

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

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“What if?” Drives Repurposing of Library Space

By Susan Mueller, Coordinator of Collection Services
Calvin T. Ryan Library at UNK

What if? This is the opening thought for most new ideas. The Calvin T. Ryan Library had a “what-if” moment when it realized that the Reference Collection on the main floor was not being used very much. It sat on prime real estate in the library. How could this space be used more effectively? With this thinking, the idea to move the Reference Collection elsewhere in the library was born.

Reference Books have become less used by librarians and library users alike, as more questions can be answered using a computer. Many major reference works, such as Encyclopedia Britannica and Oxford English Dictionary, are now available online through the library's website and are updated more quickly. As more reference works become available online, the library is seeing less demand for print versions of these standard reference works.

The focus in libraries continues to be assisting the user with his/her information needs. What better way to help the user than to provide them with comfortable seating and group work areas? Many students now own laptop computers, but there weren't many places to use this personal technology and remain near a librarian for research assistance. Moving the reference books elsewhere allowed this arrangement to be created, enhancing the environment on the main floor, and increasing the availability of the librarians to more students as well.

Over time, the majority of the reference books will be incorporated in the General Collection. A critical few will be maintained near the Reference Desk to provide assistance answering questions. Since these changes were made, the new study area has become a very popular place in the library.

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Editor's note: Is your reference collection or something else taking up prime real estate. Perhaps it is time to look at the current needs of your library customers and do some reassignment of space!

New Year's Resolutions

It is that time of year to assess what you have accomplished this year and to plan for the next. Here are some resolutions you might adopt:

1. Update your policies. You should look at them every year for necessary revisions.
2. Write procedures. Few libraries have written procedures on how to do processes. In the event of an emergency, it's nice for a newcomer or substitute to have this information written down.
3. Weed systematically. Take just one section of shelving per day and you will find that weeding is not so overwhelming.
4. Start a book discussion group for an age range that you are currently not serving very well (upper elementary, teens, seniors?)
5. Make plans now to visit with each service club in your community to give an update on library services. Tailor each speech to the interests of the members of the group.



Publisher's Weekly Best Books of 2010

Adults:

A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan
Freedom by Jonathan Franzen
Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand
The Surrendered by Chang-rae Lee
The Big Short by Michael Lewis
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Just Kids by Patti Smith
Man in the Woods by Scott Spencer
The Lonely Polygamist by Brady Udall
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
The Pregnant Widow by Martin Amis
Parrot & Olivier in America by Peter Carey
The Privileges by Jonathan Dee

Tutankhamun by Nick Drake
Extraordinary Renditions by Andrew Ervin
Faithful Place by Tana French
To the End of the Land by David Grossman, trans. from the Hebrew by Jessica Cohen
The Four Stages of Cruelty by Keith Hollihan
Father of the Rain by Lily King
Our Kind of Traitor by John le Carré
Beneath the Lion's Gaze by Maaza Mengiste
How to Read the Air by Dinaw Mengestu
The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell
Sourland by Joyce Carol Oates
Years of Red Dust by Qiu Xiaolong
The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachmann
Invisible Boy by Cornelia Read
Vestments by John Reimringer
Innocent by Scott Turow
Self-Portraits by Frederic Tuten
Agaat by Marlene van Niekerk, trans. from the Afrikaans by Michiel Hegus

Children's Books:

Shark vs. Train by Chris Barton, illus. by Tom Lichtenheld
There's Going to Be a Baby by John Burningham, illus. by Helen Oxenbury
Farm by Elisha Cooper
The Boss Baby by Marla Frazee
Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illus. by Brian Floca
The Extraordinary Mark Twain by Barbara Kerley, illus. by Edwin Fotheringham
Bunny Days by Tao Nyeu
The Chicken Thief by Béatrice Rodriguez
Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors by Joyce Sidman, illus. by Beckie Prange
Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse by Marilyn Singer, illus. by Josée Masse
It's a Book by Lane Smith
A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead, illus. by Erin E. Stead
The Quiet Book by Deborah Underwood, illus. by Renata Liwska

City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems, illus. by Jon J Muth
Knuffle Bunny Free by Mo Willems
Art and Max by David Wiesner
Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi
Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins
Matched by Ally Condie
Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee, illus. by Tony Fucile
Incarceron by Catherine Fisher
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz
Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same! By Grace Lin
Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta
The Death-Defying Pepper Roux by Geraldine McCaughrean
Trash by Andy Mulligan
Monsters of Men by Patrick Ness
Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver
Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus
Octavia Boone's Big Questions About Life, the Universe, and Everything by Rebecca Rupp
The Cardturner by Louis Sachar
Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick
The Marbury Lens by Andrew Smith
The Last Summer of the Death Warriors by Francisco X. Stork
Nothing by Janne Teller
Countdown by Deborah Wiles
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Sir Charlie: Chaplin, the Funniest Man in the World by Sid Fleischman
The War to End All Wars: World War I by Russell Freedman



