

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

Your System Board:

Christie Behle
Linda Bowden
Linda Bushman
Mary Koch
Laura Martinsen
Trine McBride
Carolyn Priebe
Christine Walsh
Janet Wilke
Joan Davis, Emeritus



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Meridian](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/Meridian)

System Services

Here's a reminder of available system services. More information may be found on the System webpage: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/meridian

Audiobook Tape Collection: System member libraries may borrow from ten audiobook collections for a loan period of three months.

Book Kits for Book Groups: We have numerous book sets to loan for student groups or Book Clubs. See enclosed bookmark for titles.

Consulting: The System Administrator is available by phone or e-mail or for site visits to discuss library related problems or concerns.

Cutting Machines: The System owns three Accu-Cut cutting machines. Two circulate for one month loan periods and have different sets of dies. The third is permanently housed at the System Office with various bookmark dies.

Equipment Loan: The System has the following equipment available for loan: portable Public Address System, Laptop & LCD Projector, four Digital Audio Players (3 iPods and 1 Creative Zen with audio books already loaded), a PHD/Dolphin scanner for Follett automation systems and a Wii gaming system with games.

Newsletter: *Meridian Monitor* is the bimonthly newsletter of the System.

Professional Collection: The system offers an array of professional materials, including books, videos and periodicals. See website for listing.

System Directory: An online listing of all member libraries and media centers with e-mail links.

Training and Consultation: The System provides workshops on topics of interest to librarians and media specialists and their boards.

Audiobook Narration

Last week it was rather ironic that on the day I learned my favorite audiobook narrator had died I would read a discussion regarding audiobook narrators on one of my listservs and an article by Joyce Saricks on the topic in the current issue of *Booklist*.

The narrator of a book can make or break it. I have tried to listen to some of my favorite books but given up because the narrator just wasn't right. I prefer one voice productions although many don't, saying that most men don't do women's voices well and vice versa. One of the worst things I have experienced is an author reading their own work. It's rare that they are gifted with both writing and speaking skills. The only exception I know to this is Frank McCourt. Of course, in *Angela's Ashes*, he is telling the story of his own life.

So what do I look for in audiobook narration? Someone who catches all the nuances of the text and who uses different voices for characters. I want to be so caught up in the story that I forget that only one person is reading it. Jim Dale does an admirable job with the Harry Potter books and years ago I listened to the Pulitzer Prize winning book *The Travels of Jamie McPheeters* and it was superb.

My favorite narrator is Frank Muller. Unfortunately, he recently died as a result of a serious motorcycle accident that left him severely injured a number of years ago. Frank Muller was an original narrator for Recorded Books and helped them to become a powerhouse in the audiobook industry with his many narrations (over 200 books). My favorite books that he narrated are by little known author Nevil Shute: *Trustee from the Toolroom* and *On the Beach*. A good book combined with a superb narration makes a winning combination!

The next time you order audiobooks, in addition to the usual criteria you use in choosing print titles, don't forget that the narrator is all-important to the reader's enjoyment (or hatred!) of that particular title.

Copyright Law- Part 4

This article is the four of a six-part series on copyright for educators and public librarians.

Part IV - Book Covers

How may book covers be used without infringement of copyright depends on various factors: is this for instructional purposes, use of first sale doctrine, remain in classroom, or published on the web with or with a password?

Two basic guidelines apply: 1. If the book is owned which includes the book cover, you may use the physical property for display during book talks, on bulletin boards or other presentations. 2. For use of photocopies or digital copies of the book cover contact the publisher for permission to use the book cover or any part of the book.

Some publishers will give permission for educational use on their website or in the copyright notice in their books. Attaching a copy of the permission to the copy of the book cover that is being used or maintaining a file of the permission statements is recommended in the event that the fair use is challenged.

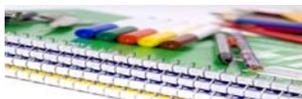
The Random House Permission website (<http://www.randomhouse.com/about/permissions.html>) is an excellent example of the request for permission process. A permission form is available to download or print. Two factors to keep in mind: a. Permission must be requested by mail or fax (rarely email is accepted) and b. Allow sufficient time for the request to be processed.

