

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012

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Below is an article Matt published in our local paper that outlines the current situation with publishers regarding eBooks

eBook Issues by Matt Williams, Kearney Public Library

Kearney Public Library has a great service that most of you, if not all, have heard of. We offer eBooks free. If you own a Kindle or a Nook or an Ipad you can go to our website and click on the link for downloadable audio and eBooks and you are taken to a site run by Overdrive where you can borrow the books.

However, as wonderful as this service is there are serious problems with the system of bringing eBooks to libraries. We constantly run into people who ask us why the library doesn't buy more titles or offer all the best-sellers. Are we falling down on the job? Asleep at the wheel? The answer is a definitive no. We actually have no choice in the matter. This column will address this issue with fact and informed opinions.

The first thing you need to know is that the reason we can afford to offer this service to you is because we are part of a consortium of over 100 libraries that all chip in to buy the service. And we are consistently the number one library in terms of use of the service. Books are chosen by a team of librarians from various libraries. We also have a service whereby we buy extra copies of best sellers that are only for our users to make the waiting list go faster for you. So, is it the consortium's fault we don't have more titles? Are the choosers not doing their job? No, again.

There are a handful of companies that offer this service to libraries. We use Overdrive because they offer the greatest selection. Overdrive negotiates with all the publishers and then provides the software and the eBooks in one handy place for us. So, is Overdrive holding out on us? Of course not. That would make no sense at all from a business standpoint. They want us to buy titles from them.

So, who does that leave to blame? There is only one stop left on this train ride – the Publishers (with a capital P). There are only six major publishers in North America (the world, really). They are known as the Big Six. And they are afraid. The eBook market is a fledgling business and they want to make sure they are not undercut. And as ridiculous as it sounds, libraries have become the target of their fears. Why should people buy them when they can just download them for free? And eBooks don't wear out like hardcovers so libraries don't have to pay to replace them and the publishers will lose money there as well. It seems like a case of the publishers vs. the big bad libraries and it is frustrating. What really is happening is that the publishers are struggling to build a business model that will benefit both them and libraries. Because I do think in the end they realize how important libraries are to them.

I believe the fears of these publishers are unfounded. It is my sincere belief that libraries aid the sale of books much more than they harm them. And recent studies by the Pew Charitable trust back me up. Libraries introduce readers to authors. People will take a chance on an author they can check out for free at the library and if they like them they may very well purchase it or their next book. The studies show that readers are both borrowers and buyers. It is not an either or equation.

Here is a snapshot of the stance of the Big Six concerning libraries and eBooks:

- ◆ Random House. This publisher marks up their eBooks up to 300% for libraries. No, that is not a typo. What you can buy for \$19.99 on Amazon could cost us \$59.97. Can't buy too many copies at that price so we get only the top 10.
- ◆ Simon & Schuster. This publisher won't sell eBooks to libraries. No Evanovich for our patrons. Sorry.
- ◆ Harper Collins. This library will sell the eBooks to libraries, but only for 26 checkouts. Then the library must rebuy the book. As if it is a hardcover wearing out after use. Libraries were very mad at this move and the consortium voted to boycott Harper Collins. However, compared to not selling, or a 300% markup, it seems positively sane even though the premise is nonsensical on its face. (Ever try to replace a hardcover after a couple years? Out of print. And isn't the point of an eBook is that it doesn't wear out?). My opinion is the boycott should end. Enough is enough and our patrons deserve to get these titles. And when the fervor dies down we don't have to repurchase. Note: Kearney Public Library does purchase these eBooks on our own when possible. Also, there are books we purchased before this went into effect.
- ◆ Penguin. Penguin use to provide backlist eBooks to Overdrive and we have the ones we purchased then. Penguin felt that when Overdrive made a deal with Amazon to download to kindles by routing through the Amazon site they made it too easy. So, the only Penguin books available are ones already purchased

before they withdrew. Recently Penguin did negotiate a deal with Queens Public Library to provide eBooks to that library.

- ◆ Macmillan. This publisher also won't sell eBooks to libraries.
- ◆ Hachette. This publisher won't sell eBooks to libraries.

So without most of the Big Six what is available? Overdrive works with well over 200 smaller publishers including Allen & Unwin, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Little, Brown and Company, McGraw-Hill, Pottermore (Harry Potter), Thomas Nelson Inc., Tyndale House, and Zondervan. Some of these publishers are pretty large even if they don't make the Big Six. This makes Overdrive the source with the best selection for libraries.

What does the future hold for eBooks? I am going to be optimistic and predict that within five years libraries will be able to provide books from every publisher. I really believe that most publishers want to work with libraries and that they will come to a compromise that will benefit everyone involved. My advice to frustrated patrons is this: write to the publishers and complain. If everyone does this they will respond. Meanwhile, enjoy what is available and support your local library.



System Equipment:

The cutting machines and eReaders are available for loan beginning in December. If you would like to borrow them, please contact the System Office.



