



Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

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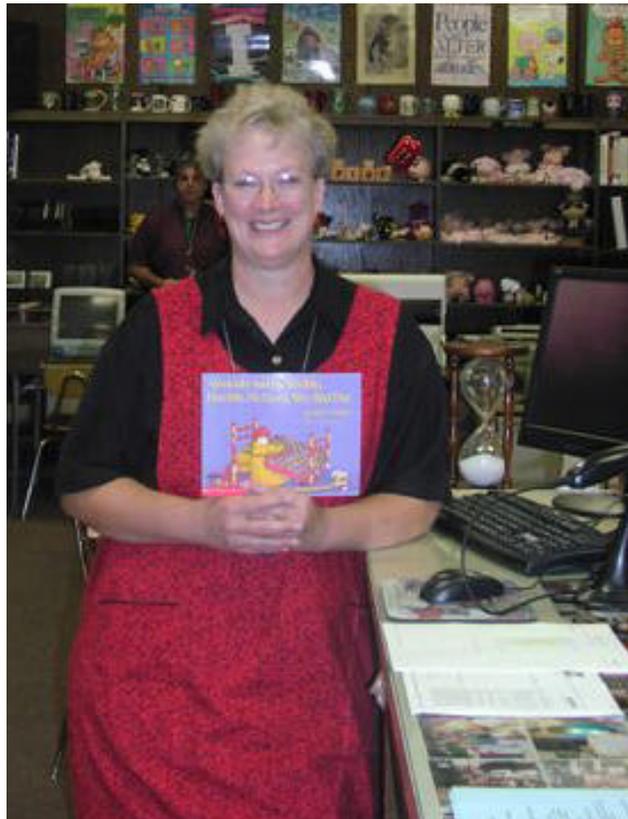
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Featured Library: HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Sherry Houston



Cool, neat, out-of-sight, rad....who knows what the current word is to describe the Hastings Middle School Media Center. I can only tell you, it is a totally awesome library/media center. Suzann Christensen is the Media Specialist who has created a dynamic learning environment for 7th and 8th graders in Hastings. As all library/media specialists know, libraries need to be safe places for all people and in school situations, media centers are there for students and especially for those

students who don't always fit with the "in" crowd. Suzann has created a library that welcomes everyone in and says "stay awhile". Suzann says middle schoolers often have negative ideas about school and libraries so she wants an atmosphere that will catch kids so they know that libraries are for pleasure as well as learning. And what an atmosphere Suzann has created! As you walk in the door you are greeted with all kinds of collections: tele-

(Continued on page 9)



The Nebraska
Regional
Library

Systems' Chocolate raffle, held at the NLA/NEMA Convention in Lincoln, September, netted a profit of \$420.87. **Beth Kabes** of ESU # 7 was the lucky winner. Thanks to everyone who supported the fundraiser!

2005-2006 RVLS Board Meetings

January 6, 2006, RVLS
Office, 2727 W 2nd #
233, Hastings, NE

March 3, 2006,
Hastings Memorial
Library (Grant)

June 2006, RVLS
Annual Meeting
Date/Location T.B.A.

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



If you have come to help me... you can go home again...

By Sherry Houston

Ruby K. Payne wrote a powerful book called *Bridges out of Poverty* and Jodi Pfarr gave one of the pre-conference workshops based on Payne's book. The workshop helped the participants understand what poverty is and isn't, and what the driving forces are in each social class. I gained the most insight about the differences in the class system in the United States by understanding what drives each of us. In poverty, the driving force is relationships, entertainment and survival. In middle class the driving force is work and achievement, and in wealth, the driving force is financial, political and social connections. For our libraries to survive and be a viable part of the community, we need people from each social class on our boards and in our committees. Pfarr's pre-conference presentation was excellent and every participant left with new understanding about human relationship and societal differences and where our libraries fit. I only wish every person attending NLA/NEMA could have heard Jodi Pfarr. She closed with this quotation:



*If you have come to help me you can go home
again, but if you see my struggles as part of
your own survival then perhaps we can work together.*
~ Lilia Watson

All System Offices have a copy of *Bridges out of Poverty* to loan. If you would like to borrow it, call 800-569-4961 or email <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com> or <rvlsadmin@inebraska.com>.



