



Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

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Featured Library: College of Technical Agriculture Curtis, NE

These library users drive pickups! Well, not all of them drive pickups, but most of them do and they wear jeans and some have round circles in their back pockets where their chew cans are, and they major in subjects like equine management. Many of the library users are kids recently graduated from small towns around Nebraska, although some non-traditional students are



starting to attend Curtis and the ratio of males to females, which was once predominately male, is now about equal.

Mo Khamouna is the director of the library at the College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. His

library is called a Special Library which means the people he serves have specialized interests so he purchases materials which are of interest to them (remember collection development?) and in this case, Mo purchases agriculture materials which usually are

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The College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis received a grant, approximately \$8,000, to focus on agri-terrorism. **Mo Khamouna** purchases materials related to agri-terrorism, food safety, avian flu, eco-terrorism and any other areas in agriculture where terrorism might occur.

Most of the information is published by government sources.

Mo spoke to large libraries in major universities, but none of them are really focusing on the agri-terrorism arena. Call Mo for agri-terrorism information.

2005-2006 RVLS Board Meetings

March 3, 2006, Hastings Memorial Library (Grant)
(10am MST)

June 2006, RVLS Annual Meeting, Harlan County Dam (Details T.B.A.)

*We encourage attendance!
All board meetings begin
at 10 a.m.*



First Nebraska Consumer Health Symposium a Big Success

Consumer health services to all Nebraskans was the topic of the full-day Consumer Health Symposium in North Platte on November 10, 2005. Thirty-five librarians and health professionals joined representatives of the Nebraska Library Commission, the McGoogan Library of Medicine, and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Midcontinental Region to discuss creative alliances and innovative health information services. Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and Nancy Woelfl, Ph.D., Director of the McGoogan Library, welcomed the participants. CHIRS experts Roxanne Cox and Cindy Schmidt spoke to the group about collection development, the new Nebraska Go local Medlineplus project, and how effectively to conduct a consumer health reference interview. Community teams then participated in a Café-to-Go activity in order to brainstorm planning ideas. Dr. Woelfl summed up the day's events with these words: Nebraska communities are doing a terrific job, and our task is to discover how we can serve the health information needs of more Nebraskans by joining forces." If you would like to join this effort to serve all Nebraskans with consumer health information, please let the CHIRS staff know by emailing <askus@unmc.edu>.

~ Reprinted from *Year of CHIRS* Issue 11 November/December 2005, with permission of Teresa Hartman, McGoogan Library of Medicine

~ See related article, page 10.



Something New to Help You

RVLS office recently purchased a color copy machine. We will make color copies for you to benefit your library for a small fee. A one-sided color copy on an 8 x11 sheet will be 15 cents. The price goes up from there depending on the paper quality, paper size, etc. We hope that we will be able to help you publicize your library with brochures, READ posters, or any other copy ideas that might occur when you wake up in the middle of the night and think about the things you should be doing. :-)



RVLS NEWS

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded a total of \$35,495 in grants for 20 libraries to assist in providing improved services to children and young adults, and to provide continuing education and training opportunities for children and young adult librarians. These awards represent an important part of the Library Commission's commitment to the goals established for Making a Difference @ your library™: Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library & Information Service 2003-2007. Several RVLS libraries were awarded grants—congratulations!

* **Fairfield Public Library:** \$548 The library will hold programs for preschool children from 1:30-3 on the second Tuesday of each month from Nov-May. Project includes purchase of new titles, periodicals, computer software, audio learning center recorder, and learning manipulative center.

* **Imperial Public Library:** \$1,690 Teen space furnishings and artwork, including bistro table and chairs and locally produced art. The materials for the art project will be purchased with grant funds.

Jane Davis, Hershey Public Schools, reports that they are now automated and using

Winnebago. Their current hours are M-TH 8-4, F 8-2:45.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School is also automated and using Alexandria.

Stratton, Trenton and Culbertson have consolidated to become **Hitchcock County School** with the **JR/SR High School** in Trenton (**Mary Yarberry, Media Specialist**) and elementaries in Stratton and Trenton (**Cathy Barger is Media Specialist** at both sites).

