



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

JULY, 2009 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Annual Meeting Extravaganza!

The 26th Northeast Library System Annual Institute/Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th, at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College campus. Once again we will offer a variety of sessions to meet the needs of school media specialists, librarians, trustees and advocates.

Don't forget that the sessions are set up in a "menu" format so that you may come and go as you wish.

This year's sessions are:

***Twitter, Tweets & Twits**

What's all the fuss about with Twitter? What does it mean to my library that Ashton Kutcher has over two million followers? Twitter has been around since the fall of 2006, but in 2009 usage has exploded. The news media is full of stories about Twitter and how people are using it. So how does Twitter fit into your library? How would you use it with your customers? Join Christa Burns from the Nebraska Library Commission as she walks you through the world of Twitter and how you can use it at your library. **This class is limited to 16 participants.** Sign up now!

***Trustee Orientation Tips**

Need some ideas on getting your new trustees moving in the right direction? Richard Miller, from the Nebraska Library Commission, will give some tips and tricks in getting those new trustees feeling like one of the gang in no time at all!

***Pioneer Project: Library Pioneers on the Open Source Frontier**

Several Nebraska libraries have joined together to use the Koha open source software to form a cooperative library catalog. This



As many of you are aware, my husband accepted a position as Dean of Libraries at the University College of the North in The Pas, Manitoba two years ago. We decided to allow our daughter to finish high school and she graduated in May. Now, it's time for the rest of the family to pack up and move north. I've resigned my position as Northeast Library System Administrator.

I want to thank you all for the privilege of being your system administrator. You have been a great inspiration to me. I enjoyed every minute representing the Northeast system and there will be a piece of my heart left behind in Northeast Nebraska.

I know the libraries in Northeast Nebraska will continue to grow and deliver new services with an enthusiastic smile. I wish you all the best.



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software would include all the regular library automation software modules (cataloging, public catalog, circulation, reports) and would be the beginnings of a statewide catalog. Open Source Software (OSS) is free to use and modify but implementation and maintenance require knowledgeable staff. Pam Soreide, Holdrege Public Library Director, will explain how open source software works, the pros and cons of the system and where the Nebraska libraries are on this project.

*Book Flix

Are kids avoiding your nonfiction collection like a fifty-page term paper assignment? Beth Foulks, Ponca Carnegie Library Director will talk about Book Flix. This program pairs classic video storybooks from Weston Woods with related nonfiction eBooks from Scholastic. Beth will talk about the program and how it is working in Ponca.

*Moving Beyond NEBASE

Christa Burns from the Nebraska Library Commission will explain why Nebase ended and how it affects your library. She will answer all your questions on how this affects interlibrary loan, cataloging and other OCLC services libraries previously used through the Nebraska Library Commission.

*Going Green @ your library

Meghann Buresh, a GreenFiber representative in Norfolk, will present ways you can go green at your library. GreenFiber specializes in community recycling programs. Meghann will explain how you can recycle more at your library. A tour of the facility will follow for those who are interested.

*We Never Have Time To Talk: Talk Tables

Once again, Talk Tables will be set up in special rooms for School Media Specialists, Public Librarians/Trustees and for Academic/Special Librarians to get together to just TALK.

*Give-Away Table

Do you have items that your library can no longer use, but maybe someone else can? Bring it to the annual meeting. There will be a Give-Away Table set up in the hallway where people can drop off or pick up items as they wish.

*AccuCut Dies & Cutting Machines

All the system dies and cutting machine will be set up in the hallway. Now is the time to cut for the fall. Autumn dies include: maple leaf, ghost, pumpkin, turkey, and apple. Paper will be provided.

Registration form can be found on page 15 or on the system's web site at <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>



2009 Nebraska Book Festival Set for November 14 in Lincoln

Nebraska Writers: Cultivating Creativity, 2009 Nebraska Book Festival, November 14, 2009 will be held at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska. The festival will include a variety of literary activities. An awards luncheon will honor the winners of the Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, and Nebraska Book Awards. A selection of Nebraska writers will read from their 2009 works, along with readings from the winners of the Nebraska Book Awards. Writers Workshops will be offered free of charge. Teresa Lorenson of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation will lead a book discussion of Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*, this year's enormously popular One Book One Nebraska selection (www.onebookone-nebraska.org).

