



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

FEBRUARY, 2006 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

The 2006 One Book One Nebraska kicked off with a proclamation by Nebraska Governor Heineman on January 19th, 2006. *One False Move*, a contemporary fiction title by Omaha native Alex Kava, was selected to follow last year's statewide read of *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. Book discussion bags with copies of *One False Move*, book discussion questions and promotional items will be available for lending through the Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission. Other programs and events planned include an author tour and a program with Alex Kava at the NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha, October 26th.



The winners of the One Book One Nebraska logo contest are Joy and Annie Winkler. Joy is the librarian at Alegent Health Immanuel Med Center in Omaha and her daughter is a graphic design student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We had over 20 artists submit logos, with several submitting more than one idea. The ideas came from graphic artists, students, and librarians across the state with consideration paid to the geography, state seal, and, of course, the shape of the state. The Committee thanks all the artists who submitted a logo idea. We are fortunate to have so many talented artists in the state and we received many terrific logo concepts.

The winning logo is available on the website, www.onebookonenebraska.org, along with a press release that can be changed to reflect the local contact, and a form to submit program ideas for the 2006 One Book One Nebraska selection.

The One Book One Nebraska 2006 committee is currently working on promotional material for libraries and will have available, via each System office, two book discussion bags, each with 10 copies of the book, *One False Move*, and discussion questions, to be loaned out among System members. The Nebraska Library Commission will also have a discussion bag available for loan.



Stop the Presses!! The NLS System Board has generously agreed to increase the size of each book bag to 12 books. An unabridged CD version will be available upon request. Bags will be available beginning are available on a first come, first served basis.

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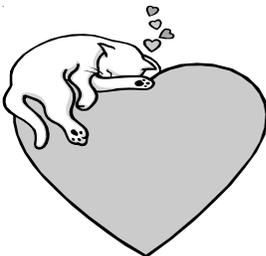
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"This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly, it should be thrown with great force."

~~Dorothy Parker



OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER: FREE TRIAL MONTH

OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS: 13 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12

NEBASE is again offering a free trial month of the OCLC CatExpress service to new subscribers. CatExpress provides web-based copy cataloging to libraries at a low, flat-fee subscription price.

The OCLC CatExpress trial subscription is a no-risk way to see if CatExpress is right for you and your library. Many libraries new to OCLC would like to know what kind of hit rate they will receive with CatExpress. You may also want to know how the records from OCLC can be processed by your local system. The trial option allows you to do real work with CatExpress, before committing to a subscription.

The introductory subscription is for the month of June 2006, and is free. NEBASE will be taking orders for the CatExpress Free Trial Month from now through May 19. The free trial month will begin on June 1, 2006.

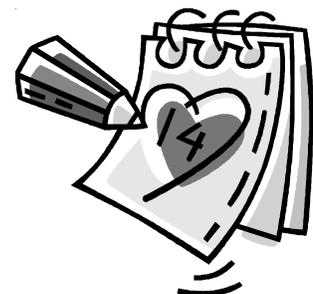
If you do not wish to continue with CatExpress, simply cancel before the end of June. If you do not cancel within that first month, the subscription automatically rolls over to the regular 12 month subscription, which runs from July 2006-June 2007.

If you decide to continue with CatExpress after the free trial month is over, you don't need to do a thing. You will automatically be added to NEBASE's CatExpress Group Subscription. You will only pay for the regular 12 month subscription, receiving 13 months of CatExpress access for the price of 12.

To learn more about CatExpress, and to see the special NEBASE Group Subscription Pricing, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/catx.html>

To sign up for the CatExpress Free Trial Month offer or if you have any questions, contact Christa Burns at 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665 or cburns@nlc.state.ne.us.

Christa Burns
OCLC Member Services Coordinator
Nebraska Library Commission





Audio PSAs available for Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales, Summer Reading Program 2006

Six Audio PSAs are ready for the 2006 Paws, Claws, and Scales Summer Reading Program. The video PSA should be ready soon and we will send out a message letting you know when you can get them. In addition, "Creature Feature" Teen/YA Audio Sound files are in production now and should be ready around Feb 2006.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program has released a series of six audio Public Service Announcements for use by member libraries in the promotion of libraries' implantations of the 2006 summer reading program, Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales at your library.

The PSAs, produced by the Wisconsin Department of Education specifically for the multi-state Collaborative Summer Library Program, feature entertaining references to pets and other animals and are available in English and Spanish.

