



Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

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Top Five Emerging Technologies for Small Libraries

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Description: Are you stressed out from trying to keep up with the latest and greatest? WebJunction's Emerging Technology Committee is here to help! This list, updated quarterly, points out the new technologies that will bring your library the most bang for the buck.

Like politics, all technology needs are local. Any evaluation of new technology should take into account the needs of the population you serve. Consider the list below food for thought as you survey the tech landscape in your area. Note that the items on this list are **not** in order of priority.

Wireless Access

What it is: Giving patrons (and staff) the ability to access the Internet using their own notebook computers or other portable devices.

Why you should consider it for your library: Providing wireless access frees up your public access computing terminals for those who truly need them, and makes your library the neighborhood "hotspot" for information access.

What it involves: Wireless access points are relatively inexpensive; setting up your security to support them will take some time and effort.

For more information: Start with this article by Emerging Tech committee member Bruce Newell of the Montana State Library.

Thin Clients

What it is: Patrons work at inexpensive terminals; memory, storage, and applications are maintained on one centralized server.

Why you should consider it for your library: Thin-client technology can help you extend the life of your existing computers, lower costs on expand-

(Continued on page 6)

Reaching Out @ your library™

Wednesday, March 16,
2005 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT
Paraprofessionals Spring
Meeting

• Session I - **The Virtual Patron: Distance Learning** - innovations in the field of distance education, and how libraries can support the patrons who never cross our front door. Speaker: Dorothy Willis, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University Library

• Session II - **Collection Development Now** - current trends in the field of collection development, new access points, and working to reconcile access for all. Speaker: Heather Buckwal-

(Continued on page 3)

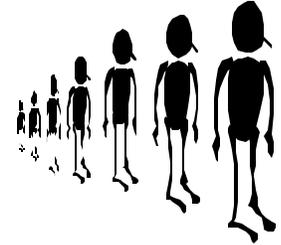
The next RVLS Board Meeting will be held
Friday, March 4
2005, 10 am, at Blue Hill Public Library,
317 West Gage,
Blue Hill, NE.



Join NLA

If you have not joined for 2005 or you were not planning on joining, please re-consider. There are many good reasons to join the Nebraska Library Association. You will receive:

- NLAQ-a quarterly publication with lots of great information from your colleagues.
- A biennial membership directory.
- A reduced rate to the annual Fall Conference.
- Discounted prices at selected Nebraska businesses.



But, most of all, you will be a part of a large organization whose primary function is to support and promote all Nebraska libraries.

Please consider also offering this opportunity to your staff and be sure to have them join the **Paraprofessional Section!!!!**

For a membership form go to:
<www.nol.org/home/NLA/membership.html>.



Why join the Paraprofessional Section of NLA?

This is the section to join if you work in a library, are in contact with librarians, are in the process of becoming a librarian, or just want to be a part of the best section in NLA. We encourage all of the paraprofessionals who join NLA to check the Paraprofessional section box on the form. If you have already sent in your membership renewal and checked another box, for only \$5 more you can join our section. The Paras are a hard working, fun group who sponsor a Spring Video Conference and several sessions at the NLA/NEMA Fall Conference each year. Library directors, please encourage your staff to consider joining the Paraprofessional Section in 2005. We all need to be advocates for libraries in Nebraska.

Mission Statement

The Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) supports and promotes the Association and library paraprofessionals in all libraries, media centers, and information services

(Continued on page 3)

RVLS NEWS

Congratulations to two RVLS libraries for receiving Youth Grants for Excellence-2004.

Arapahoe PL received \$3,188 to bring John Erickson, author of the *Hank the Cowdog* series for three performances scheduled on May 5, 2005. The event will serve as celebration of the 20th anniversary of the **Arapahoe Public Library's** current building. Cooperating with Valentine (sharing flight costs), the libraries are holding one event for school children from **Cambridge, Elwood and Southern Valley Schools. Holdrege Public Library System** is using its \$666 grant to update its teen area by adding more fur-

(Continued from page 2) Paraprofessional Section NLA

within the state of Nebraska. Our mission is communication, growth, and development in our profession, and to make contributions toward providing, fostering, promoting, and preserving the free exchange of information.

