



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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

New Library Journals for You!

The Northeast Library System is pleased to announce the addition of Library Sparks, VOYA, and Teacher/Librarian to the list of journals available to you.

Consider signing up to receive one of the journals. The only cost to you is mailing the journal onto the next library on the routing list. The last person on the routing list mails the journals back to the system office.

Please check out the list of titles and let the System know which ones you'd like sent to you by contacting Shelia at nelibry@megavision.com or 1-800-578-1014. Journals are being mailed out immediately upon their arrival and it may take six weeks before the journal reaches you depending on the number of participants.

___Library Sparks: Activities to Encourage Lifelong Readers

www.librarysparks.com - 9 issues per year
Regular features include: Reader's Theater, Library Lessons, Roll the Dice with Dewey, Author Extensions and a monthly activity calendar.

___VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates

www.voya.com - published bi-monthly
Regular features include: YA Spaces of Your Dreams, Graphically Speaking, How Can We Help?, and reviews, reviews, and more reviews.

___Teacher/Librarian: the Journal for School Library Professionals

www.teacherlibrarian.com - 5 issues per year
Regular features include: Tips & Tactics, What Works, Personal Computing, Literacy Links, and New Product News.

___LMC: Library Media Connection. The Magazine for School Library Media and Technology Specialists

www.linworth.com/lmc.html - 7 issues per year

Regular features include: Reader's Advisory, Author Profile, Copyright Questions of the Month, Hot Stuff and Reviews.

___School Library Journal

www.slj.com - 12 issues a year
Regular features include: TechKnowledge, Carried on Copyright, The Buzz and reviews.

___Public Libraries: the Magazine of the Public Library Association

www.ala.org/pla/ - published bi-monthly
Regular features include: Tales From the Front, Bringing in the Money, By the Book, and Internet Spotlight.

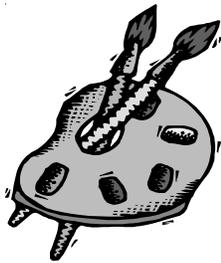
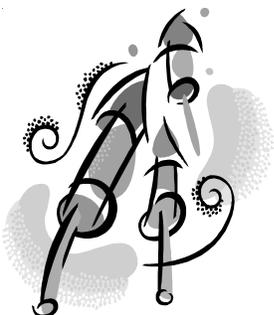
___American Libraries: the Magazine of the American Library Association

www.ala.org/online/ - 11 issues per year
Regular features include: Will's World, Quick Bibs, Internet Librarian and ALA News.

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Art Books Available

The Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program (DUC) distributes books on contemporary art and culture free of charge to rural and inner-city libraries, schools and alternative reading centers nationwide.

The program aims to actively further a more egalitarian access to contemporary art, and is committed to fostering partnerships between publishers, non-profit organizations, librarians and readers to enrich and diversify library collections. The program offers well over 550 titles by more than 70 different publishers. The program reaches readers in all 50 states and has placed well over 170,000 free books in public libraries, schools, and alternative pedagogical venues.

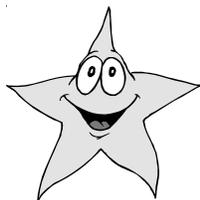
The DUC is a program of Art Resources Transfer, Inc., a non profit organization founded in 1987, that is committed to documenting and supporting artists' voices and work, and making these voices accessible beyond conventional art venues by establishing innovative methods of distribution and access.

Every book, including its shipping, is absolutely free to public libraries and schools. All materials offered by the DUC are donated to the program by their publishers, and we, in turn, send it to your library at no charge.

Public schools, libraries, and community centers within the U.S. that are located in either rural or inner-city communities are eligible to receive free materials from the DUC.

The DUC offers books, educational guides, posters, videos, CDs, DVDs and interactive materials about contemporary art, architecture, art history and cultural issues from museums, publishers and individual artists and writers.

For more information, go to the website:
www.ducprogram.org.



(new journals continued from page 1)

___ Grassroots Fundraising

www.grassrootsfundraising.org - 6 issues per year
Regular features include articles about fund raising for non-profit organizations and book reviews.



Dear Doctor Tech:

I need to create a floorplan but do not have the megabucks or the time to use an expensive program.. Is there such a thing as a free and easy to use program?

