

# Panhandle SUN

June/July 2005

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

## *PLS Coordinator's Message*

The “One Book, One State” program featuring My Antonia by Nebraska author Willa Cather provided many readers with an opportunity to share their feelings about the inner and outer landscapes of our state. Numerous book discussion events were held in the Panhandle area. Those attending often remarked that they had read the book in high school, but that it meant so much more to them now because of their life experiences. The characters, though they lived in the distant past, expressed attitudes that seem familiar and still common in today’s world, as we continue to struggle with cultural differences and social classes. Many women in the groups marveled at the hard physical labor required of those early settlers, especially the women. Yet they acknowledged that even their grandparents endured hard lives compared to our fast-food, leisure-oriented world. The description of young people who had such profound respect for their elders, and standards of behavior so different from what we see today, made some shake their heads in concern. The story sparked side conversations about religion, values, customs, family relationships, and the impact of this Nebraska place on our lives. Often someone would ask to read a passage describing the feel of the air in spring, or the color of the sky at sunset, noting that some things never change.

A woman in one group had not read the book, but came because she had read about the event and just wanted to listen. It turns out she had had almost no social contact with anyone in a many weeks, suffering the same sense of isolation as some characters in the story. Yet somehow she chose to venture out to this gathering of readers. She was nearly in tears when she realized that stories like these were available free to her at the library.

Books allow us to connect with each other. The “One Book, One State” program helped us come together as Nebraskans, as readers, and as people.

Cherie Longmuir



## Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events



### **June 9, 2005 Database Road Show 2005-**

open to all library staff.  
Location: North Platte High School,  
1220 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North Platte  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (CT)  
Lunch is on your own.  
See registration information below.

### **June 13, 2005 Heritage Quest Online Training**

No Cost  
See registration information below.

### **June 13, 2005 Bricks and Boards**

Location: Concordia University,  
Seward  
Time: 9am-4:30pm (CT)  
Cost: varies w/number attending  
Register: see flyer in this newsletter

### **June 20 – 30, 2005 PLS Summer Theatre Programs**

Throughout the Panhandle-  
see flyer in this newsletter.

### **June 30, 2005 Database Road Show 2005-**

open to all library staff.  
Location: Western Nebraska  
Community College, Room D-5,  
Scottsbluff  
Time: 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30  
to 3:00 pm.  
Lunch is on your own.  
See registration information below.

**Register for database training at:**  
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/trainingmaterials.html>



### **July 1 – 5, 2005 “From Sea to Shinning Sea”**

**Great Plains Chautauqua**  
Location: Sidney, NE  
For more information see:  
[www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

### **July 15, 2005 Joint Nebraska Library Commission / State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting**

Location: Western Nebraska  
Community College, 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup>  
Street, Board Room, Scottsbluff  
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (MT)  
Contact: Maria Medrano-Nehls  
800-307-2665, Email:  
[mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **July 22, 2005 PLS Annual Meeting**

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I,  
Scottsbluff  
Registration: 9 am Cost: \$10  
Meeting and lunch: 9:30 am-1:30pm  
**Register by July 11, 2005** with the  
PLS office

### **August 2, 2005 NEMA/PLS Institute – Advocacy and Academic Integrity**

Location: Gering High School Media  
Center, 1500 U Street, Gering  
Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Workshop: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00  
**Register by July 25, 2005** with the  
PLS office

PLS Web Site:

<http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>

## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

**Mitchell PL** held an open house on May 14 to showcase its new collection of Spanish language materials. Three shelves have been set aside to hold reference books, children's stories, and adult fiction and non-fiction in print, audio, and video formats. A bilingual hostess introduced new visitors to the items and helped them obtain library cards. Library Board members served cookies and drinks and handed out free paperback fotonovelas. Maryruth Reed, library director, participated in a grant which provided LSTA funds to reach out to the Hispanic community.