The announcements are ready for use on public and private radio as well as in internal library programs and can be previewed and downloaded from the Collaborative Summer Library Program Website at <http://www.csllpreads.org/psa.htm>.

*******Tips & Tricks For Using the PSA Audio Files*******

Download the PSAs to your computer and burn them to CDs.

Send out CDs or direct the radio station to the Web site at <http://www.csllpreads.org/psa.htm>.

Burn extra CDs to send over to local schools. They can play over the PA Sound System for morning assemblies on the playground or homerooms. Send the CD along with a *letter of request* to the attention of the school principal.

Some libraries reported using them at the close of the library as an attention grabber *just* before they announce the library will be closing in 15 minutes. This may or may not work for your location.

Or insert them to play between pet related music tunes on the library's phone *hold* line.

Many city stations air a televised scrolling calendar. These royalty-free sound files could play as background while they roll library events.

Several of the radio spots are based on a poem written for the 2006 CSLP manual by Judy Farrow-Busack. The full poem, "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales," can be found on page 71 in the manual. Judy is a retired children's librarian. She currently is a writer and performs as a storyteller. Judy lives in West Bend, Wisconsin. The other spots were written with collaboration of several staff persons at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services
Nebraska Library Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
800-307-2665 or 402-471-2045



Friends Make a Huge Difference!!

FOLUSA recently surveyed members to find how successful friends groups were in their community. It was not surprise to that Friends groups make a difference for their libraries, but it is extremely satisfying to find out how much. Some of the results are:

- The average amount of money raised was \$37,413.38! Minimum was \$1,000 Largest amount was \$1,400,000
- Less than 10% of the amount raised was to support a capital campaign.
- 80% of those responding reported that they engaged in advocacy for their libraries.
- The goal of the advocacy efforts was most commonly to prevent library cuts, to increase the library's budget, and/or for general public awareness.
- The focus of the advocacy efforts was most commonly local or municipal government or the general public.
- The advocacy methods most commonly used included the Friends newsletter, library newsletter, letters to the editor, advertisements in newspapers, and speaking engagements.
- 56% of those engaged in advocacy characterized their efforts as somewhat successful while 27% said their efforts

were ongoing with the hopes of success. Only 2.9% said their efforts were somewhat unsuccessful and less than 1% said efforts were totally unsuccessful.

- When asked the primary obstacles to your Friends Group achieving success in supporting the library, 55% responded failure to attract new members; 32% said inability to attract new board members, and 28% said inability to attract volunteers.

(Taken from FOLUSA NewsUpdate, December 2005. To read the rest of the article, go to: www.folusa.org.)



New Public Address System Available

Thanks to the Nebraska Library Commission, the

Northeast Library System now has a portable public address system available to loan to system members. This amazingly compact unit weighs only 7.5 pounds and is made for travel. Features include:

- Powered by rechargeable battery or plugs in to 120V outlet.
- Includes full function cassette deck with record capability.
- Includes wireless transmitter and clip-on microphone.

This unit works for meetings up to 150 people. Call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 if you need to check it out or need some questions answered.



Shelving For Sale!

The Hruska Public Library in David City has library shelving for sale, effective May of 2006.

The yellow shelves are 9 inches wide, 36 inches long. There are 32-36 inch sections, holding approx. six shelves each. The shelves are 90 inches high. This entire group of shelves can be purchased for \$500. Two back to back sections will be sold for \$40 per unit. (This includes 12 shelves.)

The beige shelves are 36 inches long, 8 inches wide. We have 32-36 inch sections, each section holds approx. six shelves. This entire group of shelves can be purchased for \$800 or in units, as with the yellow shelves, for \$75 per unit.

There are six 90 inch X 20.5 inch end panels, with a walnut finish. These end panels are available for \$75 each.

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Kay Schmid at the Hruska Memorial Public Library, 399 5th Street, David City, NE 68632 or phone 402-367-3100 with questions.



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)- 564-1586 (Voice) (402)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

Mailing Address:
Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601.

Subscriptions to Northeast Library System **Straight-Talk** are \$10 per year (10 Issues).

To subscribe, send cash or check with mailing information to the System Office. Advertising: Businesses wishing to advertise in **Straight-Talk** should contact the System Office for current rate information.

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RGLG - Really Good Library Group- Meeting Date Set

RGLG will meet at the Madison Public Library on February 22nd beginning at 10am. On the agenda is Susan Block speaking about the Reading- PUPS program. Also we'll share favorite web sites and discuss our plans to update our computers. CE hours are available. If you plan to attend, please call 1-800-578-1014 or email Kathy at: kellert@megavision.com and let her know.