Signed,
Frustrated

Dear Frustrated;

Yes, Frustrated there is a program you can use. It is called Gliffy and available at Gliffy.com.

For those of us who only need to create a flowchart once a year and do not have the time to learn Visio, Gliffy is a virtual godsend. Gliffy helps users create, share, save, and print design documents using a variety of tool sets. There are elements for charting, network design, computer-/user interface modeling and floor-plan creation too. Gliffy provides an interface and a tool set that takes you from start to finish, making critical design tasks relatively pain free for the novice. Familiar Office suite suite-type menus and toolbars across the top of the application will have you copying, pasting, printing, saving, and changing colors with the greatest of ease!

What's Your Digital IQ?

Check your knowledge of the latest tech buzzwords by matching the word on the right with the definition on the left. Good luck!

1. Spawn

2. Avatar

3. Skin

4. YouTube

5. Blog

6. Mod

7. IM

8. Wiki

9. PSP

10. Mashup

A. To chat online in "real time" with people on your buddy list.

B. Customized, graphical appearances that can be applied to certain software applications and Web sites to suit the personal preferences of the user.

C. An interactive online hybrid that uses content from more than one source to create a completely new service.

D. A collaborative Web site that allows users to add and edit content.

E. An online diary or a personal log of thoughts presented chronologically and published on a Web page.

F. A handheld, networkable game console from Sony.

G. Create new features (such as weapons, characters, levels, and story lines) or unique locations for a computer game

H. A computer representation of a user in an online world that has usually been designed or customized by the person it represents.

I. A popular social Web site where users can upload, view, and share video clips.

J. An online rebirth; creation of a new entity when playing a computer game or video game. (answer key found on page 5)

Attention Getting Questions

Do you have any favorite book-related questions for kicking off staff, library board, or presentations for a service group? These are ways to get people to think of reading and libraries in a subtle way. These might be good for weekly polls if your library or newspaper has an interest in sampling library visitors (including web visitors.)

Here are a few "starter" questions to get non-librarians focused on libraries. Can you think of any more?

- Where is your favorite "quiet spot" for reading?
- Who would you like to "get caught" reading?
- What is your favorite magazine and why?
- What magazine have you subscribed to (personally) the longest?
- What was your favorite or most memorable children's book from your youth?
- What makes for a strong (school or public) library?
- Name one of our library's biggest assets or strengths.
- What is your favorite library area or Dewey section?
- What is your favorite time to visit a library or book store?
- What do you think is our library's most asked for reference book?
- What is your (our library's) most read book or book series?
- What question do reference librarians get asked most?
- Name a book that appears on the top most-banned books list.
- Describe one job a librarian does.
- What is your favorite website (or database), and why?



iPods and MP3 Player Available

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems received an LSTA Grant to purchase portable audio devices (iPods and MP3 player) to use for training demonstrations and loan to libraries. System members may borrow a player and accessories at no cost for a three month loan period. The equipment is to be used for staff training and for loan to customers. Customers borrowing the equipment must sign an agreement before borrowing the player. The library that borrows the player is responsible for its return. There

are three players available.

The players come loaded with podcasts and audible books. Titles include: 12 Sharp by Janet Evanovich, The Husband by Dean Koontz, Marley and Me by John Grogan, Complete Money Makeover by Dave Ramsay, Eragon by Christopher Paolini and Definitely Dead by Charlaine Harris.

For more information and to check out a player, call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 and talk to Kathy.



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).

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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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First American Indian Youth Literature Award Winners

CHICAGO - The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce the first recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award. This new literary award was created as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians.

The award is presented in each of three categories—picture book, middle school, and young adult—and each winner receives \$500 and a commemorative plaque, which will be presented during the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color's (JCLC) Children's Luncheon program in Dallas on October 13 at noon.

"**Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story,**" by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, illustrated by Sam Sandoval, and published by the University of Nebraska Press is the winner for the picture book category. Accompanied by rich watercolor illustrations, the text relates a culturally vital tale from the Salish people of Montana about the significance of the gift of fire and how it should be respected.

Louise Erdrich is the winner of the middle-school award for "**The Birchbark House,**" published by Hyperion Books for Children. Setting her book in the middle 19th century, Erdrich paints a detailed portrait of Ojibwa life through the experiences of 7-year-old Omakayas who lives on the Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker on Lake Superior. "The Birchbark House" was Erdrich's first novel for young readers, and the first book she has illustrated. She is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwa and lives with her two daughters in Minnesota.