A Conversation with Three Poets will give Nebraska poets Ted Kooser, Bill Kloefkorn, and Don Welch the opportunity to share insights on reading and writing poetry. These long-time members of an intentional writing community will share insights on how they have supported each other's work through the years. Additional Nebraska author activities and plans for vendors are in the works. The Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Noted Nebraska Writers to Appear at the 2009 Nebraska Book Festival, November 14, 2009:

- William Kloefkorn
- Ted Kooser
- Don Welch
- JV Brummels
- Sean Doolittle
- Michael Forsberg
- Harley Jane Kozak
- The Loren Eiseley Society Readers
- Mary Pipher
- Hilda Raz
- Joe Starita
- Stephanie Grace Whitson

For more information see <http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org> or contact Mary Jo Ryan, mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665.

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Library Grants



The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation offers grants of \$500 to school and public libraries for programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children. Programs can include innovative or noteworthy workshops, lectures and festivals, or programs targeting parents and preschool children. Programs related to Keats's work are welcome, but not required.

Applications must be submitted by September 15 annually. They can be downloaded at www.ezra-jack-keats.org/Programs/minigrants.htm or by writing to Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grants, 450 14th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215-5702.



Nebraska Future Search Vision Statement

If you've got it, flaunt it – or, at least, market it.

In a tough economy, libraries are more important than ever. Now is the time to show our communities why we are so valuable.

Vision statement to consider: Increasing the visibility of Nebraska libraries through listening, communicating, and delivering services to enhance our communities.

Note the similarities between this vision statement and the American Marketing Association's definition of marketing: "Marketing is the activity, set of institutions, and processes for creating, communicating, delivering, and exchanging offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners, and society at large."

This vision statement is all about marketing our libraries – informing our communities of the services, programs and resources that the public library offers.

Economics, Enrichment, Relationships: Why do people use your library?

There are numerous ways to market our "product." Because libraries offer such a variety of resources and services, it is best to first identify the key "offerings" that you want to promote. People use libraries for many different reasons. The American Library Association has identified three primary motivations for using the library: 1. Economics, 2. Enrichment, 3. Relationships. Learn how the people in your community use the library, and find out why it is important to them.

Activities:

1. Visit ALA's @ Your Library website, www.atyourlibrary.org. Look at the information listed under the tabs at the top - "What's at the Library," "How do I use the Library," and "Why use the Library." Does your library provide the services, programs and resources identified by ALA? Do your patrons use the library for the reasons specified by ALA? Are there any issues affecting your community that may determine why/how the library is important?
2. Discuss the trends and data outlined in the 2009 State of America's Libraries report by ALA. The report is at <http://www.ala.org/2009state>. How does your library fit into the report? Do the findings regarding increased library usage reflect your library's usage? If not, why do you think it is different? Are children your heaviest users, why or why not? Does your library support gaming, why or why not? Based on the findings, can you identify new ways to reach the people in your community to better market library services, programs and resources?
3. Use the Nebraska Library Commission's Return on Investment Wiki to learn about ROI, and determine the value or economic impact of the library in your community. Create brochures or other types of promotional materials to publicize your findings.

Listen to the Community and Develop a Plan:

Libraries develop and initiate services and programs through strategic planning. This includes consulting with and listening to members of the community. The strategic plan is a guideline to follow for the future direction of the library. It addresses the goals of the library, and specifies the approach and activities the library will take to achieve its goals.