Compact Disc Listeners,

Here's a tip from the case of a book-on-CD: "Before stopping or pausing your audiobook, note the number displayed on your CD player. By knowing the track number of where you stopped listening, you can manually adjust your player to that point (track) in the story to continue listening. There are 97-99 tracks on each CD; each track is 30-60 seconds long, allowing you to find your place without "relisting" to long portions of the story.



RVLS NEWS

Cheryl Green, Director of **Clay Center Public Library**, reported that a September bakesale/booksale brought in \$961.20 and a clock raffle brought in \$274.00. Woo-hoo!

Carol Eshleman, **Young Adult Librarian**, **North Platte Public Library**, presented a session at the NLA/NEMA Convention. The Friday session was called, "Teen Beat: Inspire the Hearts of Youth." Carol will also present this session at RVLS's Make & Take Summer Reading Program Workshop (see insert).

Abi Bauer is the new Director of the **Oxford Municipal Library**. Former Director **Becky Hoffman** will continue to work at the library part time. Welcome, Abi!

Funk Public School has recently joined the Republican Valley Library System—welcome Funk Public School! **Rachael Phillips** is the librarian. Her email address is rachael@esu11.org.

Hayes Center Public Library has a new Director, **Debora Lawson**. Debora replaces **Heather Hawn**. Welcome, Debora!

Zion Lutheran School, PK-8 (Hastings) recently held a book-sale, netting over \$600. Librarian **Deb Heuer** reports that the best part was that a man from Kearney bought all remaining \$.50-\$2 books. He's building some kind of a book "house" or big room, and

just wants to line the 9' walls with books from floor to ceiling!

The next time you see **Mo Khamouna** from **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture**, ask him what his favorite ice cream topping is. Most people prefer hot chocolate or strawberry.

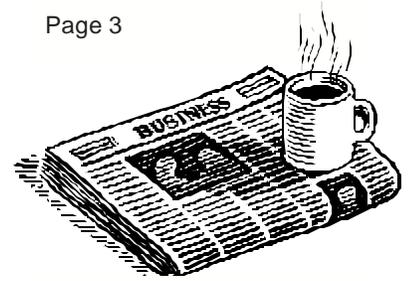


Barbeque sauce, Mo?

The **Holdrege Public Library System** recently held a free will donation book sale that netted \$1,125.33, almost triple the amount past book sales, ones with assigned-prices, netted!

Cheryl Ahrens, **RVLS Board Member** and **Director of Arapahoe Public Library**, accepted the Nebraska Head Start Humanitarian Award on behalf of her church. Congrats!

Carol Schell, **Director of Trenton Public Library**, explains that due to consolidation of schools, Trenton does not have an elementary school. The high school is in Trenton and Culbertson and Stratton have the younger students. Consequently, she says, it is difficult for her to get any young people in the library, so she has started going to the **Precious Promises Preschool** to read to the morning and afternoon classes every Thursday. The children are receiving the benefits of the library, even though their working parents may not have



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

time to bring them to the library, itself. The director of the preschool, **Nita Sheldon**, also checks out several children's books at a time to keep at the preschool so the children get the concept of borrowing books and returning them. This, as Carol says, is a case of the mountain going to Mohammed—the kids can't come to her, so she goes to them!



Terri Johnson and **Carol Eshelman** from **North Platte Public Library** received grants from the Nebraska Library Commission to attend PLA (Public Library Association) in Boston in March. Congratulations to both of you as filling out those grant applications is never easy!





NLA Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2005
Nebraska Library Association
Award Winners!

NLA Meritorious Service Award

John Seyfarth

NLA Mari Sandoz Award

Dr. Joseph Wydeven

NLA Trustee Citation

Award

Gerald Bryant

NLA Presidential Award for Excellence

Diversity Committee

Members: Charlene Maxey-
Harris (Chair), John Bernardi,
Nancy Escamilla, Jodene

Glaesemann, Shalini

Miskelly, Gretchen Healy

PLS Excalibur Award

Wendy Anderson

C&U Distinguished Service Award

Dana Boden

SCYP Mad Hatter Service Award

Kathy Schultz

Para Section Paraprofessional of the Year

Jenni Puchalla

NMRT Mentor of the Year Award

Dr. Becky Pasco

S&I Promotion Award

Joy Winkler &

Erin Egan-Osburn

S&I Distinguished Service Award

Karen Stefero & Beth Goble

NMRT/Houchen Beginning Professional of the Year

Susan Skinner

It's Your Move

ISBNs are in the process of transition-
ing from 10-digits to 13-digits, a
process that will be complete in January
of 2007. For an "ISBN FAQ for
Librarians," go to <[http://
www.niso.org/standards/resources/
ISBN.html](http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/ISBN.html)>.



