, and then the class will have hands-on time to practice what they've learned. Please bring any questions you may have and we will help you work through them during the hands-on time.

All sessions will run from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. There will be a one hour lunch break at approximately 11:30. Lunch is on your own. For your comfort, you may wish to bring a sweater, or dress in layers, as we are unable to make any adjustments to the temperature of the computer labs.

There is no cost to attend the Database Roadshow. Continuing Education credits of 5 hours can be earned by attending the Roadshow.

Auburn - July 25
Bassett - August 1
Columbus - July 27

Elkhorn - August 17
Kearney - June 28
Lincoln - August 25
Scottsbluff - June 20
Wayne - August 2

For more information and to register go to:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/roadshow.html>



LITERACY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Service America Announces Literacy Grant Opportunity for Young People

Deadline: June 9, 2006

Youth Service America (<http://www.ysa.org/>) and Lions- gate (<http://www.lionsgate.com/>) have announced the "Bee" the Change Community Service Grant for literacy. This grant opportunity offers \$1,000 to one young person to implement a sustainable community service project that increases literacy in his or her community and uses the movie "Akeelah and the Bee" as inspiration. (<http://www.akeelahandthebee.com/>) <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002207/ysa>

Libri Foundation Offers Children's Book Grants for Rural Libraries

Deadline: July 15, 2006

The Libri Foundation (<http://www.librifoundation.org/>) was established for the sole purpose of helping rural libraries in the U.S. acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Since 1990, the foundation has donated more than \$2.8 million worth of new children's books to over 2,200 libraries in 48 states. <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002208/libri>



PLUM CREEK LITERACY FESTIVAL

We could not be more excited to let you in on our plans for the 2006 festival.

September 14 is reserved for the authors to

spend time in the Seward schools, September 15 is Children's Day and September 16 will be the adult professional conference day!

For your information, I am going to give you our lineup for the fall. I hope that you and your staff will plan to attend on September 16! The registration form for the conference is at this site, along with info on the authors: <http://www.cune.edu/2005a.asp?durki=2040&site=2&return=15>

Authors: Patricia Reilly Giff, Ashley Wolff, Joseph Bruchac, Nikki Grimes and Tedd Arnold. Ted Kooser will be our Saturday luncheon speaker. The other authors will be speaking to the children on Friday, in addition to speaking on Saturday morning at the conference!

Sectional Leaders:

John Manear - Poetry: A Way of Thinking
Karla Wendelin - "Integrating the Internet into the Classroom"
Kim Marxhausen - "Silly Billy Drives a Car and other Emergent Reading Activities"
Dr. Anne Cognard - "Romeo and Ethel the Pirate's Daughter: It's not just a fancy title anymore"
Dr. Jeff Burkart - "Poetry By and For Children" and "I Love to Tell a Story: Dramatic Storytelling for all ages"
Dr. Ron Nelson - "The Link Between Reading and Problem Behavior"
Dr. Becky Pasco - "Tears and Fears - Miles and Smiles : Journeys in YA Fiction"
Tracy Wernsman - "Use of Children's Books in the Secondary Classroom"
Sally Snyder - "Best Books of 2006 for K-4 and 5-12"
Dwight Thiemann - "Motel of the Mysteries project" - based on the David McCullay book
Marcia Stewart - A Step Back in Time: Civil War Night and American Revolution Alive
Ted Kooser - Yet to be announced, but will do two sectionals on Saturday in addition to speaking at the luncheon!

Vikki Gremel
Concordia University
Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Assistant Director



What is CHIRS?

The medical librarians supporting Nebraska's **Consumer Health Information Resources Service (CHIRS)** want to help you provide the authoritative health information your patrons need. When locating information for consumers, we draw on authoritative websites, our extensive collection of consumer-oriented books, and our professional-level database, book and journal collections. The information we gather can be sent to your Library or directly to your patron. We will also send information to health professionals if they plan to pass the requested information along to their patient/s.