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Sheila 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.
ISSN 1064-9816
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Volume 1, #6

Activities:

1. Use the Future Search focus group questions to initiate your own focus group. Invite community members, library users, library staff, and trustees to talk about libraries and library service. The questions have no right or wrong answers, and you may build off one another's responses. For each focus group, there should be a facilitator and a recorder. The facilitator will ask the questions, without additional commentary, except to help in clarifying the question. The recorder will record responses to the questions on a flip chart.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

- As a customer, staff person, and/or library user what are your expectations of the library?
- How are the roles of libraries changing?
- What are the key trends and issues affecting libraries?
- What library service needs and wants will you and your community have within the next five years?
- What knowledge, skills and abilities do you and your community need to be successful?
- Beyond your community whom do you want or need to partner with to be successful?
- Other comments:

2. Design your own survey using Survey Monkey, <http://www.surveymonkey.com>. Place the survey on your library's website and/or make a PDF copy and distribute the survey to patrons in your library.

Forums for Listening and Communicating:

Whether you are eliciting or disseminating information about the library and/or library usage, there are several paths to lead you to your audience. Try surveys, blogs, focus groups, communication plans, online town meetings, and trainings.

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CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

July 20 - **NLS Board Meeting** at 10 am at Neligh Public Library.

July 20-24 - **Nebraska Library Leadership Institute** at St. Benedictine Center.

July 23 - **Database Roadshow 2009** at Central Community College in Columbus.

July 25 - **Norfolk Public Library's Literature Festival** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC.

Aug. 20 - **Nebraska State Data Conference** at UNO CPACS building from 8am to 4pm.

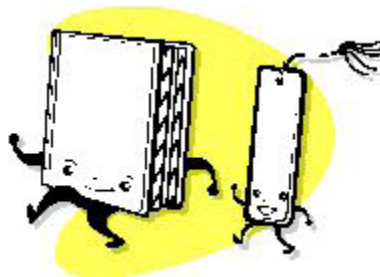
Sept. 11 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at NLC in Lincoln at 9:30am.

Sept. 16 - **NLS Annual Meeting** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC Campus in Norfolk.

Oct. 28 - **Library Camp Nebraska II** at La Vista Conference Center from 9am - 4pm.

Oct. 28-30 - **NLA/NEMA Annual Conference** at La Vista Conference Center.

Nov. 14 - **2009 Nebraska Book Festival** at Nebraska State Historical Society Museum in Lincoln.



NEW @ NLS

This issue we're reviewing some favorites. If you would like to check out one of these items, call the system office at 1-800-578-1014.

Connecting Young Adults & Libraries, 3rd Edition by Patrick Jones, Michele Gorman and Tricia Suellentrop. ALA, 2004.

This comprehensive guide covers the why and how of serving teens. Topics covered are customer service, collections, booktalking, space, promotion, and technology. All the forms and documents have been included in a single section. The book concludes with a detailed bibliography. Web resources are available on the book's Web site - <http://www.connectingya.com>.

The Public Library Manager's Forms, Policies & Procedures Handbook by Rebecca Brumley. ALA, 2004.

This guide includes more than 300 forms, policies and proce-

dures from 114 public libraries with a diverse range of budgets and staff. Each entry features detailed guidance to help you individualize and adapt them for your library. Sample policies, forms, and procedures address Internet filtering, unattended children, books-by-mail, Internet usage, meeting room use and more. A companion CD-ROM contains electronic reproductions of the forms, procedures, and policies.

The Bilingual Book of Rhymes, Songs, Stories and Fingerplays by Pam Schiller, Rafael Lara-Alecio and Beverly J. Irby. Gryphon House, 2004.

This book offers over 450 selections, with Spanish on one page and English on the opposite. Children will be thrilled to learn new words to their favorite Spanish and English tunes. At the same time, they will build vocabulary and explore the sounds of both languages-important skills for beginning readers! Organized by theme for easy use, collection provides a springboard for teaching a second language and for working in a bilingual presentation.





NORTHEAST NEWS

Vicki Troxel Harris spoke at the **O'Neill Public Library** on July 11th. She discussed the African-American homesteaders and cowboys of Nebraska.

Children's author, Julia Cook, will be stopping by the **Hruska Memorial Library** on Saturday, August 22nd, and share her strategies on handling school year parenting issues in a positive manner.

A big Northeast Library system welcome to David Mixdorf, the new director for the **South Sioux City Public Library**. A former school librarian from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, David is excited about his new position in Nebraska.