Students may apply Fair Use in order to include book covers as part of their assigned project whether it is in paper or digital format. A teacher may also apply Fair Use to utilize the book cover when it is used for instructional purposes with students. This is an educational application of Fair Use. The infringement might occur when the presentation is posted on the web and is not password protected. When posting to the web, this constitutes world wide distribution of the copyright protected materials. Whenever the

book cover is used, citing the book cover not only includes the author and publisher information but must also include the illustrator and, in some cases, the book cover artist.

For more discussion of the use of book covers, see COPYRIGHT CATECHISM by Carol Simpson, Linworth Publishers, 2005, pages 60, 62, 64, 65, 67 and 69.

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 I am not an attorney and this article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law.



NLA Scholarship Winners

The Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2008 recipients of the Louise A. Nixon and Duane Munson Scholarships.

The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship winners are:

Karl Wirth of Omaha
Mindy Rush Chipman of Bennett
Rochelle Krueger of Kearney

The winner of the Duane Munson Scholarship is
Nancy Voris of Papillion



Included in this issue is a bookmark master that lists all of the book discussion sets available for loan from the System Office. Please copy these bookmarks and give them out to your teachers and library users. We want the word to get out about these book sets!

Corrupting Young Minds (with Books) in the Library

So it turns out there are a couple of potentially controversial things about the current issue of The New Yorker, one of them being an article called "The Lion and the Mouse" by Jill Lepore. I've always agreed with the ethic and attitude of "Library 2.0," even though I didn't like the implication that libraries had never before in our history evolved. For me, it symbolizes the need to change again, in what may seem to some like radical ways (online conversations, user-generated content, zoned physical spaces, collaborative relationships with users, etc.), but this article shows just one example of when this happened in the past. Libraries responded then, as many are responding now.

As a proponent of gaming in libraries, one of the criticisms I hear about the movement is that libraries are for books and the edification of the mind. That we shouldn't corrupt young minds with games, and that we shouldn't use games as a ploy to get kids in the door. But libraries are vibrant places where quite a wide range of other things happen besides just books, and I think it's sad when patrons or librarians portray us as just warehouses. Any building can be a book warehouse - that's not what makes us "libraries" and community centers (regardless of type of library), and librarians certainly aren't "book tellers," just sitting behind a desk waiting to hand over a book in return for seeing a library card.

I believe quite strongly that libraries are about content, people, and communities. The people create community there, often around the content, but not always, especially in public libraries where we also serve a recreational role. All of this is why I believe gaming in libraries is a perfect fit, and I cringe when I hear someone conjure up "the good old days" when all kids did was sit in the library and read. When I hear this, I wonder whose childhood they're remembering, because while I certainly loved the library and would often read there, a lot of my friends never went there, maybe even most of them. The truth is that a lot of the kids I grew up with weren't spending their days reading the classics unless

they were forced to by teachers, let alone enlightening their minds by just sitting quietly in the middle of the library.

And if we go back far enough in “the good old days,” it turns out they couldn't have done those things even if they'd wanted to, because children simply weren't allowed in the library, a point brought home in The New Yorker piece. While the author spends the majority of the article discussing rivalries between the early players in the world of book reviews of children's literature, the background history is relevant to our own discussions today.

“At the time [1895], you had to be fourteen, and a boy, to get into the Astor Library, which opened in 1854, the same year as the Boston Public Library, the country's first publicly funded city library, where you had to be sixteen. Even if you got inside, the librarians would shush you, carping about how the 'young fry' read nothing but 'the trashy': Scott, Cooper, and Dickens (one century's garbage being, as ever, another century's Great Books). Samuel Tilden, who left \$2.4 million to establish a free library in New York, nearly changed his mind when he found out that ninety percent of the books checked out of the Boston Public Library were fiction. Meanwhile, libraries were popping up in American cities and towns like crocuses at first melt. Between 1881 and 1917, Andrew Carnegie underwrote the construction of more than sixteen hundred public libraries in the United States, buildings from which children were routinely turned away, because they needed to be protected from morally corrupting books, especially novels. In 1894, at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, the Milwaukee Public Library's Lutie Stearns read a 'Report on the Reading of the Young.' What if libraries were to set

aside special books for children, Stearns wondered, shelved in separate rooms for children, staffed by librarians who actually liked children?