How Can My Patron Submit a CHIRS Request?

You may submit information requests for your patrons or suggest that they contact CHIRS directly. CHIRS information requests may be submitted by:

- phone -- 402-559-7077, or toll-free from outside Omaha at 1-866-800-5209
- e-mail -- askus@unmc.edu
- web-form -- http://app1.unmc.edu/librarychirs/libchirs_entryform.html
- mail -- CHIRS, McGoogan Library of Medicine, 986705 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-6705
- in person -- 8AM -5PM Mon.-Fri., Reference Desk, 6th floor of Wittson Hall. Wittson Hall is located on the west side of 42nd St., midway between Emile and Dewey.

How Can I Publicize the Availability of CHIRS?

CHIRS posters, cards, and brochures may be helpful. These CHIRS promotional materials can be requested using the phone and e-mail contact information already provided or may be requested through the web-form at http://app1.unmc.edu/forms/library/chirs_order.cfm



AND THE 2005-2006 WINNERS ARE... !

Primary Winner: **Substitute Teacher Plans** by Doug Johnson, illustrated by Tammy Smith
Honor: **Diary of a Worm** by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Harry Bliss
Souperchicken by Mary Jane Auch and Herm Auch

Intermediate Winner: **Escaping the Giant Wave** by Peg Kehret

Honor: **The City of Ember** by Jeanne DuPrau
Runt by Marion Dane Bauer

Young Adult Winner: **High Heat** by Carl Deuker

Honor: **Full Tilt** by Neal Schusterman
Hawksong by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes (TIE)
East by Edith Pattou (TIE)



We are pleased to announce the addition of **TWELVE NEW LESSON PLANS** to the NebraskaAccess Librarian's Toolbox. These lesson plans have been designed to enhance the research and information seeking skills of K12 students in Nebraska. Lesson plans address a variety of national, state, and local standards. Assessment tools are provided for each lesson plan.

Here are the titles of the recent-added lesson plans:

- Ancient Greek Influences in Science/Math
- Author Trading Cards
- Bears, Bears, Bears!
- Beginning of the Year Biographies
- Composer Scavenger Hunt
- Database Orientation: WilsonWeb
- Explorers of the 20th-Century for 5th Graders
- Famous Scientists
- Going to the Promised Land: Dust Bowl Migration (Photograph Database Research)
- Literature Database Scavenger Hunt for 5th Graders
- States Research
- Using NebraskaAccess to Determine Individual for Biography Report

We hope these lesson plans will meet the need expressed by various media specialists for examples of how NebraskaAccess resources can be integrated into the K12 curriculum. Many thanks to Dr. Becky Pasco's Fall 2005 Reference class for creating these lesson plans and generously agreeing to share them with colleagues across the state!

Lesson plans are located in NebraskaAccess in the Librarian's Toolbox, <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/lessonplans.html>.

Nebraska Library Commission Interlibrary Loan Frequently Asked Questions

In 2001 the Nebraska Library Commission began working with many of you to provide interlibrary loan services to your customers. As we near the end of our fifth year, I've collected a number of questions we are asked with some regularity that might be good to share with the systems. If you have any concerns about our Interlibrary Loan Services, please don't hesitate to ask us – we're happy to help. You can reach us by:

Voice: 800/307-2665 Fax: 402/471-6244

Email: ready@nlc.state.ne.us

ILL request form: www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/ill/

1. Is it possible to request VHS, DVD, and Books on Tape through ILL?

Yes. There are many libraries that generously lend these materials. On occasion, there are very few possible lenders with policies that prohibit lending.

2. May we request multiple copies of a book for a book club?

Yes. However, we will not be able to place requests for bestsellers, books that have been out for less than one year, or other popular titles i.e. the Oprah book club. It's best to ask for the number of books you might think you'll need from the start so that all your books will arrive at about the same time. Generally book club libraries request 3-7 copies of a title.