Chad Barnhill of Midwest Music stopped by the **Norfolk Public Library** to lead a drum circle. Kids listened to drums and hand percussion instruments of all sizes and types.

Congratulations of Judy Hagan, Director of the **Atkinson Public Library**. Judy was named a recipient of the Good Neighbor Award by the Omaha World Herald. Judy was nominated because she assisted the FCCLA in getting books for local day-care providers. She helped start a basic computer skills class for senior citizens and assisted a senior citizen in setting up her new job." Judy will actually be given her award at the Holt County Fair this summer.

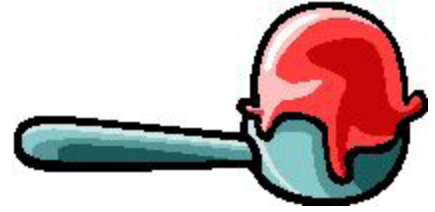
Congratulations to the **Ponca Carnegie Library, Schuyler Public Library, Ulysses Township Library, Atkinson Public Library** and the **Verdigré Public Library**. These libraries were awarded student internship grants by the Nebraska Library Commission. 10 Nebraska libraries received this grant, five were from the Northeast Library System!!

For Family Night, the **Neligh Public Library** put their dancing shoes on as the library sponsored a street dance. Popcorn and lemonade were served and everyone had a great time.

Central City Public Library staff put a new twist for a booksale. They decorated paper bags together designer paper bags for their latest fundraising effort. Customers paid for the bag and got books for free!

How many recipes for zucchini are there? If you've lost count and your zucchini crop is still coming, check out the produce exchange at the **Lied Randolph Public Library**. People are urged to bring in their extra produce to trade or giveaway at the library.

The **South Sioux City Public Library** has caught cowboy fever this summer. They are celebrating all things western with a series of programs entitled "Once Upon a Time in the West". The activities began on July 30th, when the library hosted Ricardo Garcia, as he presented Vaquero to Buckaroo-the Hispanic Roots of Cowboy Culture.



Cool Web Sites

What is the worst book ever to be weeded from a library? **Awful Library Books** features the worst titles found on library shelves. Submissions by the blog's readers remain anonymous and offending institutions aren't identified, either. Would you admit that you offer patrons a book entitled Rocket Power and Space Flight, dated 1957?

www.awfullibrarybooks.wordpress.com

The **National Renewable Energy Laboratory** has provided a website on energy efficiency and various applications of renewable energy. Renewable energies include solar, wind, biomass, hydrogen, geothermal, ocean, and hydropower. This site includes information on each and how the energy is captured and used.

www.nrel.gov/learning

A.Pintura: Art Detective

This classic site teaches about art as the students solve a mystery. A painting is stolen from their grandfather's art collection. With the help of A. Pintura, the mystery is solved by looking at composition, style, and subject clues. Youngsters view works by Raphael, Titian, Millet, Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Picasso.

www.eduweb.com/pintura



2009 NLA Northeast Library System Scholarship Application

The Northeast Library System will make available the following seven scholarships to help defray costs for librarians, trustee & school library media specialists wishing to attend the joint Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association conference or pre-conference to be held at the La Vista Conference Center on October 28-30, 2009.

- 1 scholarship for \$250
- 4 scholarships for \$150
- 2 scholarships for \$100

1. Applicants must not have attended a state-wide NLA/NEMA Conference in the last three years.
2. Applicant must be currently employed in a Northeast Library System library or school media center or serve as a trustee.
3. Scholarships will be awarded to no more than one person from each library or school district unless applicant pool is less than the number of scholarships available.
4. Applicants must attend at least one day of the Conference or Pre-Conference.
5. After the Conference, those awarded scholarships must submit a written summary (one page minimum) of Conference programs attended, prior to the next scheduled System Board meeting, November 13, 2009. Summaries will be shared with System Board members.

Continuing Education hours are available from the Nebraska Library Commission for attending the conference. Contact Laura Johnson at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665 for more information.

