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Nebraska LIBRARIES

August 2014, Vol. 2, No. 3

The Journal of the Nebraska Library Association



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Cover Photo Credit: The “On Fire” titles book cart at the Seward Memorial Library.

CONTENTS

Editor’s Message	3
Featured Library: Seward Memorial Library <i>Rachel Zill & Becky Baker</i>	4
Joint-Use Libraries: Creating Positive Foundations <i>Jennifer Jazyuka & Gary Katz</i>	8
Once Upon a Time . . . Storytime for Teens <i>Spring Russell</i>	10
Anthropology of a Long Overdue Book <i>Oliver B. Pollak</i>	12
2014-15 NLA Election Nominees <i>Gordon Wyant</i>	13
College & University Section <i>Jon Ritterbush</i>	24
New Members Round Table <i>Matt Kovar</i>	26
Public Library & Trustees Section <i>Evonne Edginton</i>	27
Special & Institutional Section <i>Annette Parde</i>	29
School, Children’s, and Young People’s Section <i>Karen Pietsch</i>	31
Technical Services Round Table <i>Heather Buckwalter</i>	33
My Own Personal Library	35
Book Bites: Book Reviews (and More!)	38
Editorial Policy	41
Submission Policy	42
Picture This	43

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome readers to our August issue of *Nebraska Libraries*! Some may remember from the May issue that changes would be occurring to our publication, and this issue is our second to incorporate some of these changes. As editor, I would love to hear your comments about what you like, what you dislike, what you'd like to see in future issues, and more! Please email me your thoughts.

Being that this is the August issue, we have a special feature covering our Nebraska Library Association's current officers election. We have all the candidate biographies listed here for your convenience, along with a link to the voting ballot. Please have your voice heard and cast your votes for your 2014-2015 officers.

As always, this month we have some excellent feature articles. The first of these is a special new feature—the Featured Library of Nebraska article. This month Rachael Zill spoke with Seward Memorial Library's director, Becky Baker, about their beautiful library. Check it out!

Some other features include Jennifer Jazyka and Gary Katz discussing joint-use library collaboration, Spring Russell tells you how to implement a teen storytime program at your library, and Oliver B. Pollak traces the anthropology of a long overdue book. Of course, our feature articles are joined by some great columns from our various sections and round tables.

Our next issue will be in November with a fast approaching submission deadline of October 1st! The editorial board will begin soliciting authors shortly, but don't hesitate to contact me right now if you have an idea for the journal.

Please email me at naeditor@nebraskalibraries.org.

Lindsey Tomsu
Editor, *Nebraska Libraries*

Featured Nebraska Library: Seward Memorial Library

Rachel Zill & Becky Baker

Editor's Note: A new feature is being unveiled this month! Each issue of *Nebraska Libraries* would like to showcase a library in Nebraska. First up is the Seward Memorial Library. Rachel Zill has always been impressed with this beautiful library, so she sat down with Becky Baker, director, to talk about the library.

Your library is beautiful. Tell me a little bit about the layout, construction, and funding considerations.

The design of the new Seward Memorial Library, completed in 2003, is based on the architectural style that was prevalent in Seward and the plains during the first half of the 20th century. This style, usually referred to as Arts and Crafts, is marked by low-pitched roofs, wide eave overhangs with triangular knee braces, transom windows, and a mixture of brick and stone on exterior walls. The octagonal tower facing the intersection at 5th and South Streets is the library's tallest element, which is meant to draw patrons inside to experience the world through a wide array of services and resources.

The interior of the library features cherry wood trim and furniture, a two-sided fireplace in the reading room, and comfortable seating throughout. In addition to room for a much larger collection, the new 25,775-square-foot library features a technology lab, meeting rooms, handicap accessibility, off-street parking, and a geothermal heat pump system.

On October 6, 2013 the lower level of the library was dedicated. The expansion into the previously unfinished



The Seward Memorial Library located at 233 S. 5th Street, Seward, NE, 68434. Visit them online at <http://www.sewardlibrary.org/>

space added many meeting rooms (one with a kitchen), a larger genealogy room, and greater space for the fiction collection, while the accompanying renovations on the main level created additional space for every print collection of the library.

