

# MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

## **Your System Board:**

Christie Behle  
Linda Bushman  
Maxine Erpelding  
Gail Irwin  
Penny Jeffrey  
Mary Koch  
Laura Martinsen  
Christine Walsh  
Joan Davis, Emeritus



Meridian Library System  
Suite B  
1015 Central 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/](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/)

## **Patriot Act has placed librarians in tough position by Jim Heckel**

Some days I feel like a canary.

It's not because I sing all that well. I could single handedly doom the karaoke craze in this country, if I gave it a try.

I'm director of a public library and there are days when I think seriously about the old image of a canary in a mine shaft. Miners placed caged canaries in mine shafts because the poor birds would be the first to die from poisonous gasses seeping into the tunnels and warn the workers of the danger.

Libraries have become the symbolic canaries in the mine shaft since the passage of the overly zealous USA Patriot Act, enacted shortly after 9/11 and contentiously renewed early this year.

What does terrorism have to do with your local public library? That is, as they say, an interesting question.

Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act authorizes the FBI to require the collection of "any tangible things" so long as the FBI merely states that the order is for an authorized investigation ... to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities."

Sensible as this may sound on the surface, Section 215 actually has caused a firestorm of protest, especially from librarians, because the order circumvents one of the foundations of constitutional law and, in fact, historical precedent dating back to the Magna Carta of 1215: that search and seizure attempts must be supported by critical judicial review: In other words, supported by a legally authorized subpoena.

Instead, the FBI may simply state that the seizure of records (or "any tangible things," including computers, file cabinets, and the like) was relevant to an investigation against terrorism or (continued on pg. 2)

"intelligence activities" and go to a secret federal court, the FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) court. If history is any guide, the FISA merely rubberstamps the request without judicial scrutiny (no request, as far as we can tell, has ever been denied). A National Security Letter (NSL) is issued by the FISA court and the FBI may use that vague document to confiscate records of any nature. This includes bank statements, medical records, and, of course, library records.

So why are librarians feeling so put upon? Librarians have an extremely high regard for your privacy as a library user. Further, we believe strongly in the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and the corollary right to access information, and the Fourth Amendment, which forbids illegal search and seizure activities.

In addition, Montana state law specifically forbids the release of library records (that is, what you read) to anyone without a duly obtained subpoena. I, myself, have denied access to library records at least three times to law enforcement officers who did not have subpoenas. In other words, they did not follow the law in their requests.

It might be said, with all those terrorists lurking about, isn't it a good idea to give the FBI all the power it needs to catch the bad guys? Can't we trust them to make the right decisions for the right reasons and not be subjected to traditional judicial review?

Sadly, the answer is no. After the FBI denied any misuse or abuse ever since the initial passage of The USA Patriot Act, The Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Justice ascertained on March 9 that the FBI has systematically underreported NSL requests and repeatedly violated federal law in collecting personal information. The OIG reported that at least 22 percent of the NSL cases contained violations not admitted by the FBI.

Librarians, because we are so sensitive to privacy issues, have howled since Section 215 placed libraries in this difficult position. While the value

of data collected from library records may be debated, the principle of violation of constitutional and historical law is extremely important and precious to me.

Chirp. Chirp.

*Jim Heckel is the director of the Great Falls Public Library, Great Falls, MT.*

(reprinted with permission)



## FREE TALKING BOOKS SO YOU CAN KEEP ON READING!

Individuals with visual or physical disabilities may qualify for free talking books from the Nebraska Library Commission. No one needs to forego the pleasure of reading just because they cannot see regular print or hold a book or turn its pages. Not when recorded books, magazines, and playback equipment are free to any qualifying Nebraskan.

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, working with the Library of Congress, offers 60,000 book titles and 100 magazines, mostly on cassette. The book collection includes nationwide bestsellers, westerns, biographies, history, and romances. Our Prairie Lane Studios record books and magazines about Nebraska or the Great Plains.

A cassette player is loaned to each borrower. It has large buttons and can be adapted with finger extenders for the control keys and headphones for private listening. All materials are mailed to borrowers and returned to the Talking Book and Braille Service postage-free.

For information or an application form, contact: 1-800-742-7691. [talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us).