3. How long does an ILL take to arrive to my library?

One-two weeks generally. If the book is provided from a library in-state, it will arrive more quickly and if it comes from out of state, it may take a little more time. Try to encourage your patrons to ask for items two weeks before they'll need them.

4. Is there such a thing as an ASAP ILL?

No. Once a request is in the OCLC system, it's up to the five lending libraries to respond to your request. There isn't anything we are able to do that speeds things along.

5. Why do we have to let you know when we receive and return items?

ILL has its own circulation system to track

where items are. Libraries who lend their items need to know when materials have reached their destination and when they have been returned. The process of updating all of these records is part of our daily ILL circulation. Keeping up with ILL records helps make everything run more smoothly for all the libraries involved in getting materials to you.

6. What books are too new to request?

Any book, fiction or non-fiction that's less than 12 months from its release date. If you're uncertain about a book's publication date, you can check amazon.com or Books in Print. Many libraries restrict lending their newer materials through Interlibrary Loan.

7. Why won't you accept my request to borrow the Da Vinci Code?

Because it's still on the bestseller list and the movie release in May 2006 will increase the popularity of this title and keep it amongst those hard-to-borrow titles. Any book that has recently been a movie is generally on our do not place list as are all bestsellers (fiction and non-fiction), Oprah books, and other popular titles such as the One Book/One Lincoln selection. Locate Publisher's Weekly Bestseller list here: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/> and click on Bestsellers.

8. Can I ask for renewals on ILL items?

Yes, from most lending libraries. Libraries prefer to be asked for renewals before the due date. If an item has been recalled by the lending library, we will not be able to request more time. When asking for a renewal, please contact the Nebraska Library Commission.

9. Why must I use the ready@nlc.state.ne.us email address for ILL email?

If you send ILL email to an individual email address and that person is sick or on vacation that day, your email will not be tended to in a timely manner. Several staff members take turns answering and responding to the 'ready' email account assuring a quick response to your question.

10. How many people work with Interlibrary Loan at the Nebraska Library Commission?

There are seven of us -- Belinda Fanning, Beth Goble, Bonnie Henzel, Evelyn Kubert, Julie Pinnell, Lisa Kelly, and Susan Knisely.

—Lisa Kelly

Customizable NebraskAccess Business Cards

Make Password Distribution Easy

Are you looking for an easy way to distribute your library's NebraskAccess password to patrons? If so, consider trying one of our new NebraskAccess business card templates. Available in MS Word or PDF format, these templates contain ten 2" X 3.5" cards per standard 8 1/2 X 11 inch page and are designed to be customized with your library name and NebraskAccess password. Once customized, these cards can be printed on regular paper and cut apart along the dotted lines; or, if you'd like to do something a little fancier, print on special perforated or "clean edge" business card cardstock (produced by companies like Avery and available through office supply stores and online).

If you experience either software compatibility or printing problems when trying to customize and print these cards, don't hesitate to contact us for assistance. We will gladly add your library name and NebraskAccess password to one of our business card templates and provide it to you as a Word or PDF file or as a printout you can photocopy.

Links to customizable business card templates are available at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/businesscard.html>



Questions and comments can be directed to the Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Team. Phone 800-307-2665, 402-471-2045 or email nebraskaccess@nlc.state.ne.us

DISASTER PLANNING

The recent Disaster Preparedness Workshops sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission were terrific! In case you were unable to attend, the System Office has the notebook full of helpful material for your plan.

One of the suggestions at the workshop was to make sure that you have a copy of your disaster plan somewhere besides your library and community. The System Office is happy to keep a copy of your disaster plan. Hopefully, you will never need to ask us for it!