RVLS recently added a new
Cat die to its Ellison
inventory. For a complete list
of die inventory, go to

<[www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/
republican/ellison.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/ellison.html)>. To borrow the
one of the Ellison machines and dies or
to have cutouts made for you, email
<rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>.

If you're looking for a performer,
Jason Huneke, a 21-year-old profes-
sional **juggling entertainer** from
Zumbrota, Minnesota, is interested in
performing for your summer reading
programs and other events held at
your library throughout the year. He
began juggling at age 12 as "Jason
The Juggler" has entertained at over
300 fairs, festivals, schools, libraries,

and other events across the Mid-
west. He is currently a student at
Winona State University studying
Finance. His juggling show is about
30 minutes in length, but can be tai-
lored to fit your needs. The show is
very entertaining and the children
will experience many different forms
of juggling, unicycling, balancing,
and manipulation along with back-
ground music and audience partici-
pation. He can also
provide balloon artistry,
strolling juggling, and
juggling work-
shops. His goal is to have
everyone leave the show
with a smile on their
face. If you would like to learn more,
please visit his website at
www.JasonTheJuggler.com, where
you will find pictures and more
information. Also, if you would like
to see his promotional video, email
him at Jason_huneke@msn.com and
he would be happy to send you a
CD. Please email him
for availability, rates, bookings, and
other questions.



Happy Holidays
from RVLS!

On the Bookshelf



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

- ◆ *A Trainer's Companion: Stories to Stimulate Reflection, Conversation, Action* by Walter R. Olsen and William A. Sommers (2004)
- ◆ *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities*, by Ruby K. Payne, Philip DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith (2001)
- ◆ "Google and Your Patrons" College of DuPage Teleconference Video (11/18/2005)
- ◆ *Connecting Boys with Books: What Libraries Can Do*, by Michael Sullivan (2003)
- ◆ *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries* 3rd edition by Patrick Jones, Michele Gorman, and Tricia Suellentrop (2004)

Books on CD:

- ◆ *Jack Spratt Investigates The Big Over Easy* by Jasper Fforde
- ◆ *Lost in a Good Book* by Jasper Fforde (A Thursday Next Novel)
- ◆ *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- ◆ *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson
- ◆ *Something Rotten* by Jasper Fforde (A Thursday Next novel)
- ◆ *The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love* by Jill Conner Browne
- ◆ *The Well of Lost Plots* by Jasper Fforde (A Thursday Next Novel)
- ◆ *Ya-Yas in Bloom* by Rebecca Wells

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, go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.



Make and Take Notes

RVLS is holding two Make and Takes this year. One will be February 22, 2006 in McCook 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 places. 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. See the inserts to decide which Make and Take you want to attend.





Language Arts Festival

Wayne State College will host its first Language Arts Festival on March 31 and April 1, 2006. The Festival is designed to celebrate the achievements of Nebraska students in the English Language Arts by: providing opportunities to attend presentations, performances, and interactive workshops; inviting students to submit short stories and poetry to a writing context; providing a venue where students can present exhibits, original dramas, and videos; evaluating and rewarding students' achievements in the Language Arts; offering opportunities for positive interactions with the students and faculty of Wayne State College; inviting parents to participate.

It is requested that this information be passed on to interested teachers and students in your school district.

For complete information, including a packet of information about the Language Arts festival, please contact

Dr. Stan Gardner,
WSC, Conn Library Director
402-375-7257 or e-mail:
<stgardn1@wsc.edu >.

