Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

We reserve the right to
edit or refuse
all contributions.

Featured Librarian: Kim Rogers
Southern Valley Elementary Library
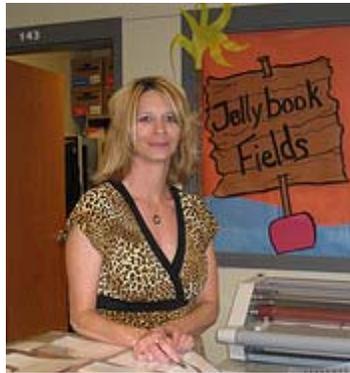
When I talked to **Kim Rogers at Southern Valley Public Schools**, I kept thinking, I need a nap. Kim is a dynamo who holds as many as three jobs during parts of the year. Her primary job is to be the Media Assistant at Southern Valley Elementary with another assistant, Star Harvie. Southern Valley School is a combined school from the communities of Stamford, Orleans, Beaver City and Oxford. There are around 242 students, K-6. Each grade has 2 classes. This is the first year the elementary school is in existence. Because the building wasn't ready as early as anticipated, Kim and

Star had only 7 days to combine 3 libraries and be ready to start school in August. They worked non-stop and

drafted children and any other available bodies to lug boxes of books. The halls of the new facility are so wide they could bring the books into the media center on a golf cart. The result is an absolutely beautiful media center with space for growth, a technology lab, and a great atmosphere.

As in many schools now, the assistants actually run the day to day operations of the library. Kim also teaches library skills classes, orders books, and does all the general media center operations. Southern Valley uses Accelerated Reader to encourage reading and Kim and Star have organized the library using the Accelerated Reader levels. Kim feels Accelerated Reader has been an asset to students encouraging them to read at the level where they can succeed and to develop good reading habits. Classes do not have scheduled times to visit the media center; therefore, the media center is always open for students to check out books or just sit and read.

Kim grew up in Beaver City, but now lives in Edison—an even smaller town. She has 4 children and said she has dyslexia so had a difficult time learning to read and she understands how some students struggle. She tells the students, do not compare yourself to others, work to improve yourself from where you are. Kim works with all the elementary students in the media center and her primary focus is to find things which can reinforce reading. Kim also works at the Assisted Living

facility in Arapahoe as a medication aide on the weekends and a few hours during the week as well as working at Southern Valley Elementary. In the fall and whenever needed, she works at the elevator where she helps weigh grain or other tasks to keep the harvest going. She also rides the school bus every day to pick students up and take them home. Southern Valley has drop off sites for students where they are picked up or dropped off in the consolidated towns.

Before the schools consolidated, Kim was at Beaver City and Star was at Orleans so besides combining the libraries, Kim and Star have had to decide which tasks each would facilitate. Kim does all the Accelerated Reader and Library Skills classes. She also decorates the library to create an attractive, inviting learning place for students.

The over-riding theme in the Media Center is always reading, reading and more reading. Southern Valley Elementary participates in Golden Sower and Sustained Silent Reading.

With the emphasize on reading, the beautiful media center and Kim and Star available to recommend books or just chat about the last book the student has read, Southern Valley students have a wonderful situation to develop a love for reading and learning.

Sherry Houston—System Director

Ellison On the Move

Here's the schedule for the Ellison, **if you want on the schedule please contact us**, or if it is near you, perhaps you could work out something with your neighbor.

June 1st—Hastings Memorial Library—Grant

July 1st—Oxford Municipal Library—Oxford

September 1st—Superior Public Library—Superior

October 1st— Sutton Public School—Sutton

November 1st—Southern Valley Elementary—Oxford

March 1st, 2010— Central Community College—Hastings

Did you know the Library of Congress adds about 2 million new items to their collection every year.

RVLS NEWS

Pat Bonge, librarian at **McCook Community College von Riesen Library**, retired on May 15th, after 19 years at MCC. Pat was honored at a retirement reception in von Riesen Library on May 12th.