Much of what [Anne Carroll] Moore did in that room had never been done before, or half as well. She brought in storytellers and, in her first year, organized two hundred story hours (and ten times as many two years later). She compiled a list of twenty-five hundred standard titles in children's literature. She won the right to grant borrowing privileges to children; by 1913, children's books accounted for a third of all the volumes borrowed from New York's branch libraries. Against the prevailing sentiment of the day, she believed that her job was to give 'to the child of foreign parentage a feeling of pride in the beautiful things of the country his parents have left....' In each of the library's branches, Moore abolished age restrictions. Down came the 'Silence' signs, up went framed prints of the work of children's-book illustrators. “Do not expect or demand perfect quiet,” she instructed her staff. 'The education of children begins at the open shelves.' In place of locked cabinets, she provided every library with a big black ledger; if you could sign your name, you could borrow a book.”

So when we talk about “the good old days,” let's be sure to specify which period we're referring to, because just over a hundred years ago, fiction was the great corrupter of young minds. A few decades later, it was E. B. White's “Stuart Little.”

But things change, and now it's games in the libraries that are bad influences or candy or inappropriate instead of books. What a difference a century makes! How much more powerful is it to look back on our history and see how library services to

all patrons have changed during the last hundred years? It's something to be proud of, even as we experience another transitional period and change again to serve new [and old] users in new ways.

Jenny Levine (The Shifted Librarian)
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Nebraska Smart Money Week

Nebraska will be hosting its first annual "Money Smart Week." The Nebraska Financial Education Coalition is coordinating this state wide event November 10 – 16 and planning is well under way. The Nebraska Council on Economic Education is heading the coordination of this project . Those in charge are hoping for a large collaborative effort among Nebraska's libraries, churches, Chambers of Commerce, banks, credit unions, schools, non-profits and any entity that has a vested interest in the financial education of Nebraskans to participate.

Your participation could include any of the following: setting up table displays dedicated to financial literacy that week, hosting workshops/events dedicated to the topic, or it could be a bigger event of your choice. Organizers will be getting bookmarks in August with the back of them blank if the Library would like to print anything on them for November.

The Governor has agreed to sign a proclamation designating November as Economic and Financial Education Month and November 10-16 as Money Smart Week. This has the makings to be a successful event, but it will only be successful if there is participation from every region of the

Diamonds are forever - Ian Fleming

Diamonds are forever, my youth is not - Jill St. John

I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back - Zsa Zsa Gabor

Diamonds never leave you....men do! -Shirley Bassey

Big girls need big diamonds - Elizabeth Taylor

Ladies, need a little sparkle and pizzazz in your life?
Gentlemen, looking for a gift that never goes out of style?

The Regional Library Systems will be raffling a pair of diamond studs at the Fall Conference in October and you could be the lucky winner of some prime bling. You can contact your system office for tickets or get some at the conference. \$3 each or two for \$5.

state. I would encourage you to visit the Money Smart Nebraska website at www.moneysmartnebraska.org and consider your involvement. By becoming a partner in this initiative, your information will be shared with others.

In the face of an economic downturn, financial literacy is even more important for people to maximize their earning potential, offset higher costs of living and ensure fruitful retirements.

Adult Conference at Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival
Saturday, October 11, 2008
Concordia University
Registration opens at 7:30
Sectionals begin at 9:00
Author luncheon featuring Mo Willems begins at 12:45

Pre-registration required
Register at www.cune.edu/plumcreek
Online payment available
Autographing of books by the authors and illustrators
prior to the sectionals and after the luncheon

Featured authors and illustrators

Joan Bauer – author of *Hope Was Here* and *Rules of the Road*
“Ordinary Heroes: Lessons from the Front”

Grandmothers, short order cooks, shoe salesmen, waitresses, too tall boys, pumpkin obsessed teenagers, hardened journalists: Joan Bauer discusses how she creates the quirky, funny heroes and role models in her novels, and why we need everyday heroes more than ever.

Cynthia DeFelice – author of *Nowhere to Call Home* and *Weasel*
“Meet Cynthia DeFelice”

Author of 16 novels and 11 picture books for children will talk about her work.