RVLS Calendar

January 2006

- 6—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., RVLS Office, 2727 West 2nd Street #233, Hastings, NE.
- 24—Grant Writing/Tax Info Workshop, 9:30-4, North Platte Community College, North Platte. See flyer insert.
- 26—Grant Writing/Tax Info Workshop, 9:30-4, Hastings College. See flyer insert.

February 2006

- 3—"Always a River, Sometimes a Library: Library Practice and Patron Service" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte.
- 22—Make & Take Summer Reading Program, McCook. See flyer insert.

March 2006

- 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. See insert for details!
- 10—"Library Management Hot Topics" College of DuPage Teleconference 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte
- 21-26—Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Boston, MA.

April 2006

- 6—Rural Library Sustainability Workshop, Holiday Inn Express, North Platte.
- 7—"Serving Immigrant Populations: A Library Prototype for Diversity" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, CCC-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte.
- 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 & McKinley Education Center-North Platte.

June 2006

- 2—RVLS Annual Meeting, Details T.B.A.

July 23-August 5, 2006

Literary Ireland Tour—See insert.

October 2006

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

July 2007

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



Reading-PUPS

During the NLA/NEMA conference, I attended a session called Domesti-PUPS which talked about Lincoln Public Libraries program called Reading-Pups. I was so taken with the program, I forgot to take notes or pictures (much to Susan's chagrin) so I e-mailed Michelle Ashley, the organizer of Nebraska's Domesti-PUPS program. According to Michelle, the Reading-PUPS program utilizes therapy teams to assist children with speech and reading difficulties. Children are more at ease reading out loud to a friendly dog than a human. Domesti-PUPS pet therapy teams visit local Lincoln schools and libraries to help motivate children to read and improve their confidence levels. As I watched the video of the children reading to the dogs, I thought how all my grandchildren, with or without reading difficulties, would benefit from a program like this in their schools and how much fun it would be to volunteer for an organization like this.



Michelle writes: "One key to the success of the Reading-Pups Program experience is a shift away from the reader viewing themselves as the target of yet another remedial program, and toward them seeing themselves as tutors and helpers for the dog. This is liberating and satisfying for the reader, and frees them from performance pressure. Children improve their reading skills in a unique and fun environment; The program is extremely flexible and can be implemented in many settings; The program promotes another way that animals can make a positive difference in children's lives; The program effortlessly crosses all socioeconomic and cultural lines, since the animals are without bias and judgment; The program addresses the "whole person" of the child, thus the benefits overflow into other areas of the child's life beyond reading and intellectual skills."

Children like to read cat stories to the dogs!

If you have interest in the Reading-PUPS program, please email <info@domesti-pups.org>.

~ By Sherry Houston



“He’s making his list and checking it twice...”

We all know what happens next, don’t we? If you’re searching for holiday gifts for the people on your “Nice” list, consider these books listed in Ingram’s *Advance Magazine Supplements*

Children’s Books

A is for Angel by Debbie Tafton O’Neal, ISBN 0-8066-5121-0, \$10.99

Christmas at the Top of the World by Tim Coffey, ISBN 0-8075-5763-3, \$6.95

Christmas for a Kitten by Robin Pulver, ISBN 0-8075-1154-4, \$6.95

The Christmas Humbugs by Colleen Monroe, ISBN 1-58536-271-9, \$6.99

A City Christmas Tree by Rebecca Bond, ISBN 0-316-53731-4, \$15.99

Kringle by Tony Abbott, ISBN 0-439-74942-5, \$14.99

Pooch on the Loose by Steven Kroll, ISBN 0-7614-5239-7, \$14.95

Santa Baby by Janie Bynum, ISBN 0-316-00067-1, \$10.99

Santa Claus, The World’s Number One Toy Expert by Marla Frazee, ISBN 0-15-204970-3, \$16

The Something Wonderful: A Christmas Story by Karen Hill, ISBN 1-58134-732-4, \$15.99

That’s Not All I Want for Christmas by S. Buchanan & L. Hodges, ISBN 0-7814-4078-5, \$12.99

When Cows Come Home for Christmas by Dori Chaconas, ISBN 0-8075-8877-6, \$15.95

Winter’s Gift by Jane Monroe Donovan, ISBN 1-58536-231-X, \$15.95

A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree by Colleen Monroe, ISBN 1-58536-269-7, \$6.99

