

Straighttalk

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

New Accreditation Standards

The new accreditation have been approved. While there are some significant changes coming, it isn't anything to worry about. From there, you will have until the October 1 to submit your application. When you are due for renewal, you will be notified several months beforehand with instructions on how to reapply.

Some of the information you normally had to fill out will be pre-populated. The Commission will use your submitted statistics from the previous year, so it will be important that you also submit those on time and as accurately and detailed as possible.

The points system will still be used, but there will be a lot more of them. The system has been set up in a way that will allow libraries to use areas where they are very strong to help make up for areas where they are less strong. Every guideline will have a value assigned to it. Each one will also have a link to help explain or clarify what it is asking for.

The size category your community is put into for comparative purposes will be floating instead of fixed. This is to help balance out situations where a community is barely into a larger category than the majority of it's true peer libraries.

One of the biggest changes to plan for is that you will need to have a strategic plan. If you don't have one already, it would be ideal that you create one and then review it when your accreditation is up for renewal. The NCompass Live Session from May 22 covered how to approach the planning process.

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Does your library need a Web site? The Nebraska Library Commission can give you one for free.

By Michael Sauers

The Nebraska Libraries on the Web project has been around since 2010 and is open to any public library in the state of Nebraska. If you're looking to move your library's Web site away from the version created with FrontPage back in 2002, have more than just a single page on your city or town's Web site, or create your library's first Web presence this service is for you.

As a participant here's what you get:

- Nebraska Libraries on the Web uses the open source WordPress platform which currently supports more than 63 million Web sites around the world.
- WordPress is nearly infinitely customizable with more than 1,700 base themes to choose from and more than 24,000 plugins that can add nearly any feature that you'd want. If you need more server space or a new feature just ask.
- Multiple user accounts for your staff are available, providing you the ability to give different staff members different levels of access to your site.
- When you sign up the Nebraska Library Commission will provide you with some default content including a contact form and a calendar for your site. From there all you need to do is supply any additional information you'd like. All work is done through simple forms; no coding experience is needed.
- NLC staff provides all of the support and training you'll need along with a community of more than 50 other Nebraska libraries who currently host their Web site with us.
- NLC staff takes care of all of the software updates, security issues, and backups. All you need to do is provide the content.
- The system is hosted in-house at the Nebraska Library Commission and is connected to the Internet through the network of the State of Nebraska. This guarantees both highly reliable speeds and uptime of any service provider in the state.

And how much will it cost your library to participate? Nothing! We provide all this at no cost to you. All we ask is that you keep up with posting new content to your site on a regular basis and allow us to insert a small link back to the project's site and the NLC.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information head over to <http://libraries.ne.gov/> and click on "Want to Participate?" You can also contact Michael Sauers via e-mail at michael.sauers@nebraska.gov.

Note: If you would like assistance setting up or modifying your website, contact Sarah at nelsdirector@gmail.com.

Library Happenings



Local author E. J. Obermeier reads to her grandson during the BTOP open house at House Memorial Library in Pender.

New Building for Leigh Public Library

The Leigh Public Library has recently bought a new building. The new building is across the street from the current library and was formerly an office for a local business that is moving to a new facility.

The library may be moving as soon as the end of the summer. The new building will have a lot more space, including a meeting room, and possibly an adult reading room with a fireplace.



After school closed early on Earth Day, kids at the Stanton Public Library celebrated it on Arbor Day instead.

Grants Awarded to Small Town Libraries

Eight Nebraska libraries received grants from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund . Of those libraries, four are part of the NELS system — Albion, Wausa, Walthill, and Osmond. The other recipients of this year’s grant are Valley, Mitchell, Ashland, and Hildreth.

Following Ms. Kreutz Bennett’s wishes, a Fund Advisory Committee composed of her nieces and nephews recommends grants in three areas: planning grants leading to accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services; and facilities grants for new construction or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries .

All grants require a certain level of matching funds and evidence that the project has broad community support. Approximately \$70,000 is available each year. Grant seekers are encouraged to review the guidelines and application procedures at www.nebcommfound.org/fund/kreutzbenett.



Stromsburg kicked off their summer reading program with a Hobbit party. Olivia Nyberg won “Best Dressed Hobbit” for her Bilbo costume.



While not from The Hobbit, a Ringwraith visited.