The young adult award is "**Hidden Roots,**" written by Joseph Bruchac and published by Scholastic Press. The book is set within the historical framework of the Vermont Eugenic Program, a Native American sterilization program in the 1930s, and tells the story of the haunting effects of this shameful and tragic deed on one of the Abenaki families victimized by it. Author of more than 70 books for adults and children, Bruchac is of Abenaki ancestry and is a nationally recognized professional storyteller living in Greenfield Center, New York.

In the near future an American Indian Youth Literature Award free downloadable bookmark and brochure will be made available on the AILA Web site at www.nativeculturelinks.com/aila.html.

Digital IQ Answer Key

1=J, 2=H, 3=B, 4=I, 5=E, 6=G, 7=A, 8=D, 9=F, 10=C



New Ideas for Books

Just when you thought books were only for reading, along

comes Marie Hueston's House Beautiful Decorating with Books: Use Your Library to Enhance Your Decor. Here's how to give those matched sets a new life as decorating accessories. Published by Heart and reviewed in the July 2006 Booklist, the book is \$24.95. ISBN is 1-58816-493-4. Books "can become a vibrant design theme," says the reviewer.



Check Your Calendar

Oct. 22-26 - **National Friends of Libraries Week.**

For ideas and press releases, visit www.folusa.org.

Oct. 25 - NLA Pre-Conference: **Excursion to Historic Brownville, Nebraska: Book Town USA.** Contact Kathy Ellerton at 1-800-578-1014.

Oct. 25 - NLA Preconference: **Blockbuster Marketing with the Hollywood Librarian.** Contact Janet Greser at 1-402-471-2010 for more information.

Oct. 26-27 - **NLA Annual Conference** at Qwest Center, Omaha.

Nov. 3 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting**, Love Library, UNL Campus from 8:30am - 2:30pm.

Nov. 10 - **Veteran's Day Holiday.** Office closed.

Nov. 13-19 - **Children's Book Week.** This year's theme is "More Books, Please!" For more information, visit the web site: www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/celebrate/.

Nov. 15 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at

Genoa Public Library at 10am.

Nov. 15 - **Leading @ the Library with Nancy Bolt**, Raymond Whitwer Tilden Public Library, 10am - 3 pm. See page 15 for more information.

Nov. 21 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration**, Lifelong Learning Center, NECC from 10am - 3 pm.

Nov. 23-24 **Thanksgiving Holiday.** Office closed.

Nov. 28 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration**, Lifelong Learning Center, NECC from 10am - 3 pm.

Dec. 5 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration**, Lifelong Learning Center, NECC from 10am - 3 pm.



NEW @ NLS

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

"Negotiating with Vendors" by Kristine Kenney, Public Libraries, Sept./Oct. 2006 pp. 11-14.

Dealing with vendors can be intimidating for some of us. You can avoid that feeling by following the author's six simple steps.

"Teen Chick Lit" by Christine Meloni, LMC Connection, October 2006, pp.16-19.

What exactly is teen chick lit and why are teenage girls checking the books out by the dozen? Author Christine Meloni gives a brief history of the phenomenon and some recommended titles.

"2006 Automation Survey" by Daniel Fuller, School Library Journal, Oct. 2006, pp. 48-52.

Daniel Fuller took a close look at what systems school media specialists are using, how they're using them, and what librarians want from their future automation programs.

New On-line Hedgie Talking Book

Jan Brett, author of the lovable hedgehog, Hedgie, now has an online Hedgie talking book, Hedgie Loves to Read, available on her website, www.janbrett.com. The book is also available in downloadable pdf format. An alphabet poster is also available and a coloring mural from Africa. Check out all these items under Activities Pages at her website.





Northeast News

The **Creighton Public Library** has a pair of shiny new laptops available for their patrons to checkout, thanks to their foundation reported Director Lindsay Neuhaus.

Randolph Public Library has many new changes. Library Director Joan Steffen retired and Peggy Leiting has been hired as the new director. Congratulations Peggy! Plus the library has a new website. Check it out at: www.rlibrary.org and watch their new building go up!

Balloons were everywhere during Wakefield's Third Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival. **Gardner Public Library** hosted a preschool singalong about balloons as part of the festivities.