Write to Santa Kit, ISBN 1-58476-360-4, \$14.99



Adult/Gift Books

The Best American Short Stories 2005, ISBN 0-618-42705-8, \$14

A Christmas Compendium by J. John, ISBN 0-8264-8749-1, \$19.95

Christmas’s Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Kris Kringles, Merry Jingles, and Holiday

Cheer by Kevin Cuddihy and Phillip Metcalfe, ISBN 1-57488-968-0, \$12.95

Confessions of a French Baker by Peter Mayle, ISBN 1-40004-474-X, \$16.95

An Edwardian Lady’s Flower Album (calendar), ISBN 0-7112-2528-1, \$19.95

Guinness World Records 2006, ISBN 1-904994-02-4, \$27.95

The Lincoln Lawyer by Michael Connelly, ISBN 0-316-73493-4, \$26.95

1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die, 0-7641-5907-0, \$35



(Continued from page 1)

Featured Library: Hastings Middle School



phones, pigs, mugs, M&M items, lamps that turn on when the phone rings, fish and the list goes on. Students can sit in old recliners or at booths with tables. They can have food or water. Every English class meets in the library, once every two weeks, and the English teacher and Suzann sometimes team teach the class, or the students do free reading or watch a video.

Computers with data-

bases from Nebraska Library Commission as well as World Book Encyclopedia are heavily used. The newest development is the library/media center catalog that is shared with Hastings Public Library. Students can see what the Public Library has and Public Library patrons can see what materials Hastings Public Schools have. What an asset for all involved!

If you are interested in chess, there is a Chess Club that meets on Wednesday after school for about an hour. Then during lunch, the *WORMS* group meets. That is Wacky, Outstanding Readers Meet Secretly. They bring lunch and talk about a book that they have read or are reading. Students and teachers participate. Suzann notices a resurgence in reading among students as well as adults and feels reading for pleasure is very important for students as they have such structured lives and pleasure reading creates lifelong readers.

Suzann gives credit to her administrators who allow her to be innovative and realize the importance of an interesting, sometimes noisy, exciting library/media center in a school system.

Suzann and her para-educators schedule classes, smart boards, wireless computers and other technology for teachers. Hastings Middle School is one busy place, but Suzann says library, foremost, is about people. You must be open and inviting and enjoy where you work, then all who enter will know they have come to a place of great wonder and fun, with a little learning thrown in!



Breakfast with the Gates Foundation

By Vicki Perrie, Superior Public Library Director

Six lucky small town librarians from across the state (one from each system) were invited to have breakfast with Martha Choe, Director, Global Libraries Program, and Kara Hannigan, Program Training Manager, Global Libraries Program from the Gates Foundation. Before the breakfast we all received packets with a report to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation about sustainability in the first ten states that received the Gates grants.

The Gates Foundation wanted to make sure that libraries were able to sustain their online computers for the public. A survey was sent out to random libraries across the first ten states to see how they were doing, and if they were having trouble sustaining the computers or their Internet access. They were happy to learn that most of the libraries were still able to provide Internet access to their patrons, but they are worried that they wouldn't have the resources to sustain the hardware.

Martha Choe and Kara Hannigan have been out talking to librarians about what is necessary to make our technology services sustainable in our rural areas, and they are hearing the same things all over the country. The Gates Foundation is now working on how to support our libraries' efforts to sustain public access into the future.

At our breakfast it was brought up that most of us (five out of the six) present did not have access to technical support for computer problems. We either have ourselves, a high school student, or a friend that we rely on when things go wrong. Many of us have long distances to a computer repair shops so it is not economically possible to call every time something goes wrong. Martha suggested that this might be an area where they could help by creating a database of common computer problems and posting it on the Internet. Another idea was a Nebraska based message board where librarians could help each other with questions and answers about their computers. Right now there are just a lot of ideas being thrown around, but the Gates Foundation is hopeful that soon it will be able to help us with finding funds either through it or somewhere else for hardware, training, and workshops to sustain our computers.

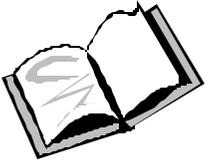
One training that will be offered by the Nebraska Library Commission and WebJunction is a Rural Library Sustainability Workshop; see page 15 for more information.