See you there!

Selecting New Trustees

There can be a lot of turnover on library boards. People move away, decide to retire from the board, or have life circumstances change so they're unable to continue serving as a trustee. When this happens, every good board president and library director have lists of possible new trustees to submit to the municipal authority that appoints library trustees. How do you decide who to put on that list? What qualities do you look for in a prospective trustee?

First, it helps if the person has an interest in the library. Someone who's committed to good library service will make a better, more effective trustee than someone who isn't. And it's easier for a new trustee who is already familiar with the library to bring themselves "up to speed" on library issues.

Second, because the library serves all members of the community equitably, a library board representing a cross section of the community is vital. Your trustees should represent the range of social, demographic, and occupational groups found in your community.

The third point is related to the second. Consider what professional skills and knowledge might be useful on your board. A board composed of members with varying backgrounds and perspectives can contribute to the success of the library.

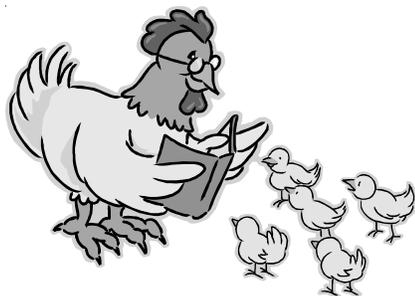
Lawyers, business people, parents, and others all have knowledge and experience than can contribute to effective library board decision-making.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, your candidate should be willing and able to speak out in support of the library. Your trustees need to be willing to meet with elected officials to advocate for the library. They should be ready to put in a good word for the library in casual conversation around the community. And they should be able to ask community leaders for support when necessary.

Effective library trustees are as important as an effective director and staff in ensuring quality library service in a community.

Trustee Qualifications

- serious commitment to being a library trustee
- ability to attend regularly scheduled board meetings and be an active member of the library board
- willingness to become familiar with Nebraska library law, standards for libraries, and principles and practices for ensuring that the library provides broad and equitable access to the knowledge, information, and diversity of ideas needed by community residents.
- commitment to freedom of expression and inquiry for all people.
(Taken from Trustee Tale, Winter 2005, page 3)



Award Winning & Honor Books - 2006

Caldecott Medal

"*The Hello, Goodbye Window*," illustrated by Chris Raschka, and written by Norton Juster.

Caldecott Honor books:

"*Rosa*," illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Nikki Giovanni.

"*Zen Shorts*," written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth.

"*Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride*," written and illustrated by Marjorie Priceman.

"*Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems*," illustrated by Beckie Prange, written by Joyce Sidman.

Newbery Medal

"*Criss Cross*," written by Lynne Rae Perkins.

Newbery Honor books:

"*Whittington*" by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler.

"*Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*" by Susan Campbell Bartoletti.

"*Princess Academy*" by Shannon Hale.

"*Show Way*" by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott.

Printz Award

"*Looking for Alaska*," written by

John Green.

Printz Honor books:

"*Black Juice*" by Margo Lanagan
 "*I Am the Messenger*" by Markus Zusak.

"*John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth, a Photographic Biography*" by Elizabeth Partridge.
 "*A Wreath for Emmett Till*," written by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Philippe Lardy.

Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award

"*Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*," by Julius Lester.

Honor books:

"*Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl*" by Tonya Bolden.

"*Dark Sons*" by Nikki Grimes
 "*A Wreath for Emmett Till*," written by Marilyn Nelson.

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award

"*Rosa*," illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Nikki Giovanni.

Honor book:

"*Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*" by R. Gregory Christie.

Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award

"*Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*," illustrated by Raul Colón, and written by Pat Mora.

Honor books:

"*Arrorró, Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games*," selected and illustrated by Lulu Delacre.

"*César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!*" illustrated by David Diaz,

written by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand.

"*My Name Is Celia/Me Llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/La Vida de Celia Cruz*," illustrated by Rafael López, written by Monica Brown.

Pura Belpré (Author) Award

"*The Tequila Worm*," written by Viola Canales.

Honor books:

"*César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!*" by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand.

"*Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*" by Pat Mora.

"*Becoming Naomi León*" by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Schneider Family Book Award

for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience

"*Dad, Jackie, and Me*" written by Myron Uhlberg and published by Peachtree Press, wins the award for children ages 0 to 10.