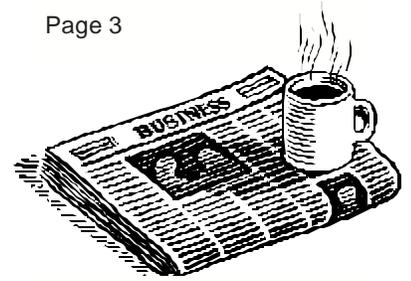
Objectives

- * To encourage paraprofessional involvement in NLA for the betterment of the library profession.
- * To advance the status of paraprofessionals.
- * To serve as a clearinghouse for information relating to paraprofessionals.
- * To promote continuing education for paraprofessionals which might include the organization of workshops or seminars dealing with paraprofessional needs or interests.
- * To encourage the advertisement of paraprofessional employment opportunities.
- * To provide a scholarship to a member who applies for participation in paraprofessional activities.

nishings, more color and an area for listening to music. The library will establish a Teen Advisory Group, which will meet monthly, to assist in the redesign of the area and in developing programs.

The elementary school in Culbertson has a new name: **Hitchcock County School/ Culbertson Elementary.**

Congratulations to **Dorothy Stevens, vonRiesen Library, McCook Community College, and Norma Dannatt, Imperial**, who each received a Nebraska Library Commission scholarship to take the Library Technical Assistant Collection Management course. Way to go!



Send us news of your latest programs, projects, and accomplishments at rvlsasst@tcgcs.com or call 800-569-4961.

(Continued from page 2)

Reaching Out...

ter, Creighton University Law Library

• Session III - **Teens and Computers** - providing materials and access for teenage patrons, and maintaining a useful environment with teenagers present.
Speakers: Debra Grove and Janie Botsch, Papillion-LaVista High School

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting, following above sessions, Maria Medrano-Nehls, Chair of Paraprofessionals, will guide us through our annual spring general meeting.

For details and registration form please see the following web site:

<<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/PARA/paraconference.html>>.



Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting

January 14, 2005 11:00 a.m.

Holdrege Public Library System 604 East Avenue Holdrege NE 68949

Board Meeting Agenda

PRESENT: Keri Anderson, Pat Bonge, Nancy Cantin, Suzann Christensen, Norma Dannatt, Susan Franklin (Administrative Assistant), Cindy Gitt (Holdrege Public Library System Interim Director and Children's and Teen's Librarian), Judy Grandstaff, Patty Hall, Terri Johnson, Richard Miller (Nebraska Library Commission), Mary Nelson (Nebraska Library Commissioner), Vicki Perrie

ABSENT: Cheryl Ahrens, Connie Bostock

Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Perrie at 11:08 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2004 meeting was made by Terri Johnson and seconded by Keri Anderson. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Susan reported that \$5,707 was deposited into RVLS's account by accident. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to keep the funds. We are in good shape financially for the fiscal year. The financial report was filed for audit.

Administrative Assistant's Report

Susan highlighted various events.

- RVLS cosponsored a workshop with Meridian Library System and the turnout was excellent.
- The directory update is slowly progressing.
- The E-Rate Charge Back of \$305.17 for the cell phone is still not complete because the bill has not yet been received. Pam Scott is working with Alltel to get this resolved. We received \$503.35 from E-Rate BEAR forms for three FRN requests.
- The Books on Tape/Storytelling Kits have been added to the office inventory and submitted to the insurance agent. The insurance isn't likely to increase our premium.
- Vicki Perrie attended the quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Library Commission and the System Administrators. Vicki shared ideas she took from the meeting including ways to attract new board members.
- We need to set a spring date for RVLS to host a workshop teaching digitalization techniques (LSTA grant focus).

OLD BUSINESS**Administrator Search Update**

The person to whom the job was offered declined. The search committee will now conduct a new round of phone and face-to-face interviews.

E-Rate Charge Back (see Administrative Assistant's Report)

Books on Tape/Storytelling Kits (see Administrative Assistant's Report)

Weeblocker

Vicki Perrie installed Weeblocker on the administrator's computer so RVLS is compliant with filtering. (Thank you, Vicki!)

Mileage

Terri Johnson asked about mileage. If board members choose, they may reduce the number of miles turned in for mileage, or they may choose to donate the mileage.