If you have suggestions or concerns you might send an e-mail to Sherry at RVLS (rvlsadmin@inebraska.com) or Pam Scott at the Commission (pscott@nlc.state.ne.us) so they can share your thoughts with the training committee or the Gates Foundation.



Vicki is pictured above reading to Holdrege Public Library System's dragon mascot.





Derailed Again

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

Question: What do Kevin Spacey and I have in common?

Answer: Unfortunately, just the word spacey.

My family finds endless amusement in my spacey moments. My daughters and I will be engaged in conversation when, zip, I totally lose my train of thought. I used to try to cover up my mental lapses, now I just laugh and admit, "Oops, I got derailed." Little do they know that my thought derailment was caused by an idea that came screaming through and knocked that train of thought right off the track.

Maybe having that screaming voice in my head explains why I find MPD, multiple personality disorder a.k.a. DID, dissociative identity disorder, so fascinating. The idea of having numerous other people, real people, living inside one person's head is mind-boggling. Wow! What a cacophonous racket!

Imagine the jarring realization that the "you" that you had always known was a façade for at least 11 other personalities. This is the situation that unfolds in "A Fractured Mind" by Robert B. Oxnam.

"It all happened with stunning speed in the years of 1990 and 1991. ...As late as February 1990, Bob felt that he was a "whole person," not afflicted by any dissociative disorder whatever and recovering from his alcohol addiction. A few months later, Bob had been diagnosed with multiple personality disorder, informed that his inner architecture was a castle, and introduced to a series of inner personalities... "

How bizarre would that be to be introduced to your ten "alters"? And what fascinating alters they are! There's Bob, Tommy, Young Bob, Lawrence the timekeeper, Robbey, Robert, Bobby the bad, Witch, Eyes, and (you guys will like this one) Librarian. Oxnam brings new angst to the question, "Who am I?" Each alter had his own posture, facial expressions, way of dressing and value system. Each waited to reveal himself until the proper time. Poor Bob was a step behind his alters. For decades they had known about Bob while he had no clue of their existence.

"But for the rest of us, we all knew about Bob from way back and we all knew about one another. He was like a king preening and parading outside the walls, but the hard work was all being done within the Castle itself. The Castle had been there for a half century, not only housing several inner personalities, but also bubbling with activity."

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Derailed Again

The Castle was a typical MPD way to organize the different alters occupying the mind's space. Tommy was the first alter to disclose the outlay of the Castle.

"The Castle was Middle Ages-style, standing on a large hill. It was made of gray stones and topped with long walkways and towers at the corners. In front of the Castle was a drawbridge spanning a river leading down to a massive lake with a towering mountain range on the other side. Above the drawbridge was a high bell tower, featuring a large clock with golden hands and Roman numerals and flags fluttering on top. ...The large living area contained a stone fireplace, a leather easy chair and an ottoman, an oil lamp on a heavy end table covered with stacks of leather-bound books. ...At the back of the living room were two massive doors to the Castle library. ...The key to the dungeon was on an end table right next to the big leather chair."

Yeow! Is the mind a complex place or what! Not only did Bob's mind come up with all those people it also came up with walls that would keep them from interacting.

Everyone who has seen the movie "Sybil" knows that MPD is caused by abuse that goes beyond horrifying. The mind compartmentalizes itself as a way to survive the abuse. Oxnam doesn't dwell on what happened to him between one and five years of age. He briefly tells about the abuse but remains true to the focus of the book: the autobiography of his alters and their integration. Integration, trying to integrate the alters, is the treatment for MPD.

Now here's where you have to marvel at the mind of Bob's therapist, Dr. Smith. He had to keep track of the alters and their characteristics so he knew to whom he was talking. This could change in a flash numerous times during a session. He had to learn which alters talked to each other and which didn't. If they didn't speak to each other Dr. Smith would have to communicate messages back and forth to various alters. If that wasn't confusing enough, after two years of therapy Bob decided to give up the dominant outside personality position to Robert. Sound easy? It wasn't. Bob and Robert each had demands they wanted met before they would switch. So they negotiated through Dr. Smith. Are you dizzy yet?