Harry Potter's World Exhibition Display at Central City

The traveling exhibit Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine has been on display since June 3 and will be at the library until July 13. The display is made of six panels and uses materials from the Library of Medicine to show connections between the world of Harry Potter and the science and medicine that were used during the Renaissance.



Weeding Assistance

It's often popular for libraries to do some of their annual weeding during the summer months. If any libraries are going to begin a weeding project in the next couple of months, I am more than willing to come out and assist you with this process. Please contact me at nelsdirector@gmail.com if you would like some assistance.

~ Sarah



To register or for more information, go to:
www.heartland2013.com



Register Now!

Heartland School Library Conference
Inquiry & the Common Core
August 2-3, 2013
University of Nebraska Omaha

Featured Keynote Speakers:

Barbara Stripling, ALA President

- Expert on Inquiry Process
- Focused on Common Core, inquiry, and school libraries

Marc Aronson of Rutgers University

- Author and authority on Common Core
- Presenter, Common Core workshops to New York librarians

An invaluable experience at an incredible price!

\$50 for NSLA members

\$80 for non-NSLA members

(includes a 1-year NSLA membership)

\$25 for students

Funding assistance provided by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Accreditation Standards Continued.

There are four aspects to the plan: a community profile, needs assessment, taking stock of your talents and resources before creating your mission, and setting priorities and developing goals. Once those are completed you'll be able to put your plan into motion.

Each section of the plan will be accompanied by a worksheet. Once you have filled out the information in each worksheet, you will have essentially developed your plan.

In addition, a video is available that will also cover much of the same information that can be used as you need. It will be set up so that you can watch all of it or easily select a particular section to watch. It can be viewed [here](#). There is also an NCompass Live session that discusses planning. The session can be found in the NCompass archived sessions list or watched directly [here](#).

The final change is that the level names are changing. Instead of Essential, Enhanced, and Excelled it will be Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

The new guidelines are available here: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/Guidelines.pdf>

Passive Programming

Passive programs are informal and allow patrons to complete the program at their own pace and on their own schedule. They require little in terms of time or money, and they can help avoid issues of burn out. Passive programming also allows a library to hit on local interests and popular trends.

The main benefit of passive programming is that it allows the library to promote itself and its materials and services without providing a formal program at a specific time or date. The second benefit is that they engage people in the library without requiring much from staff in terms of supervision.

Some popular passive programs include magnetic poetry, add-a-line stories, putting shredded pages of an old book (one that needs to be weeded) in a jar and having patrons guess the book, and come-and-go crafts. Another popular idea with passive programming is to have a small prize involved—especially when the program is some sort of contest.

If you would like to know more about passive programming, the office recently purchased a book on the topic. It is currently checked out, but we will put you on the list for it if you are interested in it.

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey 2011-2012 Summary

Description

Libraries by Legal Service Area

Under 500	85	31.7%
500-999	69	25.7%
1,000-1,499	34	12.7%
1,500-2,499	32	11.9%
2,500-4,999	16	6.0%
5,000-9,999	16	6.0%
10,000-24,999	8	3.0%
25,000+	8	3.0%

Miscellaneous

Accredited Public Libraries	175	65%
Certified Public Library Boards	190	71%
Certified Public Library Directors	182	68%

Service Measures

Annual Circulation	13,497,292
Registered Borrowers	1,026,086
Reference Transactions	8,656,034
Visits to Libraries	8,656,034
Children's Programs	17,999
Attendance	544,465
Young Adult Programs	2,129
Attendance	36,814
Adult Programs	7,031
Attendance	105,252

Technology

Provide Public Internet Access	237	88%
Offer WiFi Access for the Public	211	79%
Public Libraries with a Website	147	54.9%
Libraries Using Online Social Networks	113	42.2%

Disaster Planning

In the wake of the recent tornados in Oklahoma and the April storm that severely damaged the UNK library, it perhaps more important than ever that a library has an up-to-date disaster plan.



A risk assessment is the first thing that should be done when creating a disaster plan. Having the assessment done will help you plan ahead and assign threat levels for the different scenarios that could happen and how much damage they could cause.

A disaster plan should, at minimum, cover first response procedures and the steps needed to recover from a minor disaster all the way up to a severe or major disaster. Recovery steps should include different sections that focus on technology, physical resources, the building itself, and so on. For those libraries with larger staff, establishing a calling tree is also a good idea. A calling tree will also be beneficial in situations where the library will be closed due to the weather.