Another partner in this project was Carolyn Brown, director of **Kimball PL**. She hosted a Cinco de Mayo festival to introduce new Spanish language and bilingual materials to the Head Start children, their caregivers and families. A new class to teach English to Spanish-speaking residents has been started in the library meeting room. Carolyn and her able staff also sponsored the Nebraska Library Association spring meeting on May 10, a day filled with food, fundraising, and fellowship. The Friends of Kimball Library are bringing the Smithsonian exhibit "Key Ingredients" to the library in July. It shows the history of food. Both Kimball and Mitchell's library collections will soon be accessible remotely, with their expansion to WebCollection software.

Joan Panas, director at **Dalton PL**, took advantage of closed Mondays at the local café, and started offering coffee and chat on Monday mornings at the library. Needless to say, she soon had a crowd. After extensive weeding, there is room for much of the popular fiction to be face out on the shelves, which provides lots of "curb appeal" to browsers. A younger crowd shows up on Wednesdays, for preschool storytime. Recently she shared with them a book autographed and given to the library by Nebraska author N.L. Sharp, who presented it in honor of a local lady who had been active in the grandparents program in the schools.

Tara Dunn wears many hats at **Pink School**, east of the Agate Fossil Beds. Her seven students in this K-8 school, get personal attention whether it's library time or lunch time. Everyone sits around a table like a family, after recess, talking about the importance of healthy snacks, as they munch on celery sticks filled with peanut butter washed down with apple juice. The library books that fill one corner of the room are cataloged and neatly shelved. The older students have read most of them and get to help pick the new ones. Tara says that even though they have access to the state databases and an online encyclopedia, they prefer to do their research in books. Johnny, a first grader, stretches out on the couch and reads aloud as he prepares for his AR test. Because of its strong program and distance from any towns, it seems that this pink treasure will be here as long as there are ranch families along the Niobrara.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Two training opportunities are available this summer for those who might have a **building or remodeling project** coming up in the next few years. On June 13 in Seward, there is a “Bricks and Boards” workshop including a keynote speaker and a choice of several sessions all related to planning a building project. On August 3, there is a follow-up in North Platte, “Building 101” which will provide more detailed and specific assistance. Whether your new library is several years away, or already on the drawing board, don’t miss these opportunities to find out what you need to know.

Do you know someone who should be recognized for outstanding achievement in the marketing/promotion of services in Nebraska’s special and institutional libraries? You may nominate an employee of one of these libraries, or the library itself. If you work in a special library, you are welcome to nominate yourself or your library. Nominations are due August 1, to Ceri Daniels at [cdaniels@cline-law.com](mailto:cdaniels@cline-law.com). For more information about the **S&I Award**, go to the Nebraska Library Assn. web page: <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/>

If you are using movies as part of your summer library programming, remember that the **state-wide movie performance license** is good until the end of September.



Are you familiar with the **Mr. Clean™ Magic Eraser**? Word is that it’s great for cleaning just about anything off books.

**Laurie Bauer** of Bayard High School was re-elected to the NEMA Board, so we continue to have strong representation from our area. Others from our region who serve us well in the larger library world are **Jean Ahrens** of WNCC, State Library Commissioner; **Pat Gross**, Gering High School, on the State Advisory Council on Libraries; and **Nancy Escamilla**, Scottsbluff Public Library, president of the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Also, just elected to the Panhandle Library System Board is **Sue Gosnell**, from WNCC-Sidney campus. She is replacing **Carolyn Brown**, Kimball PL, who just completed 6 years on the PLS Board. Thanks to all of you for serving the Panhandle libraries in these important roles.

**Sandy White**, who has been the Instructional Materials coordinator for ESU 14, will now be the media director for all school libraries in ESU 13 and 14. The two service units will be combined as ESU 13. She will continue to work at the Sidney office. She was responsible for arranging the excellent **copyright** workshop in Scottsbluff on April 7. If you were not able to attend, a video taped summary is now available to borrow from Maggie at ESU 13: 635-0661. Consider sharing it with staff.