Gail Gibbons – author and illustrator of information books such as *The Vegetables We Eat* and *Dinosaurs*
“Information Please!”

Mo Willems – author and illustrator of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *Knuffle Bunny*
“Fun with Mo”

Early Literature Education today faces a myriad of challenges and difficulties, problems that can only be solved by wise, understanding minds of those who have devoted their careers to teaching Children. Mo Willems does not have one of those minds, so instead he's going to crack a few jokes, read a few books, and teach you how to draw.

Hans Wilhelm – author and illustrator of *Bunny Trouble* and *Hello Sun!*
“Get to know Hans Wilhelm”

Readers all over the world have cheered for little Boland in *Tyrone the Horrible*, rooted for *Bunny Trouble* and cried over *I'll Always Love You*. Now meet the popular author who evoked such emotions and connected so beautifully with children. Discover the unique perspective on childhood that Hans brings to all his works. Get to know the renowned author/illustrator in this special session and hear how he approaches the creative process for his magical stories. He will add a dash of his own life-philosophy, a great deal of insight and timeliness, and he shares slides of his most recent published work. At the end Hans often draws some of his famous characters on stage to the delight of the audience.

Mike Graf – author of National Parks adventure series
“Weather in the Classroom”

Weather 101 including basic weather elements, hands on activities, and experiments related to teaching weather and year long weather activities for the classroom.

“Writing Tips”

The basic ingredients for writing adventure realistic fiction for teachers to instruct their students on what Mike uses to develop his stories to be more compelling, well-edited, catchy, realistic, and organized.

Featured ELL experts

David & Yvonne Freeman – ESL experts

“Closing the Achievement Gap for English Language Learners”

The presenters first describe three types of English learners. Then they explain four research-based keys that lead to academic success for limited formal schooling and long-term English learners. For each key, they share strategies, culturally relevant materials, and teacher stories.

Featured sectional leaders

Anita Silvey – Children’s Literature expert

“Best Books for 12-14 year olds”

Books for the 12-14 year age group have become the focus of publishers in the last five years. In a dynamic lecture, Anita Silvey looks at the trends in publishing that have been influencing books for tweens and talks about some of the most exciting new titles in different genres – mystery, information, fantasy, graphic novels, historical fiction, and science fiction. The lecture will also discuss some of the best genres, and books, to engage boys.

“100 Best Books for Children”

When it comes to children’s book, not all are created equal. We have a body of books that have stood the test of time and engaged children year after year in the classroom. But even though adults think they know these books well, they may not have heard their “back stories,” the stories about how they got created. In an entertaining and inspiring lecture, Anita Silvey will present 40 of our classic books and also discuss the role of professionals and parents in keeping American literary culture alive.

Laura DeSena - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Humanities at New York University

“Preventing Plagiarism”

This workshop explores writing as practice in the art of self-discovery and self-expression, even as the writer engages in a dialogue with external knowledge through the research process. In this session, we will work on practical strategies for eliciting original ideas and encouraging fluency. Laura will discuss approaches to the generation of an original thesis as she has presented them in her book, *Preventing Plagiarism: Tips and Techniques*, emphasizing student response to primary sources through freewriting and the movement toward the synthesis of a central idea, to creative outlining and formal composition. The goal is to have students turn inward to the self and enter a dialogue that generates original voice and vision in their writings.

Dr. Robert Brooke – UNL professor and Director of the Nebraska Writing Project

“Writing Workshop for Teachers”

Participants in this workshop will have the chance to write themselves, to share their emerging writing with other teacher-writers, and to plan for ways to complete their writing – both to share with their students and for their own purposes. The workshop will follow the Nebraska Writing Project model. The workshop will be set up so that participants can choose to stay for a single session, or can continue writing and sharing for both sessions.

Carol Rempp – Indian Education specialist

“Using Native American Literature to teach about Culture”

The goal of this session is to provide educators with ideas on how to use literature to teach about culture and diversity. The presenter will provide a wide variety of Native American and ethnically diverse literature and teaching resources and activities that can be used by teachers of all levels to teach students about culture. Participants will leave with lists of quality literature, information on detecting bias and stereotypes in literature, and resources they can immediately use when they return to their classrooms.

