

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

Your System Board:

Sherry Crow
Kristi Hagstrom
Ann Matzke
Debra Moninger
Linda Nickel
Charlotte Rasmussen
Christine Walsh
Janet Wilke
Laurie Yocom
Joan Davis, Emeritus



Meridian Library System
Suite 7
816 East 25th Street
Kearney NE 68847

Phone: 800-657-2192
Phone: 308-234-2087
Fax: 308-234-4040

Email:
sosenga@frontiernet.net
Website:
<http://libraries.ne.gov/mls/>

The following is an update from a 1996 column:

Shar-ing:

As we enter the holiday season, it's time to assess what we accomplished this past year and make plans for the next. Need some suggestions:

- Weed a part of your collection (see enclosed flyer for Week of Weeding in January).
- Read at least one professional journal a month.
- Network with another community agency.
- Provide a program for each of the following age groups:
Children, teens, adults, senior adults
- Join a professional organization.
- Attend a professional conference.
- Attend at least three continuing education events (many of these are online now so check out the list Laura Johnson from NLC posts each month).
- Provide a new service. (examples: e-readers, Overdrive downloads, service to homebound)

It's easy to keep doing the same things year after year...but are you really providing the services that your community needs and wants TODAY? If you haven't done a strategic plan recently, including input from the community, then you may not be using your time and money to the best advantage.

Your system director is here to help with all of these things. I can visit and help you begin a strategic plan, help with weeding, help with reorganizing the library or give programming suggestions. The system and the Nebraska Library Commission have professional materials you may borrow, addresses for professional organizations you may be interested in joining and provide continuing education workshops throughout the year.

Please feel free to call or e-mail and take advantage of all that we offer!

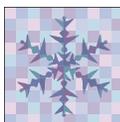
Happy Holidays!

Sharon

FLIP CAMERAS FOR LOAN

The System has received six flip cameras from Cisco through the Tech Soup donation program. With Flip Video cameras, you can take up to one hour of high-quality digital, high-definition video anywhere. These lightweight, pocket-sized cameras are ideal for documenting or sharing your organization's work in action. With one-button operation and flip-out USB arm, even staff or volunteers with little technical knowledge can record, edit, and upload video to the web.

To borrow cameras, contact the System Office. (These would be great for kids or adults to record book reviews that could be posted to your library website!)



Libraries in Crisis

In a new Huffington Post series called Libraries In Crisis, they will be looking at how today's libraries are about more than books. They show how libraries can be a community resource where reliable information and guidance is provided, free of bias and commercial influence.

This occasional series will look at the economic reasons for the current situation, and its consequences throughout the country. It will showcase models for library evolution, and hear from prominent voices about what makes a viable and vital library system.

Three excellent articles have been posted to date. Follow the discussion at:
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/libraries-in-crisis>

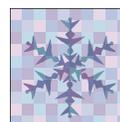
BOOK OF THE MONTH

Good news for those of you who attended the Boot Camp Training this fall—you will already have a copy of my book of the month: *Without a Net; Librarians Bridging the Digital Divide* by Jessamyn C. West.

This book covers the basics of what librarians can do to do technology training. Chapters on the basics, e-mail, what is the internet and office software de-mystify these things. Ms. West also includes handy checklist and links to handouts that she has developed for her libraries.

Useful for all libraries but in particular those libraries with new computer equipment from the Broadband grant.

If you don't have a copy of the book, you may borrow it from the System Office.



Early Word: the Publisher/Librarian Connection is providing downloadable spreadsheets, collating all the selections, with ISBNs and information on additional formats for the Best Books for Children/YA of the year. . This year, they are also adding information on additional formats. Version Three of the Children's Best Books spreadsheet is up now. They add to it as new lists arrive and will begin compiling the adult titles soon.

The link for the list may be found at:

<http://www.earlyword.com/category/childrens-and-ya/>

Week of Weeding



The Meridian Library System is declaring January 9-13, 2012 a "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 20th will be entered into a drawing for a Kindle E-Reader!. The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on January 23rd.

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.



The spotlight
is on . . .

Policies and Procedures

Join System Directors Sharon Osenga and Denise Harders in discussing what should be included in a policies and procedures manual.

Bring your policies and procedures for review and updating.

Don't have any policies and procedures? This is the time to write them! We will provide each library in attendance with a flash drive to save their policies and procedures.

UNK Calvin T. Ryan Library Computer Lab

January 5, 2012

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free (lunch on your own)

4 Continuing education credits

This workshop is sponsored by the Meridian Library System and Republican Valley Library Systems.

In case of inclement weather, please call your Systems office to ensure the workshop will be held.