## MORE NEWS

Several staff **changes** have taken place recently. **Jeanne Gentry** of Hyannis High School is leaving to take on a full-time position as mom. **Kim Foss** of Scottsbluff Middle School is moving with her family to Utah. **Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran**, Sidney Public Library, is moving to Rochester, Minnesota. **McKenzie Wardyn** has left Gering PL, and **Kathy Wasserburger** has joined them. **Roma Rogers** has replaced **Barbara Chadwick** as library assistant at Oshkosh PL. **Echoe Shriver** and new baby have joined their family in Wyoming, and we welcome **Stacie Hermes** as the new director at Potter PL.

Have you planned to go to the **Norfolk Literature Festival** every year and missed it? Well, here is your 11<sup>th</sup> chance. On Saturday, July 30 you can hear presentations by three authors of Golden Sower 2006 nominee books: Candace Fleming, Marion Dane Bauer, and Neal Shusterman. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

**Teen Read Week**, an event to promote literacy for teens, is scheduled for Oct.16-22, with the theme "Get Real @ your library." The web site is: <http://www.ala.org/teenread>, where you can register, get a free book (a biography from Lerner Publishing), print annotated lists of recommended reading for teens, get tips for activities, and more.

Add this to your list of places to save money: **The Shopper Inc.** offers products such as display racks, media cases, shelving, storage units, and other supplies for libraries. Check [www.shopperinc.com](http://www.shopperinc.com) for details. Nebraska libraries receive a **15% discount** on orders of \$25 or more if

they refer to bid # 386 on the order. Discounts on other books and supplies are listed at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/discount.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/discount.html).

Recent additions to the Panhandle Library System resource library include the Forms, Policies and Procedures Handbook, The Best Children's Books of the Year 2005, Trustee Facts File. If you want to borrow these or any other items (see the complete list on our website: <http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>), just call the System office.

Here are the **summer reading themes** for the next several years. \***2006**: "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" (pets); teens: "Creature Features". \* **2007**: "Get a Clue @ the library" (mystery, puzzler, thriller); teens: "YNK (You Never Know)". \* **2008**: Bugs.

Remember that we have **videotapes** of the College of DuPage programs available for you to use for your professional development and/or for CE credit for library staff and trustees. The most recent ones are "Library Hot Topics"; "Library as Place: Where People Want to Be"; "Dealing with Difficult People"; "Library Marketing"; "Reference Tools for the Information Age" – plus many others. Call the PLS office and we will send them to you.

The March issue of School Library Journal reported that the **average price of books** continues to climb. This information is gathered and reported annually, so can be useful in your budget planning and justification. For hardcover children's and YA titles, the average cost was \$19.31 in 2004 and \$20.52 in 2005, a 6% gain. From 2000 to 2005, the increase was 14.4%.

## What are they Thinking? Quotes from Library Journal's Movers and Shakers 2005\*

\*(the people who are shaping the future of libraries)

Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Omaha:

"I learned that the organizations I worked with really needed to hear about the latest health information, but they didn't have time to find it. So I filter the information and post what I think will meet their needs."

Jennifer Duvernay, Arizona State University:

"I'd like our students to choose to come to us because they have good experiences with us, and trust us, and like us, despite (the availability of) plenty of other places on the Internet they can get their information."

Sharon Morris, Colorado State Library:

"Librarianship is a profession filled with learning, fun projects, and meaningful interactions. I choose jobs based on those three criteria."

Veronda Pitchford, Metropolitan Library System, Chicago:

"I have a passion for the fact that libraries are one of the great equalizers in this society. When I start to talk to legislators about this, it is such a freakin' easy sell!"

Jesse Haro, Phoenix Public Library:

"I view the library's purpose as to promote growth, development, and creativity. Deciding how to foster that offers greater fulfillment than any project I've worked on."

Judy Nelson, Pierce County Library System, Tacoma:

"We need to give taxpayers more good reasons to support libraries, and the communities unmet needs are opportunities for libraries to be an integral part of the solution. When the community is discussing anything, be there, wearing a tag that says you are from the library."