Another amazing piece of Oxnam's life was that having all those people in his head didn't stop him from being a successful Asia specialist and speaker. Oxnam was held in such high esteem that he gave lecture tours of China to the likes of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.

In an interesting twist to his life... *Ahhhh! Screaming idea coming in!* Well, that thought was derailed. Readers, this train has left the tracks. I'm just glad it stayed on course as long as it did. Happy Holidays!



Library Science Coursework

Have you thought about taking community college coursework in the areas of library and information science?

If you answered yes, you might be interested in any of the two different courses that will be provided through two different community colleges in Nebraska in early 2006.

Don't delay! Registration time is just around the corner!!! Any of the classes listed below are part of the requirement for the Library Technical Assistant Associate of Arts Degree option.

The Nebraska Library Commission is also providing scholarship opportunities for students registering for any of the Library Technical Assistant courses through the Nebraska Community Colleges. Visit the following web address to see the requirements for the application process: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/LTA/ltascholarship.htm>

Contact Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission, email: psscott@nlc.state.ne.us for additional information.

LIBR 1210 PUBLIC SERVICES IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Provided through Southeast Community College (SCC-Lincoln), Winter Term, 2006 (January 5, 2006-March 17, 2006).

This course will cover the following topics: Assessing customer needs; Use of information tools; Outreach services; Proactive public services; Data-driven decision making; Diversity of customers and their needs; Legal aspects of library policies; Effects of current legislation

Format: Online. Note: There will be one face-to-face meeting as part of a library tour: Students will choose between either Ogallala on Saturday, March 4th or Lincoln on Sunday, March 5th 2006.

Contact Mike Pegram, Student Advisor, SCC-Lincoln, at 1-800-642-4075, ext. 2788

Instructor: Jodene Glaesemann; email: jglaesemann@aol.com; phone: 402-476-7240

Registration begins: December 1, 2006.

LIBR 2200 INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Provided through Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC), Spring Term, 2006 (January 9th, 2006-April 21st, 2006)

This course will cover the following topics: Collection Management Policies; Selection Practices and Procedures; Material Acquisition; Intellectual Freedom; Collection Evaluation; Intellectual Property Issues; Weeding, Donations, Resource Sharing; Materials Preservation, and more.

Format: Online

Orientation: January 7th, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in either Omaha or North Platte

Contact Sherry Mihel, Student Advisor, MPCC-North Platte, via email: mihels@mpcc.edu or via phone at 1-800-658-4308 or Rick Michaelsen, Student Advisor, McCook Community College, via email: michaelsenr@mpcc.edu or via phone at 1-800-658-4348.

Instructor: Patty Birch; email: pbirch@esu16.org; phone: 308-532-8667.

General registration begins November 14th, 2005.

Again, thank you for your interest in library science education!

Pam Scott

Continuing Education Coordinator

Nebraska Library Commission

psscott@nlc.state.ne.us

800-307-2665



10 Best Health Web Sites

- ◆ MEDLINEPlus® English/Spanish <http://medlineplus.gov>
- ◆ Lab Tests Online <http://www.labtestsonline.org/>
- ◆ Cancer.gov
- ◆ Alternative Medicine Foundation <http://www.amfoundation.org/>
- ◆ Mayo Clinic <http://www.mayoclinic.com/>
- ◆ Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- ◆ National Center for Health Statistics/FastStats <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/Default.htm>
- ◆ NOAH New York Online Access to Health <http://www.noah-health.org/>
- ◆ MEDEM: an information partnership of over 45 medical societies <http://www.medem.com/>
- ◆ healthfinder <http://www.healthfinder.gov/>

Presented by Roxanne Cox, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, at the Consumer Health Symposium, November 10, 2005, Sandhills Convention Center, Quality Inn & Suites, North Platte.



Hastings Public Library—Hastings Public Schools Automation System Merger

By Pam Bohmfalk, Hastings Public Library, & Suzann Christensen, Hastings Middle School

Twelve years ago, the Hastings Public Schools (HPS) made the decision to implement Dynix as its library automation system. Dynix is known as a worldwide leader in library automation and is used by libraries of all types and sizes, including the Hastings Public Library (HPL).

Expenses incurred with Dynix (and all automation systems) include annual software and hardware maintenance fees. In addition, libraries must budget for the systematic replacement of hardware and implementation of software upgrades.