When we started talking with the architects about building our library, staff used a "bubble" layout to convey our wishes—what area of the library we wanted next to what area, etc. Nothing to scale, of course, but we knew what we wanted. All the staff was involved with this process, so everyone had buy-in. After moving in in 2003, there was only one area (junior fiction) that we wished we would have thought out better, and so when we worked on finishing the lower level and renovating the main level that area was much improved.

The Seward Library Foundation paid for both the original building and the more recent project of finishing the lower level. Our City agreed to pay for the furniture, parking lot, and landscaping for about \$500,000 using a long-term loan, but the Seward Library Foundation paid off their loan early so they chipped in less than \$250,000.

I really enjoyed your specialized areas such as Storybook Square and The Tower Room. How do these areas serve your patrons and what seems to be the most popular?

Our Storybook Square used to house picture books, but in the latest renovation we decided to close it off for programs, thus opening up our main level meeting room for greater public use. The picture books now occupy much of our main level since our fiction section moved downstairs. It is a much more user friendly area, since all the picture books are shelved together instead of in the separate areas that used to exist. The Tower area now houses our YA books, giving this age group a more defined space than before. Since the Storybook Square is only available for programs and is not a public space that is open all the time, it really isn't "popular" in the general sense of the word, but staff really enjoys having this dedicated space and not having to put everything away after each program, like we had to before. The parents of young children really enjoy the informal seating area south of the Storybook Square, both during programs and at other times when families come in.

I noticed you had a large genealogy collection. Tell me about other ways your library represents the community of Seward in both collection and design.

When planning the building we decided to put quotes around the tops of most of the rooms. So in our Heritage Room (the former space for genealogy works) we have family names of those important in Seward before 1900. When we first opened we had a lot of summer visitors stopping by to see their family's name highlighted in the room. We also chose a quote from a Ted Kooser book as he is a Seward County resident

and a library patron. We like to brag that we did this *before* he was poet laureate!

As far as the collection representing Seward, we are lucky to have Concordia University in town. Their collection is more scholarly, so that frees us up to focus on popular reading materials and a strong children's collection. We have quite a few large print titles as well, as many of our residents appreciate that format. Many years ago we changed from using Dewey to a more user-friendly subject approach for our non-fiction. This has also worked out very well for us.

Your cake pan collection is well-known in the library community. Tell me how the collection started. Any tips for other libraries anxious to start a cake pan collection?

We had talked about this possibility for years, but in our tiny Carnegie building there was no way we could add this service. After moving to our new building in 2003, suddenly we had all kinds of room! When we received our first donation of cake pans we got serious about it, and



The Seward Memorial Library's Storybook Square.



The special shelving created for the Seward Memorial Library's cake pan collection.

now have over 100 pans in our collection. They have all been donated which is wonderful. A notebook with sheets about all the pans and the various ways they can be used is kept on our front desk, and each pan is listed on the library website so folks can see what is available. Because standard shelving doesn't work for these oversize items, our Friends group paid for a custom unit to hold the pans. If other libraries have the room for cake pans, I think just putting out the word that you are doing this will bring in a lot of donations. Most families use a cake pan for one birthday cake, and then the next year they choose another design. After a few years the cake pans start taking up a lot of room in the kitchen. Donating them to a library means they will be available to check out in the future and no longer take up space in the kitchen. A win-win situation.

How many staff members does your library have? How do their various roles coincide to provide the best service?

We have 13 staff members: three are full-time, seven part-time, two subs, and one janitor. Because of our small staff, we all have to know most of the library jobs. We all help at the front desk, four help with cataloging, one does most of the storytimes, several others help with after-school and summer programs, etc. For instance, we do have a wonderful tech person who teaches our computer classes and manages our website, but she also catalogs books and does many other things as well.