Lisa Poignant, Chillicothe Public Library District, Illinois:

"We open the doors at 7am to accommodate all the commuters to Peoria and shift workers at odd times. We're here for the community, not for our convenience."

Chip Nilges, OCLC:

"We must always begin with what the user wants and work backward from there."

Darcy Glidden, Hamilton Public Library, Ontario, Canada:

"Go out on a limb once in a while. This isn't life or death. We provide information services. Do it with flair and humor. Have some fun!"



## BITS AND PIECES

The March, 2005 issue of School Library Journal was full of “**best**” lists: Notable Children’s Books; Best Books for Young Adults; Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers; Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults. If you want a copy of any of these lists to help with your ordering, call the PLS office.

Those of you who like to wear **library shirts** might want to look at the selection at [www.stopfalling.com](http://www.stopfalling.com). They print slogans like “no such thing as too many books”; “books, cats, life is sweet”; “teacher librarian”; “reading makes you beautiful”.

The New York State Legislature has created a “**Love Your Library**” license plate (\$25 extra) to benefit the statewide summer reading program.

The most **challenged book** last year was The Chocolate War (1974) by Robert Cormier. Do you have it? Have you read it? Do you have a challenged materials policy in place? Other titles high on the list are Fallen Angels (1988) by Walter Dean Myers; Arming America (2000) by Michael Bellesiles; The Drowning of Stephan Jones (1991) by Bette Greene; Whale Talk (2001) by Chris Crutcher; The Color Purple (1982) by Alice Walker.

The following Panhandle communities had **libraries organized by women’s clubs** in the early 1900’s: Broadwater, Dalton, Gordon, Hemingford, Hyannis, Lodgepole, Morrill, Ogallala, Oshkosh, Rushville.

*The Smartest Card. Get it. Use it.  
@ your library.*

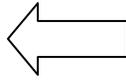
The Nebraska State Education Association honored **Patti Dean**, library assistant in the Rushville Schools, as NSEA Educational Support Professional of the Year.

**Laurie Bauer** treated 16 Bayard students in grades 7-9 to a pizza party after they qualified to vote for the Golden Sower award by reading the required number of books. This was a joint project with **Sharon Ulbrich** at Bayard Public library.

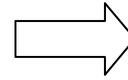
**Potter Public Library** now has a high speed Internet connection provided as a public service by Dalton Telephone. Their email address is [potterlibrary@skdalton.net](mailto:potterlibrary@skdalton.net).

These **new magazine** publications were selected as the best of 2004 by Library Journal: All You (women); Argosy(fiction); Backwards City Review (literary); Bidoun (Middle Eastern culture); Cargo (men/consumer); Cottage Living (home/lifestyle); Life & Style Weekly (celebrity); Mobile Magazine (tech); SHOP, Etc.(fashion); Tracks (music).

Looking for an **inexpensive marketing** tool? Make up printed bookmarks that point out the value of what the patron is checking out and telling what the library offers. For example, if the person checks out 3 items, hand them a bookmark that says “The average value of what you checked out today is \$30-\$80! Do you know the library has CDs, DVDs, storytimes, reference service? Feel free to ask!” Include the library’s name, phone number, web address, etc. It may help raise people’s awareness about the value of the library.



## THE TEEN SCENE



The momentum for teen spaces and programs has been growing. Here are some highlights of recent activities and ideas from near and far.