Kimberly Newton Fusco is the winner of the middle-school (ages 11-13) award for "*Tending to Grace*," published by Alfred A. Knopf.

The teen (ages 13-18) award winner is "*Under the Wolf, Under the Dog*," written by Adam Rapp and published by Candlewick Press.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

for the most distinguished beginning reader book.

"*Henry and Mudge and the*



Great Grandpas," written by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Suçie Stevenson

Honor books:

"*Hi! Fly Guy!*" by Tedd Arnold
"A Splendid Friend, Indeed" by Suzanne Bloom

"*Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa!*" by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Betsy Lewin

"*Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day!*" by Jean Van Leeuwen, illustrated by Ann Schweninger

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

"*Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley,*" written by Sally M. Walker.

Honor book:

"*Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow,*" written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Margaret A. Edwards Award

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2006 Edwards Award winner. Her books include: "I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This," and its sequel, "Lena;" "From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun," "If You Come Softly" and "Miracle's Boys."

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

for an outstanding children's book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States.

"*An Innocent Soldier.*" Originally published in German in 2002 as "Der Rusländer," the book was written by Josef Holub and translated by Michael Hofmann.

Northeast News

Irene O'Brien, Columbus author of *The Bandit's Lady*, signed books at the **Columbus Public Library** on February 5th. The book is an historical romance set in the Civil War era. The author published *Christian Joyride* and has several other books in the works.

Jackson Hawks explored the six major world religions during the month of January at the **South Sioux City Public Library**. Mr. Hawks holds bachelor degrees in History of Ideas & Religious Studies and a graduate degree in Psychology, and has been a student of Religion for over 30 years.

Congratulations to these volunteers from Northeast System libraries. They will be recognized at NLA Legislative Day on February 14 in Lincoln. Recognized volunteers are:

Ethan Porter - **Randolph Public Library**

Jamie Helgren - **Neligh Public Library**

Kirstin Obershaw - **Schuyler Public Library**

New shelving has arrived at **Hruska Memorial Public Library** in David City. The library held a fundraiser by requesting library supporters to purchase a shelf and a plaque will be attached in tribute to a friend or family member.

On April 24, **Norfolk Public Library** will be celebrating it's

100 year anniversary! They will be celebrating with special programs throughout the year.

Congratulations to Linda Risinger and the staff at the **Orchard Public Library**. On January 16, the last book was placed into their new automation system.

Feel like clowning around? Then visit the **Brunswick Public Library** and see their clown display. Clowns of all shapes and sizes decorate the library.

The new media center at **Columbus High School** has been described as a "cathedral of learning." The new center is the result of the \$17.68 million bond issue that was passed. The spacious center now handles 120 to 150 students dropping in plus three periods of classes. New overstuffed chairs were added to the lounge area where students are welcome to prop up their feet and read.

Drop in at the **O'Neill Public Library** to see Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds, an exhibit from the Nebraska Humanities Council detailing the struggles and achievements gained by African-American women throughout history.





Check Your Calendar

February 14 - **NLA Legislative Day** at the Capitol in Lincoln and Cornhusker Hotel at 8:30am.

March 2 - **Read Across America Day**. For more information, visit www.nea.gov/readacross

March 7 - **Summer Reading Workshop** at the Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk.

March 9 & 10 - **Youth Services Retreat** at the Aurora Leadership Center.

March 10 - **Joint Nebraska Library Commission / State Advisory Council on Libraries** meeting at Lexington Public Library starting at 9:30am.

March 10 - **"Library Management Hot Topics"** College of DuPage Teleconference, 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

March 15 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Central Community College - Platte Campus Library at 10am.

March 15 - **NLA Paraprofessional Spring Meeting**. More information coming soon.

March 31 - April 2 - **Language Arts Festival** at Wayne State College. For more information, contact Dr. Stan Gardner at 402-375-7259.

April 3 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk starting at 10am.

April 7 - **"Serving Immigrant Populations: A Library Prototype for Diversity"**, College of DuPage teleconference starting at 11am.

April 11 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk starting at 10am.

April 12 - **Gates Rural Sustainability Workshop** at Niobrara Room, Student Center, Wayne State College, starting at 9am.

April 13 - **Gates Rural Sustainability Workshop** at Holiday Inn Express, Columbus, starting at 9am.

April 18 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk starting at 10am.

April 28 - **"Google Print: It's Impact on Scholarship & Libraries"**, College of DuPage teleconference starting at 11am.