Pennac's "The Reader's Bill of Rights"

1. The right to not read
2. The right to skip pages
3. The right to not finish
4. The right to reread
5. The right to read anything
6. The right to escapism
7. The right to read anywhere
8. The right to browse
9. The right to read out loud
10. The right to not defend your tastes



The top ten books chosen by teens for 2010, aka the **2010 Teens' Top Ten** list is:

1. *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
2. *City of Glass* by Cassandra Clare
3. *Heist Society* by Ally Carter
4. *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater
5. *Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick
6. *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl
7. *Along for the Ride* by Sarah Dessen
8. *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman
9. *Fire* by Kristin Cashore
10. *Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson

If you, or your teens, would like to watch a video of the announcement, or would like more information (like previous years lists), go to:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>

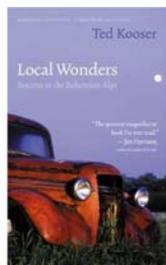
UNK's Federal Depository Library Highlighted

Nebraska's 3rd U.S. Congressional District is a very large district, bigger than many states in fact. What are the options available to a depository trying to respond to so large a service area? The Federal Depository Library at the University of Nebraska - Kearney's Calvin T. Ryan Library is one of two Depositories that serve this Congressional District. In this month's Library Spotlight we highlight the combination free public access, emphasis on electronic resources, and community outreach that this depository uses in response to the challenging size of its service area.

Visit the Depository Library Spotlight on the FDLP Desktop at <<http://www.fdlp.gov/outreach/spotlight>>.

By spotlighting the expert services and contributions of our depositories, we share in the strengths and innovations of our partners and help promote the Federal Depository Library Program as an essential American service.

(from Janet Wilke, Library Director)



2011 ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA: *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*

One Book One Nebraska 2011 invites citizens across the state to read *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* (University of Nebraska Press, 2002) by Ted Kooser, of Garland, Nebraska. Kooser is one of America's most highly regarded poets and served

as the United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004 - 2006. He is the author of numerous full-length collections of poetry, including the 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Delights and Shadows* (Copper Canyon Press, 2004). Kooser's first book of prose, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* (University of Nebraska Press, 2002), won the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction in 2003 and Third Place in the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award in Nonfiction for 2002. The book was chosen as the Best Book Written by a Midwestern Writer for 2002 by Friends of American Writers. It also won the Gold Award for Autobiography in ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Awards.

In *Local Wonders*, Kooser describes with exquisite detail and humor the place he calls home in the rolling hills of southeastern Nebraska—an area known as the Bohemian Alps. Nothing is too big or too small for his attention. Memories of his grandmother's cooking are juxtaposed with reflections about the old-fashioned outhouse on his property.

One Book One Nebraska 2011 is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press.

Libraries across Nebraska will join the Nebraska Center for the Book and other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book.

As they are developed, support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html>. Updates and activity listings will be made on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=281641340948>.

GraceAnne A. DeCandido has kindly shared the **New York Public Library's list of Children's Books 2010: 100 Children's Books for Reading and Sharing** at: http://kids.nypl.org/reading/100_books_2010_nypl.pdf



ASCLA Offers Training Opportunities

Professional development remains an important part of a successful library career, but the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) recognizes that traveling to conferences and other events can be expensive.

To help you get the best value for your educational dollar, they have created an online webinar series—the ASCLA Virtual Convergence—which will be held Tuesday, Jan. 18 through Friday, Jan. 21. Participation in the Convergence is open to all interested learners, and they invite you to join them for a webinar or two.

Here are just a few of the reasons you should participate in this learning opportunity: Something for everyone. Webinar topics for the Convergence are relevant all types of libraries and librarians. They will cover topics ranging from the dimensions of and solutions for library accessibility in “Library and Information Access for Differently-Abled Patrons”, and also provide an overview of independent library work in “Contract Librarianship: Concepts and Strategies”.

No travel costs. You can attend these webinars from the convenience of your work or home computer, and only pay for the learning experience: \$40 per webinar for ASCLA and FAFLRT members ; \$50 per webinar for ALA

members and \$45 for Student and Retired members.

More bang for your buck. ALA and ASCLA members who register for two or more webinars can save up to \$5 per session on their registration rates! Recommended session pairings include:

“Attracting Latinos to the Library” and “Managing Library Adult and Family Literacy Programs”
“Careers in Federal Libraries”, “How to Find a Federal Job” and “Resume Writing and Interviewing Techniques”
“Saks Fifth Avenue Service on a Dollar General Budget” and “Using Learning Objects to Enhance Distance Reference Services”
“Starting a New Library for At-Risk Young Adults in a Digitally Divided Community”, “Teaching Ophelia: Assisting At-Risk Teenagers” and “Why Reinvent the Wheel? Tools for Serving the Fast-Growing Teen Population”
“Accessibility 101: Assure that Your Library is Welcoming and Usable for Persons with Disabilities”, “The Disability Experience in a Post-2.0 World” and “Presenting Topics to People Who are Autistic, Deaf, Disabled and Non-Disabled”

Access to information. Attend a Convergence webinar such as “A Copyright Policy Update on Access to Information for Persons with Print Disabilities” and you’ll learn about important developments in the field that you can apply to your job immediately. Convergence webinars also offer more general topics such as “Grant Writing 101”, where you will learn how to research funding opportunities and get tips about the grant application process.