Superior Public Library has a new email address: **superlibrary@hotmail.com**

<www.kidlook.com/aboutus.html> is an image directory—meaning it shows a thumbnail of the website in addition to providing a description—of popular sites for kids. Choose from categories such as Fun & Games, Music, Movies, TV, Sport, School, Toys, Shop, Computer, More.

Congratulations to **Mo Khamouna** who was awarded a **21st Century Librarian Scholarship** by the Nebraska Library Commission. Mo is pursuing his MA in library science through Northumbria University (UK), School of Informatics : Information & Library Management Depart-



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

ment.

Maxine Berry, Loomis Public Library, has a new email address: **mberry25@hotmail.com**

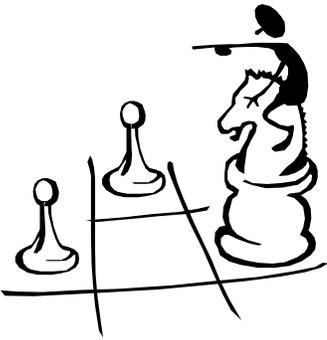
Cindy Gitt, Children's Librarian at **Holdrege Public Library System,** has recently been appointed to the **State Advisory Council on Libraries.**

Pat Hughes, Hastings College Perkins Library, has been reelected as a delegate to the **NEBASE Advisory Council.**

Linda Rea celebrated 30 years of service with **Hastings Public Library** in January. Congratulations, Linda, for a long, productive career.

Children from

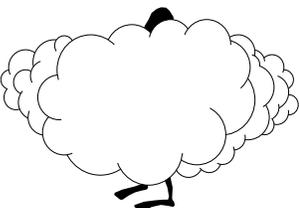
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RVLS News

Perkins County Elementary Schools were evacuated on Jan. 4th due to an overheated belt on the furnace. The school filled with smoke and all the elementary children were taken to the First Congregational Church for a few hours. **Sally Borowski**, Director of **Hastings Memorial Library** in Grant, realized the teachers and students were going to be very bored in a short time, so she gathered up a box full of elementary books for the students and delivered them to the church to keep little minds occupied until their parents could pick up the students. I am sure the teachers



It's Your Move

The **Mountains Plains Library Association website** has moved to <<http://www.mpla.us>>. To join or renew your membership online, go to <<http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>>.

<http://www.whichbook.net/index.jsp> is a Web-reader's advisory that allows you to select anywhere along a variety of spectrums such as happy-sad, funny-serious, expected-predictable, gentle-violent, conventional-unusual, optimistic-bleak, short-long and allows you to make changes to character, plot, setting, etc. It suggests books, provides extracts and also "bookalikes." Give it a try the next time you're looking for a good read!

Is there a children's book you absolutely love that has gone out of print? From now until February the **Children's Book Council**, the non-profit association of children's publishers, will be hosting a poll on its website asking all librarians, teachers, parents, and even kids to name a book they would love to be

reissued. Visit <<http://www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/ooppoll.html>> to **vote for your favorite out-of-print book**. The poll is a project of the ALA-CBC Joint Committee; the top ten books named will be announced in the spring.

Nebraska libraries are encouraged to order **free posters from the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service**. These 8.5 x 11 posters promote talking books for Nebraskans with disabilities.

Public Library Statistical Data surveys are now available online through *Bibliostat® Collect* at <collect.informata.com>. The deadline for data submission, one of the requirements for state aid eligibility, is January 31, 2006. For more information, contact Kit Keller, NLC, kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us.

YALSA's first online course, **New Literacies for Teens**, will debut in February 2006. Stay tuned to ALA's website for more information.

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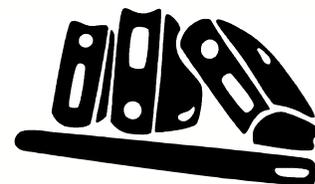
RVLS News

were very happy to see Sally's smiling face!

The **North Platte Public Library** held a **jigsaw puzzle tournament** on February 4 as a fundraiser for the **North Platte Public Library Foundation**, which is dedicated to building a better library facility. The two-person team entry fee of \$100 or four-person team fee of \$200 was a tax-deductible donation. Entrants were encouraged to find corporate sponsors, if they so chose, who would have their businesses listed in articles in the *North Platte Telegraph* and *North Platte Bulletin*, as well as on publicity materials.



