Breaking Your Library's Humdrum Bubble!

Is your library bursting with energy and bustling with customers or is it humdrum and lifeless? Just like your local pharmacist or mailman, it is the librarian that 'sells' the idea of what a library is and what a library can be to everyone who strolls through your doors. How can you shake and break those ruts when the librarian is a rut too? The key is communication.

By definition, rut means a fixed course difficult to part from. Doing things the same way just because that's the same way you've always done them does provide some comfort but starves you from growth opportunities. Change can be difficult for some people to accept. One of the most vital factors in defining your career is knowing yourself. If you take a moment and reflect honestly about who you are, you will grow both personally and professionally. Take a moment and answer these self-reflection questions:

• What activities do you enjoy and why?
• If you could study any subject, what would it be and why?
• Would you rather work with people, things, ideas, information/data, or some combination of these?
• What types of people do you enjoy working or socializing with and why?

Be honest. A few weeks before the new year begins, what is your mood? Are you looking for new ways to present your library or do you do the same thing year after year after year? Do your shoulders slump with dread at the thought of reading the same storytime selection for the 10,000th time or do you present as freshly as you can, knowing that members of your young audience are hearing it with first time anticipation?

Consider last year's halftime show during Super Bowl XL where Mick Jagger sang 'Satisfaction' for the millionth time. Don't you think he is sick of singing that song concert after concert, year after year? Yet you couldn't tell by watching, and that's the point! True professionals do their best to give a fresh performance. Are you doing what you can to breath life into your job performance? Communicate with yourself first by assessing how you do something as routine as a storytime.

Experts advise that when beginning a new exercise regimen, the best way to stick with the changes is to share your goals and progress with others. In this context, maybe that means sharing your self-reflection responses with a colleague. Maybe that means you extend yourself in different ways to the patrons you serve and encourage them to move outside of their comfort zone as well.
Quick Storytime Rut-Busting Ideas

- Videotape yourself reading aloud to children. Watch the video objectively or with a colleague who has offered to provide constructive criticism.
- Watch cartoons periodically and try to mimic a new voice, especially if you use the same voice for every character!
- Before a read-aloud session, exercise your face muscles, do some deep breathing, and warm up your voice in an up-and-down trill. These simple physical acts will improve your stamina and reading performance. Have the kids help you warm up - it gets their wiggles out and also provides anticipation for what you will do next!

Rut-Busting Reference Ideas

- Set a goal to find five new reliable Web sites a month.
- Go to someone else's library and pose a reference question of your own. How did the librarian's style differ from your own?
- Time yourself. How long did it take you put someone in the right direction? Challenging yourself and making a "game" out of it keeps you on your toes.

More Rut-Busting Tips

- Do a little redecorating now and then. Move potted plants around. Display new posters every month.
- When visiting vendor booths at professional conferences, take the time to scope out three new vendors that you have never purchased from before, just to see what they have to offer.
- Keep up with professional journals. Several are packed with refreshing new approaches that your colleagues around the country use.
- Don't just join your state's library association, get involved! Click on the Web site, volunteer for a committee, and write letters to your congressmen on the association's behalf. Meeting other proactive people will bolster you and stretch your current professional boundaries.

(Taken from "Rut Busters! How to Inject Life into a Lifeless Library" by Jennifer Coleman, Library Medica Connection, February 2007)
Public Library Health Outreach Grant Available

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Skin Deep Project “is a two-year venture featuring an ambitious outreach and education program aimed at students, their teachers and the general public. As part of the project, AAAS will award up to 14 sub-grants to public libraries to do health outreach during 2006 in conjunction with the upcoming publication, Human Skin: The Science Inside. In addition to supplying libraries with copies of the book and free skin-related giveaways, AAAS will provide up to $500 for programmatic support. It is recommended that libraries that wish to apply for these grants consider partnering with local health and community-based organizations.” [http://www.healthlit.org/skindeep.htm](http://www.healthlit.org/skindeep.htm). Also, see the web site on the Skin Deep project at [http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/skindeep/](http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/skindeep/).

Make sure to contact Marty Magee, Nebraska State Liaison, at 402-559-7076 mmagee@unmc.edu or Siobhan Champ-Blackwell if you are considering applying for this outreach project.

Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, MSLIS
Community Outreach Liaison
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region
Creighton University Health Sciences Library
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178
800-338-7657 in CO, KS, MO, NE, UT, WY
402-280-4156 outside the region
siobhan@creighton.edu

Nebraska Library Commission Blog

This new addition to the Library Commission’s communication and publishing activities offers timely posts about activities, events, issues and topics related to Nebraska library services. In many cases these short conversational posts include links to further information. Library staff, supporters, and customers are invited to comment on any information item by clicking on the comments hotlink at the end of the posting. The Blog is divided into the following categories of interest to the Nebraska library community:

- Books & Reading
- Education & Training
- General Information Resources
- Library Management
- Now Hiring @ your library®
- Public Relations
- Talking Book & Braille Service (TBBS)
- Technology
- Youth Services

Access the Nebraska Library Commission Blog by clicking the “text balloon” Blog icon on the left side of the Nebraska Library Commission home page ([www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)) or directly at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/index.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/index.html). RSS feeds can be set up to provide an alert when new content has been added to the Blog. For information and to subscribe, click the orange and white icon on right side of the Nebraska Library Commission Home Page ([www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)) or see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/feeds/feeds.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/feeds/feeds.asp).
Northeast News

Stephanie Grace Whitson will be speaking at the St. Edward Public Library on Sunday, March 25, 2007. In addition to her talk, 'Time Travel the Calico Trail', an area quilt display is planned.

Chocolate lovers alert!! The Friends of the Hruska Memorial Public Library held their Festival of Chocolate on Saturday, February 3rd. Events included a chocolate baking contest, chocolate games and tasting of chocolate samples.

Clearwater Public Library held an open house and book sale. Funds raised were matched by Thrivant and will go towards the purchase of an indoor book drop.

The South Sioux City Public Library will host a display depicting life in the Midwest during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930’s. The exhibit, on loan from the Nebraska Endowment for the Humanities, will be here during the months of February and March.

Congratulations to Christina Laska, a recent winner of the Nebraska Library Association's Youth Volunteer Award. Despite being busy with speech, drama and music at school, Christina is a dedicated volunteer at the St. Edward Public Library. She helps patrons with research, computers and encourages her friends to read.

Other Northeast Library System nominated volunteers were: Kayla Aase - Osceola Public Schools, Will Driver - Battle Creek Public Library, Erika Medina, Schuyler Central High School, Alex Wolf - Stanton Public Library and Katelynn Zila - Battle Creek Public Library.

Grab your exploration gear and buckle up as the O’Neill Public Library travels back in time to: the Stone Age, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Babylon and Ancient Greece. 'Let’s Go Back in Time' is the name of several programs the library is offering for ages ten and up.

It's 'For the Birds', the first “Family Night at the Stromsburg Public Library on Monday, February 5. The hour-long session at 6:30 p.m. will include stories, activities, and crafts about birds, birdhouses, bird feeding, and birdseeds. Families will learn about “The Great Backyard Bird Count,” an annual four-day event where participants can count birds anywhere for as little as 15 minutes.

Shayne Callan of Columbus gave a presentation recently at the Columbus Public Library for their One Book, One Columbus program. Callan is known as a ‘dog whisperer’ and trains dogs at her Flat Water Canine Training Center near Shelby. Numerous dog events are being planned around the book, "Marley & Me", the One Book, One Columbus selection.

Digital Photography 101, a basic workshop for folks who just bought a digital camera, will be held on Monday, February 26, at the Hartington Public Library. Topics to be covered include basic digital camera operation, storage media, picture taking, downloading photos to your computer and photo printing services.
One Book for Nebraska Kids
2007

Sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission & the Regional Library Systems - 2007

Wouldn’t it be great if kids all over Nebraska were talking about books? We are starting a new program where kids can all read and discuss the same book. This year’s book is aimed at fourth to sixth graders. It is about a boy who risks a lot to try to rescue a bear cub: *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelsen. A book bag containing 15 paperback copies of the book along with discussion questions, activities and background information is available from the regional library system offices.

Plans are underway to set up one or two opportunities for youth to interact with the author via the computer. Date(s) and time to be announced.

