

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2006

Your System Board:

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Penny Jeffrey
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SIGNAGE

As I tried to enter a building the other day I came face to face with a sign that said, "Do Not Enter". It was brief and straight to the point but it was not helpful, nor positive. How much better if that person had posted a sign saying, "Please use south entrance". For exactly 12 more letters that sign could have been both more positive and more helpful – and consequently, done more good in public relations.

The large amusement parks are experts at this. "You may ride if you are this high" signs accompanied by a height mark are much more pleasant to encounter than a person making that determination or a negative sign.

In that same vein I've always preferred "Thank you for not smoking" to "No smoking". It gives the reader of the sign a totally different feeling about the sign. It has the flavor of a request rather than an order.

We need to take a tip from the amusement parks and think in terms of how we can phrase our library signs and our rules in a more positive way. Instead of posting a sign that says "Limit of two videos" try "You may check out two videos". It sounds more like the privilege it is rather than a punishment.

A former children's librarian that I admire was known to gently but firmly ask very rowdy children to leave the library by saying, "You'll need to leave today but we'll be glad to see you tomorrow (or next week)". This made an impression on me because it accomplished what was necessary discipline wise but is also told the children that they would be welcome in the library again and that no one would hold their current behavior against them.

Public relations experts tell us that we should not begin a sentence to a customer (translate that to patron) with a "No". It's like a stop sign to the customer and, therefore, bad for business. So a "No, we don't have that" or "No, we can't do that" in a library conveys the same idea. How much better to be able to say, "We have some great new titles on that subject" or "I'm sure we'll be able to get that for you through interlibrary loan."

Even the smallest things make big impressions. A few weeks ago I sent for some free items which required sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (no size indicated). One person responded "The size did not permit us to use the stamped envelope you had enclosed" while the other one said, "I'm returning your envelope to be used another day". It was sort of like the story of whether the glass is half empty or half full. The latter response sounded so much more positive and friendly. A small thing but it pointed out to me once again what a difference rephrasing a sentence can make.

Language is a powerful tool. As librarians we know that. Let's make use of it!

—Dee Yost in *Valleytalk*, April 1992
Reprinted with permission

Economic Value of Your Library to the Community

Mary K. Nelson from Holdrege has put together the following documents for you to use in surveying your community and reporting the results to them.

Introduction: Public libraries allow users to share knowledge and services at a cost to them as taxpayers; however, all taxpayers in the community benefit from public libraries through their considerable contribution to education, the economy, retirement and quality of life. Taxpayers rightfully want to understand what benefits they receive from their tax dollars, The purpose of this report is to demonstrate the economic benefit and overall economic wellbeing the library gives to our community.

Survey: Gather and analyze data directly from users to perceive the value of the library in General Use, Use for Business, Use Personal Investment.

Method: For one month, ask library patrons to complete survey. Tabulate results.

Please answer the questions on this survey to help us evaluate the value of our library.

(All are Yes/No questions)

Does the library improve overall quality of life?
Does the library increase property value?
Does the library attract new businesses to the community?
Does the library attract patronage to local businesses?
Does the library enhance personal fulfillment?
Is the library a source of personal enjoyment?
Has the library helped you manage personal finance?
Has the library save you money?
Has the library introduced users to new technologies?
Has the library assisted workers to be more productive?
Has the library helped users with life-long learning?

Has the library contributed to home schooling efforts?

Has information obtained from the library contributed to the success of your business?

If you did not have access to the library would it have a negative impact on your business?

Have you used information from the library when making personal investments?

Other Comments:

Let's Talk Dollars! Return on Investment

Q: How much money did the library save patrons by loaning books, movies and other items?

A: The Public Library circulated (#) adult materials and (#) children's materials for a total of (#) items. \$20 is the average cost of a hardcover book. Multiply (total#) times \$20 for a total of (\$).

Q: How many family entertainment dollars did the library save the people in our community?

A: (Program attendance for the year multiplied by \$6.00, the average cost of a movie ticket.)

Q: How much money does the library save the people of our community by providing computers with Internet access for the public?

A: The computers were used by our adult patrons (#) hours, young adults (#) hours and children (#) hours last year. Kinko's Copy Center offers access to computers with Internet connections at \$12.00/hour. (Total # hours x \$12) dollars were saved by our patrons.

Q: What other unique services does the library provide that generates income?

A: (sample answer) The library has the only publicly available color copier in the county and can be used at no cost or for a freewill donation. Newspapers and magazines are used by many patrons, and library personnel answer hundreds of research questions each year.

Q: What does it cost the taxpayer to fund the library for a year?

A: The total tax revenue from the city in 2006 was (\$). With (#) citizens in the city and county, the library services cost each person (\$ divided by number of citizens) each year.



NEWSLETTER NOTE

We recently lost our label list for this newsletter. If you are receiving this issue and do not want to be on our list, please let us know. Thanks for your patience as we try to "reinvnt" our list!