Peter Fletcher, a New York, classical guitarist will perform at the **Neligh Public Library** on Thursday, October 26. He performed at the library two years ago and was so popular the library foundation lined up another performance.

On October 12, the mayor, city council, county supervisor and county attorney candidates presented their ideas at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library**. State Senator, Chris Langemeier, moderated the event.

Shell Creek Elementary School is going to the dogs, Reading Education Assistance Dogs, that is. Shadow, a

German shepherd / collie mix visits the school once a week to help kids with their reading.



Scholarships Awarded

The Northeast Library System board is proud to announce the following recipients of scholarships to attend the 2006 NLA/ NEMA conference. They are:

Amy Selting, **Pope John Central Catholic**; Rita McLean, **Wayne Public Library**; Jayne Hlavac, **Schuyler Central High School**; Cheryl Hein, **Hruska Memorial Public Library**; and Beth Foulks; **Ponca Public Library**. Congratulations to all and I hope you have a wonderful time in Omaha!



Public Library Survey Statistical Report Available

The Nebraska Public Library Statistical Report survey is available from Bibliostat™ Collect at: <http://collect.informata.com>, starting October 15, 2006.

All public libraries are required to submit statistical data about library services and operations on an annual basis. Instructions and passwords were mailed to all public libraries, and the deadline for data submission is January 31, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, contact Kathy at the Northeast Library System office at 1-800-578-1014 or Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665.

CAPSTONE HEINEMANN LIBRARY COMPASS POINT	ROURKE PUBLISHING CO. LERNER PUBLISHING CO. FACTS ON FILE
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Duane Munson	
2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772	
ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

**RETURN OF THE GUMSHOE**

A man with a fedora and a squinty stare automatically comes to mind.

The tough private eye, the mysterious object, the double-crosses and wisecracks are all elements of this mystery style. This mystery style is not limited to adults and the titles listed below should give young readers a chance to practice their reasoning skills.

ELEMENTARY

Adler, David. **Bones and the Cupcake Mystery**. Viking, 2005. K-Gr2

Detective Jeffrey Bones is determined to discover who stole his friend Not-Me Amy's spinach noodle cupcake.

Child, Lauran. **Utterly Me, Clarice Bean**. Candlewick, 2003. Gr2-5

Clarice Bean is finding life confusing with Grandpa acting weird, friend Betty is missing and the school cup has been stolen.

Clement, Rod. **Grandpa's Teeth**. HarperCollins, 1998. K-Gr3

Grandpa panics when he discovers his Swiss-handcrafted dentures have been stolen.

Cushman, Doug. **Mystery at the Club Sandwich**. Clarion, 2004. Gr1-4.

Nick Trunk, an elephant detective, is on the case of Lola Gale's lost lucky marbles.

Hale, Bruce. **The Big Nap: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye**. Harcourt, 2001. Gr 3-5.

Private Detective Chet Gecko knows something isn't right at Emerson Hicky Elementary School when his classmates suddenly love school and homework.

McClements, George. **Jake Gander, Storyville Detective: The Case of the Greedy Granny**. Hyperion, 2002. PreS-Gr3.

Jake's job is to rewrite fairy tales with unhappy endings. Investigating Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, Jake use's visual aids to identify a wolf!

Nash, Scott. **Tuff Fluff: The Case of Duckie's Missing Brain**. Candlewick, 2004. Gr1-3.

Big Stuff, a teddy bear, and Duckie visit Detective Tuff Fluff because someone has stolen the stuffing from Duckie's head.

Palatini, Margie. **The Web Files**. Hyperion, 2001. K-Gr4.

Ducktective Web and partner Bill learn about some fowl play at the chicken coop.

Rylant, Cynthia. **The Case of the Climbing Cat**. HarperCollins, 2000. Gr 1-3.

When Miss Nancy's binoculars are stolen by a cat, she goes to gung-ho detective Bunny Brown and her partner, Jack Jones.

Teague, Mark. **Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation**. Scholastic, 2004. K-Gr3.

When two cats go missing, habitual fibber Ike LaRue is arrested.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Anderson, Janet S. **The Last Treasure**. Dutton, 2003. Gr 5-8.

There is only one treasure left buried by patriarch John Smith in 1881. It's up to cousins Ellsworth and Jess to find it.