Laurie Zum Hofe and Sara Guethling – Reading and Composition specialists

“Possibility Through Writing”

Writing teachers today are inundated with “programs” that promise quick-fixes for writing instruction. However, a writing workshop classroom environment offers students and teachers possibility through issues of choice, ownership and accountability. This presentation will discuss transforming “programmatically” writing classrooms into effective, learning-centered, student-driven ones.

Janice Mickle – Omaha Public Schools ELL Coordinator

“ELL 101”

Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age
NLA/NEMA 2008 Annual Conference
Special Wednesday Night GALA Event



International Quilt Museum Gala! Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008 7-9:30 pm

- Transportation:** Buses run from Cornhusker Hotel beginning 6:50
with the last bus leaving the Quilt Center at 9:30
- Address:** 33rd and Holdredge, on-street parking only
- Menu:** Desserts and Fruit! Cash bar!
- Museum:** Quilt Galleries will be open, and the Virtual Quilt Gallery
- Special Exhibit:** Finalists from the Mountain Mist Eco-Friendly Quilt Competition
- Cost:** \$10 per person

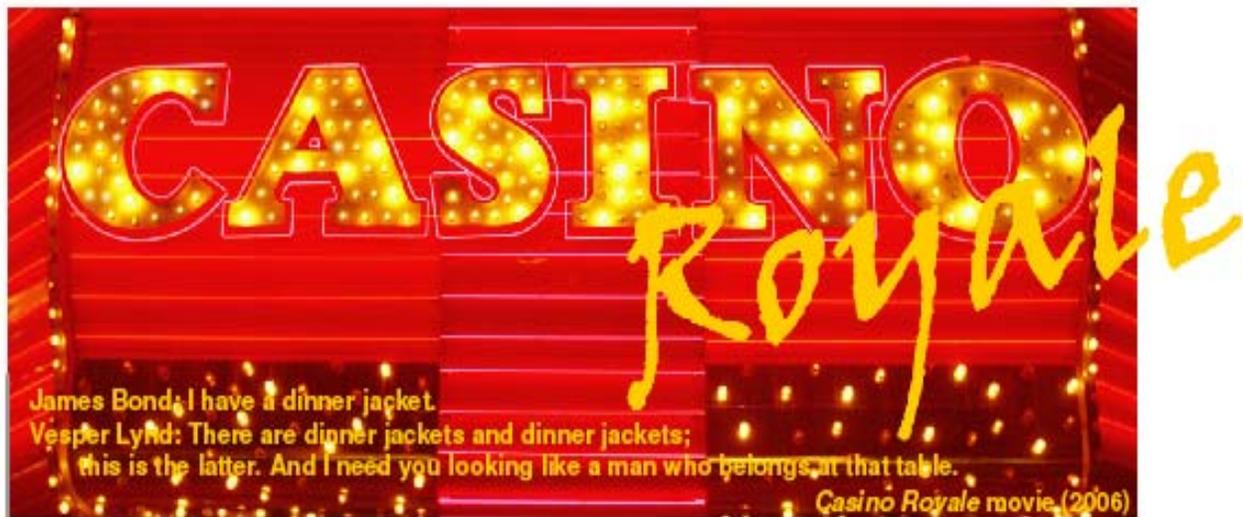
Discover the world of QUILTS!

The glass and brick building, designed by the internationally renowned Robert A.M. Stern Architects of New York, houses the world's largest collection of more than 2,300 quilts and an international study center dedicated to the research, preservation, and display of important quilts from cultures around the world. A Virtual Quilt Gallery is available at the museum. It provides multimedia, interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. Individuals may design a quilt, inspect details of quilts from over a thousand archived images, and record quilt stories on topics including family memories, artistic inspiration, quilt history, or reflections on their visit to the museum. For more information about the Quilt Center: <http://www.quiltstudy.org/>

Register @

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/registration/ConferenceRegistrationForm2008.pdf>





Bring your money, your skill, and your luck

for a night of fun that benefits the Legacy Fund.

Thursday night after the Banquet, or at 9 p.m., whichever's earliest,

come join us in the Arbor Room to play

poker, roulette, bingo, craps, and blackjack.



And for an extra dose of glamour, you can dress 007 style, "like a man (or woman) who belongs at [the] table."