- Gering PL and Scottsbluff PL held open houses for their **new teen centers** this spring. When asked what he liked most about being on the GAB (Gering Advisory Board), one junior high student replied: “We get to make real decisions.” The teens’ presentation to the Library Board is what got them funds to purchase a new computer with Internet access. Total teen involvement is apparent in both libraries. Nancy Escamilla, who organizes the program in Scottsbluff, says the kids get to plan the programs and help select the books and videos.
- Nancy shared her experiences in a **video conference** beamed across the state in May: “All These Teens are Coming into my Library: Now What Do I Do?” Any new program will have growing pains, and many of them were addressed here. You can borrow a tape of this session from the PLS office.
- Goodall City Library recently had a teen poetry rap and a chess tournament.
- Teens are encouraged to participate in the nomination of books for a list of “**Best Books for Young Adults**,” sponsored by the YALSA group of ALA. Later in the year, teens vote for their favorites. For details: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/bbya/>
- Scottsdale, Arizona PL has just broken ground for the “**Knowasis**,” a teen room being built with private funding. It will offer information resources, homework help, career development materials, college information, and mentoring services.
- VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) has published Library Teen Advisory Groups, which has practical advice for how to fund and run a group, with examples of successful programs, plus sample forms, flyers, and newsletters. It costs \$29.95 from Scarecrow Press: 0-8108-4982-8.
- Looking for ideas of **what to order** that will attract teens? The April, 2005 issue of School Library Journal featured the YALSA 2005 “Selected Videos, DVDs, and Audiobooks for Young Adults” list. SLJ also has a bimonthly section featuring reviews of the latest graphic novels.
- Having **links on your web page** to sites of special interest to teens can help them locate materials independently. Students preparing for SAT exams might use these: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) ; [www.powerprep.com](http://www.powerprep.com) ; budding writers might enjoy [www.teenink.com](http://www.teenink.com); readers might like to check out the latest teen angst books at [www.grouchy.com/angst/](http://www.grouchy.com/angst/) - the possibilities are endless!
- A **reader’s advisory** tool to direct teens to titles that staff may be less familiar with is Teen Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests (1-56308-996-3).

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

You may think they are comic books, and some of the characters seem to be the same ones whose adventures we read as kids. But the industry has expanded, the format is sturdier, and the stories are more complex. One graphic novel, Maus, even won a Pulitzer Prize. And kids love them.

The problem for librarians is that many graphic novels contain images and stories not considered suitable for children. It's important to use resources that provide guidance about which titles could be safely purchased for which age groups.

**BroDart** has developed a collection of "**Kid-Safe Graphic Novels**" that have been screened for inappropriate language or content. Titles are divided into age groups. Currently they are offering a free display stand with an order of 20 titles, because face out exposure is essential. Brodart also produces a free graphic novel newsletter which can get you up to speed on the developments in the field: [www.graphicnovels.brodart.com](http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com) One of the recent newsletters recommended these titles as "sure bets" to start a collection: Star Wars; Ultimate Spider-Man; Ultimate X-Men; Bone; Akiko.

Capstone Press has recently released history titles in a graphic format. Titles include The Boston Tea Party, The Salem Witch Trials, The Battle of the Alamo, and others. [www.capstonepress.com/graphics](http://www.capstonepress.com/graphics).

BWI has published "**The Public Librarian's Guide to Graphic Novels**," which is free. You can order books from them that are better bound for longer use, and get selection help with their online "TitleTales®" service. [www.bwibooks.com](http://www.bwibooks.com)

School Library Journal now has a bimonthly section with reviews of graphic novels. They also included a supplement with the August 2004 issue "SLJ's Guide to Graphic Novels." If you'd like a copy, call the PLS office.

Although this is a new genre for many of us, as with any material we provide in the library, the interests of our users guide us in our collection development.

### **Job Position Available**

**Library Director:** The City of Sidney, Nebraska is seeking a creative, customer-oriented person to direct the operations of a progressive, fully automated library. Bachelor's degree required; graduate degree preferred. ALA-accredited MLS ideal. Three years of professional library experience, including two years supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Job duties include planning for the growth and development of library services, programs, and community outreach; supervising staff and volunteers; preparing budget; recommending policies; long-range planning; technology development; and promoting and representing the library, its programs and goals, in official and civic functions. Candidate must possess strong communication, marketing, organizational and interpersonal skills. Salary range starts at \$33,296, depending on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest with resume to Jo Houser, City of Sidney, PO Box 79, Sidney, NE 69162. Applications will be taken until the position is filled.

And in case you'd rather live in NV than NE, how about this one:

**Hospitality Librarian** – Providing reference, instruction, and collection development in the fields of food and beverage management, hotel management, tourism and convention administration, gaming, sport and leisure service management, golf management, and recreation. Salary not less than \$45,720. Apply to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. 😊

Remember that the Nebraska Library Commission has a job listing section on its web page: [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) - click on "library jobs."