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer**. Scholastic, 2004. Gr5-8.

Two 12-year-olds are caught in a web of intrigue involving a stolen Vermeer painting, mysterious letters and many coincidences.

Broach, Elise. **Shakespeare's Secret.** Holt, 2005. Gr4-7.

Sixth-grader Hero and her Shakespeare-obsessed family move to a house thought to be the hiding place of an Elizabethan diamond and Hero begins to look for it.

Coman, Carolyn. **The Big House.** Front St, 2004. Gr 3-6.

When Ivy and Ray's crooked parents are jailed for embezzlement, the children are placed in the care of sinister Marietta Noland, their parent's accuser.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mr. Chickee's Funny Money.** Random, 2005. Gr 3-6.

Nine-year-old Steven is given a quadrillion dollar bill by his mysterious neighbor Mr. Chickee, who then disappears.

Fardell, John. **The 7 Professors of the Far North.** Putnam, 2005. Gr 4-7.

Three young sleuths search for kidnapped eccentric inventor Professor Ampersand.

Hoobler, Dorothy. **The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn.** Philomel, 1999. Gr 5-8.

In 18th-century Japan, 14-year-old Seikei, the son of a merchant, is at an inn when a

ruby is stolen.

HIGH SCHOOL

Hautman, Pete. **Snatched.** Sleuth/Putnam, 2006. Gr 7-11.

Roni, a reporter for the school paper, and geeky Brian discover that snooty new kid Alicia has been kidnapped.

Howe, Norma. **Blue Avenger Cracks the Code.** Holt, 2000. Gr 7 and Up.

David Schumacher, aka Blue Avenger, wades through all of Shakespeare's works to see if Shakespeare or the Earl of Oxford authored the classic plays.

Little, Jason. **Shutterbug Follies.** Doubleday, 2002. Gr 9 and Up.

Bee, develops photographs in this engaging graphic novel. After seeing a picture of a naked corpse, she attempts to find out whether the photo's owner is responsible.

Madison, Bennett. **Lulu Dark Can See Through Walls.** Penguin/Razorbill, 2005. Gr 9 and Up.

Lulu finds herself involved in several mysteries. Teen actress Berlin Silver is missing, Lulu's purse has been stolen, and her unknown doppelganger is causing trouble.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. **The Body of**

Christopher Creed. Harcourt, 2000. Gr 8 and Up.

When Torey is mentioned in an email when class misfit Christopher disappears, he investigates.

Price, Charlie. **Dead Connection.** Roaring Brook, 2006. Gr 9 and Up.

Murray finds comfort communing telepathically with the dead at a local cemetery. When a cheerleader disappears, he hears a girl screaming to be found.

Rabb, M.E. **The Rose Queen.** Penguin/Speak, 2004. Gr 6-10.

With their recently deceased father's money, Sam and Sophie flee New York and an awful stepmother.

Thompson, Jill. **The Dead Boy Detectives.** Vertigo, 2005. Gr 7 and Up.

This manga mystery stars two dead British teens featured in Neil Gaiman's seminal 'Sandman' series. Edwin and Charles, proprietors of a detective agency, receive a letter requesting help finding a missing student at a girl's private school.





Developing Effective Technology Plans

Effective technology plans are short term, not long term. Five year plans are too long. Technology is changing so fast that it is almost impossible to plan what type of technology will be available for use five years from now. Even one year plans may now be about as far ahead as effective planning for purchases of certain types or brands of equipment can take place. Do not let a technology plan lock you into old technology and applications just because it says so in the plan. Newer, more powerful, lower cost technology may be available to replace what is specified in an old plan.

Effective technology plans focus on applications, not technology. In other words, make your technology plan outcome-based, not input-based. Develop a plan that specifies what users, staff, and administration should be able to do with technology and let those outcomes determine the types and amount of technology your plan requests.

Many technology plans are based on numbers of machines...input. Typically, technology committees go before library boards asking for a computer lab. The first question board members will ask is, "Why do you need them?" Why not answer that question in the plan? It may be better to go to a library board saying, "This is what we want our patrons to be able to do"...output. then, specify what technology is needed in order to accomplish the plan's outcomes and goals.