On the Bookshelf



The following items have been recently added to the RVLS Professional Collection:

* *101 Ideas on Economic Development* by Cal Clark (2000).

Magazine:

RVLS now subscribes to *BookPage: America's Book Review*, "the best in new books." Contents include: interviews, features, gifts, children's books, reviews, and departments such as Burning Questions, The Author Enablers, Bestseller watch, Whodunit?, Romance, Cooking, Books Clubs and Audio. If you would like to have *BookPage* routed to you, please email <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. The only cost to you is the cost of postage to mail it to the next person on the routing list.

Books on CD:

- ◆ *44 Scotland Street* by Alexander McCall Smith
- ◆ *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell
- ◆ *The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell* by Lilian Jackson Braun
- ◆ *The Colorado Kid* by Stephen King
- ◆ *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate* by Alexander McCall Smith
- ◆ *The Last days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant
- ◆ *My Friend Leonard* by James Frey
- ◆ *One False Move* by Alex Kava, the recently proclaimed 2006 One Book One State selection.
- ◆ *Our Endangered Values* by Jimmy Carter
- ◆ *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt

If you would like to borrow these items, please contact the System office at 800-569-4961 or <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. If you would like to see list of all available items (including magazines routed), go to  <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.

Make and Take Workshops—Reminder

RVLS is holding two Summer Reading Program workshops this year. One will be **Wednesday February 22, 2006** in McCook (note that it was erroneously listed as being on Friday on the original workshop flyer in the December newsletter) and the other will be **March 9-10, 2006** in Aurora. You do NOT have to attend both days in Aurora. Patti Sinclair will be the presenter at both sites. March 9th in Aurora will include presenters on other aspects of working with children in the library. Patti Sinclair will present March 10th in Aurora. We will have the Ellison die cut machine as well as fun things to buy and make at both places. The December *VALLEYTALK* contained hardcopy flyers for both workshops. To access online flyers, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/MakeandTake2006flyer.pdf> for the February 22/Mccook site and http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/YSR_flyer.pdf for the March 9-10/Aurora site. Hope to see you at one or the other! Call 800-569-5961 if you have questions! 



Women's History Month: March 2006

"In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the U.S. president has issued a proclamation. " For the U.S. Census Bureau's Facts for Features .pdf sheet on Women's History Month, go to <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/cb05-ff.04.pdf>

RVLS Calendar

February 2006

10—Online Reference Workshop, 9:30am-3pm, Computer Lab, Central Community College, 3519 Second Avenue, Kearney, NE. Call 800-569-4961 to register.

14—NLA's Legislative Day,
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/sesys/legday06.pdf>

22—Make & Take Summer Reading Program, McCook. (This is a Wednesday, NOT a Friday, as it usually is)

March 2006

2—Read Across America Day, www.nea.org/readacross/index.html

3—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Hastings Memorial Library, 505 Central Avenue, Grant, NE.

9-10—Youth Services Retreat (Cosponsored by RVLS, MLS, & NELS), Leadership Center, Aurora, NE.

10—"Library Management Hot Topics" College of DuPage Teleconference 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings

21-26—Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Boston, MA.

April 2006

2-8—National Library Week,
<http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/nlw/NLW.htm>

6—Rural Library Sustainability Workshop, Holiday Inn Express, North Platte, register at www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/gates/rural.html

7—"Serving Immigrant Populations: A Library Prototype for Diversity" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings

10—Rural Library Sustainability Workshop, Hastings College, Hastings.

10-16—Young People's Poetry Week, www.cbcbooks.org

18, 25, May 2—Basic Skills: Cataloging, North Campus, North Platte Community College, 10-3.

28—"Google Print: Its Impact on Scholarship and Libraries" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings

June 2006

2—RVLS Annual Meeting, Harlan County Dam, Details T.B.A.

July 23-August 5, 2006

Literary Ireland Tour

October 2006

25-27—NLA/NEMA Convention, Omaha Qwest Center.

November 2006

13-20—Children's Book Week, <http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/>

July 2007

9-13—4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, Schuyler, NE.