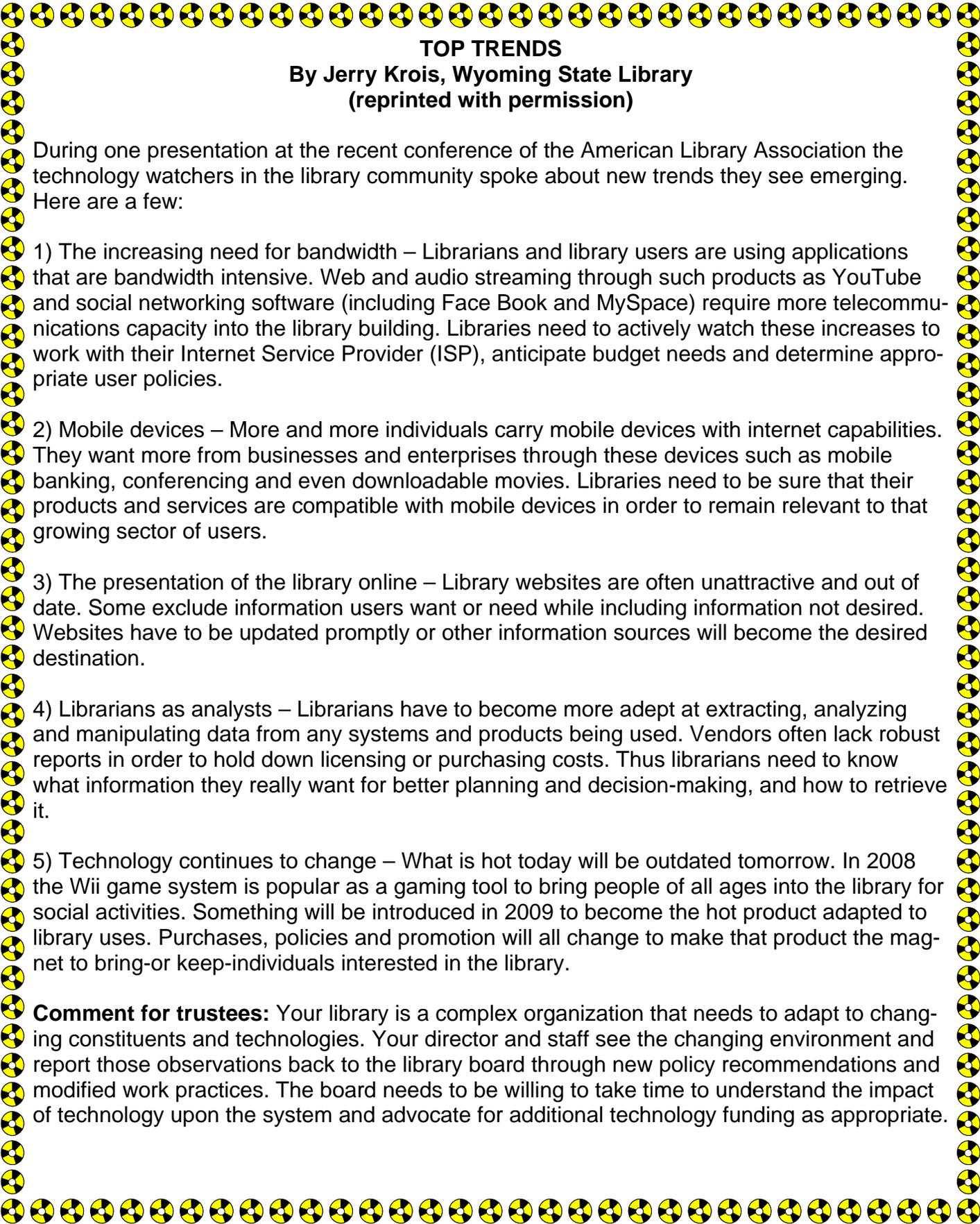


So pull out your ritziest evening wear, your exotic foreign accents, and come try your luck! Of course you're welcome to come mingle and be one of the beautiful people even if you don't want to play.

It will be \$5 for 25 chips with similar rules to last year's gaming event.



Only at 2008's NLA/NEMA Conference in Lincoln on October 16!