This approach also helps answer the debate over which brand names to purchase. This argument over what brand of computer to use in libraries is really not important. Computers are just boxes with brand names on them. They all do the same things. If people can drive a Ford, then they can drive a Chevy. And, if users can write on Brand X computer, then they can also write on Brand Y. Do students who get finished with formal education say, "I can't write with this pen because I learned how to write with a pencil?" The real question always must be, "what applications of technology are available that will help our students, staff, and administration work smarter, not harder?" The common, transferable, technical applications that all computers perform is the important issue. Still, some machines perform certain applications better than others. Buy the machines that do best, that which needs to be done.

Effective technology plans go beyond enhancing your library services. Don't buy technology to teach about technology. Do libraries really need to spend \$30,000 to \$50,000 to put in a computer lab that enhances their services? All librarians can enhance their service with a \$20 filmstrip. Librarians better be able to do more than enhance existing instruction with new, powerful types of instructional technology. Do libraries really need to spend \$30,000 to \$50,000 for a computer lab in order to teach computer literacy?

Effective technology plans define technology as more than computers. Many technology plans only deal with computers. There are many other types of technology available which have appropriate uses in libraries. Include as many types of technology in a plan as possible. Librarians need to understand that learning to read and write video is as important as learning to read and write English. Kids today get, and will increasingly get, information from a video screen. Learning the grammar of video production is the next basic skill after learning to read and write.

Television production is much more than giving kids a camera and shooting pictures. Done correctly, students involved in video production become involved in cooperative grouping, teamwork, planning, research, writing, visual literacy activities, and many higher order thinking activities. In fact, it is a basic information skill students must understand if they are going to deal effectively with information in the future.

So, why don't libraries use this technology to its full potential? Maybe it's because some librarians still believe they have to get to the end of the text and there isn't enough time for this fun learning activity. Or, maybe it's because our society is so visually literate. We are all used to seeing the finished products of CBS, ABC, or NBC. They use the right video grammar. When kids turn in a video project, many librarians look at it with professional standards in mind and say, "What a piece of junk . Was it really worth all the time the kids put into this product?" What everyone really needs to remember is what our first attempts at writing the letter "A" looked like. Then, put early attempts at video production into the same light.

Effective technology plan stress integration of technology into library services. Effective technology plans help librarians answer the question, "What program do I have to stop so I can teach about the computer?" The answer to that question is, "What program or service can be provided more effectively and efficiently with this tool?" And the answer applies to all service areas. It is not effective to buy technology to teach about technology. Wasn't it Seymour Papert that said, "Do we have classes called 'pencil'?" Then why do we have classes called "computer literacy?" It is not effective to teach about technology in isolation from other service areas. Technical applications must be taught as part of an existing service so library patrons can understand how technology can be a tool that makes them a more productive and powerful person.

Take writing for example. To me, it's a five-step creative process. What technical applications are there that help students with this process? Well, word processing fits in at every step. Desktop publishing fits perfectly in the presentation, or final step of the process. It is time to stop teaching word processing as a separate curriculum and teach it as part of the creative writing process which can be used in every subject area.

Effective technology plans are tied to staff development plans. Technology plans that are not tied to long-term staff development are destined for failure. Without staff involvement and enthusiasm any implementation of technology will not be successful.



Basic Skills: Public Library Administration

The Basic Skills class Public Library Administration will be offered at the Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College Campus in Norfolk. Luran Lofgren, Wayne Public Library Director, and Kathy Ellerton, Northeast Library System Administrator will instruct the class.

The dates are Nov. 21, 28, and December 5.

To register, go to:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=7835>
or call Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission, 1-800-307-2665.

Registration deadline: November 7, 2006.



Northeast Library System

Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2006

The Northeast Board met at the Albion Public Library on September 20, 2006. Director, Mari Hosford hosted the Board.

The meeting was called to order by President, Loran Lofgren. Board members present were Ann Bachman, Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones, Dee Johnson, Marilyn Liedorff, Luran Lofgren, Laurie Rehnstrom, Linda Risinger, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, and Kate Ostenrude. Kay Schmid & Jolene Klein were not in attendance; alternates present were Kathy Jacobs & Diana Johnson. Approval of alternates passed (MS: Risinger, Liedorff).

There were no additions to the agenda; previous meeting minutes were corrected and approved with the addition of Laurie Rehnstrom's name under roll call. There were no communications or correspondence to be shared with the Board from the NELS office.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report; balance as of 9/12/2006 is 27,114.33. There are no certificates of deposit due at this time.