### **A Ride on the Bookmobile**

"Other duties as assigned" can mean a multitude of things in the library, but for most of us it doesn't include digging a pair of smelly gloves out of a coffee can so we can gas up a truck with \$100 of diesel fuel every other week. Doris Jensen at Sidney Public Library climbs aboard the "library on wheels" and lumbers out into the country where the 17 kids of District 77 school anxiously wait to exchange their books. Doris notes that 3 of them are her triplet grand niece/nephews, but actually, they all seem pretty attached to the former teacher turned bookmobile librarian. This is one of 14 stops that Doris makes on her rounds of rural schools, Head Start/day care centers, and homes for the elderly. She travels as far as Potter and Chappell to provide service to the outlying areas of Cheyenne County. A hand-held Follett PHD Laser scanner is the circulation desk, allowing Doris to check books in and out quickly and record the transactions back at the library. The shelves lining both sides of the truck are full of inviting materials, and labeled to guide the patrons: juvenile fiction, large print, books on tape, information books. There are benches where wiggly pre-schoolers can wait their turn, or weary oldsters can rest and chat. Doris has been driving the bookmobile for 12 years – one of only 8 in the state – and says she loves it. It's a way to bring the library to those who might otherwise not be able to use it.



## **SCHOOL SCUTTLEBUTT**

Unnamed sources reported the following end-of-year comments from our school libraries:

- There's very little research being done in the high school.
- I taught a kid with learning problems how to make a Power Point presentation, and he got an award for "biggest turnaround" in school.
- Those doing AR at the upper grades are finding that books with content for teens don't have a very high reading level; but books for advanced elementary readers aren't age appropriate in content.
- It's frustrating when the filters block PBS, Clifford the big red dog, and the Kevin Henkes author web site.
- If the budget for my Alliance Plus is cut, I may do something violent.
- One of my schools is no longer being served by library staff, but I get to do inventory to see how much was lost.
- I created the web page for our school; of course I made the library the best part.
- On Thursdays I have morning crossing guard duty, noon recess duty, and after school bus duty. (TGIF)
- After I showed my administrator what the students can do with the computers we have now, and told him what they could do with new computers, he replaced the old ones.
- I monitored kids taking standardized tests, and watched them filling in answers without even reading the questions. They don't seem to care.
- I'm writing a monthly newsletter for the staff to let them know what's new in the library.
- I'm appalled that my principal doesn't think the school needs a librarian.
- Is the library supposed to be open or closed on the days I'm not there.
- Our library is now automated!
- School consolidation is more about sports than what's best for the kids.
- I heard that Barnes and Noble will do book fairs and author visits.
- I'm thinking of moving, except I have a great principal.
- Our elementary library is busy all the time; the teachers have so many ideas.
- Don't need it? Weed it!

Twenty media specialists attended the PLS school jobalikes this spring. We hope you'll join us in the fall!

A new resource for elementary information literacy instruction is [I - Search for Success: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Connecting the I-Search Process with Standards, Assessment, Tests, and Evidence-Based Practice](#). It is for K-8 students. Lessons cover question development, locating information, summarizing and developing major points, and presenting reports. It includes a CD-ROM with a planning guide, a sample unit, and a Power Point presentation for staff. Available from Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Author Ray Bradbury's comment when he visited the White House:  
"Any president that can say to the world 'my wife is a librarian' has got to be the happiest president in the world."

## **AUTHORS CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF NEBRASKA**

(Reprinted with permission of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Travel and Tourism Division: [www.visitnebraska.org](http://www.visitnebraska.org))

For more than 100 years, Nebraska's diverse landscape has inspired people to put pen to paper and create award-winning novels and poems. The memory of those talented individuals lives on in museums dedicated to those who have shared their love for the plains with the world through the written word.