If you qualify, don't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity! Complete this form & mail it to the Northeast Library System office, 3038 33rd Street, Columbus, NE 68601 **by August 14**. (NLA Early Registration is due August 31). Scholarship recipients will be notified by the pre-registration deadline.

NAME _____

LIBRARIAN _____ SCHOOL MEDIA SPECIALIST _____ TRUSTEE: _____

LIBRARY OR SCHOOL YOU REPRESENT _____

ADDRESS & PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

What sessions do you plan to attend? Conference schedule can be found at: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/program.html>

How will the information help you at the library? _____

Is there another entity sponsoring your attendance at this conference? YES NO

How many days do you plan to attend the conference? Preconference only? One Day? Two Days?
(Please make a copy of this form for your records)



NLA PLTS Legalities and Public Libraries Policies and Procedures Pre-Conference

LaVista Embassy Suites Conference Center
October 28th, 2009, 1:00 – 5:00 PM



This pre-conference is a follow-up to the presentation on the same subject that was given by Adam Prochaska during the 2009 NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) spring meetings in Wahoo, Bridgeport and Lexington. If you haven't sent him a copy or electronic copy of your library's policies and procedures, please do so by E-mail to aprochaska@hslegalfirm.com or by U. S. Mail to Adam Prochaska, Harding and Shultz P. C., L. L.O, 800 Lincoln Square, 121 South 13th St., P. O. Box 82028, Lincoln, NE 68501-2028. Adam will not attribute submitted policies/procedures to particular libraries, but they are very useful in making the pre-conference more effective.

The pre-conference registration fee is \$10.00. Application can be made using this form and sent to Richard Miller, PLTS Secretary/Treasurer, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508.

We will be limited in capacity to about 50 persons due to the size of the room available at the conference center, so early registrations are encouraged. The deadline for reservations is Monday, October 19th.

If there are questions, please contact Richard at the Commission, (402) 471-3175 or rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us. If he is unavailable, contact John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, NE 68046 at (402) 597-2050 or jseyfarth@sumplibrary.info.

Please fill in the registration form below and enclose a check for registration made out to Nebraska Library Association Public Library and Trustee Section to Richard's address in the second paragraph above.

Name: _____

Library: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____



**Northeast Library System
Board Minutes
May 20, 2009**

The Northeast Board met at the Osmond Public Library on March 20, 2009 and was hosted by Linda Gutz, librarian. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Dee Johnson. Board members present were Judy Hagen, Michele Hastreiter, Chris Chilcoat, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Jolene Klein, Kathy Ageton, Dee Johnson, Kay Schmid and Kate Ostenrude. There were no alternates present. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, and Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak were also in attendance.

The minutes were approved (MS: Chilcoat/Ageton; approved).

Correspondence consisted of a thank you note from the Shelby and Stanton Public Libraries. Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The balance is currently 45,818.43. Shelia reported that the system made a profit of 584.22 from the Winter Workshop and a profit of 352.38 from the Summer Reading Workshop (MS: Chilcoat/Klein; approved by roll call vote).

REPORTS:

Commissioner- Pat Gross N/A

State Advisory Council- Kathy reported they will meet in June

Nebraska Library Commission Report- N/A.

System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton reported on a wide range of activities she has completed in the past two months. She presented the board with a list of travel and activities. If you wish to know more about the system's activities and Kathy's report check out the web page <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – no report

Budget –the budget will be presented during New Business

Continuing Education – no report

Strategic Planning – will be presented during Unfinished Business

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee –no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Strategic Planning committee met and proposed these changes to the strategic plan: Education Activities, 7, Subscribe to and route to interested system members professional journals that provide book reviews, "best methods", technology updates, and other types of professional information; and Communication Activities, 5, Provide a scholarship for travel and staff replacement costs so librarians can attend NLA Legislative Day and promote library services to their legislator (MS: Ostenrude/Hagen;



approved).