If you prefer, an application form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs/tbbs11.html>.

Contact: David Oertli, Director  
Talking Book and Braille Service  
[talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us)  
1-800-742-7691



## Copyright Law— Part 1

This article is the first of a six-part series on copyright for educators and public librarians based on the questions from participants of the many workshops that I have presented over that last ten years. Any presentation or article I prepare must contain the following statement: I am not an attorney and this bibliography and article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law.

Why is understanding copyright law important? Copyright law protects the rights of the owner of nearly everything in our libraries and schools. We must understand copyright law and its exceptions such as “fair use” to facilitate the utilization of the library and educational materials by our patrons, teachers and students.

The first place to start with copyright law is a list of my favorite resources:

Copyright Catechism; Practical answers to Everyday School Dilemmas by Carol Simpson, Worthington, Ohio, Linworth Publishing, 2005

Copyright for Schools; a Practical Guide by Carol Mann Simpson  
Second Edition, Worthington, Ohio, Linworth Publishing, 1997 and Fourth Edition 2005

Copyright Articles by Carrie Russell in School Library Journal

Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators by Dr. Kenneth Crews, ALA, 2005

Concept of Fair Use – Dr. Ken Crews <http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/checklist.htm>

Nebraska Library Commission -- Copyright Handbook  
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/copyright/copyright1.html>

Hal Davidson’s Classroom Copyright Chart and Copy-

right Chart  
<http://www.mediafestival.org/copyrightchart.html>

When U.S. Works Pass Into Public Domain by Lolly Gasaway <http://www.unc.edu/~uncnlg/public-d.htm>

Copyright Term and the Public Domain in the United States, January 1, 2007 [http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/training/Hirtle\\_Public\\_Domain.htm](http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/training/Hirtle_Public_Domain.htm)

Please send an email to me if you want a complete bibliography of my recommended copyright law resources or have a copyright law question. Phyllis Brunken [pbrunken@cox.net](mailto:pbrunken@cox.net)

Part II – Fair Use



## Nebraska Astronaut READ® Posters

Nebraska native Clay Anderson, currently aboard the International Space Station, describes his experience in space as “the ride of my life.” Anderson, born in Omaha and raised in Ashland, is the first native Nebraskan to fly in space (and the first to walk in space). When he returns to earth, he plans to visit classrooms and other groups to encourage youngsters to pursue their dreams. In a recent broadcast from space, Anderson reflected on the fifteen times he applied to the astronaut program before being accepted. “Don’t ever give up...You can be whatever you want to be. You just have to set your mind to it...and go get it,” he said. Anderson generously posed for READ® posters and bookmarks for Nebraska libraries and school media centers to use to promote books and reading. Upon request, the Nebraska Library Commission will send Nebraska libraries and school media centers a CD with the posters and bookmarks. They can be printed at a local print shop or quick-copy shop. One hundred and fifteen CDs have already been distributed. To use this promotional tool with your customers, contact Alyssa Bundy, Nebraska Library Commission Student Intern, e-mail: [abundy@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:abundy@nlc.state.ne.us).

## **LIBR 1010 WW INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **4.5 Quarter Hours**

Online Fall Term 2007

September 4, 2007 – November 20, 2007

**Orientation:** Saturday, September 8, 2007

**In Omaha:** 3:00-5:00 p.m. UNO Kayser Hall 541

Parking is free on Saturday. The closest lot is the "Faculty" lot on the south side of Kayser Hall. The elevator is in the center of the building. Room 541 is on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

**In North Platte:** 11:00-1:00 p.m. North Platte High School Media Center

Students unable to attend orientation need to email the instructor Carrie Turner at [carrieturner@westside66.org](mailto:carrieturner@westside66.org) before the orientation session.

This course is designed to provide the student with a broad overview of the library and information science profession. The role of the Library Technician Assistant in library and information environments will be examined.

This course will provide students with an understanding of introductory concepts in libraries and information services:

- A brief history of libraries
- Different types of libraries
- Typical functions in today's libraries
- Current issues in library and information science
- Key terms used in the library profession
- Resources useful to Library Technical Assistants
- Issues relevant to information literacy
- Technology in libraries
- Career options in libraries and information environment



**General Registration Begins – May 16, 2007**

Payment Deadline – August 6, 2007

This course is a requirement for the Library Technology Assistant Associate of Arts Degree offered by the Nebraska Community Colleges.