**Willa Cather**, Nebraska's Pulitzer Prize-winning author, spent her childhood years in Red Cloud. Many of the scenes and characters in her writings are based on people and places Cather encountered in her youth. When you visit Red Cloud, you can tour restored landmarks that the author featured in her stories, including her childhood home, the Burlington Depot, the Farmer's and Merchants' Bank Building, and the Pavelka Farmstead, home of Annie Pavelka, the basis for the title character of Cather's most famous novel, My Antonia.

**John Neihardt**, poet laureate of Nebraska, also was a journalist and teacher, but it was his work with American Indians that made him legendary. The John G. Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft pays tribute to Neihardt and his relationship with Black Elk, one of the last holy men of the Lakota Sioux. The site chronicles Neihardt's life, works, and the times in which he lived. While at the John G. Neihardt Center, visitors may view works found in the research library. Other attractions include the study where he wrote many of his works and the Sacred Hoop Prayer Garden, which was planted under Neihardt's direction. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Neihardt Day occurs in August.

**Mari Sandoz**, whose writing captured the spirit of both American Indians and early settlers of Nebraska, was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1975. Two locations in Nebraska honor this remarkable author. Sandoz's memorabilia and life story are preserved in the Mari Sandoz Room in Gordon. In addition, visitors can also take tours providing an insight into her best-known book, Old Jules. Down the road in Chadron is the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. This impressive building, once a campus library, underwent a more than \$2 million renovation to create this tribute to a remarkable author. An annual conference is held in April, drawing enthusiasts from around the country.

**Bess Streeter Aldrich** wrote more than 100 short stories and nine novels between 1911 and 1945. Her stories centered on family values and life in the pioneering Midwest. It was Aldrich's hope that future generations would read her work and understand the joys, the struggles, and the strengths that were part of that time. Today, Aldrich's memory lives on in her 1922 home and library in Elmwood. Visitors will see original Aldrich furnishings and antiques, a flower garden, a lily pond, and a video history of the author.

## TRUSTEE TIDBITS

If the community your library serves has fewer than 5,000 residents, your library has a **governing board**. This is regulated by state statutes. A governing board has authority over the library to hire/fire a director, make policy, and control the library's funds.

If you are planning a new or remodeled library in the next several years, there are two workshops coming up that you should attend. The first is on **June 13 in Seward**. Titled "**Bricks and Boards**," it offers several overview sessions that cover facility planning, design, technology, lighting, community support, furnishings, and security considerations. The follow-up to this will be in **North Platte on August 3**. "**Building 101**" will be a more in-depth training on the building process. Contact your library director or the PLS office for registration and CE credit details.

**Continuing education grants** are available from the Nebraska Library Commission. If you have identified a need for training for your Board and library staff (such as a consultant on fundraising or construction planning), you may apply for funds to pay for it, with a 25% match from your library. Application forms are available on the NLC web site. The deadline to apply is August 1, and announcements will be made September 2. Contact the PLS office if you need information or assistance.

## **FUNDRAISING**

At a workshop presented in Kimball by Tom Jorgensen, fundraising consultant, these useful guidelines were offered:

- Don't make assumptions about anyone's potential to give to a cause.
- You are going to do more for the donor than the donor is doing for you.
- Fundraising IS part of the job.
- To those who say, "we pay taxes to support the library," the response is that tax dollars pay for the bare minimum. Those who want more need to give more.
- Donated money is the by-product of good service.
- You must have a quality program and effective promotion in order to attract donations.
- There are many possible sources of donated funds: cash and pledges, securities, personal property, real estate, insurance, endowments.
- When endowments are made, the original gift is never spent. It requires a legal document to establish.
- Our attitude should be to invite investment, not beg for help.
- 80% of donations come from 20% of the population; give people the choice to give to the library.