In times of economic stress, libraries need to practice fiscal responsibility. One way to achieve this is through resource sharing. The school librarians approached the Hastings Public Library with a proposal for merging our automation systems.

The proposal met with a favorable response. Approval was sought from the City of Hastings with an interlocal agreement, from the HPS School Board, and from the Public Library Board. Along the way, ideas were shared and options discussed.

July 5, 2005 was the “go live” date for our merged databases. The school personnel were trained by Pam Bohmfalk and Cecilia Slingsby and the HPL staff answered countless questions (and they continue to do so).

While the merger is still a work in progress and will be for some time, we are excited and proud to be a part of this project, the first of its kind for Dynix libraries in Nebraska. The benefits are

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Rural Library Sustainability Program

This program is a cooperative venture between WebJunction and the
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is providing funds through the state libraries to assist with the costs of the planning and implementation of the workshops along with funding to help support library staff and trustee participation in the workshops (e.g. mileage, accommodations if needed etc.)

WebJunction is responsible for developing the curriculum for these workshops in a collaborative effort with the 1st participating states which include: Alabama, Illinois, New Mexico, Alaska, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Nebraska.

The Rural Library Sustainability program is designed to help libraries in rural communities under 25,000 to better address the following focus areas:

Library Community Connections	Upgrade and Maintenance
Staff and Patron Training	Funding
Outreach	Advocacy

The day-long workshops will include four different training modules that the trainer, Pam Scott will present: Continuum of evaluation of the focus areas noted above; WebJunction as a resource; action planning; brainstorming; and including modules to meet specific state needs. We may be including a feedback session on the updating of the Nebraska Trustee Manual. Workshop will include lunch on site. **RVLS workshop sites will be Holiday Inn, North Platte, April 6, and Hastings College, Hastings, April 10.**

Library staff and trustees will be provided continuing education credits for participating in the workshop. For example, if attendance is all day--- 8 hours of CE. It will be a great opportunity to share successful ideas and programs in the focus areas listed above. Watch for more information to come!!



(Continued from page 14)

HPL—HPS Automation Merger

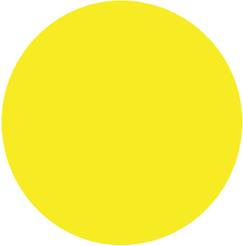
mutual. There will be a cost savings for both entities. We are sharing uniform data rather than duplicating it. Staff members from HPL and HPS are working cooperatively and sharing ideas. We are promoting resource sharing at both the school libraries and at the public library. It is a seamless venture for students to go from using their school library to using the public library. We are ensuring that library services are, and will continue to be, of utmost importance to our patrons. A press conference celebrating this first-in-Nebraska resource sharing venture was held Monday, November 14 at 4p.m. at Hastings Public Library.

Libraries are fundamental to civilized society and library services are a public good. -- Arthur Curley



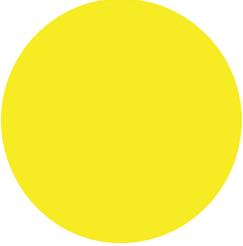
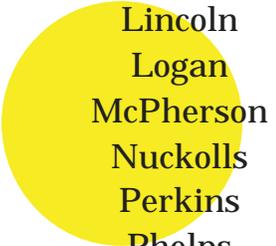
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Nuckolls
Perkins
Phelps
Red Willow
Webster



Golden Sower Awards

Grades K-3: *Togo* by Robert Blake

Grades 4-6: *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli

Young Adult: *Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe

Happy 25th Birthday to the Golden Sower Award! First presented in 1981, the award honored Deborah and James Howe for *Bunicula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery*. The single category, Grades 4-6, drew 4,185 readers/voters. The first picture book was awarded in 1983 to author Judy Barrett and illustrator Ron Barrett for their book *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. With the addition of the Grades K-3 category, votes grew to 9,960. The Young Adult award was added in 1992. The first Young Adult award was presented to Joan Lowery Nixon in 1983 for *Whispers From the Dead*. Vote totals reached 59,688!

(Information taken from "Celebrate 25th Happy Birthday Golden Sower Award" birthday card)