Nebraska Humanities Council Grants

Any non-profit group is eligible to apply for a grant from the NHC. The council encourages cooperative projects that help ensure broad community interest. Applications must demonstrate that the humanities are central to the project. All projects must include humanities resource people. Usually, the humanist is a college or university professor in a humanities discipline. When non-academic humanists are chosen for projects, the applicants must provide sufficient background information to show that they will capably represent the humanities.

Although projects are usually aimed at the adult public, any age group may be served. Projects need a creative publicity plan to encourage public participation. All projects must also include a means of evaluation by audience participants or an outside reviewer. At least half of the total project costs must be provided by the applicant in local cost-share, either cash or in-kind.

Major Grants

Major are \$1,500 or more, and there are two major grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by March 1 or Aug. 1. Notification is normally given within two months. It is recommended that the sponsoring group discuss the project with NHC staff before submission.

Mini Grants

Mini Grants are up to \$1,500, and there are six grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1 or Nov. 1. Notification is normally given within one month. Staff is available for consultation and will review grant applications before the due date.

Media Grants

Media grants (for film, radio and television productions) are \$1,500 or more. They are treated as major grants but they have additional requirements. There are two grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 15 or June 15, and notification is given in March and August. Staff is available for consultation and will review grant applications before the due date.



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Featured Library: Hastings Middle School

extremely expensive. Mo says if a book is less than \$65, he feels he has found a bargain. Two hundred dollars for a book is not uncommon.

So how does Mo get these students to visit the library? Mo says he is always friendly and always, always approachable. The library often is the place of last resort for some of the campus students, but the library is open from 8 in the morning until 11 at night and on Sundays, it opens at 6 at night and closes at 11. Mo works closely with the teachers and provides an orientation to students, teaching them how to use a library, although, some of them still wonder "where is the card catalog?" With the open hours, teacher input and the orientation, the library becomes an important place in the students' lives. Mo does one other thing to "hook" the students at College of Technical Agriculture: he buys periodicals...magazines. He subscribes to 300 magazines and displays them in a room with comfy chairs and newspapers. I really didn't want to interview Mo, I just wanted a cup of coffee and to sit and read for a few hours.



Mo is a very interesting individual. He was born in Casa Blanca in Morocco (cool!). He speaks to his family, who happen to live in Paris, in French and his Mother speaks Moroccan which is a dialect of Arabic, Spanish and French. His bachelor's degree is from University of Paris in American Studies. He came to McCook, NE to study tourism and travel and forgot to leave the area! He loves Curtis and he says his children are "corn-fed" Nebraskans. Mo is currently working on an MA from Northumbria University in England from the Department of Information and Library Management with a specialty in web information management. He was one of the recipients of the scholarship from the Nebraska



Library Commission called 21st Century Librarians. Mo will indeed be a 21st century librarian as all his courses are online and his dream is to do an internship at the British Museum or maybe the Nobel Institute. What a wonderful experience for the students at the College to get to know and work with a cosmopolitan person like Mo. And they try to typecast us rural Nebraskans!!!



Marty Magee's Most Excellent Medicinal Sites

Marty Magee, the Education and Nebraska Liaison for the National Network/Libraries of medicine, presented at the Nebraska Consumer Health Symposium on November 10 in North Platte. She recommended these websites:

1. FamilyDoctor.org www.familydoctor.org
2. NIH Senior Health nihseniorhealth.gov
3. Clinical Trials clinicaltrials.gov
The National Library of medicine's searchable database of clinical trials in which consumers may wish to participate.
4. DIRLINE dirline.nlm.nih.gov
Online directory of health organizations
5. ToxTown toxtown.nlm.nih.gov
NLM's web resource for consumers to understand toxins in their environment.
6. Evaluation Resources www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/evaluatinghealthinformation.html
Ten things to know about evaluating medical resources on the web.
7. Healthinfoquest n.nlm.gov/healthinfoquest
Pathfinders to common consumer health questions.

Also, do not forget CHIRS (Consumer Health Information Resource Service), a cooperative effort between Nebraska's public libraries and the McGoogan Library of Medicine (UNMC), which provides health and medical information to Nebraska residents. You may now access it online at <www.unmc.edu/library/consumer>.



WOW!