February and March are the designated months for this year’s book discussion; however, this is a great book to read anytime and librarians may borrow the book set whenever it is available and fits into their library or school’s schedule. In the future we plan to promote the One Book for Nebraska Kids or One Book for Nebraska Teens for January and February as the designated months.

This is the kickoff of an ongoing event that will alternate between upper elementary age level and middle school age level titles. A title for middle school age, the “One Book for Nebraska Teens,” will be selected for the 2008 program.

Call Shelia at 1-800-578-1014 to schedule the book bag today!

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Tattoo Anyone?

The Archie McPhee Company, the folks who brought us the Nancy Pearl - inspired Librarian Action Figure, now offer ‘The Illustrated Librarian Temporary Tattoos’, a booklet with 12 nontoxic temporary tattoos. The tattoos can decorate any part of you anatomy with sayings such as ‘Read or Die’, ‘Literate for Life’, or ‘Born to Read’. For ordering information, see the website: http://www.mcphée.com/items/11696.html.
ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA:
Crazy Horse; The Strange Man of the Oglalas
by Mari Sandoz

The Mari Sandoz historical biography, Crazy Horse; The Strange Man of the Oglalas has been selected as the featured book for the 2007 statewide celebration of One Book One Nebraska. Published in 1942, Crazy Horse is one of the best-known books written by Sandoz. More than a description of the life of an individual, Crazy Horse is an in-depth look at the culture and spirituality of the Oglala Sioux.

Sandoz conducted extensive research on all of her subjects, and Crazy Horse was no exception. She interviewed numerous native people who knew the subject and events that shaped the fate of their culture. An unswerving advocate for the Plains Indians, Sandoz worked to shed light on the challenges native people faced in the wake of the expansion of a growing American nation.

Activities to mark the 2007 celebration of One Book One Nebraska are being organized by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. Those efforts will include book discussion groups, school resource guides, traveling exhibits and the Annual Conference of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society to be held at Chadron State College March 29-31, 2007.

Details concerning programs, resources, and activities of the 2007 One Book One Nebraska celebration will be available at www.onebookonenebraska.org. Information is also available from Sarah Polak at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6066. Additional information can be found on the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society website, www.marisandoz.org, on the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center website, www.csc.edu/sandoz, and on the University of Nebraska Press website, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

CONTACT:
Lucinda Mays, Executive Secretary, 308-432-6307
Sarah Polak, Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6066
Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
P.O. Box 219, Gordon, NE 69343
www.marisandoz.org

The Northeast Library System office has two Mari Sandoz titles available for book discussion groups.
Crazy Horse - 10 copies
Old Jules - 15 copies
Call 1-800-578-1014 and schedule a set for your book group today!
Winnebago Library Awarded Prestigious Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

(Winnebago) - Thanks to a two-year $129,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the library in Winnebago, Nebraska will be able to provide more services to meet the needs of children and youth in the community. With its focus on early literacy and reading aloud to children, the library will receive funds to create new literacy programs. A full time children's librarian will be hired. New programs include activities for youth, both girls and boys. Some programs for children already initiated will be continued. The results of years of research have established that reading aloud to young children has many important benefits. The children's librarian will read aloud on request in the library, go to each day care and pre-school weekly to read aloud, organize the summer reading program, develop two family evening programs per year, and facilitate and supervise youth activities, such as video games with proven literacy benefits. We are excited about what other ideas for programs the new children's librarian will have.

A second focus of the grant will be to make more government documents more accessible for patrons. Although most government material is available in electronic format, some require special storage, handling and viewing equipment. In order to provide the documents people in our area need, we will purchase storage for maps and microforms, and a microform reader/printer.

“This grant is just the shot in the arm we need to keep our children's programs going, and make more of our government materials accessible. We hope to also work closely with the school to assist their efforts to help children learn to read more easily,” said Gretchen Healy, director of the library.

“Congratulations to the 15 recipients [including 8 tribal college libraries] of these very competitive Native American Library Enhancement Grants. These communities are raising the level of library service by automating access, increasing staff and hours of operation, preserving special collections, and developing programming that addresses the needs of Native Americans and Native Alaskans,” said IMLS Director Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a “Nation of Learners” because life-long learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convenings, research and publications, the Institute empowers museums and libraries nationwide to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build twenty-first-century skills, and increase civic participation. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: http://www.imls.gov.