The Annual Meeting will be held on September 16, 2009 in the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Northeast System Board meeting schedule was suggested subject to host library approval for the 2009-2010 year:

July 22, 2009 Bloomfield Public Library

September 16, 2009 Annual Meeting Norfolk Lifelong Learning Center

November 18, 2009 Pilger Public Library

January 20, 2010 Humphrey Public Library

March 17, 2010 Schuyler Public Library

May 19, 2010 Verdigre Public Library

July 21, 2010 O'Neill Public Library.

NAM group health insurance was discussed as an affordable option to offer the system staff.

Kathy announced that she will submit her formal resignation in mid-June. Her last day will be July 17, 2009. Members expressed best wishes for her future and accolades for her years of service. Kathy suggested a job title change for her position and distributed and outline of steps to hire a new System's Administrator.

The combined Nebraska systems have proposed a keynote speaker for the 2010 Youth Services workshop in September 2101. The projected cost to the system is \$250.00. The motion to support the programming (MS: Ostenrude/Chilcoat; approved by roll call vote).

The Budget Committee presented the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 year. The budget allows for either a 1% or a 2% + \$500.00 increase. After discussion the motion was made to approve the budget (MS Schmid/Hastreiter; approved by roll call vote).

Board elections were discussed. With the change of annual meeting and school dates, the decision was made to mail ballots no sooner than August 5 with a maximum return date of August 31, 2009. There is one board position unfilled, Kay Schmid who represents communities of 1,000-10,000 will be leaving the board.

Membership activities were limited to Sally's report on the new Norfolk Director and Kay's presentation of the new Butler County history available for 21.50.

Three Pat-on-the-Back Awards were awarded to the Raymond Whitwer, Tilden Public Library and one to the Norfolk Public Library

A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Hastreiter/Stahlecker; approved by roll call vote).

Meeting adjourned (MS: Klein/Hagen approved).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude



THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR

Swift

By Robert J. Blake

In this beautifully illustrated picture book you will find an adventure story about a boy named Johnnie, his father, and a dog named Swift; the dog is truly the hero. To survive the long winter in the wilderness area of Alaska, Johnnie and his father must hunt for their meat. While in a thickly wooded area, Johnnie's father broke a leg and could not travel any further. It was up to Johnnie to apply the necessary first aid, secure his father's safety, and travel with Swift back to civilization to get help. The journey took more than a day with severe weather and some unbearable situations. Johnnie was ready to give up hope, but Swift would not give in or give up. He kept nudging Johnnie to keep him oriented, as well as keeping him warm and helped shelter Johnnie from the severe elements. Swift encouraged Johnnie to keep moving, and protected him from the attacking bear. They finally reached civilization and Swift immediately began to guide the rescuers back to Johnnie's injured father.

I would recommend this book

for grades 3rd through 5th, and any public or elementary school library.

It teaches children the importance of not giving up, and to observe and rely on the instincts of an animal. This would make a good story time book for a classroom or library.
-Karyn Bijlsma, WSC

Bones and the Dinosaur Mystery

By David A. Adler

Jeffrey Bones is a detective that solves crimes. When he visits a science museum he soon becomes involved in his own mystery when his blue Tyrannosaurus Rex goes missing. Bones must find his T-Rex as it is the last one for sale in the museum's shop! With help from Grandpa and Sally, Detective Bones once again solves the mystery. Written in chapter form with plenty of colorful pictures this book with its dinosaur theme will encourage that reluctant male reader to pick up the volume and get busy reading. Written for 2nd grade and up this is a good book for any collection.

~~Pat Thompson WSC

Mermaid Sister

By Mary Ann Fraser

Shelly wants a sister. So, she throws a bottle with an ad for a sister into the sea. When Coral, a mermaid, asks to be Shelly's sister, she goes home with Shelly and little brother, Gordy. Shelly learns that having a mermaid for a sister is both good

and bad. On their next trip to the beach, Coral gets a letter in a bottle reminding her how much she misses her family. She returns home, but returns again with her little brother, Sandy. Elementary students will love the illustrations in this cute and memorable story that reminds us of the importance of siblings.