It is also a good idea to include a section that focuses on resources and supplies that are available locally and regionally in the even of a disaster. While a library may not need as much when a minor disaster strikes, a major disaster is a situation where outside assistance will most likely be a necessity.

Once you have completed your disaster plan, it will be important to conduct drills so that staff know how to handle potential dangers. It is recommended that fire/evacuation drills be done at least once a year. For this part of the country it is also recommended that there be a yearly tornado drill.

Like any other plan, a disaster plan should be reviewed on a regular basis. There are varying opinions on how often this should be done, with a general consensus being once a year.

If you will be creating a disaster plan for the first time, consider checking out <http://www.dplan.org/>. It uses a fill-in-the-blank system to help institutions develop their disaster plans. This is a free and easy-to-use program that will also automatically provide you with the appropriate language for a final plan.

The office has a book available on disaster planning with a CD that includes a template, list of consultants and a disaster mitigation website. Please contact us if you would like to borrow it.

Annual Meeting

Plans have begun for this year's annual meeting. Like previous years, it will be held in conjunction with the NNC Media Workshop. The workshop will be held on September 18 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.

The keynote speaker will be Tim Davidson, who was a semifinalist in Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Guide contest. There will also be a virtual tour with author and storyteller Diane de las Casas. A full schedule and description of the sessions will be available with the registration information.

The registration fee will be \$25 and will include lunch. Public librarians will receive 6 CE credits.

Upcoming Events



July 4: Office closed

July 17: Board Meeting, Emerson Public Library, 10am

July 27: Norfolk Literature Festival, Lifelong Learning Center

August: Target meeting, Date and location to be determined

September 18: Annual Meeting, Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

August 5-9: Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

October 1: Accreditation applications due

October 9-11: NLA Annual Meeting, Kearney

If you have a book review, piece of news, or photo that you would like to share with your fellow Northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Sarah at the NELS office.

nelsdirector@gmail.com

Northeast Library System Board Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

The Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, May 15th, 2013, at the Madison Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by President Judy Hagen, and roll call showed board members Sara Lee, Tami Anderson, Judy Hagen, Susan Tyndall, Beth Foulks, Audrey Loosvelt, Melissa Baumert, Judy Hilkemann, and Tim Sebade present. Also present were Director Sarah Warneke, Shelia Cermak and Richard Miller from The Library Commission. Dee Johnson was approved as an alternate. (Lee – 1M, Johnson - 2).

The January minutes were approved. ((Johnson – 1M, Hilkemann – 2) March minutes were also approved. (Johnson-M, Hilkemann – 2)

Cards of thanks were shared by Director Sarah Warneke from Wakefield and Stanton.

Shelia gave the financial report. A Summer Reading report came with a possible recommendation to move location for next year and to possibly charge \$25 instead of \$20 to cover the increased cost of food which was up 4%. A CD will come due in July, and the continuing low interest rates were noted. The report was approved by roll call. MCU

A verbal report and handout from the Nebraska Library Commission were presented by Richard Miller. In addition, he showed the group a childrens' book, *Bag in the Wind*, written by poet laureate Ted Kooser which will be made available for Nebraska libraries in the near future. He also commended Sarah for her work with the new accreditation standards project.

Director Sarah Warneke reported activities with which she has been involved at various libraries and with the Nebraska Library Commission. She is also working with Devra Dragos to advertise the Freegal database and will be attending the ALA national conference.

The budget committee plans to meet after lunch today to do some budget planning. The grants committee is planning to offer several scholarships to the Association of Small and Rural Libraries Conference in Omaha in September. The nominating committee is considering doing the voting for new board members online via Survey Monkey (or a similar tool) to save money.

Old business included talk of moving the next Summer Reading workshop to Norfolk. Comments suggested that librarians appreciated seeing the actual presentation of a possible summer reading performer. The Mad Scientist performed at this year's meeting.

New business

Sarah reported that at the next quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Library Commission she may learn more about what to expect for next year's budget.

Members shared activities at their various libraries.

The next meeting will be July 17 at Emerson Public Library.

Claims of the Day were approved by roll call. MCU.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM. (M)-Lee, (2) Baumert.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Foulks, Secretary

Northeast Library System

3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13

Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 800-578-1014

Phone/Fax: 402-564-1586



The Northeast Library System serves the counties of Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the cost is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”

~ Walter Cronkite

Straight Talk is published 6 times per year by the Northeast Library System.

Please contact Sarah Warneke or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office with any questions or concerns. Sarah Warneke, editor

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Our NELS Board Members

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