I noticed a “flaming” cart of books near the front of your library. Tell me where this idea sprang from and how patrons are reacting. (It's a popular books display.) [See journal cover image]

I believe the idea came from watching a session during a Public Library Association [PLA] conference online one year when we had a group viewing of it at my library. I'm sorry I can't give more specific credit, but I believe a library on the east coast talked about this kind of program. I thought the idea would transfer nicely to Seward, so staff did some brainstorming and the idea of "hot" titles evolved to "on fire" titles and the flaming graphic was born. A local man who paints custom designs on cars painted the flames on our book cart and custom browsing labels were ordered. It was easy to set up on our ILS also. Patrons seem to like it a lot—when I'm at my computer in my office I'm looking right at the cart, so I can see a lot of people checking out what is there when they visit.

What else makes your library unique?

We have a drive-up window for picking up reserves and other brief transactions. We've had a strong home delivery program for over 25 years. A new room downstairs allows the public to have access to die cut equipment and it will soon boast a Brother Scan 'N' Cut machine which will be used a lot, we think. I'm not sure what else might be considered unique, as all of these things are just part of our regular operations now. Visiting librarians have "drooled" over our new kitchen, so perhaps that is unique. I have always believed in involving my entire staff in discussions that affect the library—I'm lucky to be able to do this because we are a small library. Again, I

don't think of this as unique necessarily, but I do believe it is very important and has helped us be what we are today.

What can we look forward to for the future of Seward Memorial Library?

The Seward Library Foundation recently purchased two lots across the street east of the library and donated them to the City to create a parking lot, as parking is sometimes hard to find when we have large groups meeting at our library. We look forward to even more meetings happening here as more people become aware of what we have to offer. With our recent finishing of the lower level I don't think there are more changes to our building in the future (the architects paled when I jokingly mentioned a second floor as a future addition), but we will always look for ways to expand our services to meet the needs of our citizens in the future.

Would you like your library to be featured in a future issue of *Nebraska Libraries*? Please email the editor at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org!



Rachel Zill is a Library Assistant at Clarkson College and at Baird Holm LLP. She is interning at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum while completing her Master's in Library Science from the University of Missouri -Columbia.



Becky Baker has worked at the Seward Library since 1981, starting as a part-time Library Clerk and becoming Library Director in 1987. She started a building campaign, resulting in a new library which opened in 2003, as well as the lower level expansion that was completed in 2013. She has served on numerous system and statewide committees in the Nebraska library world.



The Fireside Reading room at the Seward Memorial Library.

Joint-Use Libraries: Creating Positive Foundations

Jennifer Jazyka, MLIS & Gary Katz, MA

Joint-use libraries are an emerging trend. As fiscal budgets get tighter and tighter, the idea to pool resources with another library or organization can start to look desirable. Most often in library circles, partnerships tend to be either a public library with an academic institution (university or community college), a local school (K-12), or a community center/museum. Any variation can occur, but all entities involved must share a comprehensive mission to elevate the educational, informational, and personal development of individuals and the local community. This shared vision is the foundation and will continue to be a bond throughout the partnership.

At first look, the idea of a joint-use library facility is genius, but is not without complexity. Elected officials and administrators particularly love the concept as they are faced with serious facility and space issues, as well as shrinking funds for staffing, collections, services, and general operating expenses. Joint facilities can mean a more efficient use of tax dollars, combining resources and organizational philosophies to create a positive impact for the community. It might be the vehicle through which a sorely needed new facility can be achieved in an under-served area, as was the case with the South Omaha Library, a joint-use library between Metropolitan Community College (MCC) and Omaha Public Library (OPL) located in Omaha, Nebraska. Whatever the specific needs may be, a joint-facility can offer not only a lifeboat, but the ability to create something new, unique, and perhaps even better than each institution could accomplish on its own.

Dr. Alan Bundy, in his work entitled "Joint-Use Libraries: The Ultimate Form of Cooperation," cites some of the following as the primary mutual benefits of a joint-use library (Bundy, 2003, p. 138):



The joint-use facility of the South Omaha Library and Metropolitan Community College.

- Efficient use of public money
- Savings in operational costs
- Better quality and quantity of collections
- Access to more experienced staff
- Allow extended opening hours
- Promote lifelong learning through the educational use of a joint-use library
- Allow more flexibility in providing and obtaining resources and making innovations

Joint-use libraries are demanding, but it is possible to create a successful and thriving “blended” library with a few simple, yet critical, components. With a combined eight years of joint-use library experience, we would like to reveal what we think are the key ingredients for creating and managing a successful joint-use library, sharing a remarkable number of benefits and outcomes:

- Have clearly drawn-out contracts from the beginning, written with full commitment from all parties, covering every detail. If a strong structure is created by all parties on matters of use of spaces and their

maintenance, what laws are at play, collection, technology, and governance, this will set the tone for clarity and understanding, and leaves less room for disagreement later.