**Prerequisite:** College level reading and writing skills. Ability to use web browser and Internet search engines. Ability to save and back-up files to a local drive on a computer

*For questions regarding course content and organization, contact:*

**Carrie Turner, M.S. El. Ed.**  
**Instructor, LIBR 1010 WW**  
**Metropolitan Community College**  
**402-238-3315**  
[carrieturner@westside66.org](mailto:carrieturner@westside66.org)

*For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:*

**Gretchen B. Schaeffer, M.A, MLS**  
**Academic Advisor**  
**Metropolitan Community College**  
**402-457-2376**

# IMAGE IS EVERYTHING!

## Pre-Conference to the NLA/NEMA Conference

Wednesday, October 24

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Holiday Inn, Kearney

\$25 (includes lunch)

Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission

### What will you learn?

- what marketing, fundraising, and development actually are
- what skills you have that can be used for marketing and fundraising
- what are the best practices for integrating marketing and fundraising
- how to gain the confidence required to be successful in this area
- how to use partnerships to support a marketing/fundraising plan
- how to evaluate your progress and create new goals



### Who is the presenter?

This is a **LAMA** program (Library Administration and Management Association.) The presenter is **Alexis H. Sarkisian**, winner of the 2004 Northwestern University Alumni Association Service Award. She has an undergraduate degree in communications, and an MS in education, which certified her as a school library media specialist. After working with East Chicago Public Schools as manager of instructional technology, she became community programming director with WMAQ-TV, NBC, Chicago, where she earned an Emmy Award for best information program series. She now owns her own consulting business which has an emphasis on library marketing and communications. One of her clients is the North Suburban Library System in Wheeling, Illinois. She is also an instructor in the GSLIS at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. She has implemented library marketing projects that won the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award.

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### Make checks payable to NRLS and mail to:

Nebraska Regional Library Systems  
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402-330-7884; 800-627-7884  
ktooker@alltel.net

Please register by **October 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **Meridian Library System**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 26, 2007**

**Meridian Library System Office, Kearney**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President Penny Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 10:34a.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Board members answering roll call were Maxine Erpelding, Penny Jeffrey, Mary Koch, Linda Bushman, Christine Walsh, and Christie Belhe. Laura Johnson from NLC, Sharon Osenga, MLS Administrator and Delilah Gillming, MLS Admin. Asst. were also present. Introductions were made. Absent were Laura Martinsen, Gail Irwin and Michelle Self.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Maxine moved and Christine seconded for approval of the agenda. Motioned carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Linda moved and Christie seconded. Motion carried.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

October is the last payment on car. Mary moved and Maxine seconded to approve the treasurer's report and bills for April, May and June. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### **NLC REPORT FROM LAURA JOHNSON:**

Gates Workshops will be two days, sign up for each day separately. "Thinking Outside the Borders" in October, CE grants are being looked at. Encourage people to apply for grants. Gates Spanish language grant is coming in 2008. NLC hopes for 9 workshops around the state; our two sites to be Lexington and Grand Island. Basic Skills being revamped which is part of library certification program. NLC looking at their program in comparison to the Western Council competencies. Will not adopt Western Council so NLC will maintain certification. Classes are available online. NLC wants to make it more available and more individualized by possibly developing modules with more choices and ability to take online. LTA and MLS classes will count towards certification. NLC hoping to make librarians more in charge of their continuing education. NLC would like to hear from those with ideas, suggestions and such.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Sharon gave workshop evaluations on Summer Reading and Digital Camera. E-rate is not yet funded for the current year. Leadership institute—Christine attended and gave a brief description of things learned and encouraged others to attend. The next institute will be in the summer of 2009.

System equipment—computer purchase by Orleans Library and Shelton Public Library took the panels.