Sherry Houston and Sharon Bohling were 2 of many attending the reception. Congratulations, Pat, and best wishes!

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Hastings College Perkins Library held a video contest in honor of **National Library Week 2009**. In keeping with the national theme "Worlds connect at your library," students, faculty and staff were asked to submit videos that illustrated how they use Perkins Library to connect to their worlds. The winner, "I'm Yours Perkins" by Stacie Sawyer and Kelsey Knehans, is a love song, which spoofs Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours." The song/video pays tribute to the many ways Perkins Library allows its patrons to connect to the world, including keeping up on Brangelina and finding out who Rick Astley is. Other entries, all of which may be accessed at http://www.youtube.com/user/HCPerkinsLibrary were:

"The Great Escape" by Stephen Cannon, Michael Fahrenbruch and Mike Merryman (Team Awesome). A student is accidentally trapped in the library and must find a way to connect to the world or lose his mind. Does he succeed? You have to watch it to find out.

* "38 Seconds to Connect" by Sara Tall and Anna Mullen (with assist by Leah Olson). An illustration, in thirty-eight seconds, of the myriad ways in which the world can be accessed via Perkins Library. Do you know them all?

- "Terror at Perkins Library" by Emily Spearman, Kellie Bate and Nick Henline. Pancrazyo, a crazed plumber, terrorizes students at Perkins Library. Happy ending? Watch and see.

In other exciting news, **Perkins Library** is proud to have been named **1st Runner up in Wiley Publishing Compan**y's "For Dummies" Library Display contest. Hastings College's motto "Pursue Your Passion" was integrated into our display, which featured photos of students, faculty and staff donning the Dummy's googly eyes and oversized pointy finger. To view photos of our award-winning display, go to http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=70979&id=589583541&l=f5e08c54db.

For photos of all entries, go to http://s543.photobucket.com/albums/gg468/DummiesLibraryContest09/ (And please note that it's hard to beat a guy dressed as a bee! Paulding County Carnegie Library, we salute you and bow down to your rightful place as first place winner!) Perkins Library will receive 40 *For Dummies* books of our choice; a trophy; a pizza party for our staff; and a prize box filled with Dummies items. Special thanks to sophomores Anna Mullen and Sara Stall, chief masterminds of the display, with help from staff and library assistants and also to the Art Department for the loan of its pedestals.

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Clarification: As reported in April's Valleytalk — Pat Hoban, volunteer from North Platte Public Library's Teen Café was honored with a rap. The rap was written by **Carolyn Clark**, web designer for NPPL. The teens performed the rap to honor Pat.

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Author Terrye Robins talked about writing and inspiration in Minden May 13th, in McCook May 14th, and in Wallace May 15th .

She is currently working on the next book in the sequel, *"Justice in Paradise".*

RVLS has the audio book "*Revenge in Paradise"* for loan.

Think About it…..

What are you going to do with the children you love this summer???

Three children will show up for kindergarten on the same day, but one will have heard **32 million fewer words**.

www.readaloudnebraska.org

Read to your child!