- Realize that not everyone is suited to work in a joint-use facility. It is crucial to staff a joint-use facility with collaborative and flexible individuals who have the ability to be creative in order to come up with real life solutions that will work for all sides. All staff must have a strong ability for thinking outside-the-box and doing what is best for all users. Hiring managers who understand this and work to continuously foster staff to have the critical skills necessary is by no means an impossible feat and is in fact a rather exhilarating challenge.
- This collaborative minded and blended staff needs to work together in a diplomatic manner in order to come up with policies and procedures that will solve the problems that will no doubt arise. These should be devised by all stakeholders and should have solid commitment and buy-in from all sides or they will not work. It is possible to do this; it just takes the right attitude, creativity, a whole lot of communication, and a willingness to make something altogether new that works. It requires a realization that there is never just one way to achieve something, and this is where freedom and creative problem solving live.
- Keep your eyes on the prize. It's easy to get bogged down in rules, procedures, and policies and lose focus. Always remember what brought you here—a strong commitment to share resources and to further each other's mission. Managers and administrators must be willing to put their egos aside and fully cooperate with each other on all phases of responsibilities. Trust within the partnership will allow both sides to feel comfortable and enhance each partner's stated vision.

Once you have all the above mentioned key ingredients, creating innovative services, programs, and collections is the next natural step. Not only is this a great deal for the partnering organizations, but the real benefactors are the

patrons and end-users. Joint-use libraries with the right positive environment will find it easy to combine resources and expertise to offer something more dynamic than each could on their own.

Last year OPL and MCC forged a partnership with the Nebraska Department of Labor to host ten workshops for people seeking work or looking to improve their employment situation. Each brought various resources to create this important initiative and at a fraction of the cost and effort for everyone involved. In addition, combining collections at the South Omaha Library has resulted in the ability to offer over 250 magazines, newspapers, and scholarly journals at a fraction of each organizational cost. Currently, we are working on a joint TEDx discussion program, which utilizes facilitators from both OPL and MCC, along with members of the community. The advantages for joint-use libraries truly are remarkable and the opportunities for users are greater when out of this world organizations like ours combine their efforts and resources to make something even better than before.

Reference

Bundy, A. (2003). Joint-use libraries: The ultimate form of cooperation. In G.B. McCabe & J.R. Kennedy (Eds.), *Planning the modern public library building* (pp.129-48). Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.



Jennifer has worked for OPL for six years and in public libraries for 15 years. Nearly half of her career has been spent managing joint-libraries and she has come to enjoy the challenges and possibilities each unique joint-library offers. Gary has worked as the MCC South Campus library supervisor for over three years. Prior to that, he was the Library Director for the Kripke Jewish Federation Library, one of the largest Judaic libraries in the U.S. Gary's focus is on continuously growing to create an excellent and innovative experience for students and library patrons. He lives with his wife Monica and three children.

Once Upon a Time . . . Storytime for Teens

Spring Russell

Just in the last decade most teenagers would have thought of storytime for teens as being insane. They would have never even considered regularly visiting a program at their library that involved being read to by their librarian. However, times change and today just this sort of program is widely appreciated by at least one certain teen group.

At the La Vista Public Library, the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) started a program that meets once a month on either Tuesday or Thursday at 6 p.m. This program is called Teen Storytime, and it is a club meant to give teenagers a chance to be children again. It is a place where they are read picture books as they gather around their TAB leader, librarian Lindsey Tomsu, on the steps of the library's storytime room.

"In the school year about 15 to 20 people come to Teen Storytime; in the summer it goes up about ten more people," TAB member Kayla Harbour said.

The club is quite successful as most of the teens love having the chance to be kids again. "Not only do we get read to but we do fun crafts too!" regular participant Cassidy Runyon said. A light snack, such as cookies or fruit snacks, is also provided.