Is a Playaway book in your future? One of the newest developments in audiobooks is called the Playaway book. It is an audiobook that is self-contained, complete with player. All you have to do is activate the battery and put in your ear-phones. It is an all in one package. The company who makes these audio books is Findaway (playawaydigital.com). At present, they are about twice as expensive as audiobooks and the quality isn't quite there yet, but these are very interesting to think about. Maybe this is the future for digital books in libraries. Check Office Max (officemax.com) to see what the books look like and the price. Barnes and Noble and Borders are supposed to stock the digital books too, but I couldn't find them on-line. Maybe I'll have to make a trip to Barnes and Noble soon...I can taste that Starbucks already.





Which Comes First? The Book or the Movie

By Cathy A. Leininger Mohnike, Title I Reading Teacher, Sutton Public Schools

I entered the library knowing exactly what I was looking for. I approached the C-D section. I ran my finger down the shelf of books...CU, CL, CI, CE, CA. Yes, there it was, CAP. The yellowed pages were bound by a musty burgundy spine with nothing but the letters T*C on the front cover. I smiled and plucked the book from the shelf. I was about to make history.

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As an avid reader/movie goer I wanted to read the book after seeing the movie. But could I do it? Oh, I had tried before. After seeing, The House of Sand and Fog, I bought the book. The little paperback is still marooned next to my copy of A Civil Action. Another book doomed to remain unread. I couldn't take the chance of ruining a good movie memory by reading the book. The movie always pales in comparison. A book does so much more in character and plot development. The book is the place where your imagination can dwell and expand on what is on the printed page.

But three weeks ago I had a one-time only change of heart while attending the movie Capote at the Ross in Lincoln with my husband. Capote is about the six to seven year time span in which Truman Capote wrote the book, In Cold Blood. You'll recall that this is the true story of the rural Kansas murders of four members of the Clutter family. The film's focus is not the murders but the decline in Capote's health as he labored over what was critically acclaimed as his best work. Capote laments in the film that if he would have known the effect the writing of this book would have on his life, he never would have written it. That fascinated me. A book that could take that much out of the writer, I had to read it.

.....

The worn cover was barely attached to the book, but inside, ahhh, inside was a piece of library history. The old library pocket was still firmly glued in place with the borrowers' cards tucked inside. Two cards taped together showing that indeed this story was in demand. The dates show a solid rate of checkouts starting on March 15, 1968, and ending on June 5, 1977. After nine years its popularity waned. It was relegated to the shelf until 1980 when four people, possibly friends, checked it out. Then back to the shelf until 1998 and now me in 2006.

Looking at the borrowers' names was incredibly nostalgic. Several of the borrowers were now deceased, some had moved away from our fair city and some I didn't ever know. Two facts especially interested me. 1) On Jan 10, 1972, my best friend checked this book out and 2) my name was nowhere to be found. Now I didn't have to wonder, I had proof that I had never read, In Cold Blood.

Returning from the library I settled in to read the book and soon shouted to my husband, "This is it! This is the paragraph that Capote read at the formal book reading":

"The village of Holcomb stands on the high wheat plains of western Kansas, a lonesome area that other Kansans call out there. Some seventy miles east of the Colorado border, the countryside, with its hard blue skies and desert-clear air, has an atmosphere that is rather more

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Which Comes First?

Far West than Middle West... The land is flat, and the views are awesomely extensive; horses, herds of cattle, a white cluster of grain elevators rising as gracefully as Greek temples are visible long before a traveler reaches them."

When Capote read this to his audience and I read it to myself, I thought how much this sounded like Nebraska. We Plains people have no trouble picturing this and so our imaginations easily take us to this place and this story. On the other hand, since I have never spent six years writing a book, I still had a hard time imagining why this story had such a profound effect on Capote's life. If the filmmakers are correct, not only did Capote's health go into a downward spiral but In Cold Blood was the last book that Capote ever finished. But no matter what, it is a fascinating duo, this book and movie.

So this one time I recommend that you see the movie "Capote" and then read In Cold Blood **or** read the book and then see the movie. In this case it makes no difference at all.



OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER: FREE TRIAL MONTH

OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS: 13 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12

NEBASE is again offering a free trial month of the OCLC CatExpress service to new subscribers. CatExpress provides web-based copy cataloging to libraries at a low, flat-fee subscription price.