Read Aloud Nebraska

Total Words (in millions) Heard by Child by Age 4

45

26

13

professional   working class   poverty
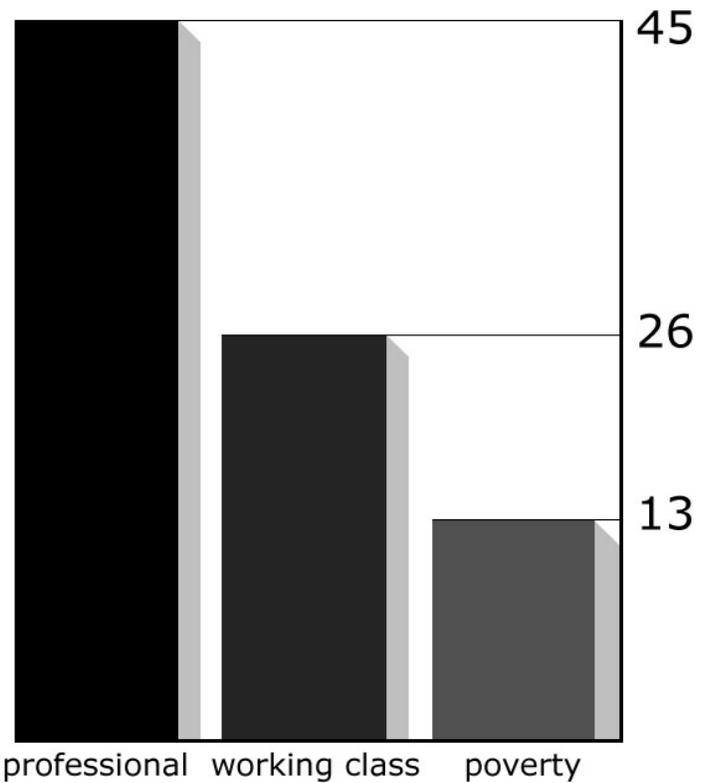
Source: Hart and Risley, *"Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children,"* 1996.

It's Your Move

The **2009 Nebraska Book Festival** will be **November 14, 2009** at the Nebraska Historical Society Museum in Lincoln. The theme is "Nebraska Writers: Cultivating Creativity." A slate of writers and workshops is being finalized, but some of the highlights will be a roundtable discussion with Nebraska poets William Kloefkorn, Ted Kooser and Don Welch and a Writer's Workshop with Kelly Madigan Erlandson and Harley Jane Kozak. The luncheon and awards ceremony will be at Chez Hay. It promises to be an extraordinary day of writers and readers promoting Nebraska's literary heritage.

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Grant Opportunity

The Nebraska State Records Board sponsors a grant program for state and local* government for the development of programs and technology to improve electronic access to state government information and services. (*Local government includes libraries: a single library can ask for a $10,000 grant, if two or more libraries collaborate on a project they can submit a grant proposal for up to $25,000.)

Grants will be awarded for one time funding of small projects (not to exceed $25,000). The grants may used for the creation or enhancement of electronic access and delivery of government services and information, but not to fund ongoing operations.

For information and grant criteria see: http:// www.staterecordsboard.ne.gov/ grants.html

If your library is in a small town more than 30 miles from a city whose population is over 40,000 (isn't that all of us), you can qualify for **Books for Children: a Rural Library Grant** from the Libri Foundation. The next deadline is August 15th. Applications can be done on-line. Some schools may qualify. Check it out:

 http:// www.librifoundation.org/ apps.html

Nominate Books for the 2009 NCB Book Award

The 2009 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), will recognize and honor books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relate to Nebraska.

Books published in 2008, as indicated by the copyright date, are eligible for nomination. Books may be entered in one or more of the following categories: Nonfiction, Fiction, Children/Young Adult, Cover/Design/Illustration, Anthology, and Poetry. Deadline for entries is **June 30, 2009**. Entry forms are available from the Nebraska Library Commission home page, www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/ ncbawards.html,

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Nebraska Library Commission are offering grants to accredited public libraries for student internships. This joint project, *Cultivating Nebraska Librarians 2.0: Building 21st Century Skills*, is funded through a partnership of Nebraska donors and foundations. These internships for youth workers are a follow-up to last year's highly successful program, which was made possible through federal funding (that is not currently available). Internship grants introduce promising high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries. The internship functions as a recruitment tool, helping the participant view the library as a viable career opportunity.