NEW at NELS

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

"A Step-By-Step Guide To Organizing a Fundraising Dinner", by Mimi Ho, Grassroots Fundraising Journal, January/February 2006, pp.14-19.

"Top Ten List of Library Facility Technology Issues", by Thomas L. Hart, Library Media Connection, January 2006, pp.

"Girls & Gaming: A summary of the Research with Implications for Practice.", Teacher/Librarian, February 2004.



Rural Library Sustainability Workshops

What's coming? Gates Rural Library Sustainability Workshops will be offered in late March/early April 2006 for library staff and trustees in communities of 25,000 population and under. These workshops are being sponsored by the Gates Foundation, WebJunction, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

What is it? This program is designed to empower small and rural libraries with information and resources to meet their unique challenges head-on and better manage and sustain their public access computing programs.

Who can participate? Representatives from any Nebraska Public Libraries in communities of 25,000 population and under can join us. You can be a library volunteer, a library staff member or a library trustee. Your library does not have to have a Gates computer to participate.

What is going to be covered? Information will be presented about the following areas: Library Community Connections; Upgrade and Maintenance; Staff and Patron Training; Funding; Outreach; and Advocacy. There will be opportunities for attendees to share their successes and challenges so that we all can learn from one another. There will also be a session on how to become more familiar with WebJunction as a resource.

We will also have a session after lunch to get feedback from trustees and library staff about the proposed draft of revised chapters of the Nebraska Trustee Manual. This revision is due to the feedback we received from the trustees in last year's survey.

Who will be the presenter? Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator of the Nebraska Library Commission will provide you with lots of great information and some entertainment.

What is the timeframe of the workshop? The one-day workshop will be from 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Lunch is included at no cost! Staff should attend all day. Trustees are welcome to attend all day or attend 1/2 the day starting with our Trustee Manual feedback session after lunch which will be approximately 1:00 pm.

I heard that a person can be reimbursed for mileage as part of the workshop offerings? Is that true? Yes. Due to the financial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will be able to provide mileage reimbursement to participants that drive at least 50 miles or more one way. Mileage reimbursement rate will be \$ 0.445 per mile for each driver.

What about CE credits? Trustees and Library staff participating in the related Library Commission certification programs will receive 8 hours of CE for attendance all day. For 1/2 day with lunch trustees can receive 5 hours of CE.

Registration deadlines for each training site will be two weeks prior to the day of training offered at a site.

April 12, 2006 (Registration Deadline: March 29, 2006)
Wayne—Wayne State College, Student Center, Wayne

April 13, 2006 (Registration Deadline: March 30, 2006)
Columbus - Holiday Inn Express, 525 East 23rd Street, Columbus

To register, go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/Gates/rural.html>





Online Tools & Techniques

by
Kit Keller

The online world changes so rapidly, it's nearly impossible to stay informed about tools and techniques that might make one's working life easier. Included here are some online tools that I use for two main purposes: saving and accessing files; and, finding and evaluating resources.

1. Need to access files when away from your "home" computer? Use eSnips.com (<http://www.esnips.com/signin/index.jsp>) to store files so that you can access them from any Internet terminal. This is a free Web storage site that allows you to store and share resources online.

2. Learn about search tools and read reviews the various search options. Be aware that this technology changes rapidly, and it's a good idea to check in occasionally with a search review site to see what's new and what's changed. Online searching is a skill that you have to use and update frequently!

- Greg Notess' *Search Engine Showdown* <http://www.searchengineshowdown.com/>. *Search Engine Showdown*, the users' guide to Web searching, compares and evaluates Internet search engines from the searcher's perspective.

- For a quick review of current search tools, read this page on *Internet Search Engines* provided by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: <http://www.unl.edu/libr/inet/srcheng.html>

- Both Yahoo! and Google maintain blogs where about enhancements, tips, and tricks for searching:

Yahoo! Blog: <http://www.ysearchblog.com>

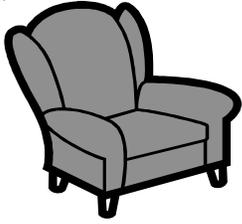
Google Blog: <http://googleblog.blogspot.com>

3. Specialized searching is possible in many ways. Google's Uncle Sam (<http://www.google.com/unclesam>) searches just .mil (military) and .gov (government) Web sites. SearchEdu.com specializes in education topics. (<http://www.searchedu.com/>) And many basic search engines [Google (www.google.com), Teoma (www.teoma.com), Yahoo (www.yahoo.com)] allow domain-specific searching via their Advanced Search pages. This means that it is possible to limit a search to a certain type of domain — .edu (education), .gov (government), .mil (military), .com (commercial).