Additions to Professional Collection

Joseph Janes Colloquium at The Cornhusker Hotel on April 8, 2006 (in DVD or VHS formats)

Field Guide to Emergency Response

Disaster Planning by Deborah D. Halsted, et. al.



REVISITING JANE AUSTEN

People who are familiar with my reading tastes know that Jane Austen is a favorite with *Pride & Prejudice* leading my list as number one all-time best book. In the most recent issue of *Booklist*, there is a column talking about how Austen and her works live on through sequels and new novels (some in which Austen herself is a character). I have read many of these and some are good and some are absolutely awful! Here are my favorites:

1. Mystery series by Carrie Bebris:
 - *Pride & Prescience* which opens immediately after Elizabeth and Darcy's marriage
 - *Suspense and Sensibility*
 - *North by Northanger*

As you will note, each title refers to an Austen book and the characters from these books appear in the mystery. These mysteries are fun and light with a touch of the mystic about them.

2. *Mr. Darcy's Diary* by Amanda Grange. We learn of Darcy's horror at the attempted elopement of his sister with Wickham, how and why he tried to keep Bingley and Jane apart and his disgust at arranging a marriage between Lydia and Wickham. But most of

all, we learn of his real feelings for Elizabeth. Although the first half of the book relies fairly heavily on the original P&P, the second half is entirely Grange's vision of what Darcy's thoughts and struggles were. This books is currently out-of-print but is supposed to be reprinted soon. Grange's newest title *Mr. Knightley's Diary* is due out in November.

3. *A Visit to Highbury, Another view of Emma* by Joan Austen-Leigh. Austen's own great-great grandniece penned this sequel. Written entirely in letters, this book gives us a different view of the events in Highbury. Mrs. Goddard, mistress of Harriet Smith's school, corresponds with her sister who lives in London and share the same doctor as Isabella and John Knightley. Austen-Leigh includes no events that are not in the original and has a great feel for the language used by her very famous relative.



ROAD TRIP TO MPLA

The Regional Library Systems have received grant funding from the Nebraska Library Commission for a bus to the joint New Mexico Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference in Albuquerque March 14-16, 2007. The cost is free to librarians from Nebraska. Others who may choose to accompany librarians pay \$100/person. The plan is to leave on Tuesday, March 13 and return Saturday, March 17th. If you have never attended a regional or national conference, this is a great way to do so inexpensively and to network with others as the same time! To sign up, contact the System Office.



Cutting Machine Schedule:

October: Ansley Public School (Machine 1 & 2)

November: Machine 1 to Spalding Public School; Machine 2 open

December: Both machines open

To schedule, please contact the System Office.

ALA Announces New Award

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), which is an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), has announced a new award, the American Indian Youth Literature Award. The recipients will receive the award on October 13 during the Joint Conference for Librarians of Color conference to be held in Dallas.

The recipients are:

Picture Book category: *Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story* by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (and published by the University of Nebraska Press!)

Middle-School Award: *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich

Young Adult Award: *Hidden Roots* by Joseph Bruchac



Graphic Novels in Libraries

A downloadable brochure titled, "Graphic Novels: Suggestions for Librarians" is now available. To view and/or print this brochure go to: http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifissues/graphicnovels_1.pdf or: www.ncac.org/graphicnovels. It was prepared jointly by The National Coalition Against Censorship, the American Library Association, and the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. The brochure contains information on the history of graphic novels, guidance on developing a graphic novel collection, where to shelve them, and dealing with challenges.

The Office of Intellectual Freedom also has information concerning challenges to graphic novels on their web page. Go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifissues/Default883.htm> and scroll down until you see "Links to Intellectual Freedom Issues." Below that is an alphabetized list, click on "Graphic Novels" to link to the page

Innovative Reading Grant

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of ALA, has announced a new grant opportunity: the AASL Innovative Reading Grant. As stated on their web site, "Sponsored by Coughlan Publishing, the \$2,500 grant will support the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for students that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers." The grant is aimed at grades K-9.

Visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/august2006/AASLreadinggrant.htm> for more information.



Attention Public and School (K-12) Librarians:

The American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are pleased to announce the newest We the People Bookshelf. This year's theme is "The Pursuit of Happiness."

Part of the NEH's We the People initiative, this annual collection development grant project will award sets of 15 classic books for young readers to 2,000 libraries across the country. Selected libraries will also receive 4 of the Bookshelf titles in Spanish, a bonus CD (Happy Land: Musical Tributes to Laura Ingalls Wilder performed by various artists), posters, bookmarks and programming resources. Libraries interested in receiving the collection are required to develop and host a program to introduce the collection and its theme to students and/or patrons.