Each internship grant provides a stipend of up to $1,000 for a student to work approximately 100 hours with library staff on a variety of projects and activities. Student interns provide valuable assistance with library service activities and local library programming. Library staff help introduce high school or college students to the joys of library service careers. Grant criteria and processes are currently under development. **Application deadline: Friday, June 5, 2009**

Application forms are now available. For more information, see the Internships section of Now Hiring@ your library or visit the Nebraska Library Association Website. Questions? Please contact Pam Bohmfalk, NLA President, 402-461-2346, or Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-30702665

On the Bookshelf

The following items have been <u>recently</u> added to the RVLS Collection:

- *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult

- *Child 44* by Tom Rob Smith

- *Dewey* by Vicki Myron & Bret Witter

- *Duma Key* by Stephen King

- *Gardens of Water* by Alan Drew

- *Ghost Radio* by Maya Angeloou

- *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter* and Sweet by Jamie Ford

- *Just Take My Heart* by Mary Higgins Clark

- *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry

- *Letter to My Daughter* Maya Angelou

- *A Prisoner of Birth* Jeffrey Archer

- *Revenge in Paradise* by Terrye Robins

- *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauer Meister

- *The Shack* by William P. Young

- *Very Valentine* by Adriana Trigiana

New Professional Collection DVD's

- *Library Challenges & Opportunities—Diversity Beyond the Obvious*

- *Soaring to Excellence—An Ounce of Prevention*

A complete listing of our Professional Collection is on our web page nlc.state.ne.us/ system/republican under Services

Golden Sower Award

And the Winners are…...

The Golden Sower Committee, chaired by Kathy Schultz, Hastings Public Library, is pleased to announce the 2009 award winners and honor books!

Primary Winner:
If I Built a Car by Chris Van Dusen
Primary Honor Books:
Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor, illus. by Robin Preiss Glasser
Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen, illus. by Kevin Hawkes
Intermediate Winner:
Satch and Me by Dan Gutman
Intermediate Honor Books:
Room One: A Mystery or Two by Andrew Clements
Rules by Cynthia Lord
Young Adult Winner:
Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
Young Adult Honor Books:
Heat by Mike Lupica
Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

2009-2010 RVLS Board Meetings

President -Judy Grandstaff	**Members:** Tony Anderson, Vicki Casper, Beth Falla,
Vice-President -Patty Hall	Jane Hilton, Terri Johnson, Mary Nelson,
Secretary -Suzann Christensen	Sylvia Person, Nancy Sherwood., Dana Wade

All meetings begin at 10 am.
Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!

Friday, September 11, 2009
Klyte Burt Memorial Library—Curtis
Friday, November 6, 2009
Hoesch Memorial Library—Alma
Friday, January 8, 2010
Hastings Public Library —Hastings
Friday, March 5, 2010
Lied Imperial Public Library—Imperial
Friday, June 4, 2010—Annual Meeting
* Location to be determined

RVLS Calendar

JUNE
23—Valley Visit, Landmark Center, 2727 West 2nd, Hastings, Nebraska   (See pg. 15)
25—Farewell to NEBASE, Lincoln, Nebraska
      http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=8965

JULY
1—Valley Visit, Culbertson Public Library, 503 New York, Culbertson, Nebraska   (See pg. 15)
9-15— ALA in Chicago, Il
19-24— Leadership Institute 2009

AUGUST
5— Database Roadshow 2009, North Platte Community College, North Platte, NE
      http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=9043   (See pg. 15)
27—Issues @ your Library, Hastings Public Library, Hastings, NE (See pg. 11)

OCTOBER
7—ESU 11 Workshop (more details later)
28-30—NLA/NEMA Conference, LaVista, NE

NOVEMBER
14—NE Center for the Book Festival, Lincoln, NE (See pg. 5)

RVLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to $100.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.

Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year

All member libraries eligible

Name_____

Library_____

Event_____

Date of event_____

Scholarship requested for_____(meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested_____

Other information: Send to: Republican Valley Library System
                                                     2727 W. 2nd   # 233
                                                      Hastings, NE   68901

Broadband Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Bob Bocher, from the Wisconsin State Library Division has kindly agreed to let us use the following FAQ.
Frequently Asked Questions: Broadband Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (May 18, 2009)

Since passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, PL 111-6) in February, there has been considerable interest in the broadband language included in the law. This FAQ highlights the broadband sections in the ARRA that are of most interest to the library and education communities. It is linked to the department's broadband website at http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/arrabbfunding.html. The ALA site on the ARRA (www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus) also has links to broadband information.