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants support projects that enhance existing library services or implement new ones. Preference is given to projects that expand services for learning in a variety of formats; provide users with access to information and resources through electronic networks and linkages; develop partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations; or target services to users of diverse backgrounds and to underserved populations.

The Little Priest Tribal College and Winnebago Public Library has received two other Enhancement grants from the IMLS. The first provided computerization of the library catalog and circulation, and the digitizing of the WIN. The second provided two new staff members, computers, and a variety of public library services and programs. In addition to these grants, the LPTC library receives a Basic Library Grant every year which provides money for books and magazines, and professional development for staff.
Check Your Calendar

Feb. 14 - **NLA Annual Legislative Day.**

Feb 16 - **Getting Started with Flickr** from 9:30-11:30 at NLC.

Feb. 19 - **President's Day** holiday. Office closed.

Feb 21 - **Really Good Library Group** meeting at South Sioux City Public Library at 10am.

March 4-10, **Teen Tech Week.** For more information, go to: www.ala.org/teentechweek.

March 9 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at Seward Memorial Library at 9:30am.


March 27 - **'Get A Clue @ your library',** Summer Reading Program Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 9am.

March 28 - **Maximizing the Value of Friends** with Sally Reed, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont at 9am. See page 13 for registration info.

April 4 - **Customer Centered Library** Workshop with Karen Hyman at Columbus Public Library at 9am. For more information, call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

April 10 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10am.

April 17 - **Basic Skills: Public Services** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10am.

April 27 - **Arbor Day** holiday. Office closed.

May 16 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Stanton Public Library at 10am.

Basic Skills Coming Soon!

It's time to sign up for the next Basic Skills Class, Public Services. The first session will be held on April 4th at the Columbus Public Library. Karen Hyman, from the South Jersey Library Cooperative, will be presenting on "The Customer-Centered Library". Registration information can be found in the January 2007 issue of Straight Talk or on the Northeast Library System website.

The remaining two classes are schedule for April 10 & 17 at the Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk. NLS System Administrator Kathy Ellerton will be the instructor. To register go to: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp and type in Basic Skills.

If you have any questions regarding the classes, please call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

As librarians provide more learning experiences in an online medium, they need to consider the different ways that students learn. The articles reviews different learning styles and gives suggestions on styles that work best in the online environment.

“Teaching Students About Locating Resources @ Your Library” by Pamela S. Jones, Library Media Connection, February 2007, pp. 36-37.

The author gives several examples of lessons that can be taught to students.

NEW @ NLS

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

The Reviewer's Chair

Akimbo and the Crocodile Man
By Alexander McCall Smith

Akimbo lives in Africa with his father, a Game Preserve Ranger. This gives him the opportunity to meet a lot of different people and to sometimes accompany them while they work in the area. In this book Akimbo is able to go along with a researcher while he tags young crocodiles for a study he is conducting. Even though Akimbo and John, the Crocodile Man are very careful around the crocodiles, the researcher is badly bitten by one of the crocodiles. Akimbo must go for help. He must be brave and creative to get to the other side of the crocodile-infested river and bring back assistance for the injured man. Akimbo brings back aid and promises the Crocodile Man that he will accompany him again next year when John comes back to check on the crocodile family.

This book is recommended for grades 2nd and 3rd and for both public and school library collections. This book includes nice black and white illustrations that are a pleasant accompaniment to the story. I read this book at the same time that I read Harriet Bean and the League of Cheats by the same author. Published a couple of years later than Harriet, this book is much more entertaining. A chapter book sure to catch the adventurous side of young readers, this book provides anticipation and excitement. First printed in Great Britain in 1993.

Dear Tooth Fairy
By Karen Ruelle

Little Emily is experiencing her first time with a loose tooth. Her brother Harry tells her all about the Tooth Fairy so Emily writes the Tooth Fairy daily to tell her about her loose tooth. Each day Emily's tooth gets looser and tries to find ways for her tooth to come out. When it finally pops out Emily awaits the arrival of the tooth fairy & the treasure the fairy leaves behind.