4. Sign up for "Tip of the Month" email service from Bates Information Services (<http://www.batesinfo.com/tip.html>). Mary Ellen Bates is internationally recognized as a super-searcher. Her "Tip of the Month" service will keep you apprised of unique searching and Web-related news.

5. Sign up for the Google Alerts Service (<http://www.google.com/alerts>) to be notified of news about a topic of interest.

6. Register to receive a weekly newsletter from ResearchBuzz! (<http://www.researchbuzz.com>) "ResearchBuzz is designed to cover the world of Internet research. To that end this site provides almost daily updates on search engines, new data managing software, browser technology, large compendiums of information, Web directories — whatever." (<http://www.researchbuzz.com/about.shtml>)



The Reviewer's Chair

McGillycuddy Could!

By Pamela Duncan Edwards

McGillycuddy is a young kangaroo that just moved into the barn yard. None of the other animals have ever seen a kangaroo before so they begin to question him about what he can do. Of course he tries to do everything the other animals can do, but he fails. However, when a fox invades the farm, McGillycuddy kicks him off the farm and shows the other animals what he can do! Recommended for ages 4-8 in both public and school libraries.
 ~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

My Contract With Henry

By Robin Vaupel

Ninth grader Beth is teamed up with a group of social rejects and misfits to do an experiment in living assigned by their English teacher. They are to duplicate the experience of Henry Thoreau as much as possible, and learn whatever lessons there are to learn. Beth's group wants to do something more important. They want to go into nearby Wayburn Woods and recreate the Walden experience, including the food, the cabin, and the environment. The experiment continues long past the assignment, when the students of the entire

student body are all transformed by the experiment in different ways. The group's idyllic life is threatened when a developer buys the property and begins to transform it into suburbs.

It is written with a decidedly adult vocabulary and perspective, and in my opinion, does not do a good job of portraying 9th graders for the most part. The story is compelling, however, and I wanted Beth and her group to succeed so much that the ending was fun, if entirely unrealistic. The attempt to write an environmentally friendly book praising Thoreau and his lifestyle is interesting, but falls flat because of the lack of believability. This book would be appropriate for 6th grade and up in both public and school libraries.
 ~~Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

The Last of the Roundup Boys

By Debra Seely

It's the end of an era. Tom has taken a job herding cattle to supplement the family income. He believes that the life of a cowboy is freedom. Evie has ideas of owning her own spread even though this is unheard of in their time. Together in their own way they carve a life in the changing west of Kansas. This book is recommended for grades 6 and up in any library. I enjoyed the book. The changing times are not often

written about and these books give us a look at this.

~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

Escape Across the Wide Sea

By Katherine Kirkpatrick

Having the opportunity to take a trip on a large ship may be a dream come true to many people, but when you are fleeing for your life, that is not the case. The Bonnet family chose to leave France and the family's weaving shop. Their lives had been threatened by the King's soldiers after the family refused to convert from their Huguenot beliefs to the King's religion. The family spent several months aboard a slave ship, time on a sugar plantation in the Caribbean and eventually settled in New Rochelle, New York. The story ends on a happy note, which may be a stretch for that time in history.

Recommended for grades 6 and up in any library. This was an enjoyable read. It was not too deep, but easy enough and with enough action to hold the reader's attention while also imparting some historically significant information.
 ~~MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

Confessions of a Closet Catholic

By Sarah Darer Littman

11 year old Justine is Jewish and her best friend Mac is Catholic. When Mac tells



Justine that she is giving up chocolate for Lent, then Justine decides to give up being Jewish. Only she can't let her family know, especially her Bubbe (grandmother) who survived the WWII concentration camps. Her closet becomes her confessional and her teddy bear became Father Ted. When Bubbe suffers a massive stroke, Justine starts to feel guilty. Then her clean freak mother sees a mouse and is determined that Justine is feeding a family of mice in her closet. Now her secret is out. How will her family handles her defection from her religion and is giving up being Jewish what she really wants?

Recommended for 4th through 7th grade. This is a fun book about a young girl who questions then learns about her religion and what it means to her and her family. This is an excellent book for any young reader especially if they question their family beliefs and upbringing.

~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Auction!

By Tres Seymour

A young girl tells the story of her aunt's passion for auctions, the bidding war that goes on between her Aunt and her teacher and the day that she outbid them both. This book is recommended for grades 1-5 in both public and school libraries. This unique and humorous story introduces young readers to the world of auction and

illustrates how comical they can be. This story richly develops the characters and immediately draws the readers in with the exciting plot and unpredictable ending.