Runyon isn't the only one who thinks this club is great though. Many of the teens find it to be a unique way to get out of the house without even having to change. "I enjoy Teen Storytime because it is a time where I can walk into the library wearing pajamas and have it be socially acceptable," Harbour said. Keyahna Wood also adds that she enjoys the show and tell time in which "teens get to bring a stuffed animal or toy they like and share it with the group."

Not only do people wear pajamas to this activity and act like children, the story books are also fun enough to be



Kayla Harbour shows off her monkey lunch bag puppet during the craft portion of a Teen Storytime for Lane Smith's *It's a Book*.

enjoyable for the teens. Tomsu purposefully chooses picture books that have appeal for older audiences. Titles with black humor have proven especially popular.

"My favorite story in Teen Storytime was when we heard the picture book *I Want My Hat Back* [by Jon Klassen]. It's about this bear and he lost his hat. He goes around asking all his woodland friends about his hat, but none of them have seen it. What he does when he finds his hat is hilarious and rather unfortunate for the critter who stole it," Harbour said.

These teenagers deep down are still kids at heart, and Runyon says, "It gives us a chance to do what children do again and not be told by adults to grow up and act our age."



Enjoying the punchline for Lane Smith's *It's a Book* . . .
(Hint . . . a slighter more mature word for "donkey"!)

This hour-long teen program is fun and easy to join. Harbour states, "You just have to come to the library!" Other libraries can easily implement a storytime for teens in their programming too. Tomsu took the bare bones of how the children's storytime program was run at La Vista and implemented that for teens—pajamas welcome, a show and tell moment, read a few picture books, and then a snack and a craft that can be taken home. We suggest other libraries see what works and what does not work in their children's storytime programs and apply that to a potential teen audience.

When advertising the program stress that teens can still act like kids sometimes. Runyon says the thing that gets teens' attention is the chance to wear pajamas and hear picture books that are for older audiences. "Many teens don't realize that they can still read picture books and that there are some marketed toward teens and even adults. These books are quick reads with fun illustrations that should be included in a teen graphic novel collection if you have one. They are also great choices for teens who don't enjoy reading," Runyon says.

This short activity gives teenagers a chance to get in touch with their inner child while hanging out with friends, doing some coloring, listening to some stories, and participating in a show and tell all while in the comfort of their pajamas.

This is just one of many activities offered by the library for teenagers, and this one seems to be a hit.

Below is a list of just some of the titles that the teens of La Vista have enjoyed during their Teen Storytimes. If you chose to be brave and offer a storytime for your teens these choices are sure to be a hit!

- Bee, William. (2008). *Beware of frog*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- Brown, Jeffery. (2012). *Darth Vader and son*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
- Brown, Jeffery. (2013). *Vader's little princess*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
- John, Jory, & Monsen, Avery. (2012). *K is for knifeball: An alphabet of terrible advice*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
- Klassen, Jon. (2011). *I want my hat back*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- Klassen, Jon. (2012). *This is not my hat*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- Macaulay, David. (1985). *Baaa*. NY: HMH Books for Young Readers.
- Monsen, Avery, & John, Jory. (2010). *All my friends are dead*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
- Monsen, Avery, & John, Jory. (2012). *All my friends are still dead*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.
- Shea, Bob. (2011). *Dinosaur vs. the library*. NY: Disney-Hyperion.
- Shea, Bob. (2011). *I'm a shark*. NY: Balzer + Bray.
- Shea, Bob. (2013). *Unicorn thinks he's pretty great*. NY: Disney-Hyperion.
- Sherry, Kevin. (2007). *I'm the biggest thing in the ocean!* NY: Dial.
- Smith, Lane. (2010). *It's a book*. NY: Roaring Book Press.

Spring Russell is a member of the La Vista Public Library's Teen Advisory Board. She will be a sophomore at Papillion-La Vista High School this fall. She enjoys journalism and co-authoring fiction with her friends. If you would like more information about how the TAB does its storytime you can contact its members at lavistatab@gmail.com.