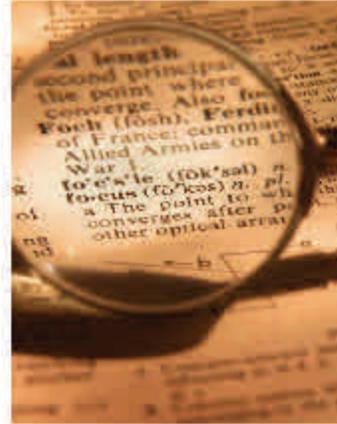
Focus on Youth Services

Thursday, November 8, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lexington Public Library

907 N. Washington St.
Lexington, NE 68850



Not sure how to get teens in your library?

Spend a day with your library colleagues focusing on Youth Services.

- Hear about how to establish a Teen Advisory Board and what activities keep them coming back for more.
- Learn what to do with a Facebook page.
- Meet Nebraska history author Jean Lukesh.
- Participate in Talk Tables during lunch.
- Get hands-on experience making Book Trailers.



What to bring:

- a laptop (if you have one)
- go to: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-live/movie-maker-get-started> and download the free Windows Live Movie Maker software
- a teen book you like for your Book Trailer

Cost: \$15.00—includes Lunch

Registration Deadline: November 1, 2012

Focus on Youth Services Registration

Name: _____ Library: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Mail Check and Registration to: Republican Valley Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street, Suite #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Sponsored by Republican Valley Library System and Meridian Library System

ANTHONY AWARDS PRESENTED

The Anthony Awards, voted on by the members of the convention, were presented at Bouchercon 2012: Crime Fiction Rocks on October 6, 2012.

Best Mystery Novel

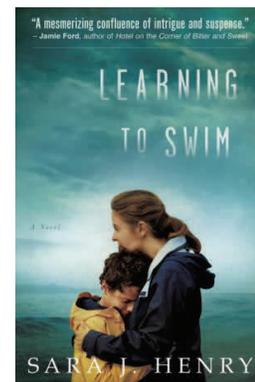
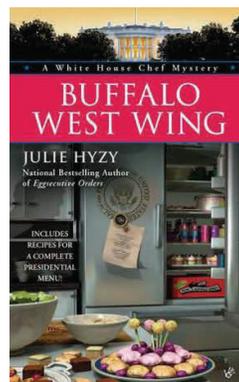
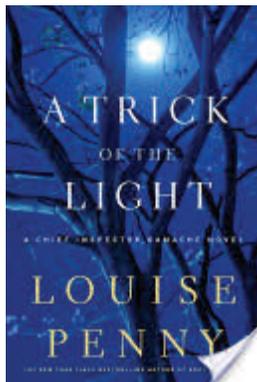
	A Trick of the Light by Louise Penny - winner
	The End of Everything by Megan Abbott
	Hurt Machine by Reed Farrel Coleman
	The Drop by Michael Connelly
	One Was a Soldier by Julia Spencer-Fleming

Best First Mystery

	Learning To Swim by Sara J. Henry - winner
	Nazareth Child by Darrell James
	All Cry Chaos by Leonard Rosen
	Who Do, Voodoo? by Rochelle Staab
	The Informationist by Taylor Stevens
	Purgatory Chasm by Steve Ulfelder
	Before I Go To Sleep by S.J. Watson

Best Paperback Original

	Buffalo West Wing by Julie Hyzy - winner
	The Company Man by Robert Jackson Bennett
	Choke Hold by Christa Faust
	The Death of the Mantis by Michael Stanley [review]
	Fun & Games by Duane Swierczynski
o	Vienna Twilight by Frank Tallis



2012 Nebraska Book Award Winners

Anthology: *Aspects of Robinson: Homage to Weldon Kees.*

Anthology Honor: *Women on the North American Plains.*

Cover/Design/Illustration: *First Telegraph Line across the Continent: Charles Brown's 1861 Diary.*

Cover/Design/Illustration Honor: *Flushed During Play: 51 Pet Rodent Death.*

Fiction: *To Be Sung Underwater*, by Tom McNeal.

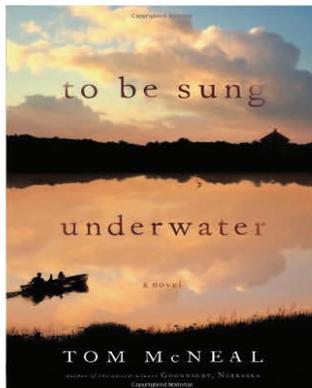
Non-Fiction Biography: *Rattlesnake Daddy: A Son's Search For His Father*, by Brent Spencer

Nonfiction History: *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide*, by Steve Marantz.

Non-Fiction Nebraska as Place: *Portraits of the Prairie: The Land That Inspired Willa Cather*, by Richard Schilling.

Nonfiction Reference: *Field Guide to Wildflowers of Nebraska and the Great Plains*, by Jon Farrar.

Poetry: *Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet*, by Twyla M. Hansen and Linda M. Hasselstrom



Audio Book Narrators

For me, an audio book narrator makes or breaks a book. Here are a few of my all-time favorite narrators:

Frank Muller. Frank narrated hundreds of audio books before his untimely death. For years he was a mainstay narrator for Recorded Books. He introduced me to 1950's author Nevil Shute. Perhaps my favorite Shute book that Muller narrated was *Trustee from the Tool Room* where his many voices perfectly sum up each character.