NEW BUSINESS**Administrative Assistant's Time Report for Third Quarter**

The time report includes vacation/sick leave allocation/health insurance contribution calculation. The accountant adjusted last quarter's vacation time allotment by adding one hour.

Appointment of New Board Member(s)

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of Merle Murphy and Connie Bostock's possible resignation. It was decided to leave the decision to Connie; she may choose to continue as a board member. Susan will advertise Merle's position in the RVLS listserv. We will seek volunteers and then lobby for new member(s). Richard Miller shared ways other systems deal with board member absences.

Mileage

The mileage rate increased to 40.5¢ in January.

Calendar Additions

Public Services Basic Skills classes will be taught by Pam Scott at the North Platte Public Library on April 18 and 25 and May 2.

The next quarterly meeting of the NLC/system administrators will be held March 22.

RVLS Tech Plan

The tech plan needs to be updated. Members of the Technology Committee (who will assist Susan with the updating in the absence of a system administrator) are Pat Bonge, Cheryl Ahrens and Keri Anderson.

Refund

RVLS received a workers' comp insurance premium refund of \$63.

NLC Representative/Report (Richard Miller)

Richard highlighted the following:

- Upcoming workshops by Theresa Dickson
- Lynn Bradman's Ph.D. project (trustees survey)
- Possible legislation regarding library boards
- Legislative Day/Wednesday, February 23/Lincoln/The Cornhusker
- Ten 'seats' are available for RVLS members to participate in LEAD (Library Education @Desktop)
- Youth Grants for Excellence (Teen Spaces, Every Child Ready to Read)
- Gates Foundation Training Grants (Staying Connected grants): computer upgrades; broadband connectivity; training sustainability; tech support person at NLC (coordinating capacity)
- Tech support group (committee) meeting regularly/broad representation from across the state
- Need to include budget line item for computer repair/replacement

RVLS Commissioner/Report (Mary Nelson)

Mary spoke about "Nebraska Memories" which may be found at this website:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskamemories/about.html>

It is a project which will collect historical information from museums and libraries in Nebraska and form a digitized database. The debut of the site is scheduled for this spring. RVLS libraries need to be thinking about what information from our area should be included. Guidelines for digitization projects are being developed by Beth Goble, NLC. Questions may be directed to Shannon Behrhorst at sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us

Ted Koozer, Poet Laureate, will speak Tuesday, February 8 at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

Miscellaneous

Mary Nelson and Cindy Gitt were thanked for hosting the meeting and providing delicious refreshments.

The regional library systems have submitted an LSTA grant entitled "Fill Our CUP: Computer Update Project".

The administrative assistant's computer is starting to act up. Susan was directed to start seeking prices for a new computer.

A motion was made by Judy Grandstaff and seconded by Terri Johnson authorizing Susan Franklin to purchase \$200 worth of Ellison dies (pertaining to Summer Reading Program if possible). ROLL CALL VOTE (VOTING YES Anderson, Bonge, Cantin, Christensen, Dannatt, Grandstaff, Hall, Johnson, Perrie) Motion carried.

A motion was made by Judy Grandstaff and seconded by Vicki Perrie authorizing Susan Franklin to purchase a flash drive to back up computer data. Richard Miller will help with this purchase. ROLL CALL VOTE (VOTING YES Anderson, Bonge, Cantin, Christensen, Dannatt, Grandstaff, Hall, Johnson, Perrie) Motion carried.

Location of Next Board Meeting

Judy Grandstaff offered to host the March 4, 2005 meeting at the Blue Hill Public Library.

Meeting adjourned, 12:46 p.m.

Suzann Christensen, Recording Secretary



Basic Skills: Public Services

Basic Skills Public Services will be held in the Republican Valley Library System on April 18, 25 and May 2 at North Platte Public Library. Public Services involves the following areas: Public Service Attitude, Reference, Readers' Advisory, Readers' Guidance, Policies, and planning and developing needs-based services and programs. The \$35 fee and registration information may be sent to Jacquie Crocker, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

RVLS Calendar

February 2005

18—"Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-1. Contact System office for details.

23—Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day, Lincoln.

March 2005

4—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Blue Hill Public Library.

11—"Reference Tools for the Information Age" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-1. Contact System office for details.

16—"Reaching Out @ your library" 2005 Paraprofessional Spring Conference (see page 2).