Q 1: How much broadband funding is available and what are the primary purposes of the funding?
A: $7.2 billion is appropriated in the legislation. Most of this will be awarded in competitive grants, which will require a minimum 20% match from other (non-federal) funding sources. The overall purpose of the ARRA is to stimulate the economy. The specific purposes of the broadband funding are:
-To provide broadband service to consumers in unserved areas of the country and to improve broadband service to consumers in underserved areas.
-To provide broadband education, training, awareness, access, equipment and support
    o To educational institutions, libraries, and other community support organizations to facilitate greater use of broadband by or through these organizations.
    o To organizations that provide access and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband by low-income, unemployed, aged, and other vulnerable populations.

Q 2: Will the broadband funding be administered at the state or local level?
A: Neither. While much of the federal stimulus funding is being administered by states or localities, the broadband funding is being administered by two federal agencies. (1) The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) received $4.7 billion to administer the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program—BTOP. (2) The Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) received $2.5 billion for a broadband deployment program. Some of the RUS funding will likely be for low-interest loans. (Note: This FAQ focuses more on the NTIA section of the law because it is more detailed than the RUS section and the RUS language more narrowly focuses on rural areas.)

Q 3: Are grant guidelines and application forms available yet?
A: No. As of the date of this FAQ there has been no announced Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), which opens the application process. Thus while there are many rumors, there is little factual information on the grant process. The law directs the NTIA to —implement the grant program as expeditiously as practicable. NTIA staff have indicated that it will likely have three grant application timeframes: May–June 2009; October–December 2009; April–June 2010. The first NOFA is rumored to be announced in the latter half of June. In addition, the NTIA has said it anticipates four grant programs: (1) Broadband mapping; (2) Public computer center capacity; (3) Innovative uses of broadband, and; (4) Large broadband deployment and expansion.

Q 4: Who can apply for a grant?
A: The program will be open to a wide variety of applicants including government agencies, educational institutions, libraries, not-for-profits, and any other entity—including broadband providers—that the NTIA deems to be —in the public interest. Even schools and libraries with sufficient broadband capacity should be able to apply for grants that address the education and training purposes in the law.

Q 5: While grant forms are not yet available, does the law state what the funding can be used for?
A: Yes. Within the purposes stated in the law, funds can be used for the following:
-To acquire equipment, networking capability and infrastructure for broadband services.
-To construct and deploy broadband service related to infrastructure.
-To ensure access to broadband services by —community anchor institutions.
-To fund other projects the NTIA finds consistent with the purposes of the broadband program.

VALLEYTALK

Also, some of the NTIA funding is targeted at specific groups or
for specific purposes. For example:
-A minimum of $200 million is for grants to expand —public computer center capacity. Public libraries and community colleges are specifically referenced in the law as eligible for this funding.
-A minimum of $250 million is for grants for —innovative programs to encourage adoption and sustainability of broadband service. (—Innovative is not defined in the law.)
-A maximum of $350 million can be used to develop and maintain a national broadband inventory map.
-The FCC will use an unstated amount to develop a national broadband plan by February 2010. (On April 8 the FCC opened a public comment period seeking input on developing a national broadband plan.)

Q 6: The law uses many terms, like "unserved." Are these defined in the Act?
A: Many terms like —unserved, and even —broadband are not defined in the Act. The NTIA and RUS asked for public comments on how to define these terms and phrases like —community anchor institutions.

Q 7: The NTIA and RUS asked for comments on the broadband program. What are some of the key points made by some of the commenters?
A: Over a thousand comments were filed by the April 13 deadline (many were brief emails) and they are at http://
www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments.cfm . Here are excerpts from just a few filings. *American Library Association*:
Target funding for high-speed broadband connections to libraries; fiber will be the best long-term solution for most libraries;
libraries can serve as —community anchor institutions for a robust nationwide fiber network; give some accommodation for
applicants to meet the 20% funding match. *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*: More than $200M should be available to public
libraries, schools, and community colleges to "expand public computer center capacity;" require projects to connect public
libraries, schools, and community colleges to high-speed connections (100 Mbps), or the fastest connections possible. *Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction*: The $200M to expand —public computer center capacity should be targeted at a —Fiber to the
Library initiative; applications providing long-term benefits (e.g., fiber) should be given priority; the terms —unserved or
—underserved should not apply to libraries or schools; applications for the education and training purposes should have a
streamlined application process.