Barbara Rosenblat. My favorite books are the Amelia Peabody series by Elizabeth Peters. Rosenblat creates the perfect strong-willed and opinionated Amelia.

Jim Dale. How many distinct characters did he create for the Harry Potter books? A truly memorable performance!

Lorelei King. She has taken over from C.J. Critt as the narrator of the Stephanie Plum books and does a good job bringing out Evanovich's humor.



Book Club Bag Additions

We have added the following four titles to our book club sets:

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Red Cell by John Kalkowski

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

The Sugar Queen by Sarah Addison Allen

Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee

2012-2013 Primary Nominees

Bottner, Barbara. *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I don't)*. Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Knopf, 2010

Dennis, Brian, Kirby Larson & Mary Nethery. *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle*.

Fleming, Candace. *Clever Jack Takes the Cake*.

Hills, Tad. *How Rocket Learned to Read*.

Krasnesky, Thad. *That Cat Can't Stay!*

Lichtenheld, Tom. *Bridget's Beret*.

Rotella III, Louis. *The Little King and His Marshmallow Kingdom*. Illustrated by Mark Chickinelli.

Scillian, Devin. *Memoirs of a Goldfish*. Illustrated by Tim Bowers

Wheeler, Lisa. *Ugly Pie*. Illustrated by Heather Solomon

Yolen, Jane. *Elsie's Bird*. Illustrated by David Small

2012-2013 Intermediate Nominees

Birdseye, Tom. *Storm Mountain*.

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*.

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Mind*.

Epstein, Adam Jay and Andrew Jacobson. *The Familiars*.

Garretson, Dee. *Wildfire Run*.

LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*.

Martin, Ann M. *Everything for a Dog*.

O'Connor, Barbara. *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester*.

Sherry, Maureen. *Walls Within Walls*.

Tooke, Wes. *Lucky: Maris, Mantle, and My Best Summer Ever*.

2012-2013 Young Adult Nominees

Auch, M.J. *Guitar Boy*.

Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces*.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella*.

Henry, April. *Girl, Stolen*.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water*.

Sachar, Louis. *The Cardturner: A Novel About a King, a Queen, and a Joker*.

Shusterman, Neal. *Bruiser*.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Dream*.

Woods, Brenda. *A Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame*.



System Director Sharon Osenga with author Jean Lukesh at the NLA/NSLA/MPLA conference. Jean was the recipient of MPLA's Literary Contribution Award for her various non-fiction books as well as the Nebraska Adventure textbook. Jean is a former school librarian and teacher with Grand Island Public Schools. Congratulations, Jean!

Missed the conference? Handouts from the various session may be found at:

<http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2012/index.html>

Week of Weeding



The Meridian Library System is declaring January 14-19, 2013 the 2013 "Week of Weeding!"

We want to encourage everyone to participate by agreeing to weed a section of their library that they have been avoiding. You know what it is—that corner, that shelf, that genre of books that you have put off weeding for a while. Now's the time! ALL Libraries in MLS are eligible to participate!

How to Participate:

1. Call the MLS Office (800-657-2192 or 308-234-2087) or send Sharon an email at sosenga@frontiernet.net to let us know you want to participate.
2. If you need extra encouragement or help deciding what to weed, let Sharon know. She will be visiting 5 libraries during this week to lend a helping hand.
3. After you finish your weeding project, fill out the form below.



Those who submit their forms to the MLS Office by January 31st will be entered into a drawing for a Kindle E-Reader! The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on February 1st.

Week of Weeding Participation Form

Library _____

Section Weeded _____

How many books were weeded? (roughly, doesn't have to be exact) _____

Best (or worst) thing that was weeded out? _____

We'd love to see some "before and after" photos of your project! You can email digital pictures or submit printed photos with this participation form. (While we'd love to see them, they are not required and will not affect your library's chance of winning the e-Reader.)

Return form to: Meridian Library System, 816 E 25th St., Ste. 7, Kearney, NE 68847.

SELS & ELS are proud to present the...

Fall Colloquium

*Building Community Partnerships: 25
Ideas in 45 Minutes with Kathy
Dempsey*

November 29th, 2012 @ 5:30

Yankee Hill Room, The Cornhusker, Lincoln

Kathy Dempsey is a consultant and trainer through her business, Libraries Are Essential, and is the author of *The Accidental Library Marketer* (Information Today, Inc., 2009). Her work is dedicated to helping librarians and information professionals promote their value and expertise in order to gain respect and funding. Kathy has been the Editor of the *Marketing Library Services* newsletter for 18 years and was formerly Editor-in-Chief of *Computers in Libraries* magazine. She also blogs at The 'M' Word.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Organization: _____

Select:

Windsor Pork Loin

Seafood Newberg

Champagne Pasta

Send registration and \$40 by November 21st to:

Southeast Library System, 5730 R. St, Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE

68505 or by fax to (402)467-6196

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