REPORTS:

Commissioner-Pat Gross: no report

State Advisory Council-Gretchen Healy: no report

Nebraska Library Commission: no report

System Administrator-Kathy Ellerton: System activities included a Dreamweaver workshop in Hartington at the public library, updating the System Directory (a sample was shared with the board members and all agreed it is a nice tool for system members); when completed the directory will be available on the system website. Kathy shared the 2006-2007 board alternate pool; thank you to the following individuals who have agreed to serve in this capacity: Duane Munson, Kathy Ageton, Kathy Jacobs; Gretchen Healy, and Diana Johnson. Presenters are being contacted for this year's Winter Workshop. Statewide activities your administrator has been involved with are the revision of the Trustee Manual and the NLA Bylaws and handbook revision.

Regional events in the works include the Nancy Bolt workshop at Tilden Public Library in November, the MPLA bus trip to Albuquerque in March, and the Karen Hyman workshop coming to the Columbus Public Library next April. Basic skills workshop on Public Administration is scheduled for November 21, 28, & December 5 – contact the system office if you are interested. In addition to the above, Kathy has visited numerous libraries in the system, and attended meetings, training, and workshops - thank you Kathy for your hard work and dedication to the NELS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – no report

Budget – no report

Continuing Education – six individuals applied for and received some funding to attend the NEMA/NLA conference this year. The group is in the process of selecting a keynote speaker for the Winter Workshop.

Strategic Planning – the group is working on a revision to the bylaws in regard to the nominating committee selection.

Technology – no report.

Grants – the group presented a proposal that applications may be for up to \$250. The System has a (continued on page 14)



The Reviewer's Chair

Farm Animals

By Lucy Cousins

This book introduces very young children to some interesting animals. Each page is has one illustration and one word. The front has a woolly sheep to touch. Any very young child would enjoy the typical color and simplicity of this book and older pre-schoolers could "read" this one themselves very easily. It is recommended for any collection.

~~Heather Reid, parent, Omaha, NE

Zinnia s Flower Garden

By Monica Wellington

Wow! I have never seen a children's book as full of information as this one. It tells you exactly how to plant, care for, and enjoy a garden. The illustrations, by the author, are excellent. There is a lot to see on each page. It's fun to watch the antics of the puppy and cat throughout the story. This book is recommended for ages 6-9 in both public and school libraries.

~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

The Umbrella

By Jan Brett

A little boy named Carlos sets

off into the forest to see a lot of animals. He leaves his umbrella at the foot of a tree and climbs the tree to see the animals. But the animals find his umbrella and have fun on their own with it.

This book is recommended for 2nd grade in both school and public libraries. The illustrations are wonderful, colorful and entertaining. Jan Brett is one of my favorite children book authors. Her story lines and illustrations make any aged child fall in love with her books.

~~Sarah A. Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

Dick Whittington and His Cat

By Margaret Hodges

A rags to riches story from merry old England! Through necessity, a young boy gets a cat to rid his room of rats. The cat is traded to a ships captain. The cat goes to work for a king to rid a palace and makes a fortune for his master, who became Lord Mayer of London. Not only is this book filled with colorful illustrations on each page, but the author has provided factual information on some of the unfamiliar terms used. Young children will enjoy this tale, which is actually based on a real English boy.

I recommend this book for grade school readers, or even pre-school if the parent would read to the child.

~~Sandra Lyons, Stromsburg PublicLibrary

Mary Smith

By Andrea U'ren

Mary Smith was a "knocker-up." Before there were alarm clocks she was paid to go through her village in England to awaken the townspeople for work and school. Mary did this by using a peashooter to blow dried peas at their bedroom windows. One day Mary arrived home form work to find her own daughter still in bed when she should have been in school. Mary's daughter had been sent home from school because she tried to awaken a fellow student, and missed and mistakenly hit her teacher. Mary Smith needed to help her daughter work on her aim!

Old fashioned but colorful illustrations which contribute to the historical story. Included in the front of the book is a 1927 picture of the real Mary Smith. This story and format lends itself well to being read by parents to preschoolers or as a shared read between parents and young elementary readers. Recommended for second or third grade students as well as school and public library collections.