Grants—The Regional Systems have written three continuing education grants: trips to Minneapolis and Salt Lake City and Pat Wagner to present program on marketing for Annual Meeting with RVLS at Minden Opera House. Systems will be writing grants for: Youth Services Grant for book bags with 30 copies of one title available for loan to

schools or libraries and an LSTA grant for gaming systems and games to loan to libraries for gaming tournaments. System T-shirts: will be Polo shirts in burgundy. Scotland trip—itinerary set, pricing questionable. Itinerary should be set by end of August.

Current board roster was handed out.

Sharon to participate in "Thinking Outside the Borders." September 19th and 20th Gates training at ESU 10. Saving Nebraska's Treasures airs Aug 16th, Sept 11th on PBS. Now Hiring @your library—grants process begins October 1st. Scholarship money is available. Sharon reported on the recent car vandalism. Recovery will be difficult. Bills submitted to Police.

#### **SYSTEM BUSINESS:**

Technology plan must be approved by board. Plan evaluates what we have and what we need. Mary motioned and Linda seconded. Motioned carried.

Budget: extra money provided for our increased rent and electricity costs. Total funding \$101641.00 so will add grants back in to budget. Not many changes since not much money. Electric bill figured with rent. Christine moved; Maxine seconded. Updated budget approved by voice vote.

System plan - Sharon will send proposed updates and board members will have two weeks to make changes and return to Sharon. Annual report may include Top 10 List for Annual Meeting/notes in newsletter.

Board Elections: Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Bushman nominated Christine Walsh and Penny Jeffrey seconded. Voice vote to elect, motioned carried.

Vice-President: Maxine Erpelding nominated Mary Koch, Penny Jeffrey seconded. Motioned carried.

President: Mary Koch nominated Maxine Erpelding, Maxine nominated Penny Jeffrey, Christine Walsh seconded Maxine's nomination for Penny Jeffrey. Maxine Erpelding respectfully declined the nomination and made motion to unanimously elect Penny Jeffrey, Linda Bushman seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be a phone conference call on Monday October 15th, 9:00 a.m. The January meeting will be in person at Broken Bow Public Library.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Delilah Gillming, Administrative Assistant

**Join us for the Plum Creek Adult Conference  
Saturday, October 6, 2007**

**Registration forms and online payment available  
at [www.cune.edu/plumcreek](http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek)  
Continuing Education Credit available**

**Featured Presenters:**

**Author, Richard Peck**

“No, She’s Not My Grandma”

Richard Peck will speak on three points about what a story is and what a story isn’t.

**Author, Andrew Clements**

Andrew Clements will be talking about a long string of more than a dozen novels which began with *Frindle*, and which could all be called "school stories"-and why he feels like he’s not going to run out of new ideas anytime soon.

**Authors and Illustrators, Ted & Betsy Lewin**

“Adventures with Ted & Betsy”

Get ready for a big adventure as Ted and Betsy take you from their studios to far-flung reaches of the world and back again – with stories to tell! Mountain gorillas in Africa! Tigers in India! Camels and elephants and bears. Oh my!

**Author, Peg Kehret**

“Empathy: The most important lesson we can teach”

Peg will discuss her themes of kindness to animals, personal responsibility, and finding non-violent solutions to problems. She will explain why she believes books can be crucial in creating empathy in young readers.

**Illustrator, Robin Brickman**

Robin Brickman will give an audio-visual explanation of her 3-D cut, painted, and sculpted art. Then, examples of her Community Mural projects at schools, libraries, and museums will be shown. To conclude, the audience will experience the relative ease of hand-sculpting a piece of paper.

**Bonnie Bartels – “IRLEN: A Piece of the Puzzle”  
For Perceptual and Learning Difficulties**

Is Your Student / Child....

Struggling with Reading

Easily distracted, frustrated, or fidgety

Having headaches

Unable to make the grade

**THE IRLLEN METHOD - A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE**

The Irlen Method is a research-based, patented technology proven to eliminate a variety of visual-perceptual challenges that can stand in the way of an individual’s success.

**Dr. Lisa Ashby & Marla Wademan – “A Howling Good Time: R.E.A.D Dogs and Children’s Literacy”**

The Reading Education Assistance Dogs Program helps children grow in their reading and communication skills through the gentle support of a trained therapy dog. This session will overview the development of R.E.A.D., its techniques and benefits. Participants will learn how to become involved as a R.E.A.D. team and how to facilitate the program in communities, schools, and libraries.