To register, go to the registration page. Scroll down to Virtual Convergence and click on “Register” to the right--you’ll be prompted for your ALA login. You can also download the registration form to sign up by fax or mail.

The complete schedule can be found here: <http://ascla.ala.org/media/2011asclavcschedule.pdf>

Facts about Nebraska Communities

From the Nebraska Library Commission

The American Community Survey is a wonderful thing. Annual surveys are taken in every community and rural area of the country. Because it is sample data, results have been rolled out gradually for the past five years, starting with state and county level data. Finally after 5 years we have detailed estimates for the smallest communities, which is most of our towns in Nebraska. The reason for the wait is the need to have years of data to make results more accurate and preserve confidentiality.

The quickest way to get a profile for your community is to go to the American Factfinder site <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

In the Get a Fact Sheet for your Community box type the name of your community and choose Nebraska. You will get a profile of social, economic, housing and population estimates. And here's the really cool part. If you click on any of the show more links it will bring up more data, still for the town you specified.



Hosting a Monopoly tournament

Thinking about a gaming night at your library? Try a Monopoly tournament. Here is a link to Hasbro's official tournament guide:

www.hasbro.com/games/kid-games/monopoly/.../tournament_guide.pdf

E-rate: Basic Training has been scheduled in locations across the state and online.

Description: What is E-rate? How can my library benefit from E-rate? How do I apply for E-rate? E-rate is a federal program that provides discounts to assist schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. Christa Burns will cover the basics of E-rate, the changes that have been made this year, and provide assistance completing the first 2 forms in the E-rate process, Form 470 and 471.

Dates and locations:

January 6 - Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
January 19 - University of Nebraska at Kearney
January 20 - Harms Advanced Technology Center, Scottsbluff
January 25 - Northeast Community College, Norfolk
January 27 - Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln
February 3 - Online, GoToWebinar

To register for any of these E-rate: Basic Training sessions, go to the Nebraska Library Commission's Training Portal and search for 'e-rate'.



The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest, is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The Big Read provides participating U.S. communities with grants and comprehensive resources that support their efforts to read and discuss a single book or the work of a poet.

Visit the Big Read Web site for complete program information, application guidelines, and list of reading choices: http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php.

WALMART STORE AND SAM'S CLUB GIVING PROGRAM GRANTS

Grants starting at \$250 and up are available to communities served by Walmart or Sam's Club. Government agencies, including State, county and city agencies are eligible to apply, as are nonprofit organizations, and K-12 Public Schools/Districts, Charter Schools, Community/Junior Colleges, State Colleges and Universities. Please review the guidelines at <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8916.aspx> for eligibility. Applications are available at your local Walmart Store or Sam's Club.



Plan Ahead! Teen Tech Week is March 6—11

Sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, Teen Tech Week is a national initiative aimed at teens, librarians, educators, parents, and other concerned adults that highlights non print resources at the library. The 2011 theme - Mix 'n Mash @ your library - focuses on encouraging teens to use library resources to express their creativity by developing their own unique online content and safely sharing it by using online collaborative tools.

There are ten \$450 Mini Grants available that are funded by the Margaret A. Edwards Trust. To find out more about the grant and how to register, visit www.ala.org/yalsa.



Translating Websites

Do you have patrons that need to access information on the web, but they cannot read in English? Use Google's Translate feature to translate an entire website into another language.

1. Go to www.google.com
2. Click on the "more" tab in the top left portion of the screen.
3. Click on "Translate" in the drop down menu.
4. Enter the web address into the translation box.
5. Use the drop down menu to select a language to translate the website into.
6. Click on the "Translate" button and you will be taken to the website in its translated form.

This will also work for words, phrases or passages that you would like to translate. Simply enter the text you want to translate into the translation box instead of entering a web address.



Cutting Machine Schedule

January—Scotia Public Library
February—Sandhills Public Schools
March—System Office
April—Elm Creek Public Schools
May through July—Open
August—Lexington Public Library
September—Open
October—Cozad Public School
November-December—Open

Contact the System Office if you would like to sign up for an open time slot.

Need to do some training with your Trustees? Don't forget that the Trustee Trouble: The Misadventures of a New Library Board member is available for viewing online at:
<http://www.wyominglibraries.org/trusteetrouble.html>