The OCLC CatExpress trial subscription is a no-risk way to see if CatExpress is right for you and your library. Many libraries new to OCLC would like to know what kind of hit rate they will receive with CatExpress. You may also want to know how the records from OCLC can be processed by your local system. The trial option allows you to do real work with CatExpress, before committing to a subscription.

The introductory subscription is for the month of June 2006, and is free. NEBASE will be taking orders for the CatExpress Free Trial Month from now through May 19. The free trial month will begin on June 1, 2006.

If you do not wish to continue with CatExpress, simply cancel before the end of June. If you do not cancel within that first month, the subscription automatically rolls over to the regular 12 month subscription, which runs from July 2006-June 2007.

If you decide to continue with CatExpress after the free trial month is over, you don't need to do a thing. You will automatically be added to NEBASE's CatExpress Group Subscription. You will only pay for the regular 12 month subscription, receiving 13 months of CatExpress access for the price of 12.

To learn more about CatExpress, and to see the special NEBASE Group Subscription Pricing, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/catx.html>

To sign up for the CatExpress Free Trial Month offer or if you have any questions, contact Christa Burns at 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665 or cburns@nlc.state.ne.us.

~ Christa Burns, OCLC Member Services Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission



Public Address System for Loan

The Nebraska Library Commission has purchased a Public Address System for each of the library systems. The self-contained PA system contains a clip-on microphone and a speaker that should produce sound for a large classroom. RVLS member libraries may borrow this system at no cost except return shipping for a 10 day period. It is very lightweight (8 lbs) and easy to use. Call the system office at 800-569-4961 if you would like to reserve the PA system for your next meeting. Below are the details of the loan policy:

Loans shall be made from the Republican Valley Library System (RVLS) to an RVLS library, but not to individuals for personal use. Loan shall be for a period of ten days, including shipping. Scheduling is on a first request received, first filled, basis.

Use of the P.A. System is free. RVLS pays for routine maintenance. The borrower shall be financially responsible for repair of any damages. Definition of damages shall include, but not be limited to, dropping, breakage, power surges, accidental damages, loss of parts. Whether to repair or replacement shall be determined, and arranged for, at the discretion of the System Office.

Borrower shall pick up and deliver the equipment or shall pay insurance and shipping charges to obtain and to return equipment from/to System Office. Equipment shall be insured during shipment. The choice of which delivery service and the required insurance level shall be designated by the System Administrator.

P.A. System

Delivery service _____ insurance _____

Borrower must provide name of library, contact person responsible for the equipment and its return, address where equipment will be used and contact phone. The phone is necessary for possible recalls. Use by the System Office shall have priority over loans. Equipment may be recalled by the System Office.

I have read and agree to comply with this policy:

Date _____

Name _____ Contact person _____

of library _____ (Signature)

Address where _____ Contact person _____

equipment will _____ (printed name)

be used _____

Contact phone _____

Adopted 1/6/2006 by RVLS Board

FREE POSTERS PROMOTE TALKING BOOKS FOR NEBRASKANS WITH DISABILITIES

Any Nebraska library is able to request free posters from the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Two posters are available. One is entitled "A Good Book Is Worth Sharing;" the other, "Spice Up Your Life." These may be viewed at www.loc.gov/nls/mediaservices/posterimage.html.

Each is 8.5 x 11 inches for mounting on a bulletin board. The posters contain contact information to direct queries to the Talking Book and Braille Service.

At this point there are no restrictions on the number of posters that can be sent to any one library. Send requests to talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us; or call 1-800-742-7691. Application forms for free talking book service are also available.