Q 8: What is the relationship between the new broadband program and the federal E-rate program?
A: There is no direct relationship, other than you obviously cannot get funding from both programs for the same activity.
These programs can be viewed as complementary: The broadband grant program can help pay for initial infrastructure build
out (e.g., fiber) and the E-rate can help pay for ongoing costs.

Q 9: While grant forms are not yet available, can my library or school do anything right now?
A: Yes. Talk to others (local, county, state government, regional library/education cooperatives, the higher education community, etc.) to find out what efforts may now be underway regarding a possible proposal. (Proposals showing partnerships
and aggregating demand may get priority for funding.) Also, the grant application form will likely ask for the following information in some manner: What is the problem or issue you have identified and what is your proposed solution? What are your
qualifications to manage/implement the project? What is the project's timeline? How will the project enhance education or
library services? What is the project's budget and the source of your 20% match? How will you evaluate your project? How
will you sustain it, etc.? In awarding a grant the law states that the NTIA shall consider if the project will provide the greatest
broadband speed possible and will enhance service for health care delivery, education, or children.

Q 10: The NTIA/RUS will likely get many thousands of grant applications. How will it prioritize these?
A: This is a large —unknown but possible ways the federal agencies may address this include the following.
-Limit the length of the grant narrative. (Likely to be implemented with a limit of 10-15 pages.)
-Allow states to recommend priorities or preferences. (The law allows the NTIA to —consult with states.)
-Define the purposes of the law or the targeted funding in a narrow fashion.
-Give preference to projects that:
   o Demonstrate a long-term impact (e.g., fiber).
   o Show collaboration and partnerships and/or have a regional or statewide impact.
   o Document an existing planning process or organizational structure that predates the ARRA.
The first grant cycle will likely have an application deadline of just 30-60 days. This benefits proposals that are shovel-ready
now. Projects that cannot make this timeline will need to consider the fall 2009 or spring 2010 grant submission periods.
(This assumes there will be three grant application cycles).

Free Workshop

Issues @ your Library

August 27, 2009
Hastings Public Library
517 W. 4th Street
Hastings, NE

Earn 5 CE (2.5 CE per Session)

9:30—12:00   **"What Trustees Need to Know"**
Richard Miller, NLC, Presenter
If you are on a library board or any other kind
of board , Richard Miller will discuss your
responsibilities and obligations.

12:00—1:00   Lunch on your own

1:00 —3:30   **"Internet Access – What's Your Policy?"**
Michael Sauers, NLC, Presenter
What kind of an internet policy do you have for
your library? **If you attend the afternoon session,**
you MUST send Michael a copy of your internet policy
2 weeks before the workshop.

Please pre-register by August 21st for the session(s) that you want to attend.

- -

Name:_____ Library:_____

I plan to attend the workshop at Hastings Public Library on August 27th.

_____ I will attend the morning session

_____ I will attend the afternoon session (be sure to send your library's policy to
Michael by August 13th).

E-mail: rvlsasst@inebraska.com

Call: 800-5694961 OR

Mail to: Republican Valley Library System
2727 West 2nd St, #233
Hastings, NE 68901

NLA Public Library and Trustee Spring Meeting Report

The Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) held Spring Meetings this year at Wahoo Public Library, Bridgeport Public Library, and the Lexington Public Library. The meeting included a program on **Nebraska's Open Source Integrated Library Systems Statewide Project,** presented by Greg Mickells, Assistant Library Director, Lincoln City Libraries.