*Thank you for serving as library trustees!*

## What Do I Read Next???

In spite of all the technology and special programs that libraries offer, the majority of people who walk in the door are looking for something to read, and most will leave with books. In the 1930's, the librarian was advised to analyze the patron's character ("low brow," "criminal in the making," "sophisticated woman") and recommend reading that would improve or educate the person. Today we use an informal interview process to try to discover a reader's interests and suggest books that might match them. Contrary to popular opinion, librarians do not sit around and read all day. So how can we be effective matchmakers? There are many free online resources that can help us and our readers find that perfect book:

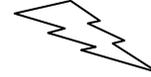
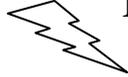
- \* [www.BookBrowse.com/](http://www.BookBrowse.com/) - a literary smorgasbord of the best current books recently published in the USA, with an extensive excerpt of each for your reading pleasure.
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- \* [www.theromancereader.com](http://www.theromancereader.com) – hearts abound on this site that has reviews of several types and series of romance novels, plus opportunities to search and respond.
- \* [www.sff.net](http://www.sff.net) – for science fiction and fantasy buffs, book reviews and chat.
- \* [www.readthewest.com/](http://www.readthewest.com/) - specialized book lists and reviews of every possible type of western, plus everything else western you could want from art to clothing to rodeos.
- \* <http://www.hclib.org/pub/books/iyl> - Hennepin County Library (Minnesota) has an extensive reader's advisory section on its web page, featuring an "if you like.." that allows the reader to choose similar authors or subjects, plus reviews in the category of "read any good books lately?"
- \* <http://www.ilsa.lib.ia.us/readadvice.htm> - an Iowa web page with an "If You Like" link that allows you to print ready made book marks with readalikes for specific authors. For example, if you select Mary Higgins Clark, the book mark will list 6 other authors and some of their books that are similar to Clark's style.

Face-out displays of "good books you may have missed," or "staff picks," just-returned carts, printed lists of best sellers or genre titles - all can help people



find something good to read!

## INFORMATION POWER



Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director at the Nebraska Library Commission provided these fun facts about the **Fourth of July** from the Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)). 150 million hot dogs are expected to be consumed by Americans on July 4<sup>th</sup> – one for every two people. There's about a 1 in 4 chance that those made of pork originated in Iowa, which has an inventory of 16.2 million pigs as of March 1, 2005. It's likely that your baked beans came from Nebraska, Michigan or North Dakota, which produced 58 % of the nation's dry beans in 2004. Support our farmers and ranchers – EAT!

Kansas compiled information from its 325 libraries' statistical reports to highlight some amazing facts: **23,289,412** books were checked out from public libraries last year; **2,744,499** reference questions were answered; **13,822,312** people used the libraries. No wonder we're tired at the end of the day.

Libraries can create their own **toolbar** for one-stop searches. The toolbar can be downloaded free from [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net). It can be customized with software available from [www.besttoolbars.net](http://www.besttoolbars.net). Who says we can't compete with Google?

The May and June 2005 issues of Redbook magazine have 2/3 page color ads for libraries, featuring "The Smartest Card. Get it. Use it. @your library" campaign. OCLC has also launched a **public relations** campaign with print ads aimed at library budget decision makers. The message is that for every \$1 spent on the library, the community sees an average \$4 in return. You can download the ads for your own use at [www.oclc.org/advocacy](http://www.oclc.org/advocacy).

**Why did the librarian slip and fall on the library floor?** Because she was in the non-friction section.

**Why was the T-Rex afraid to go to the library?** Because her books were 60 million years overdue.

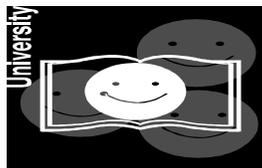
**How can you tell if an elephant checked out a library book before you did?** Because when you open it, peanut shells fall out.

**Do you know how many librarians it takes to screw in a light bulb?** No, but I know where you can look it up.

**What king of medieval England was famous because he spent so many nights at his Round Table writing books?** King Author.

**When a librarian goes fishing, what goes on her hook?** A bookworm.

Just call us the Happy Bookers!



# Panhandle SUN

Panhandle Library System  
1517 Broadway, Suite 129  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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Ruth Walker, Secretary  
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Kimball, Morrill, Scotts  
Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux  
Counties

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