TOP TRENDS

By Jerry Krois, Wyoming State Library
(reprinted with permission)

During one presentation at the recent conference of the American Library Association the technology watchers in the library community spoke about new trends they see emerging. Here are a few:

1) The increasing need for bandwidth – Librarians and library users are using applications that are bandwidth intensive. Web and audio streaming through such products as YouTube and social networking software (including Face Book and MySpace) require more telecommunications capacity into the library building. Libraries need to actively watch these increases to work with their Internet Service Provider (ISP), anticipate budget needs and determine appropriate user policies.

2) Mobile devices – More and more individuals carry mobile devices with internet capabilities. They want more from businesses and enterprises through these devices such as mobile banking, conferencing and even downloadable movies. Libraries need to be sure that their products and services are compatible with mobile devices in order to remain relevant to that growing sector of users.

3) The presentation of the library online – Library websites are often unattractive and out of date. Some exclude information users want or need while including information not desired. Websites have to be updated promptly or other information sources will become the desired destination.

4) Librarians as analysts – Librarians have to become more adept at extracting, analyzing and manipulating data from any systems and products being used. Vendors often lack robust reports in order to hold down licensing or purchasing costs. Thus librarians need to know what information they really want for better planning and decision-making, and how to retrieve it.

5) Technology continues to change – What is hot today will be outdated tomorrow. In 2008 the Wii game system is popular as a gaming tool to bring people of all ages into the library for social activities. Something will be introduced in 2009 to become the hot product adapted to library uses. Purchases, policies and promotion will all change to make that product the magnet to bring-or keep-individuals interested in the library.

Comment for trustees: Your library is a complex organization that needs to adapt to changing constituents and technologies. Your director and staff see the changing environment and report those observations back to the library board through new policy recommendations and modified work practices. The board needs to be willing to take time to understand the impact of technology upon the system and advocate for additional technology funding as appropriate.

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

GasBuddy.com

"GasBuddy.com can help you find cheap gas prices in your city. It is a network of [over] 180 gas price information web sites that helps you find low gasoline prices." Search for prices by ZIP code." Information is member-supplied. Registration (free) required to post gas prices on most of the gas sites or to create a fuel log for tracking your expenses. Includes tips for conserving gas, links to news stories, and other resources.

URL: <http://gasbuddy.com/>

Women in History: Historical Figures

Profiles of famous American women, such as Louisa May Alcott, Clara Barton, Rachel Carson, Isadora Duncan, Sally Hemings, Dolley Madison, Annie Oakley, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Profiles vary in amount of information provided about the individual. A good starting point for ideas for school paper topics, as this listing includes women from a variety of time periods, professions, and fields of accomplishment. From Lakewood Public Library, Ohio.

URL: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/figures.htm>

Camping With the Sioux: Fieldwork Diary of Alice Cunningham Fletcher

Text of fieldwork journals "kept by Alice Fletcher during a six-week venture into Plains Indian territory in 1881." Fletcher's trip "was unprecedented. ... no one but Frank Hamilton Cushing had lived with Native Americans for a scientific purpose." Features illustrated diary entries, a photo gallery, Sioux folk tales recorded by Fletcher, and related readings and links. From the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

URL: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fletcher/>

Beijing 2008

News and information about the Beijing 2008 Olympics from the U.S. network broadcasting the games. Features articles, video clips, and photos. Includes information about the setting and sporting venues (such as "The Bird's Nest" stadium and "The Water Cube" aquatics center) in China, biographies of selected athletes, and details about specific sports (including new sports such as BMX cycling). Also includes information about past games. From NBC.

URL: <http://www.nbcolympics.com/>

Arthur C. Clarke: The Science and the Fiction

An article and interview with science fiction author, futurist, and rocket enthusiast Arthur C. Clarke commemorating his 1945 predictions in his article "Extra-Terrestrial Relays: Can Rocket Stations Give World Wide Radio Coverage?" The article, published in the magazine *Wireless World* in 2005, describes how Clarke's "prediction of satellite communications has come true in ways." From the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/arthurclarke.shtml>

In Pictures: Computer Tutorials Based on Pictures

Collection of free, easy-to follow illustrated tutorials for software and computer subjects such as Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, Photoshop Elements, HTML and CSS, My SQL, PHP, and Perl. Originally developed as part of a U.S. Department of Education study to help people with learning disabilities to learn computer skills. From Visibooks.