Registration:

Name: _____

Library: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail registration to:

Meridian Library System

816 E 25th St., Ste. 7

Kearney, NE 68847

1-800-657-2192

308-234-2087

Or

E-mail: meridian@frontiernet.net



Library & Information Services

Online Course Offerings
Spring, 2012
January 9 – May 3, 2012

LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

This course, the first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- History of libraries
- Types of libraries
- Technology
- Physical environments
- Library policies
- Information Databases

For information regarding course content, contact the instructor at mmagee@unmc.edu

LIBR 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies

Patty Birch, Instructor

This course will provide students with an understanding of managing collections in libraries and information agencies, including:

- Basics of Collection Management (terminology, models)
- 21st Century Literacies
- Community Analysis
- Selection (All resources, for all age levels)
- Acquisition
- Collection Analysis
- Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom
- Copyright
- Resource Sharing

Prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library & Information Services.

For information regarding course content, contact the instructor at pbirch@esu16.org

LIBR 2490 Library & Information Services Capstone Practicum

Erica Rose, Instructor

This capstone course is the last course in the Library & Information Services program and includes 40 hours of field experience in a library and a comprehensive review of the Library & Information Services curriculum.

Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

For information regarding this course, contact the instructor at erica@myclearview.info

For information on 21st Century Librarian Scholarships, see: Nebraska Library Commission website at: <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:

Dee Johnson

djohnson@cccneb.edu

(402) 562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780, ext. 1418

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

New Year's Resolution Week: Fun Facts and Figures : Information about New Year's traditions. Includes a brief history of New Year's resolutions, information about the celebration of new years in ancient cultures, global good luck traditions, a list of common resolutions, and the lyrics to "Auld Lang Syne"

http://www.goalsguy.com/Events/n_facts.html

The History of Christmas: Provides the real story of Christmas throughout history along with Christmas videos, world traditions, and the evolution of Santa Claus. Site also provides information on Christmas trees, the Christmas Truce of 1914, holiday recipes, and more!

<http://www.history.com/topics/christmas>

Kwanzaa : Basic information about Kwanzaa, "a non-religious African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. It is celebrated for seven days: December 26-January 1." Describes the "seven principles".

<http://www.history.com/minisites/kwanzaa/>

Your Access to Free Credit Reports : Under an amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), consumers can request a free copy of their credit report once every 12 months. This site has the details and the URL of the only official request website. From the Federal Trade Commission.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre34.shtm>

Winter Solstice : "In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice is day of the year (near December 22) when the Sun is farthest south. ... The winter solstice marks the first day of the season of winter." <http://>

scienceworld.wolfram.com/astronomy/WinterSolstice.html

Simply Soups: The Ultimate Comfort Food: "There's something extremely satisfying about a hot, bubbling pot of soup on the stove on a cold winter's night." Use this site to find dozens of recipes for broths and stocks, chilis, chowders, cream and cheese soups, onion soups, etc.

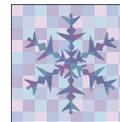
<http://www.simplysoups.com/>

Women Mystery and Detective Fiction Writers & the Rise of Feminism : This companion to a University of Evansville, Indiana, course has links to interviews, websites, and other information about over a dozen women authors in the mystery genre, including Dorothy Sayers, Marcia Muller, Sue Grafton, P.D. James, Agatha Christie.

<http://faculty.evansville.edu/ra2/>

Virtual Murder: What's on the Internet for Mystery Buffs?: The goal of this page is to maintain a listing of online mystery-related sources without including subpages, to avoid sending you to the same site over and over again.

<http://www.barbarapaul.com/virtual.html>



Equipment for Loan from System Office

- Two cutting machines with dies
- Flip video cameras
- E-readers (Kindle and BeBook)
- Wii gaming system
- MP3 players

Contact the system office to sign up for any of these items.

DREAM BIG, READ!

Even though it's cold outside, summer is not as far off as you think! Prepare to make your Summer Reading Program a success by joining us for this workshop, Friday March 9, 2012. Discover ways to use this year's slogan and provide fun activities for all ages.

Morning Session:

Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission will share book reviews of books you can use in your Summer Reading Program.

Lunch: Included in the registration fee

Afternoon Session:

Jody Crocker, McCook Public Library will present ideas to help make your summer reading program a success.

Summer Reading Workshop

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday March 9, 2012

Oconto Public Library, Oconto NE



Registration: \$20 per person

Name: _____

Library: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail check and registration to:

Meridian Library System

816 E 25th St., Ste 7

Kearney, NE 68847

Phone: 1-800-657-2192

308-234-2087

Email: meridian@frontiernet.net

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