The list of "Pursuit of Happiness" titles has just been posted at <http://www.ala.org/wethepeople>. Guidelines and applications will be available online at <http://www.wethepeople.gov> or via <http://www.ala.org/wethepeople> from September 19, 2006 through January 31, 2007. All applications are due by January 31.

We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to receive the "Pursuit of Happiness" collection for your library! With questions, please contact the Public Programs Office at ALA.

To start planning your application today, visit <http://www.ala.org/wethepeople> for a list of programming ideas!

CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT ACT



- **What is LB 454, the “Concealed Handgun Permit Act?”**
- **How does it affect libraries?**
- **Should our library have a policy regarding weapons?**

Legislative Bill 454 takes effect on January 1, 2007. It provides conditions under which an individual may carry a concealed handgun. “Concealed” means totally hidden from view. “Handgun” means any firearm with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length or designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand. “Permitholder” is someone holding a current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun.

The requirements for obtaining a permit include tested vision, training completed within the last 3 years, Nebraska driver’s license or state ID, a criminal records check, at least 21 years of age, not a convicted felon, not adjudged mentally ill or incompetent, a Nebraska resident for at least 180 days, no violations relating to weapons or controlled substances, not on parole or probation, be a U.S. citizen. The permit costs \$100 and is good for 5 years, if there are no violations.

A permitholder may carry the concealed handgun anywhere in the state, except for these places: law enforcement offices, jails, courtrooms, election polling places, meetings of a governing body of a county, school district, or any other political subdivision, meeting of the Legislature or its committees, banks, athletic events, schools or school activities, churches, emergency rooms, political rallies, bars, or any place where firearms are prohibited by state or federal laws.

In addition, if the person in control of the property prohibits carrying concealed handguns, or if handguns are prohibited by law or rule or regulation, the permit holder may not carry the concealed handgun. But—this only applies if a conspicuous notice has been posted that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited on the premises. Another option is for an “authorized representative” or manager to request that the permit holder remove the concealed handgun from the premises. The person may have the handgun in a vehicle on the premises where it is prohibited to carry it inside.

So, in order to restrict persons who have a concealed handgun permit from bringing the handgun into the library, it would be necessary to have a policy and post a conspicuous notice. What are the drawbacks of doing this? Think about the message to library patrons whose first contact with your building is a notice about weapons. Might posting this message tempt someone to try to carry a concealed handgun to see what the library staff would do about it? What procedures would you need in order to enforce the restriction? Taking it a step further, if someone actually drew a gun in the library, do you have emergency procedures in place to assure the safety of your customers? Those who feel strongly about the right to bear arms may feel the library has no right to add a restriction to the law that was passed in the Legislature. You may want to discuss these questions with your local law enforcement officers, city attorney, and with your city officials to determine what is the best approach to take. The city may already have provisions that would apply to the library.

—Cherie Longmuir, Panhandle Library System
(used with permission)

**Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2006
Conference Call**

CALL TO ORDER: President Gail Irwin called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Board members answering roll call were: Ruth Campbell, Maxine Erpelding, Gail Irwin, Penny Jeffrey, Mary Koch, Michelle Self, and Stacy Vogel. Kristina Owen was absent due to illness. Administrator Sharon Osenga and Richard Miller from NLC were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Nebraska Library Commission Report from Richard Miller and the Administrator's Report from Sharon were added to the agenda and were to follow the Treasurer's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Penny made a motion, seconded by Maxine, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2006 meeting as written. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Gail read six thank you notes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: This was the first two months of the fiscal year. A motion was made by Stacy and seconded by Penny to approve the claims. Roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORT FROM RICHARD MILLER: Richard reminded everyone of several upcoming dates: Teen Read Week, Oct. 15-21; Youth Grants for Excellence applications due Oct. 20th; Library Improvement Grants (formerly LSTA) applications due Dec. 28th; Public Library Statistical Report available Oct. 15th, due Jan 31st.

Richard reported on area recipients of CE and Training grants. He also mentioned the 60 day free trials of Ancestry and ProQuest. Tutorials on the Fiction Connection are available on the Commission website.

New faces at the Commission are Linda Jensen who will be staff assistant. Laura Johnson will be C.E. coordinator taking Pam Scott's position beginning Oct. 16th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Thirteen people went on the Literary Ireland tour. Great trip and the systems are hoping to do another trip in the summer

of 2008, possibly to Wales and Southern England.

Sharon reminded us she is President of MPLA through March. She has worked the MPLA booth and done presentations on the MPLA Leadership Institute at the Nevada and South Dakota Library Association conferences. She reminded everyone of the pre-conference at Brownville and NLA/NEMA conference Oct. 25-27 at Omaha.

Sharon has done several weeding and consultation projects this summer requiring her to travel quite a bit.