The Anthropology of a Long Overdue Book

Oliver B. Pollak

Five days a week I receive *Inside Higher Education* online. On June 16, it reported that 91-year-old Ron Webster, a pensioner living in Derbyshire, returned a book he checked out in 1953 from the University of Liverpool Library. The British Internet and press coverage fluttered rather than going viral, with mentions in the *Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror*. The fines, about \$7,600, were waived. The English press states that Ron Webster had “loaned” Radcliffe-Brown; in America we would say he had “borrowed” it.

The book in question, *Structure and Function in Primitive Society* by Alfred Radcliffe-Brown, was published in 1952. According to a quick Wikipedia search, Radcliffe-Brown introduced Emile Durkheim’s phenomenally important French sociology to British anthropology. Ron Webster, a research assistant in Liverpool, moved to London and inadvertently took the book with him when he went to work for Ford.

I was interested in learning more about this book. Abebooks lists 134 copies of Radcliffe-Brown’s book, one of which, at the 40,000-volume Chicago bookstore N. Fagin, specializing in anthropology, was “signed and marked by Wendell Oswalt.” Fagin’s inventory included 14 volumes by Radcliffe-Brown and 13 by Wendell Oswalt. Abebooks has 363 volumes by Oswalt. One thing leads to another—who was Wendell Oswalt?

A quick Google search revealed that Wendell Oswalt, born in 1927, taught at UCLA (where I earned my doctorate in 1973) from 1958 to 1990, retired to Western Oregon, and maintained a website which included his biography, philosophy, and publications.

Oswalt attempted to introduce new nomenclature to his profession of anthropology. The word he suggested, “subsistants,” meant obtaining edibles on an immediate or delayed basis. I, too, have attempted to introduce words.

My word was “Whiteocracy” to describe minority rule in Rhodesia. Some words, though seemingly appropriate, do not catch on.

Wendell Oswalt was a prolific author. *This Land Was Theirs, A Study of Native Americans* was published in 1966 and achieved its ninth edition in 2009. The University of Nebraska Press also published his *Explorers and Eskimos*.

The initial story of a 61-year overdue book, interesting in itself, revealed deeper intellectual and bibliographic aspects. As Paul Harvey’s used to say in his radio commentary, “The Rest of the Story,” the back story, as we might say today, “the thread,” is filled with anthropology and the sociology of knowledge.

The 1952 Radcliffe-Brown book got back to the Liverpool library because Ron Webster thinned his own library. Perhaps Wendell Oswalt’s copy of Radcliffe-Brown got into the Chicago bookstore through a similar process. Aging academics have to deal with the orderly disposal of their personal libraries, my own included.



Oliver Pollak is co-president and partner with David Hicks of the Pollak & Hicks law firm. He earned his bachelor’s degree from California State University at Los Angeles, his master’s and Ph.D. in history at UCLA, and his J.D. from Creighton University Law School. He has been practicing law for 30 years with an emphasis in bankruptcy law for the last 20 years. Pollak also taught history for 38 years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is currently Emeritus Professor of History.

2014-2015 Nebraska Library Association Election Nominees

Gordon Wyant

Hello NLA members! It is election time, once again and we have a marvelous group of nominees this year! Take a look at the candidates and start thinking about who you will receive your vote. Ballots opened at the beginning of August and will close at the end of the month. You will get a vote for each NLA executive position and each position in any section or round table of which you are a member. Check your email for information about voting for this year. Thank you to all the members of the nominating committee for finding such great candidates and a huge thank you to all of the candidates below! Your passion and willingness to step into leadership positions is what makes NLA strong!

NLA Vice President/President Elect



Julee Hector is currently Assistant Library Director at Lincoln City Libraries in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has held various positions there, including Branch Manager and Adult Services Librarian. Julee also has experience at UNO's

Criss Library as Reference Desk Supervisor and as Fine Arts & Humanities Librarian. She started her career in libraries at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Libraries, working at the Engineering Branch and at the UNL Schmid Law Library.

Julee has a master's in library science from the University of Missouri—Columbia and a bachelor's in psychology from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She also had the opportunity to be a graduate assistant for Dr. Rebecca Pasco while she was a student. Julee is a member of ALA, PLA, and NLA. She was NLA Treasurer from 2007-2009, NLA Auditing Committee Member from 2009-2010, and NLA Auditing Committee Chair in 2010-2011. She

attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2007 and attended the Nebraska Libraries Future Search in 2008. Julee is also a member of Leadership Lincoln Fellows Class XXIX.