-Valerie Knight, WSC

Anne of Green Gables

By L M Montgomery

Spinster Marilla and her bachelor brother Matthew decide they want to take in an orphan boy so he can help with the farm work. Instead what they get is an extremely talkative and inquisitive skinny red-headed girl named Anne. But they fall in love with her. She gets in a lot of trouble from putting liniment instead of vanilla in a cake to dying her hair green. Her imagination and outgoingness make her popular with nearly everyone.

I've read this before but don't think I have ever enjoyed it so much. It's wonderful. I'd give it a 10 on a scale of 1-10. The author's descriptiveness makes it easy to some of the locations and activities in this book. Descriptions of terms are a special feature in this book.

I would recommend this book for school and public libraries and for ages 10-12.

-Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library

Dolphin Song

By Lauren St. John



Eleven-year-old Martine, an orphan living with her grandmother in South Africa, goes on a school field trip by ship in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Mozambique. She and six of her classmates are washed overboard in a storm, and end up on a deserted island. The tale of the group's survival attempts make for a page-turning thriller.

This is a sequel to *The White Giraffe*, which has been made into a movie to be released sometime in 2009. It is quite possible that *Dolphin Song*, first published in 2007, will see resurgence in interest once the movie comes out.

I would highly recommend this book for both school and public libraries. It will appeal to tween girls, from 4th to 7th grade.

Adults reading this book will have to suspend their belief that no parent would send a child on an ocean trip with school classmates and their teacher as the only adult chaperone. Other than that, and some mystical references to cave drawings that portend the future, the story appears semi-plausible. Martine happens to be carrying a survival kit that contains all the supplies needed by the castaways. There is great appeal in the story, however, and lots of information about the wildlife in a region of the world few Americans know.

-Mary Austin, Winnebago Public Library

The Wind in the Willow

By Kenneth Grahame

This adventurous fantasy takes you into the world of some special characters, Mole, Ratty, Badger, and Toad. Throughout this book these characters truly have grand life adventures and show what being a true friend is all about. It all starts with Mole's world changing as he decides to get out of his beloved home for a while and while he is out he meets up with Water Rat and the adventures begin. Mole is introduced to Rat's love, the river and his unique friend Badger whom nobody would mess with. Badger lives in the Wild Wood where many scary and adventurous things happen. This story is a classic with the old-fashioned characterizations of the animals and the adventures and lessons in friendship which have endured for generations.

This story would lend itself better as a read aloud. I can't see many kids picking this book up themselves and finishing it. I think if an adult would read it aloud they could bring it to life for the children and the adult could help the kids connect the life adventures and lessons the characters are going through to the children's world of today. It has wonderful lessons about trying new things, knowing when enough is enough, and about friendship.

Special features of this book: characterization of animals
I would recommend this book for school or public libraries and for grades 3-6.

-Jane Dodson, North Park Elementary

Lush

By Natasha Friend

When Samantha can't go any longer without telling someone that her father is a drunk, she writes a note to a random stranger in the library. When the stranger writes back to Sam over a period of time Sam gains a friend, learns people aren't always what they seem, and sometimes the best advice comes from the one person you wouldn't think of.

I would recommend this book for school and public libraries for Jr. High through teen age. Special features: 'Alcoholism Resources for kids and teens' index in back of the book
Compared to *Lucky* by Rachel Vail, this book would appeal to a broader group of readers. In *Lush*, the problems of alcoholic parents are presented in a way that definitely makes you aware of the situations some kids are living in, without sacrificing any plot.

Whitney Drahotka, Lincoln, NE

Alive and Well in Prague, New York

By Daphne Grab

After her dad's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, Matisse and her parents move from Manhattan to small-town Prague, New York. She is not happy with the move, her father's worsening disease, the way her mom is handling their situation and the students in her new high school. But as she gets to know several students better, and comes to grips with her own feelings about her dad, she realizes she has made good friends and Prague isn't so bad



after all.

Recommended for age or grade level: Junior high and older

Recommended for type of library: Any library

I liked this book. At one time there was a trend to use books as bibliotherapy for students. I think many young people coping with a family member experiencing a serious disease would like this story and relate to Matisse.