Greg Mickells spoke about the option of open source software (OSS) for cooperative library catalogs. Open source software replaces the standard model of purchasing software and doing only what it allows you to do, with free software that allows you to change it to fit your needs. However, as it has been said, OSS is not free as in beer, but free as in kittens. There may be no up-front costs, but that doesn't mean there will be no costs in the long run. However, software customization and maintenance costs can be shared by partners using the system. This dynamic, flexible, affordable, Web-based option will be tested in Nebraska in the near future.

Mickells described the pilot collaborative effort in Nebraska and the activities underway through the Nebraska Pioneer Project, including:
• A core group of seven libraries of all sizes (Omaha Public Library, Lincoln City Libraries, St. Paul Public Library, Gretna Public Library, Grand Island Public Library, Bellevue Public Library, and Holdrege Area Public Library) has been formed. This partnership will be formalized through interlocal agreements, currently underway.

•Koha (www.koha.org) has been selected as the software to use to build the system.

•The partnership wrote a $100,000 grant and received funding through the Nebraska Library Commission's IMLS-funded Library Improvement grant process.

• The next step is a scoping study.

• The partnership expects to have a viable product available for testing by September.

•Additional Nebraska libraries will be invited to join the partnership at some time in the future.

Library Boards:
Create discussion, earn CE credits
Create conversation, empower the library

Earn 1 CE

Twelve vision statements came out of the Future Search Conference held in July 2009. To keep the vision alive and developing, the Regional Library Systems are highlighting the visions in their newsletters with the purpose of encouraging continued discussion among librarians, library staff, boards and their communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Visit ALA's @ *Your Library* website,www.atyourlibrary.org. Look at the information listed under the tabs at the top - "What's at the Library," "How do I use the Library," and "Why use the Library." Does your library provide the services, programs and resources identified by ALA? Do your patrons use the library for the reasons specified by ALA? Are there any issues affecting your community that may determine why/how the library is important?

2. Discuss the trends and data outlined in the 2009 State of America's Libraries report by ALA. The report is at http://www.ala.org/2009state. How does your library fit into the report? Do the findings regarding increased library usage reflect your library's usage? If not, why do you think it is different? Are children your heaviest users, why or why not? Does your library support gaming, why or why not? Based on the findings, can you identify new ways to reach the people in your community to better market library services, programs and resources?

Library Boards: Create discussion, earn CE credits Create conversation, empower the library—*continued from page 13*

    3. Use the Nebraska Library Commission's Return on Investment Wiki to learn about ROI, and determine the value or economic impact of the library in your community. Create brochures or other types of promotional materials to publicize your findings.

Listen to the Community and Develop a Plan:

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

<div align="center">Activities:</div>

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

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

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

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

Forums for Listening and Communicating:

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

<div align="center">Submitted by Marjorie Harrison, Panhandle Library System Administrator</div>

Valley Visits

Interested in changing your cataloging system? Want to know more about the new on-line catalog funded by Nebraska Library Commission and administered by a group called Pioneers? Come for a **Valley Visit.** Pam Soreide and Laura Martinsen will guide us through the project and implications for your library or media center. This informal meeting, complete with coffee, tea, and donuts will be:

Sharon Bohling, Nana Real, and Carol Schell attended the Valley Visit in McCook in March.

1.5 CE

June 23 - **10:00—11:30** at the RVLS office building (Landmark Center, 2727 W. 2nd St in Hastings), lower level meeting room

July 1 - **10:00—11:30** at the Culbertson Public Library (503 New York St., Culbertson, NE)

No charge. We can talk about other things too!!!

WHAT:	**See the changes on NebraskaAccess**
WHO:	**The Nebraska Library Commission Staff**
WHEN:	**August 5th**
WHERE:	**North Platte Community College**
	1101 Halligan Drive, North Platte
TIME:	**9:30 am —3:00 pm**

4.5 CE

Register at http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp

"When I step into this library, I can-not understand why I ever step out of it."

Marie de Sevigna

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Republican Valley Library System
2727 West 2nd Street St. # 233
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