URL: <http://inpics.net>

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The 4 R's: Robots, Romance, Revolvers and Recipes

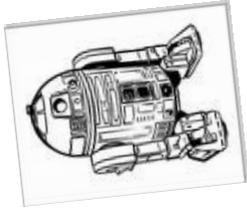
Join us on October 15, 2008 at the Bennett Martin Public Library on 14th and N in Lincoln, Nebraska for a Pre Conference Workshop exploring four different genre's featuring midwest authors. Each author will explain their writing techniques and love for their choice of genre.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

October 15, 2008 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Bennett Martin Public Library
14th and N
Lincoln, Nebraska
Cost \$35.00 per person, lunch included
5 CE Credits

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obots will be our first session beginning at 9:30 until 10:00 a.m. with Kevin J. Anderson. Kevin J. Anderson is the author of more than ninety novels, 43 of which have appeared on national or international bestseller lists. He has over 20 million books in print in thirty languages. He has won or been nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including the Nebula Award, Bram Stoker Award, the SFX Reader's Choice Award, the American Physics Society's Forum Award, and New York Times Notable Book. By any measure, he is one of the most popular writers currently working in the science fiction genre.



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omance is a topic that Victoria Alexander knows well. She will share her knowledge with us from 10:50 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Victoria Alexander was an award-winning television reporter until she discovered fiction was much more fun than real life. She turned to writing full time and has never looked back. Victoria grew up traveling the country as an Air Force brat and is now settled in a hundred-year-old house in Nebraska with her husband and two teenaged children, and a bearded collie named Sam. She firmly believes housework is a four-letter word, there are no calories in anything eaten standing up, procrastination is an art form, and it's never too soon to panic.

Revolvers is the title for our mystery session from 10:10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. with Sean Doolittle. Sean Doolittle grew up in southeastern Nebraska. His first two novels, *Dirt* and *Burn* were published by [Ugly-Town](#). More recently, *Rain Dogs* was published by Random House/Bantam Dell (2005). His most recent novel is *The Cleanup* (Dell, 2006). His writing was shortlisted for the CWA/Macallan Dagger Award. He won the Gold Medal in *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Award in 2003 for *Burn*. And *Dirt* was an Amazon.com Top 100 Editor's Pick for 2001. He holds the MA from the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where he won the Mari Sandoz Prize for his fiction. He lives in Omaha with his wife and daughter.



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ecipes will be presented by Jessica Covi from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. She will share her experiences in compiling the cookbook "The Toast of Omaha" with the Junior League of Omaha service organization. The Junior League of Omaha is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



Lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by a Panel Discussion from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will wrap up the workshop with an Autograph Session from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The books below are available for pre-purchase. Send order with Registration form.

Science Fiction



Kevin J. Anderson

— *Crystal Doors: Sky Realm* \$16.99

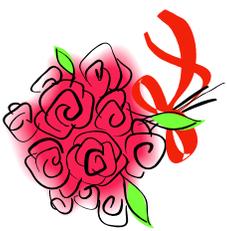
— *The Ashes of Worlds* \$25.99

— *Paul of Dune* \$25.95

— *The Last Days of Krypton* \$25.95

_____ Total

Romance



Victoria Alexander

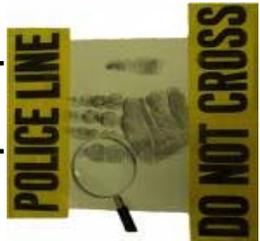
— *The Perfect Wife* \$6.99

— *Secrets of a Proper Lady* \$6.99

— *Seduction of a Proper Gentleman* \$6.99

_____ Total

Police Line



Vicky Grothman

— *Police Line* '98

— *Police Line* '98

— *Police Line* '98

_____ Total

Non-Fiction



Cookbook

Jessica Covi

— *Toast to Omaha: A Cookbook* \$24.95



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Books are masters who instruct us without rods or ferules, without words or anger, without bread or money. If you approach them, they are not asleep; if you seek them, they do not hide; if you blunder, they do not scold; if you are ignorant, they do not laugh at you.

—Richard De Bury (1287-1345)

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