

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

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Exterior of the Jane Austen Center in Bath (he's real—she is not!)

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NDLA/SDLA/MPLA Conference Report

This tri-conference was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in late September and, as always, there were some fine speakers and sessions! To start us off, the keynote was travel writer and author Rick Steves. Along with some stunning slides from his European travels, Steves talked about what it is like to travel in both friendly and unfriendly parts of the world (the title of his talk was Travel as a Political Act). What struck me the most was when he talked about fear: those who have the most fear are those who never travel. Through travel, you get to meet the people and learn the history and culture of their country. This goes a long way in explaining why things are the way they are in that particular country. For example, when he was apprehensive when he visited Iran, knowing that the U.S. is not popular there. However, the ordinary people of Iran welcomed him. He came to find out that their history for the past hundred years is one of war and chaos and that they welcome the current peace, even if it is at the cost of personal freedoms.

The second keynote was Maureen Sullivan, past-president of ALA and the presenter at MPLA's leadership institute. She talked about her year in office and current ALA initiatives.

The luncheon speaker was author Neal Shusterman. We had Neal in Nebraska last year and he is a wonderful public speaker. He got into writing when the ghost stories he told as a counselor at summer camp got great response from the kids. He is currently finishing up the Unwind series and has several other books in the publishing pipeline.

Now, on to some of the breakout sessions I attended:

Community Engagement with Maureen Sullivan was an expansion on her keynote address.

The best source of public knowledge about the community is the people of the community. The idea of this Community Engagement program is for the library to be the convener of the community meetings. The idea is to develop understanding of the community, where it is now and to discover different approaches to move the community forward.

The American Library Association's *The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities* is a libraries-as-change-agents initiative. ALA has partnered with the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation to provide librarians with the tools and training they need to lead community engagement and innovation.

The steps in this program are:

Turning outward

Aspirations

Intentionality

Sustaining Yourself

How librarian can lead the conversation on Community Engagement

It is important to find common ground among participants

The librarian must be committed to forging deeper relationships in the community

Library strives to strengthen what they are already doing and to increase what they can do for the community.

What is the process?

Decide whom to invite

How are you going to invite them? Letter or call?

Be prepared to follow-up.

Select space in the library for the meeting. Be welcoming and provide refreshments.

Have the meeting at the end of the working day.

Determine the facilitator.

Set ground rules.

Have anonymous notes taken

The conversation should focus on everyone's aspirations for the community.

For full information on this program and usable handouts, go to:

<http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities>



Creating Book Trailers presented by Naomi Bates

Key components:

Imagination

Movie program

Creative commons

Wikimedia commons

Morgue files

Flickr

Steps:

Find a book

Make a list

What emotions do you want to convey?

What personality will you use?

Place

Voice

Color

Font

Symbolism (instead of spelling out everything)

Objects

Rules of writing:

Write like you are telling a story

Use silence to let the images tell the story

Too many words will lose the audience

Rules of book trailers:

- Keep it SIMPLE – Not a lot of text!!
- Watch your images!! Look at how text would be seen ON the slide (ie too many colors on an image)
- Keep the transitions and effects TO A MINIMUM – don't keep switching...2-3 throughout the trailer is good!!
- Watch television commercials...learn from the experts!!

Trailer should be no longer than two minutes long.

Good sources:
Symboloo
Purpleplanet.com
The freesound project
Animoto.com

Create a cliffhanger ending
Use a rhetorical question
Use different points of view
Put your name and book credits at the end

For a full list of links that will help in making book trailers, go to:
http://www.livebinders.com/play/play_or_edit?id=13228



Best YA Books of 2013

By Jeanne Conner, Mary Peters, Kerri Smith

The top 12 in no particular order:

The 5th Wave by Richard Yancey
Thousand Words by Jennifer Brown
Sylo by D.J. MacHale
Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell
Proxy by Alex London
Forgive Me Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick
If You Find Me by Emily Murdoch
Winger by Andrew Smith
Five Summers by Una LaMarche
Sudden Impact by David Klass and Perry Klass
Just One Day by Gayle Forman
Strangelets by Michele Gagnon

Series to Watch For:

The Elite Series by Kirsten Cass
Vindico Series by Wesley King
Enclave Series by Ann Aguire
Divergent Series by Veronica Roth
The Enemy Series by Charles Higson
The Lost Hero Series by Rick Riordan

Lumatere Chronicles by Melina Marchetta
Ashes Trilogy by Ilsa Bick
Warrior Heir Series by Cinda Williams Chima
Mortal Instruments Series by Cassandra Clare
Pittacus Lore Series by Pittacus Lore
Benny Imura Series by Jonathan Mayberry
Starcrossed Series by Josephine Angellini
Legend Series by Marie Lu
Insignia Series by S.J. Kincaid
Raven Cycle by Maggie Stiefvater
Unwind Series by Neal Shusterman
Confessions Series by James Patterson
Just One Day Series by Gayle Forman



The Batchelder Award

By Jean Hatfield

Purpose of the Award

- Children in the United States should be exposed to literature from other culture and countries
- Encourage international exchange of high quality children's literature
- Increase international understanding
- Reading the same stories in different languages

Criteria

- Originally published in a foreign country in a foreign language
- Primary audience age birth to 14
- Primary focus on text
- True translation

- Not Americanized – reflect foreign culture
- Appeal to child audience
- Design, illustrations enhance text
- No folk literature
- Honor books may be named

2013 winner: *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve

For more information on this award, go to: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward>



Leadership: Lesson I have Learned Along with Way

By Kansas State Librarian Jo Budler

Leaders are passionate.