18—Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds Summer Reading Program 2005 Workshop, Johnson Center, 509 Main Street, Alma, Nebraska.

18—"Library Transformation: Library as Place" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-1. Contact System office for details.

April 2005

18, 25, May 2—Public Services Basic Skills, North Platte Public Library, 120 W. 4th Street, North Platte, NE 69101. Contact jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us to register or for more information.

29—"Library Hot Topics" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-1. Contact System office for details.

September 2005—SAVE THE DATES!

28-30—NLA/NEMA Annual Convention, Lincoln,

<http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>

(Continued from page 1)

Top Five Emerging Technologies...

ing the number of patron terminals, and simplify maintenance procedures.

What it involves: Setting up a centralized server and converting your PCs to terminals (and/or purchasing new terminals). The server can be pricey, but advocates say the reduced client hardware needs and lower operation costs add up to big savings.

For more information: We have three WebJunction articles on the subject: The "Skinny" on Thin Clients, Thin-client Computing: A Centralized Method for Maintaining Library Computer Networks, and A Long Term

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Top Five Emerging Technologies...

Care Solution for Gates Computers.

Upgrading Your Operating Systems

What it is: Replacing antiquated operating systems like Windows NT or Windows 95.

Why you should consider it for your library: Access to technical support, support for newer technologies, and most importantly, reduced operating costs in the long term.

What it involves: TechSoup Stock offers upgrades to Windows XP for \$8 (public access computers in libraries are eligible!). System upgrades sometimes require new hardware. Open-source systems like Linux are increasingly more available, but the technical challenges are still a bit much for a small library to take on.

For more information: Take WebJunction's online tutorial on Updating and Upgrading Software.

Blogging & RSS

What it is: A Web-based technology for keeping yourself informed, and for keeping your community informed about your library.

Why you should consider it for your library: These focused tools for information-gathering help you stay on top of changes in technology and in the library profession. In addition, many libraries are finding that blogs and RSS can greatly enhance their ability to reach out to their patrons.

What it will cost you: Using blogs and RSS to keep yourself up to date costs only the time to get started; to set up a library blog or RSS feed does take some time but costs little.

For more information: Start with WebJunction's article on Blogs for Libraries, and watch this space for a WJ Emerging Tech piece, coming soon.

Technology Planning

This item is not exactly an "Emerging Technology"; we've included it because it's fundamental to any new technology initiatives you might take on.

What it is: Thinking ahead about what your library needs, and how to fund and support those needs.

Why you should consider it for your library: Not just to meet the minimal requirements for e-rate funding, but to create a clear, logical, and achievable technology direction for your library and its community.

What it will cost you: The time and effort to inventory what you've got and plan ahead for the future. But it will cost you a lot more if you don't plan ahead!

For more information: WebJunction has a bunch of materials on the subject in the Technology Planning section; take a close look also at TechAtlas, a great online needs assessment tool that's available to WebJunction members at no charge.

#6 With a Bullet (the latest rising technology star):

E-Books & Audio E-Books—keep on the lookout for a feature on this topic in future editions.

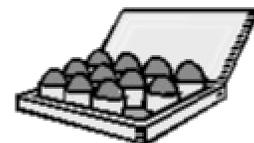
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Kearney
Lincoln
Logan
McPherson
Nuckolls
Perkins
Phelps
Red Willow
Webster

Happy Valentine's Day!



The following interesting facts about Valentine's Day came from The U.S. Census Bureau's "Facts for Features":

- ◆ 2.2 million = Number of marriages that take place in the United States annually. That breaks down to about 6,000 a day.
<<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>>
- ◆ 1,006 = Number of locations producing chocolate and cocoa products in 2002. These establishments employed 42,538 people. California led the nation in the number of such establishments (with 114) followed by Pennsylvania (with 100).
<<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>>
- ◆ 24.6 pounds = Per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2003; it is believed a large portion is consumed around Valentine's Day. Candy consumption has actually declined over the last few years; in 1997, each American gobbled or savored more than 27 pounds of candy a year.
<<http://www.census.gov/industry/1/ma311d03.pdf>>

Editor's Note: I realized if I were going to consume 24.6 pounds of chocolate in 2005, I should get to work. Oodles more fun facts about Valentine's Day, are available at <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/003147.html>