-Deb Daehnke

Peace, Locomotion

by Jacqueline Woodson

This is an excellent sequel to Locomotion, in which twelve year old Lonnie Collins "Locomotion" Motion is living in a foster home with nice Miss Edna while his beloved younger sister, nine year old Lili, has been living in another foster home for three years. It is better than the group home that they lived in after their parents died in a house fire. They are both in Brooklyn, but they don't get to see each other very often.

This story is told through Locomotion writing wonderful letters to his sister describing his life and remembering things about when their parents were alive. He is a good older brother, who feels protective of his sister. He is going to save these letters.

He has a new teacher, who knows that he likes to write poetry. She encourages him and his self-esteem and grades improve.

Miss Edna's son is serving in Iraq. Jenkins is missing after

a bombing. Later he returns home, wounded and in a wheelchair. Locomotion reflects the anxiety of this time and prays for peace.

It is a good example of letter writing and a bit of recent historical fiction. I would recommend it for any upper elementary public /school library collection.

~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

"Savvy,"

by Ingrid Law

The Beaumont's are getting ready for Mib's thirteenth birthday. This is a big deal for the Beaumont children since you get your savvy on your thirteenth birthday. Her Grandpa's savvy is the ability to move the earth, her brother can start hurricane strength storms, her other brother creates electricity. What will Mib's savvy be? Will she be able to use her savvy to help her Dad? Mib's story is a wild ride from start to finish! While the ending isn't picture perfect, life rarely is. It's that imperfection that makes the book even more enjoyable.

In her debut offering, Law creates a memorable list of characters and a fantastic story line. Some may argue with me, but Mib's character reminded me of Scout in Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird." She is the perfect blend of intelligent and naïve. That blend creates a lovable and sweet character that any reader can relate to and look up to. This book is more than appropriate for

middle and high school readers. I would highly recommend it for school and public libraries.

I can also see a variety of uses for this book in the classroom. ~~Charissa Loftis

You Think It's Easy Being the Tooth Fairy?

By Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt

This book is about a tooth fairy telling her story of the trials of being a tooth fairy. She loves her job and the adventures and has a handy tooth-o-finder to help her know who will be losing a tooth soon. She tells of how she has to avoid pets, how she's strong and acrobatic to get where she needs to go to find your tooth. She works alone. She even states simple rules kids should follow to help make her job easier. Getting the quarter from the tooth fairy is a treat so kids; follow what you need to do to help her out! I would recommend this book for school or public libraries Age level K-2nd grade This is a cute story. This tooth fairy is one of a kind. Her telling the rules of what to do with your tooth to get it ready for her is funny.





Library/Media Training Institute - September 16, 2009

NAME _____ **TOWN** _____

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Please check & return entire form. All sessions take place at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College Campus in Norfolk. I plan to attend the following:

		ATTEND	@	COST
9:30 - 10:30	Trustee Orientation Tips	_____	\$5.00	_____
	OR			
9:30-10:30	Twitter, Tweets or Twits (limit 16)	_____	\$5.00	_____
10:30-10:45	BREAK			
10:45-11:45	Pioneer Project	_____	\$5.00	_____
	OR			
10:45-11:45	Book Flix	_____	\$5.00	_____
12:00-1:15	Annual Meeting Luncheon (no charge, please let us know if you plan to attend)	_____	FREE	_____
1:30-2:30	Beyond NEBASE	_____	\$5.00	_____
	OR			
1:30-2:30	Going Green @ your library	_____	\$5.00	_____
2:30-2:45	BREAK			
2:45-3:45	We Never Have Time To Talk : Talk Tables			
	Public Libraries/Trustees	_____	\$5.00	_____
	OR			
	Talk Tables: School Media Specialists	_____	\$5.00	_____

Total Cost to Attend the Above Sessions: _____

Deadline for registrations and CHECKS is Tuesday, September 8. Please mail completed form along with check made out to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.





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Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Some trails are happy ones,
Others are blue.
It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.
~Dale Evans

Check out our web site at: <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>