**Anna Jackson** – *Sponsored by the Nebraska English Language Arts Council (NELAC) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).*

**Dr. Sharon Faber – “How to Teach Reading When You’re Not a Reading Teacher”**

“I thought kids learned to read in K-3!” Starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, many students still struggle with reading. What are teachers supposed to do with struggling or non-readers in their classrooms if they weren’t trained to be reading teachers? This session will provide specific and practical strategies that can be used by teachers in all subject areas to assist students with their reading skills.

**Jim Goetz – “Four-square Writing”**

This is an introduction to the usage of a graphic organizer in formal and thematic writing.

**Dr. Joan Jacobs – “How To Encourage a Love of Reading”**

We typically do more of what we enjoy, and students who read more typically outperform those who read less; in fact, reading for enjoyment is strongly correlated with performing well on achievement tests. Consequently, it is critical to help readers learn to enjoy reading. This session offers insights gained from elementary reading research, based upon the Schoolwide Enrichment Model that was tied to the dual goals of increasing reading ability and increasing the desire to read among readers in grades 3-5. The strategies are applicable to many levels and are appropriate for home or school.

**Sally Snyder – “Best Books of 2007 for Preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade”**

Sally will present brief book talks of titles that have been acclaimed in 2007, and also some titles that may have been overlooked for awards, but will be wonderful additions for your library’s collection.

**Sally Snyder – “Best Books of 2007 for 5<sup>th</sup> grade through High School”**

Sally will present brief book talks of titles that have been acclaimed in 2007, and also some titles that may have been overlooked for awards, but will be wonderful additions for your library’s collection.

**Please register by October 1 to avoid late fees  
Conference cost is \$30**

**Conference and author luncheon featuring Richard Peck is \$50**

## WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

**Legends of America:** This western U.S. "travel site for the nostalgic and historic minded" features illustrated essays on topics such as American history, ghost towns, historic people, roadside attractions, and Route 66. Includes articles (many of them historic) on subjects such as Native Americans (such as Cochise and Sitting Bull), women (such as Ida B. Wells and Calamity Jane), explorers (such as John C. "Grizzly" Adams), the American cowboy, railroad building, and more. Includes links to related sites.  
URL: <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/>

**Anna Mary Robertson ("Grandma") Moses:** Biography and details about the work of self-taught artist Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses (1860-1961), whose work was "discovered" in 1938. Includes images of selected paintings, listings of exhibitions, a brief timeline, and related material. From Galerie St. Etienne, the New York gallery that "mounted Grandma Moses's first one-woman exhibition in 1940 and represented her for the remainder of her life."  
URL: <http://gseart.com/moses.html>

**Degas:** Online exhibit exploring the life and work of French Impressionist artist Edgar Degas (1834-1917). Some of the topics covered include Degas' artistic style, subjects of his art (including laundresses, ballet, and women bathing), and art collected by Degas. Provides a glossary and selected bibliography. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art.  
URL: <http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/Degas/html/index.html>

**Reading Is Fundamental: RIF's 2007 Summer Reading Guide:** This compilation of summer reading resources includes suggestions for family activities (such as a "book-nic"), summer reading tips, and reading lists for children. The "Travel Reads" list features books with settings in many U.S. states and some international locations. From the nonprofit literacy organization Reading Is Fundamental (RIF).  
URL: <http://www.rif.org/summer/>

**811:** "811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project. A new, federally-mandated national 'Call Before You Dig' number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects." The site describes how 811 works and when to call (tree, pond, mailbox, fence, concrete), and links to state specific contacts. Also includes tips and testimonials and public service announcements. Note: may not display properly in all browsers.  
URL: <http://www.call811.com>

**Scoundrels, Adventurers & Colorful Characters of the Wild West:** Collection of biographies of "scoundrels, adventurers and colorful characters who called the Arizona

Territory home," such as Cochise, Geronimo, John Wesley Powell, the Earp Brothers, Doc Holliday, and the Clanton Gang. Also includes listings for points of interest related to the individuals, recommended reading, and an option to browse listings by region in Arizona. From Arizona Heritage Traveler, a project of the Arizona Humanities Council and the Arizona Office of Tourism.