This book is good for grades K-2. This book is recommended for any library collection. K-2 students would really enjoy this book as they are also going through the same experience as Emily with their own loose teeth.

No More Vegetables
By Nicole Rubel

Ruthie hates to eat vegetables. She convinces her mother to let her stop eating veggies. Ruthie's mother agrees only if she helps in her garden. Ruthie learns that vegetables really aren't that bad after all.

This book gives a different but clever approach to getting kids to eat vegetables. No More Vegetables would be a great book for a parent to read to a finicky eater.

The Lemon Sisters
By Andrea Chong

This is a book about 3 sisters who remind an elderly lady of her own sisters and them playing in the snow. This book is good for 3rd and 4th grade readers and also a good addition in any library collection. This book is cute for sisters or gift ideas. Cute story and was neat to be reminded of my
sisters.

~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE

**A Circle of Cats**
By Charles De Lint

Lillian is a young girl who lives with her aunt by a forest. After chores she went into the forest to find the fairies. When she was looking for fairies she fell asleep under a tree. She was woken up by a snake that bit her. The rest of the story is about how a circle of magical cats worked to save her life by changing her into something that was not dying. This is a good book for school and public library collections and for 3rd and 4th grade readers. This book contains many cat pictures. The illustrations were great. The pictures helped tell the story.

~~Kaylie Pfanstiel, Randolph, NE

**Criss Cross**
By Lynne Rae Perkins

No main plot other than the random, scattered events occurring in the lives of a few young friends in their early teens. Summer jobs, music lessons, learning to drive, and teenage crushes are some of the subplots included. This is a good book for girls in their early teens and any school library collection. This book features Haiku, photographs, musical scores, drawings, and unique writing styles. I can think of no books to compare it to except maybe some an old teacher of mine might have “made” me read because of their “literary quality”. I asked myself throughout this book, “What’s wrong with me, this is a Newbery winner, why don’t I like it?” Then I discovered that Newbery winners are not required to be popular with their target audiences; but are chosen because of their literary merit. No young adult readers that I know would enjoy this book.

~~Juile Pfanstiel, Randolph Public Library

**Stinky Riddles**
By Katy Hall and Lisa Eisenberg

This is a joke book with skunk jokes. Middle to upper elementary reading level. This book is a good example of using puns. This book is very funny. This book would be worthwhile to purchase for a children’s collection.

~~Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

**Beguilement**
By Lois McMaster Bujold

Dag, a Lakewalker patroller with a dry wit, is dedicated to destroying the evil “malices” that blight the countryside. Fawn, a runaway farm girl, helps him kill a malice and its zombie-like mud-men, but not before the malice destroys her unborn child by taking its “ground” or life force. Fawn slays the malice with Dag’s sharing knife, a bone blade created to carry the spirit of a dying patroller, but Dag’s formerly empty knife now carries the baby’s ground. Dag and Fawn fall in love while he helps her recover from her miscarriage. Bujold hints at long forgotten mighty kingdoms and ancient sorceries.

Although very well written, this novel is more a love story than an action packed adventure like the author’s previous works. This is the first part of a series, The Sharing Knife, and is recommended for teenagers and up in both public and school libraries.

~~Kathy Ellerton, NLS Office

**Cursor’s Fury**
by Jim Butcher

Butcher mixes military fantasy and political intrigue in the rollicking third Codex Alera book. Gaius Sextus, the First Lord of Alera, plants Tavi in a new legion, where Tavi can gather information on the rebellious High Lord of Kalare. Treachery from a supposed ally opens the legion to attack from its bestial enemies, the Canim, incapacitating the captain and catapulting Tavi to the rank of the legion’s commanding officer. Cut off from contact with the First Lord and with few seasoned officers to guide him, he must lead the troops in a defense of the Imperium against a horde of Canim warriors set on destroying the Aleri people.

Action junkies will gobble up the latest adventures of Tavi and his family. Recommended for both public and high school libraries.