Leaders are learners

Leaders decide and guide.

Leaders seek out confident self starters and allow them to do their jobs.

“The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

But a good leader knows what needs to be done...what is being done...and is willing to make the two the same!

“Being a leader is making the people you love hate you a little more each day.”

— Patrick Ness, *The Ask and the Answer*

If you want people to love you, and that is your motivator, you may not be willing, or able, to make that hard decision when the time comes.

Leaders are decisive and take action.

Leaders are not afraid to take calculated risks.

Leaders make mistakes...and when they do, leaders

- Acknowledge the mistake(s)
- Learn from it/them
- Move on

Leaders give others credit because they know that the spotlight is big enough for more than one person.

Leaders:

- Do the right thing because they **believe** it is the right thing to do.
- Do not expect recognition or praise... in fact, much of the time, neither happens... or, in some cases, the reverse happens!
- Do not expect to be revered ... or even liked for that matter!!

Most of all, leaders cannot be afraid of being alone or being lonely.



E Rate Training

E-rate training for the 2014-15 year is scheduled for Friday, November 8th at Kearney Public Library Computer Lab from 9:30-12:30. Christa Burns from the Nebraska Library Commission will go over the basics of the program and any changes made from the current year. Register at: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=12688>

Sharing the WorldShare ILL Experience

By Libby Munsell, Kilgore Memorial Library

You have probably noticed the alert message as you work with Interlibrary Loans, indicating that the WorldCat website that we have all become accustomed to is changing to OCLC WorldShare. I must admit, when I was told about the switch I was nervous to begin using a new website, mostly because I was still learning how to use WorldCat since it was my first year working with ILL. However, I was eager to jump into WorldShare because I knew that eventually, the switch would be inevitable.

I began my experience by participating in OCLC's basic training sessions that taught me the process of borrowing and lending on the WorldShare site. While WorldShare has many different features that cater to library needs, I found that learning how to lend and borrow were the main necessities; I could learn the details as I worked through ILL requests. It took a couple weeks for me to stop using the WorldCat site alongside the WorldShare site to compare the two and get used to the appearance of borrowing and lending with the new service. I am pleased with WorldShare and now find it difficult to revert back to WorldCat! Overall, WorldShare provides a modern and sensible display with user-friendly features to make working with ILL a smooth process.

After using WorldShare for my daily ILL activities, I found it to be easy to navigate and understand. The home page has quick links that automatically direct your attention to current requests and problems that need to be solved. In addition, the home page organizes the links that are most likely to be used in one place, rather than all around the page, demonstrating the site's ease of use. Request links that were one or two characters long on FirstSearch are now a full word or a button, making it easier to click to a different part of the site

to find what I need. All the main activities using Worldshare are buttons lined up on the left side of the screen, subdividing into more specific actions with a click of the mouse. Searches for items outside of your library, previous requests that you made, and requests from other libraries stay organized in their own respective sections. The organization makes it easier to notice new requests and to reference older request records.

When I am working with computers, I tend to have a variety of different tabs and pages open at one time. One feature of WorldShare that I really enjoy is that it is possible to have different records open at once and reference them without closing them. For example, I can search for a book that our patron requests and also check to see if a different book has been shipped to us yet without closing the first search. I can do multiple searches and click back and forth between them, never losing my place in case I am interrupted with another ILL task.

WorldShare does a great job of providing relevant information for easy referencing. When searching to borrow an item, images appear with the list of results as well as consistent images that indicate the type of media, such as a print book or an audio book. When looking at the list of materials that our library has out to other libraries, I can see the ID number for the record, the title, the media type, the borrower's symbol, and the date it was requested before I even open the record. When I am requesting a book from a variety of lenders, before I send the request I can see the cost of loaning the material.