URL: <http://www.arizonaheritagetraveler.org/templates/topics.php?nid=2&sid=55>

**Reading Rockets:** "Reading Rockets is a national multimedia project offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help." Features articles on strategies to help children who struggle with reading and techniques for teaching reading, and suggested book lists (such as "Beyond Harry Potter" and "Young Detectives"). Also includes author interview videos and podcasts, blogs, research reports, and more. From public television station WETA.

URL: <http://www.readingrockets.org>

**From Verne to Vonnegut: A Century of Science Fiction:** Companion to 2006 exhibit exploring the development of science fiction literature. Includes annotations and selected images of early works (18th century and earlier), magazines (such as Amazing Stories), materials about aliens and other creatures, works by black and women authors, and dystopias (such as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" and Kurt Vonnegut's "Player Piano"). Curated by librarian Iris Snyder of Special Collections, University of Delaware Library.

URL: <http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/scifi/>

**In Search of Shakespeare:** Companion to a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) four-part series "exploring the life of the world's greatest and most famous writer." The site features a timeline of events during Shakespeare's time, a description of the places and people Shakespeare knew, an overview of the documentary evidence used as the basis for the series, and brief synopses of Shakespeare plays. Also includes lesson plans and other materials for educators, a multimedia database, a game, and more.  
URL: <http://www.pbs.org/shakespeare/>

**Going to School:** This resource "delivers practical strategies and useful insights to help parents guide their kids through school." Provides a grade-by-grade summary of learning topics (through grade 5), and suggestions for adjusting to starting school and for talking with children about school, your child's social life, parent-teacher relationships, and more. Part of a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) website for parents; co-produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) and Content Inventions, an educational media consulting firm.

URL: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/goingtoschool/>

## 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute VISION STATEMENT

The 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute embodies a customer-centered library community that:

Reflects our diverse population, fosters global discourse, and is a vital and active hub of cultural experience and exposure for its constituency.

Targets the needs of current and prospective users in order to engage and connect them with resources, services and opportunities.

Integrates innovative technologies with traditional information to create dynamic physical and virtual environments.

Motivates a responsive, committed staff who enthusiastically supports the strategic vision of our library community.



Christine Walsh & Kathy Thomsen from Meridian Library System



2007 NLLI Group Photo



*I dreamed I lay where flowers were springing Gaily in the sunny beam...*Robert Burns

**COME JOIN US IN BONNY SCOTLAND!**

**July 19, 2008-August 1, 2008**

The Regional Library Systems are sponsoring a trip to Scotland next summer. Highlights will include Burns Country, Culloden, Cawdor Castle, Stirling Castle and more. Full itinerary with pricing will be available by September 1<sup>st</sup> from your System Office.

The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute was a week of challenges, learning, networking, relaxation and fun. It was a time for visioning possibilities for libraries and then talking about ways to make those visions realities.

Much of the material covered by our presenters, Becky Shreiber and John Shannon, was intense. It required us to look at ourselves, our leadership style (both strengths and weaknesses), and our internal and external environment. Armed with this information, we created our vision and developed strategies. It's amazing to me how often since I've returned that I've applied different techniques I learned at this institute.

The conference location, The St. Benedict Center north of Schuyler, NE, provides a quiet setting (no television, no car or truck noises, and limited cell phone usage). There are walking paths, birds and fish, and fountains in the lake. During the week we were there the weather was perfect. When I called the Assistant Director at Lexington Public Library during the week and told her how much I was relaxing and enjoying the natural setting, she threatened to change my time sheet to vacation!

One of the best parts of the Leadership Institute was the opportunity to network with other librarians from all types of libraries. The time spent with the other participants and the mentors was invaluable and led to the possibilities of future networking.