~~Kathy Ellerton, NLS Office
http://www.mccneb.edu/

LIBR 1010
INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
Online
Spring Term, 2007
Saturday, March 4, 2006 - Tuesday, May 22, 2006
Orientation: Sunday, March 5, 2007
(In Omaha or North Platte)

This course will provide students with an understanding of introductory concepts in libraries and information services:

- A brief history of libraries
- Different types of libraries
- Typical functions in today’s libraries
- Current issues in library and information science
- Key terms used in the library profession
- Resources useful to Library Technical Assistants
- Issues relevant to information literacy
- Technology in libraries
- Career options in libraries and information environments

General Registration Begins - January 24, 2007
Payment Deadline - February 12, 2007

There is no prerequisite required for this class. It is a prerequisite for all other coursework in the Library Technical Assistant, Associate of Arts Degree offered through the Nebraska Community Colleges.

For questions regarding course content and organization, contact:
Marty Magee, MSA MLS
Instructor, LIBR 1010
Metropolitan Community College
402-559-7076
mmagee@unmc.edu

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact:
Gretchen B. Schaeffer, M.A, MLS
Academic Advisor
Metropolitan Community College
402-457-2376
gschaeffer@mccneb.edu
2007 Literary Award Winners

Caldecott Medal:
winner: Flotsam by David Wiesner
honor: Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans
Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Carole Boston Weatherford

Newbery Medal:
winner: The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron, illustrated by Matt Phelan
honor: Penny from Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
Rules by Cynthia Lord

Geisel Medal:
winner: Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways, by Laura McGee Kvasnosky
honor: Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride, written by Kate DiCamillo and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen
Move Over, Rover!, written by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by Jane Dyer
Not a Box, by Antoinette Portis

Sibert Medal:
winner: Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh
honor: Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum
Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea, written by Sy Montgomery, photos by Nic Bishop
To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel, written by Siena Cherson Siegel, illustrated by Mark Siegel

Printz Award:
winner: American Born Chinese, written by Gene Luen Yang
honor: The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, written by M. T. Anderson
An Abundance of Katherines, written by John Green
Surrender, written by Sonya Hartnett
The Book Thief, written by Markus Zusak

Coretta Scott King Author Award:
winner: Copper Sun, written by Sharon Draper
honor: The Road to Paris, written by Nikki Grimes

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award:
winner: Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom, illus. by Kadir Nelson, written by Carole Boston Weatherford
honor: Jazz, illus. by Christopher Myers, written by Walter Dean Myers
Poetry for Young People, illus. by Benny Andrews, edited by David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad
Maximizing the Value of Friends

with

Sally Reed
Executive Director, Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA)

March 27, 1:00-3:30 p.m. or March 28, 9:30-Noon
North Platte
Holiday Inn Express
300 Holiday Frontage Road
Fremont
Keene Memorial Library
1030 North Broad Street

Workshop Topics:
§ Starting and Strengthening Your Library Friends
§ Fundraising and Friends
§ Friends as Advocates

Effective Friends groups are invaluable for raising money, promoting the library, and engaging in advocacy. But for Friends to live up to their potential, they must be nurtured and encouraged. Active, well-informed Friends are clear about their roles in relationship to the library staff. In this workshop, Sally Reed will help library supporters and library staff work together to make sure that Nebraska library Friends groups are growing and active, that they are great fundraisers, and that they are prepared to work in partnership with “city hall” for library funding, referendums, and/or bond issues.

The Nebraska Library Commission recently purchased memberships in Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) for all Nebraska public libraries to ensure that their library staff, Friends, Trustees, and Foundations can take advantage of FOLUSA’s services to enhance members of fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness. Register now for this training supporting library Friends, Foundations, and Boards of Trustees.

Register: www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp, search on Sally Reed.
Deadline: March 20, 2007

CE Credits: 2.5

Sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries U.S.A., the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.
Northeast Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2007

The Northeast Board met at the Norfolk Public Library on January 17, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President, Loran Lofgren. Board members present were Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones, Dee Johnson, Marilyn Quance, Lauran Lofgren, Laurie Rehnstrom, Linda Risinger, Joyce Sullivan, Jolene Klein, and Kate Ostenrude. Kay Schmid, Ann Bachman, and Sally Stahlecker were not in attendance. There were no alternates present. Guest, Laura Johnson from the Nebraska Library Commission was present.