Cupid's Coming



According to the "Valentines Day: February 14" U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features, located at http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/006116.html, "One legend has it that Valentine's Day originated to commemorate the anniversary of the death of St. Valentine, a Roman clergyman who was executed on Feb. 14, about 270 A.D., for secretly marrying couples in defiance of the emperor. According to another, the holiday began as a Roman fertility festival. Americans probably began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, began to sell the nation's first mass-produced valentine cards." Find these and other "hearty" facts at the site references above:

- ◆ Nearly 60 percent: Typically, the proportion of all Valentine's Day cards purchased in the six days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight. (Source: Hallmark research)
- ◆ Be Mine...2.2 million The number of marriages that take place in the United States annually. That breaks down to more than 6,000 a day. <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>>
- ◆ 1,271: Number of locations producing chocolate and cocoa products in 2003. These establishments employed 43,379 people. California led the nation in the number of such establishments (with 146) followed by Pennsylvania (with 120). <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/cbptotal.html>>
- ◆ 22,022: The number of florists nationwide in 2003. These businesses employed 113,270 people. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/cbptotal.html>>
- ◆ 28,527: Number of jewelry stores in the United States in 2003. <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/cbptotal.html>> <<http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>>



(Continued from page 4)

It's Your Move

Edwards Disaster Recovery Directory (formerly *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel*) has been updated for 2006 (now in its 15th edition). Order online at <www.EdwardsInformation.com>.

“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child. Celebrate Dr. Seuss’s Birthday March 2.” Check out NEA’s **Read Across America’s 2005 Fact Sheet** at <<http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>>.

Highsmith extends a discount to **NEBASE libraries**. The terms are: 15% catalog discount (some exceptions apply). Free shipping and handling on supply items. Shipping and handling will be prepaid and added to your invoice for furniture and equipment. Minimum order \$25. When placing an order, please refer to discount no. 89933.

www.half.com is a good resource for used books, textbooks, music, movies and other stuff.



AWAD By Susan Franklin

A wad of what? Good question. I’m not talking about a mass of anything tangible; I’m talking about a considerable amount of intangible knowledge...wordpower, to be more specific. For a little over a year now, I have been the beneficiary of a daily deliverance to my inbox of A Word a Day (AWAD). The words sometimes have themes (words to describe the Earth’s features, for example), sometimes are random. Yesterday’s word was couloir. Memorable words have included skookum, gadzookery and boffin. Each word includes pronunciation (and sound byte!), part of speech, etymology, definition, and use in context.

Recently, I learned a new word that made me wonder how I have lived without AWAD: “mogigraphia (moj-i-GRAF-ee-uh), noun. Writer's cramp, [From Greek mogis (with difficulty) + graph (writing).] Tennis players have their elbows, athletes have their feet, so what do writers get? They get their cramps. Mogigraphia is a fancy name for a writer's cramp. Advanced writers go for a block. For the ultimate, we recommend carpal tunnel syndrome. A synonym of mogigraphia is graphospasm.”

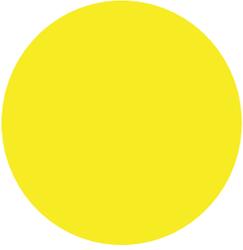
Honestly, how have I survived without this? If I had a time machine, I would climb in, set it to 198harmppffhs (a lady never tells her age), travel back, and obnoxiously, as only a tween could, petulantly thrust a doctor’s note to Mrs. Warner, Junior High P.E. Teacher, that said, “Please excuse Susan Burmood from all P.E. activities, but particularly from dodgeball, sprinting around the exterior of the Junior High building, timed sit ups and awkward group showers.. She is suffering from a severe and debilitating case of Graphospasm.” Brilliant!

If you would like to join me in my daily cranial expansion, go to <http://wordsmith.org/awad/sub.html> to sign up for a free subscription to AWAD. There is also a premium (read: money required) subscription, but I prefer the free version :-).



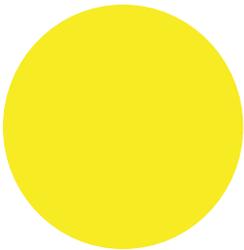
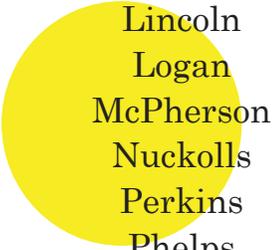
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Puppet Show on the Go!

The Urban Prairie Puppet Company will perform for your school, library or organization and has several programs that would work well with this summer's reading program theme, "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales."

At this time, UPPC is offering "Aesops Fables/Just So Stories", "Birthdays are a Dragon" and "Native American Tales". All shows are approximately 45 minutes long and can be performed with a minimal amount of space. For more information, email tplace@tconl.com or call 402-896-6662.