Kathy Thomsen, Director,  
Lexington Public Library



Book of the Month: *Life With the Queen* by Brian Hoey

Recently I decided that I needed to read something in non-fiction so I settled upon this biography. As a teen, I had read a biography of Queen Elizabeth's growing up years so I was interested in reading about her adult years. What I got in

this book is the most biased thing I have ever read! According to author Hoey, The Queen has not put a foot wrong or made a mistake since she was crowned! As an American, I find it hard to believe that Queen Elizabeth was chosen by God to serve and that she is better than the rest of us mortals. However, in reading this book, that is exactly what the British (or at least this British author) believe.

Chapters include The Queen's various roles: statesman, sport, style, faith, etc. From what I can tell, Queen Elizabeth lives a very solitary life with every minute of her time scheduled (this is her wish). The only two people who can call on the phone and get a direct line to her are her horse trainers. Even her family members must go through her personal secretary to speak with her. Outside of her royal duties, her only true interests appear to be her horses and her corgis.

The other thing that really struck me in reading this book is just how much the monarch must cost Britain. One state banquet can cost upwards of 12,000 British pounds. The Queens clothes, most of them hand stitched, cost a fortune as well. Some of her shoes cost over 5,000 pounds a pair! This is interesting in light of the fact that The Queen is a constitutional monarch and has no political power. No matter that on paper the Prime Minister answers to her, in reality, The Queen must abide by the wishes of Parliament via the Prime Minister.

I had to read this book a chapter at a time because it was so overwhelmingly biased. The author despises Prince Charles and is worried that he and Prince William will make changes to the monarchy. This closing sentence sums his views up nicely: It would be to the advantage of her heirs – son and grandson – to follow her example.

I wondered as I read how this book came to be published in the U.S. and found (to my relief) that it was published in Britain. Next time I read non-fiction, I hope to find something a bit more balanced about the subject matter!

## 2007 Edgar Award Winners

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the 2007 Award Winners:

### BEST NOVEL

*The Janissary Tree* by Jason Goodwin  
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

### BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

*The Faithful Spy* by Alex Berenson  
(Random House)

### BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

*Snakeskin Shamisen* by Naomi Hirahara  
(Bantam Dell Publishing – Delta Books)

### BEST FACT CRIME

*Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson  
(HarperCollins – William Morrow)

### BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

*The Science of Sherlock Holmes: From Baskerville Hall to the Valley of Fear*  
by E.J. Wagner (John Wiley & Sons)

### BEST SHORT STORY

"The Home Front" – *Death Do Us Part* by Charles Ardai  
(Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown and Company)

### BEST JUVENILE

*Room One: A Mystery or Two* by Andrew Clements  
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)



2007-

2008

### Golden Sower Nominees

#### Primary:

*Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream* by Crystal Hubbard  
*Effie's Image* by N.L. Sharp  
*The Great Fuzz Frenzy* by Janet Stevens, et al  
*I Wanna Iguana* by Karen Kaufman Orloff  
*Mr. George Baker* by Amy Hest  
*Mrs. McBloom Clean up Your Classroom!* by Kelly DiPucchio  
*Nora's Ark* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

*Sakes Alive! A Cattle Drive* by Karma Wilson  
*Tooth Fairy's First Night* by Anne Bowen  
*Wallace's Lists* by Barbara Bottner and Gerald Kruglik

#### Intermediate:

*Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Defiance* by Valerie Hobbs  
*Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech  
*The Liberation of Gabriel King* by K. L. Going  
*The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall  
*Project Mulberry* by Linda Sue Park  
*The Scarlet Stockings Spy* by Trinka Hakes Noble  
*The SOS File* by Betsy Byars et al  
*The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco* by Janice Repka  
*The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney

#### Young Adult:

*Black Storm Comin'* by Diane Lee Wilson  
*Code Orange* by Caroline B. Cooney  
*Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac  
*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnerblick  
*Flush* by Carl Hiaasen  
*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan  
*The Perfect Shot* by Elaine Marie Alphin  
*The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman  
*Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083* by Andrea White  
*Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld



### Social Network Software

A social network service focuses on the building and verifying of online social networks for communities of people who share interests and activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. This necessitates the use of software. Most social network services are primarily web based and provide a collection of various ways for users to interact, such as chat, messaging, email, video, voice chat, file sharing, blogging, discussion groups, and to on.

from Wikipedia

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or been, it is all lying in magic preservation in  
the pages of books.

-Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

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