Ann Matzke, Children's Librarian at Wilson Public Library in Cozad, has co-authored an article on the state of children's biographies in Horn Book. Here is the link: <http://www.hbook.com/2013/09/using-books/todays-picture-book-biographies-back-matter-matters/#comments>

Declaration for the Right to Libraries

No doubt many of you have already heard a bit about the Declaration for the Right to Libraries effort as a part of Barbara Stripling's (ALA President) initiative – **Libraries Change Lives**. The Declaration has 10 tenets outlining the ways libraries, of all types, impact their communities:

1. Libraries Empower the Individual
2. Libraries Support Literacy and Lifelong Learning
3. Libraries Strengthen Families
4. Libraries are the Great Equalizer
5. Libraries Build Communities
6. Libraries Protect Our Right to Know
7. Libraries Strengthen Our Nation
8. Libraries Advance Research and Scholarship
9. Libraries Help Us to Better Understand Each Other
10. Libraries Preserve Our Nation's Cultural Heritage

Librarians and library supporters are being encouraged to have signing ceremonies for the Declaration within the library and in the community as a mechanism for affirming the libraries' value. Signings could be held at in a variety of locations – a mall, concert, craft fairs, library events... with encouragement for individuals of all ages to participate. In Nebraska we will have the Declaration available for signing at Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Library Association Conference in Kearney as a statewide effort – but also want to encourage communities to have events locally.

You can find tools and helps at multiple sites online, including copies of the declaration, and translations in various languages. There will be a place for feedback where you can share information on your local event, what the outcome was, how many attended, what community leaders participated and any other stories. Below are sites with information and materials:

www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration

www.ala.org/declaration

www.barbarastripling.org

www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries-toolkit

The Declaration for Libraries is on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DeclarationforLibraries; conversations on Twitter: #right2libs; and a place to post photos from your events on Flickr – www.flickr.com/groups/2255930@N20/.

Goals of the Declaration for the Right to Libraries Project include:

1. Increase public and media awareness about the critical role of libraries in communities around the country.
2. Inspire ongoing conversations about the role of the library in community.
3. Cultivate a network of community allies and advocates for the library. Position the library as a trusted convener to help in the response to community issues.



Regional Library System Configuration Task Force

Funding for Nebraska's regional library systems has been limited for a number of years due to reductions in federal LSTA monies and in state general fund monies, as well as rising operations costs. The Commission has appointed a task force to make recommendations to the Commission on how to address this issue, in particular, how the current number of systems might be reduced. The first meeting of the group occurred Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at Lexington Public Library. Members of the task force are:

Francine Canfield, Bright Public Library, Ralston
Deb Carlson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library
Gail Formanack, Eastern Library System
Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System
Kathy Thomsen, Lexington Public Library
Dorothy Willis, Pawnee City
John Dale, Wayne
Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis

Laura Bush Foundation Grant Opportunity for School Librarians

Go to this website <https://laurabushfoundation.unt.edu/lbf-grant-application> for eligibility requirements, deadlines, and the grant application.



The Nebraska Library Commission is accepting online applications for its **21st Century Librarian Scholarship program** through November 1, 2013 (<http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.nebraska.gov/Scholarships.asp>). These scholarships are for students pursuing a degree or certificate in Library and Information Science at the Associate's and Bachelor's levels. Legal residents of the state of Nebraska are eligible to apply. Transcripts (as required) are due October 25, 2013; and letters of recommendation, if mailed, are due October 25, 2013. Scholarships of **up to \$3,500** will be awarded, depending on the degree or certificate the applicant is pursuing and the applicant's course plan.

Scholarships may be used for tuition (for coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree, including general education classes), course-required materials, and school-assessed fees at the following levels:

- **Library and Information Science (LIS) Professional Certificate**
- **Associate of Arts or Science Degree in Library and Information Science (LIS)**
- **Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree/ Endorsement with a major in Library and Information Science or Library Media**

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to apply for **stipends** for such things as laptop or tablet computers, professional association dues, and regional or national conference attendance.

The scholarships, stipends, and value-added training are offered through the Nebraska Library Commission's [Cultivating Rural Librarians' 21st](#)

[Century Skills program](#), which is funded through a grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#). For more information, contact Kathryn Brockmeier, Grant Program Manager, by [e-mail](#) or by phone, 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665.

NOTE: Due to the significant number of applications for the Nebraska Library Commission master's-level scholarships (funded through the Librarians for the 21st Century Program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services), as of July 1, 2012, graduate-level scholarships will no longer be available. **Scholarships DO continue to be available for undergraduate Library Science studies**, including LIS certificates, and Associate's and Bachelor's degrees.

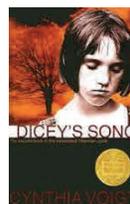


Additions to Meridian Library System Book Sets:

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt—15 copies



Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt—10 copies



Parks Quest by Katherine Paterson—15 copies



Young Readers Invited to Enter Letters about Literature Contest

Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters about Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission, and locally supported by Houchen Bindery Ltd.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2014. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to receive a \$1,000 cash award. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$200 cash award, to be announced in May 2014.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and entry forms, at www.read.gov/letters. Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Submissions from Grades 9-12 must be postmarked by December 10, 2013. Submissions from Grades 4-8 must be postmarked by January 10, 2014.

Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.



Stratford Public Library in Stratford-on-Avon in the U.K.

The library is on the pedestrian walkway shopping mall just a few doors away from the Shakespeare Center. I was there on a Sunday so the library was not open but I love that the architecture fits in with the rest of the buildings in Stratford.