ALTERED BOOKS

The Portland Public Library has sponsored a program in which artists take old and discarded books and alter them into works of art. These pieces of art are catalogued as part of the library collection and are available for checkout. For information and pictures of some of the art, go to: www.portlandlibrary.com/programs/altered.htm



Cutting Machine Schedule

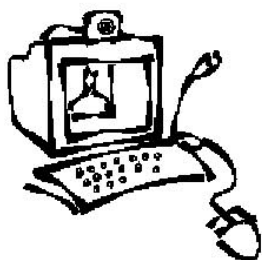
Machine one:

June: Gothenburg Public Library
July: Ravenna Public Library
August: Lexington Public Library
September: Comstock Public Library
Open from October on

Machine two:

June: Gothenburg Public Library
July: Ravenna Public Library
August: Lexington Public Library
September: Comstock Public Library
Open from October on

PC PROBLEMS & DIGITAL CLICKS



Morning Session: John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, will talk about computer problems and updates. Bring questions about installations/software!

Friday, August 25, 2006

9:30am-3:30pm

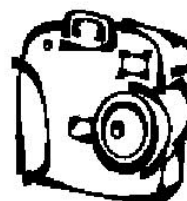
Wilson Center, Hastings College, Hastings, NE

Cost: \$15 (lunch included)

CE: 5.5 hours

Co-sponsored by Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems

Afternoon Session: John will address digital camera techniques. Bring your digital camera!



PC Problems and Digital Clicks Workshop Registration Form

Name: _____

Library: _____

**Please send this registration form + \$15 fee by August 18, 2006 to:
Republican Valley Library System,
2727 West 2nd St. # 233
Hastings, NE 68901**

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Disney Archives: Characters: Illustrated histories of human and animal Disney characters. Some entries include brief profiles, and others (such as Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Donald Duck, and Pluto) feature more extensive histories. From the Disney Archives.

http://disney.go.com/vault/archives/characters_ai.html

Pet Photography 101: Seven Habits of the Successful Pet Photographer: Tips for taking better photos of pets, including thoughts about the pet's personality and creating a story, preparation of the set, camera angle, and treats and props. Includes sample photos and brief ideas for photographing snakes, birds, and fish. From the New York Institute of Photography.

http://www.nyip.com/tips/topic_pets1199.html

Adventures to Read All Through the Summer: "Librarian Nancy Pearl has options other than Harry Potter for parents, kids, and fans of the series." Includes summaries of books that should "keep fans of interesting fantasy writing occupied — and happy — throughout the summer." Includes links to other book lists. From National Public Radio (NPR).

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4646599>

Fun in the Sun: Collection of summer-themed arts and crafts project ideas for children. Includes illustrated instructions for backyard activities, beach and summer camp crafts, and summer parties. Also include recipes and game descriptions. From Family Fun magazine.

http://familyfun.go.com/parties/holiday/feature/summer_main_ms/

Summer Reading Recommended by Horn Book Editors: Suggestions for picture books, easy readers, intermediate and young adult fiction, poetry, and nonfiction for children. From the editors of the children's literature review publications, Horn Book Magazine and the Horn Book Guide.

<http://www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp>

Today in History: Flag Day: A brief history of Flag Day, which honors "June 14, 1777, [when] the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag." Also provides discussion of the Supreme Court decisions related to compelling students to salute the flag (reversed in 1943) and a variety of entertaining facts and links, including an audio recording of the "True to the Flag March." From the American Memory Project of the Library of Congress.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun14.html>

Today in History: July 4: A brief history of the holiday also known as Independence Day, which observes the day in 1776 when "the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence." Includes speeches, music, photos, and links to related topics. From the American Memory Project of the Library of Congress.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jul04.html>

Kids Domain: Father's Day Fun: Children's activities and resources for the celebration of Father's Day, including games, clip art, stories, history of the holiday, printable activities (such as mazes, crossword puzzles, and coloring pages), and craft projects (for example, business card holders and picture frames).

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/dad/>

Facts for Consumers: Credit Scoring: Fact sheet on credit scoring, "a system creditors use to help determine whether to give you credit." Discusses the credit scoring model, what individuals can do to improve their credit score, the reliability of the credit scoring system, what happens if you are denied credit, and how to file a complaint. From the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

URL: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/credit/scoring.htm>

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**Choose an author as you choose a friend.
—Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723)**

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