There were no additions to the agenda and minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting were approved. Kathy shared information on Deb Robertson, her new location and contact information. Shelia Cermak gave the financial report; balance as of 1/8/07 is 47,393.47. There are no certificates of deposit due at this time with the next one due on February 4, 2007. A motion was made to have the budget committee make a decision on the 2/4/07 due CD based on best CD rate and a time slot that balances our due dates on all certificates of deposit held by NELS (MS: Hastreiter, Sullivan) Approved by roll call vote.

Based on a better interest rate, a motion was made to transfer $3,500 from savings to the money market account. A motion was also made to have the budget committee make recommendations to the board when excess funds accumulate in the saving account and could gain a better percentage rate in the money market account (MS: Jones, Ostenrude) Approved by roll call vote.
Audit proposal – a motion was made to continue with Dana Cole as our system auditor (MS: Quance, Sullivan) Approved by roll call vote.

Motion was made to accept all financial reports (MS: Klein, Johnson) Approved by roll call vote.

REPORTS:
Commissioner-Pat Gross: no report
State Advisory Council-Gretchen Healy: no report
Nebraska Library Commission: Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator/Library Development was the NLC representative at the meeting. Information items shared with the board includes: NLC Blog that was launched in December 2006; College of Du Page teleconference being held February 9 at various downlinks in Nebraska; future demos of the “Now hiring @ your library” website and OPAL, interactive educational software; discounts on online products and trial databases; NLA legislative day (Feb. 14); open meeting act posters available; recipients of the 2006 Youth Grants for Excellence; NEBASE Network Education Exchange; and information on Flicker training at the commission. For additional information on these topics, please visit the Nebraska Library Commission website at http://www.nlc.state.ne.us

System Administrator-Kathy Ellerton: System activities in the past two months consisted of basic skills classes, system library visits, administrator meetings, e-rate training, budget meeting, and a weeding project at Ponca Public Library.
Upcoming events Kathy reported on: Follet workshop in the works, more basic skills classes, Winter Workshop, Really Good Library Group meets, FOLUSA workshop, Customer Centered Library presentation in Columbus, and a reading workshop scheduled in Norfolk. For more complete information, please contact the system office or visit the website at http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Personnel – no report
Budget – The committee met on January 9th and shared the results of that meeting during the financial report.
Continuing Education - no report
Strategic Planning - no report
Technology - no report
Grants – The newly revised grants form was released

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
It was suggested that Pat Wagner present at the 2008 NELS annual meeting. She is booked through 2007 and Kathy would need to contact her now to schedule her for June 2008. The continuing education committee will choose up to five of the topics she presents on and will make a recommendation to vote on topics of interest. The members of the system would have an opportunity to vote. The committee will report back with their recommendations at the March 2007 NELS board meeting

NEW BUSINESS:
Board members shared some of the many activities going on in their libraries. A Pat-on-the-Back Award will be presented to Judy Hagan, Director of the Atkinson Public Library.
A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Quance, Ostenrude). Approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Johnson

Free DVD - Communicating Your Library’s Value

No community can afford to lose its public library and the technology services it provides. To help, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is making available two new tools, entitled Keeping Your Community Connected, that can help advocate for libraries:

- **Video**
  Show an eight-minute DVD to launch conversations with local government and community partners.

- **Brochure**
  Circulate a related brochure that includes persuasive statistics, library patron stories, and a call to action for community members and leaders.

You can obtain a free set of these materials, including the DVD and 10 brochures, by sending an email to the address below. Please provide the following information in the body of your email:

Your name
Your job title or role in the community (e.g. librarian, city council member)
Your mailing address
The name of your public library
Order by email: USLibraries@gatesfoundation.org

For more information, visit the web page: http://www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/USLibraryProgram/RelatedInfo/CommunicatingValue.htm

"Infatuation is when you think that he's as sexy as Robert Redford, as smart as Henry Kissinger, as noble as Ralph Nader, as funny as Woody Allen, and as athletic as Jimmy Conners. Love is when you realize that he's as sexy as Woody Allen, as smart as Jimmy Conners, as funny as Ralph Nader, as athletic as Henry Kissinger, and nothing like Robert Redford - but you'll take him anyway."

~~ Judith Viorst

Check out our web site at: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html