~Linda Hughes, West Point, NE

Maisy Goes to the Library

By Lucy Cousins

This is a very simple story about all the things a mouse named Maisy does at the library. She finds the quiet reading spot she's looking for in a very interesting spot! Pre-school kids will love this Maisy book and the fun Maisy and her friends have at the library. This could be a part of any collection since it has no flaps or parts that would wear out, but libraries would especially like to have this in their collections based on the content.

~~Heather Reid, Parent, Omaha, NE

Hana In the Time of the Tulips

By Deborah Noyes

It is Holland in the 1600's. Hana is worried about her Papa because the tulip market is bad. She asks everyone for cures for Papa not remembering the beauty of the flowers, for his dark thoughts, his frowning, and the loss of the family fortune. Their family friend, Rembrandt, gave her the idea to paint the rarest of the rare tulip. This is a lovely story of a daughter's and father's love for each other. The soft acrylic illustrations add

to the story's charm. A public or school library may care to add *Hana In the Time of the Tulips* to their collection as a nice elementary level historical fiction book or for its gentle story.

~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

Malka

By Mirjam Pressler

This factual adaptation of real events stems from the Nazi roundups of the Jews during 1943 in an area that used to belong to Poland. Seven-year old Malka, her sister, and mother escape the ghetto prior to one of the roundups. On their way to safety in Hungary, Malka becomes sick and her mother is forced to leave her behind, thinking Malka will be brought to her when she feels better. But though a turn of events, Malka is returned to the ghetto to survive on her own. This was a little difficult to read since we know most people rounded up from the ghettos or hospitals during this era of history did not survive. But it is truly a testament of the human will to survive. And knowing that it was such a young child who was able to survive was even more astounding. I would recommend this for middle school children to read, keeping in mind that it could affect some of them emotionally. Even though the story is rendered in a tactful manner, thinking of the brutality could bother some young people.

~~Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College

NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM

January 18, 2006

The Northeast Library System Board met on January 18, 2006 at Orchard Public Library in Orchard, Nebraska; Linda Risinger hosted. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President, Marilyn Liedorff.

Board members present were: Lucy Cooper, Gretchen Healy, Dee Johnson, Jolene Klein, Marilyn Liedorff, Laurie Rehnstrom, Linda Risinger, Sally Stahlecker, Vernel Zwingman, and Ann Bachman. Also in attendance: System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton and System Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak. Kathy Ageton was an approved alternate for Carol Becker. Approval of minutes from the September meeting (MS: Cooper, Rehnstrom); motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Financial: Shelia shared budgets as of January 9, 2006 - checking: 3,516.88; savings: 37,563.45; and CDs: 42,938.08. A 12-month CD was renewed for 12-months at a 4.06% interest rate. Motion to accept the report and CD renewal (MS: Johnson, Ageton). Roll call vote with unanimous approval.

State Advisory Council – Gretchen Healy reported on the November 18th Council meeting. Gretchen mentioned that gaming can be used in libraries as a literacy activity. There will be movie advertisements that are aimed at increasing interest in the library profession. Ethnic Newswatch is an online database that is worth looking into as a resource for libraries. Each Nebraska library should have received the Ted Kooser DVD entitled Poetry – Capturing the Moment. The state-wide distance education plan was discussed. This plan will eliminate the use of separate PODS that currently are located in areas around the state; The DL plan is associated with LB 689.

Commission: Richard Miller reported on the following topics – for additional information on these topics, please visit the Nebraska Library Commission's website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us>. Rural library sustainability workshops; disaster planning workshops; digitization workshop; summer reading program workshops; trustee news; basic skills information; LSTA grant applications; LE@D courses; WebJunction courses; public library statistical data deadline is January 31, 2006; E-rate deadline is February 16, 2006; youth grants for excellence. Richard announced Rivkah Sass, Director of Omaha Public Library, has been chosen as Library Journal Librarian of the Year.

Administrator: Kathy has made numerous visits to system member libraries over the past four months, as well as attending a variety of workshops within the system. She has taught basic skills classes and attended administrator's meetings, and board meetings. In the office, Kathy was busy with phone calls, PC software upgrades, e-rate, and the many activities that accumulate while she's on the road. A draft copy of the AccuCut Die directory is currently being worked on and will be ready for release soon.