RVLS and MLS co-sponsored a workshop in Hastings with John Seyfarth. The Regional Library Systems will sponsor two upcoming workshops with grant money from NLC. Nancy Bolt will come in November and Karen Hyman in April. The Systems also received funding to take a bus to the MPLA conference in Albuquerque in March. There will be room for 49.

MP3 players are all out on 3 month loans. Each library will be asked to evaluate them at the end of the loan period.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

Audit: Auditors had no suggestions and the Board had no questions or concerns. Maxine made a motion, seconded by Stacy to approve the audit. Motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Youth Services Grant: We discussed the Youth Services Grant application. Penny made a motion that we change the required signature from the project director to that of the Library Director or Library/Media Specialist. Michelle seconded the motion. Motion carried. Applications will be due Dec. 15th.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Jan. 12th at 10:30 a.m. at the Burwell Library. We will have a potluck meal after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Koch
Meridian Library System Board Secretary

Meridian Library System Youth Services Grants 2006-2007

INTRODUCTION:

The Meridian Library System is offering two five hundred dollar (\$500.00) grants to member libraries and media centers for projects or programs impacting services to children or teens. Applications will be judged in a competitive process by the Meridian Library System Board. Awards will be made in January, 2007. Depending upon the number of applications received, preference will be given to those libraries or media centers who did not receive a youth services grant in 2005-2006.

AWARD CRITERIA:

1. Clear convincing application.
2. Strong needs statement with documentation.
3. Innovative and creative programs.
4. Ability to see the project through to conclusion.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Applications will not be considered unless all instructions are followed.

1. Complete and sign the following form.
2. Submit original and nine (9) copies of this form by the application deadline.
3. Submit completed application to:

Meridian Library System
3519 Second Avenue, Suite B
Kearney, NE 68847

Application must be postmarked by December 15, 2006. The Meridian Library System disclaims responsibility for applications received beyond the closing date.

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: (Must be Meridian Library System member)

Organization Name:

Address:

Contact Person and Title:

Telephone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Title of Project:

PROJECT OR PROGRAM INFORMATION: (attach the following information to this application form)

Project Description: Provide a brief (150 words or fewer) summary of the project, including the project title and the estimated beginning and the end dates.

Project Narrative:

- NEEDS STATEMENT - List and explain why this project/program/service is needed. Please be factual and objective.

- PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING TARGETED AUDIENCE - Objectives should be measurable.

- PROGRAM/METHODS STATEMENT – Include description of program and methods you plan to use in order to reach the goals and objectives of the project/program/service. Be specific.

- PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET – Divide into the following categories: personnel expenses, operating expenses, equipment, other expenses. *If materials are being ordered, include an itemized list.*

- PROJECT TIMETABLE

- EVALUATION – What results do you expect from this project? How will your project make a difference?

SIGNATURE OF LIBRARY DIRECTOR OR MEDIA SPECIALIST: (Applications without a signature will be disqualified.)

_____ Date: _____

Are you

A library director?

A trustee?

A supervisor?

Aspiring to be a leader?

Join us for

LEADING AT THE LIBRARY

with *Nancy Bolt*

(consultant with Nancy Bolt & Associates / formerly Director of Colorado State Library)

Learn:

- how to be more confident in your abilities and competencies
- how to take intelligent risks
- how to lead productive meetings
- how to improve your communication skills
- how to build professional relationships
- how to think beyond the library walls for community planning

November 14, 2006 – Wahoo Public Library

November 15, 2006 – Tilden Public Library

November 16, 2006 – North Platte Community College-North Campus

November 17, 2006 – Scottsbluff Public Library

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time

\$10 fee includes lunch

Nancy Bolt also initiated the successful Bulgarian/Colorado Library Partnership with the purpose of building international library relationships; currently there are 25 such alliances. Nancy will also speak about Bulgaria, its libraries, and what contributes to a viable partnership with libraries in other countries. Funding for these partnerships comes in part from the sale of hand-crafted jewelry, which will be available for purchase.

This workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Register and make checks payable to **Nebraska Regional Library Systems (NRLS):**

11929 Elm St., Ste. 12, Omaha, NE 68144

800-627-7884 / 402-330-7884 Fax 402-330-1859; ktooker@alltel.net / nrmeyer@alltel.net

Specify the site where you will attend.

Name _____ Email _____

Library _____ Site _____

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She herself was a victim of that lust for books which rages in the breast like a demon, and which cannot be stilled save by the frequent and plentiful acquisition of books. This passion is more common, and more powerful, than most people suppose. Book lovers are thought by unbookish people to be gentle and unworldly, and perhaps a few of them are so But there are others who will lie and scheme and steal to get books as wildly and unconscionable as the dope-taker in pursuit of his drug.
—Robertson Davies (1913-1995)

MERIDIAN MONITOR is published six times a year by the Meridian Library System for its members in Blaine, Brown, Buffalo, Cherry, Custer, Dawson, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hooker, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Thomas and Valley Counties.