~~MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

Defining Dulcie

By Paul Acampora

When Dulcie's dad dies, her mom decides the best way to move on is to move—to California. Dulcie, who feels her mom is trying to erase her dad's memory, takes matters into her own hands. She steals her



(book reviews continued)

dad's '68 Chevy and road trips back to Connecticut and her grandfather. Once there, her grandfather gives Dulcie her old job back, but she must work without pay as punishment for worrying her mother. Her grandfather has also hired another helper, Roxanne. She and Dulcie become fast friends. When Dulcie and her grandfather discover the true nature of Roxanne's home life, they know they must do something to help.

Though aimed at ages 10-16, the true-to-life situations Dulcie finds herself in, as well as her deadpan way of looking at life will endear her to all readers. ~~Amanda Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Houndsley and Catina

By James Howe

Catina, who wants to be a famous write, encourages Houndsley to enter a cooking contest. When all goes wrong, Houndsley decides he doesn't want to be a famous cook and Catina realizes she doesn't enjoy writing. This book would be a good tool for teaching the theme of friendship.

This is a short little chapter book. It would be useful for transitioning from picture books to chapter books. This book would be a nice addition to a children's collection.

(board minutes continued)

total of \$1500 available for the current year. Any library in the system may apply for funding and grants require a 25% in-kind or cash match, or a combination of both. Grants will be earmarked for collection development and programming. Details of this proposal are still in process and the final information will be available from the System office in the future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

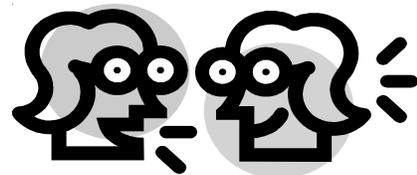
Drug Policy – The Board accepted the policy as stands with a revision made at this meeting. (MS: Liedorff, Jones) Roll call approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member activities, Pat-On-The-Back award – Joyce Sullivan recommended Linda Primus and Rosie Schueths for the award.

Claims of the day were accepted and passed with roll call vote (MS: Johnson, Liedorff).

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Johnson



Stuttering Day October 22

The Stuttering Foundation of America has a downloadable poster of famous people who stutter, and streaming videos are available on their website at www.StutteringHelp.org.

All libraries who shelve the Stuttering Foundation materials are listed on their website so visitors to the Stuttering Foundation site can find a local source. The Stuttering Foundation provides free books and DVDs to any public library. If you don't already have the materials, download a request form by clicking on the library icon from the Stuttering Foundation home page.

To get future reminders about Stuttering Awareness Week and Stuttering Awareness Day or if you would like to see a display that the Rensselaer library in Indiana did, to give you an idea of what you might do in your library, send an e-mail to preed@stutteringhelp.org.

The Stuttering Foundation of America
3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 603
Memphis, TN 38111

www.stutteringhelp.org



Are you

A library director?

A trustee?

A supervisor?

Aspiring to be a leader?

Join us for

LEADING AT THE LIBRARY

with **Nancy Bolt**

(consultant with Nancy Bolt & Associates/formerly Director of Colorado State Library)

LEARN

- *how to be more confident in your abilities and competencies
- *how to take intelligent risks
- *how to lead productive meetings
- *how to improve your communication skills
- *how to build professional relationships
- *how to think beyond the library walls for community planning

NOVEMBER 14, 2006 - WAHOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 14, 2006 - RAYMOND A. WHITWER TILDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 16, 2006 - NORTH PLATTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - NORTH CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 17, 2006 - SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

10A.M. TO 3P.M. LOCAL TIME

\$10 FEE INCLUDES LUNCH

Nancy Bolt also initiated the successful Bulgarian/Colorado Library Partnership with the purpose of building international library relationships; currently there are 25 such alliances. Nancy will also speak about Bulgaria, its libraries, and what contributes to a viable partnership with libraries in other countries. Funding for these partnerships comes in part from the sale of hand-crafted jewelry, which will be available for purchase.

This workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Register and make checks payable to **Nebraska Regional Library Systems (NRLS):**

11929 Elm St, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144

800-627-7884/402-330-7884 FAX 402-330-1859; ktooker@alltel.net / nmeyer@alltel.net

Please specify the site where you will attend.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Library _____

Site _____



**The Northeast Library System serves the following counties:
Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota,
Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

"It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe."

~~Muhammad Ali

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



**Northeast Library System
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