Committee Reports:

Personnel: no report

Budget: Budget committee members Marilyn Liedorff, Luran Lofgren, Shelia Cermak, and Dee Johnson met with Kathy on January 6 for a mid-year review of the budget. Mileage and postage were areas of minor concern for the remainder of the fiscal year. It was recommended by the committee that with a slight shift in allocated funds, the budget is solid and inline for mid-year.

Continuing Education: no report

Strategic Planning: Met three times this past year. The committee members Marilyn Liedorff, Lucy Cooper, and Gretchen Healy distributed a draft copy of the revised NELS Strategic Plan. Discussion and clarification was asked for on several points. Suggested revisions were made at the January 18 meeting and the document was approved (MS: Healy, Zwingman). Vote with unanimous approval

Nominating: no report.

Technology: no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion made to approve Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library to fill vacancy of Sandy Zurovski; Population under 1000. (MS: Healy, Cooper). Motion carried.

Kathy shared a salaries/benefits survey, as well as an automation survey. The results can be obtained by calling or emailing the system office.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Technology Committee, Ann Bachman, Jolene Klein, & Linda Risinger presented the technology plan; it was discussed and asked that the system office look at other Internet providers that will accept the e-rate.

Kathy and Shelia have reviewed the usage of current periodical subscriptions at the Systems Office and came up with a list of those to continue and those to discontinue. A motion to have the Continuing Ed Committee look at the lists and make recommendations for additional periodicals the System Office could replace discontinued subscriptions with.

An Ad-hoc committee was formed to review board by-laws.

Pat on the Back awards will go out to the following: Atkinson Friends of the Library Foundation; Arlen Ahlers – volunteer at Lutheran Northeast High School.

OTHER:

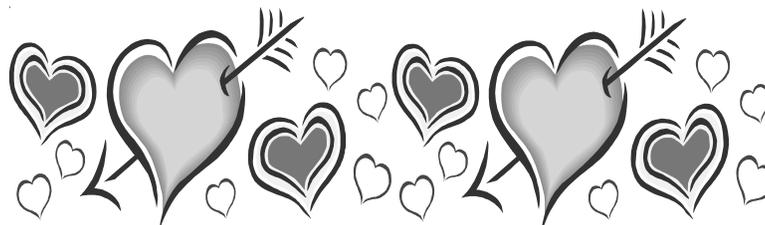
Scholarship dollars funded to help off-set the cost of a seminar "21st Century Strategies for Strengthening your School Library Program" for Claudia Koeber to attend. Claudia will be asked to present a report on the seminar at the annual institute in June.

Claims of the day: motion to approve (MS: Ageton, Bachman) roll call vote with unanimous approval.

Next Board meeting is at Central Community College-Columbus on March 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Johnson





Encourage Someone @ your library®

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT
Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.**

Programs (3 sessions, each one 50 minutes with a 5-10 minute break between):

Session I - Encouraging Community Participation in our Library

Speakers: Karen Frank, Greenwood Public Library; and La Raine Cihak, Gilbert Public Library in Friend

Session II - Encouraging From Within

Speaker: Becky Pasco, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Session III - Encouraging Through Mentoring

Speaker: Cindi Hickey, Library Consultant

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Matt Rohde, Chair of Paraprofessionals, will guide us through our annual spring general meeting. Those who have paid for lunch at the Lincoln or Omaha site will have lunch at this time.

Sites:

This year's conference will be telecast to several sites across the state (we will cancel any sites not having at least one participant by the registration deadline - March 8th.

Beatrice, Beatrice Public Library, 100 North 16th Street

Columbus, Room 205, West Education Center, Central Community College, 4500 63rd St

Kearney, Buffalo Co Ext Office, 1400 East 34th Street, walk in Main (South) Door

Lincoln, NET (Nebraska Educational Telecommunications), 1800 North 33rd

Norfolk, Northeast Community College, 801 E. Benjamin, Lifelong Learning Center, ESU Room

North Platte, McKinley Education Center, 301 West F Street, Room 103

Omaha, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension, 8015 W Center Rd

Scottsbluff, Conference Room B, ESU 13, 4215 Ave. I

Sidney, ESU 14, 1114 Toledo

For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/comp/para/2006Spgmtg/2006Paraspgconfwebsite.html>. Registration deadline is March 8, 2006.

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| CHILD'S WORLD | SALEM PRESS |
| REFERENCE BOOKS | COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA |

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Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota,
Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

"A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones."

~~Abraham Lincoln

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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