Angela Kroeger started at the Criss Library at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1995—earlier if you count a couple of semesters as a student worker. After a year in circulation and another year in reference, she made her way

to cataloging where she happily served for 16 years. In summer 2013, she transferred into Archives and Special Collections, still at the same library.

She is presently working toward a master's degree in library and information science through the University of Missouri. She attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2005. She joined NLA late in 2006 and served as Chair of the Paraprofessional Section in 2009-2010 and Chair of the Technical Services Round Table in 2012-2013. During those two experiences, she enjoyed being a part of the NLA Board, and is eager to continue serving NLA.



Matthew R. Williams – I've loved libraries for as long as I can remember. In high school I lived in Ridgway, CO, and regularly made the 25-mile drive to Montrose to visit the library and bring back a pile of

books. (I understand that Ridgway has their own library now.) I began my 29 years of working in libraries when I attended Trinity International University in the Chicago area and worked at the college library as a student for five years. After receiving a BA in English, I started working at

Antioch Public Library District in Antioch, IL, as Assistant Director. While working there, I attended Dominican University near Chicago where I received my MLIS. After receiving my graduate degree, I served 11 years as Director of Watertown Public Library in Watertown, WI, and for over 8 years I have served as Director of Kearney Public Library in Kearney, NE. During my time here in Kearney, I have been privileged to help guide the library through a major building/renovation project adding 25,000 square feet to our facility. Last year I was on the NLA Conference Committee working with partners and donors and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Outside of the library I live with my lovely wife, two beautiful daughters, two funny dogs, and a feisty cat.

I believe this is an exciting time to be involved with NLA and libraries in general. Things are changing rapidly and we have to be innovative and creative to keep up. I hope to bring the same level of energy and openness to improvement to my role in NLA that my coworkers and I have at KPL!

NLA Secretary



Rebecca Bernthal is currently a librarian at the University Libraries at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Before that she worked for several years at Link Library, Concordia University in Seward. She received her MLS from

George Peabody College/Vanderbilt University and has a BA in education from Wayne State College.

She is an active member of NLA and has served on various committees over the years, including Chair of the College & University (C&U) Section. Rebecca is a long time member of ALA and served as the NLA/C&U Section representative to ALA's Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Chapters Council for several years. She also is a current board member for the Southeast Library System (SELS).



Dana W. R. Boden is an Associate Professor and Agriculture Subject Librarian at the C.Y. Thompson Library, of the University Libraries, on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She would be proud to serve the Nebraska

Library Association as its Secretary.

During her 25 years of membership, she has served NLA on the following committees: Auditing Committee (including as Chair), Bylaws Committee (including as Chair), Ad Hoc Committee on Handbook Revision, Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee on Sections and Round Tables, and Convention Committee as Exhibits Co-Chair. She has been a candidate for NLA Representative to the ALA Council. She has served the C&U Section as Chair of the Ad Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee and on the Spring Meeting Local Arrangements Committee. She was involved in the Nebraska Online Users' Group (NOLUG) refocusing and the creation of ITART, serving as interim vice-chair during ITART's first year. Earlier she was a member of NMRT, serving as the Newsletter Advertising Editor. She has presented and hosted talk tables at NLA, for the C&U section and contributed articles for *NLAQ*. Dana has also served as a member of the Southeast Library System Board.

Regionally, Dana is a member of MPLA. She has served as PASC Section Chair (when there were still sections), on the MPLA Executive Board, and multiple times on the Bylaws and Procedures Committee, chairing it six years. She has presented at the MPLA Academic Section Professional Forum and her conference photo log has been included on the organizational website.

Nationally, Dana's United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) membership has included service on the Program Planning Committee for the Third National Conference, on the Executive Council as a Director, on multiple standing committees serving as chair of several, and as President of USAIN. She has written, and

contributed to, the USAIN Conference reports, ALIN (Agricultural Library Information Notes), and acted as a conference photographer.

Dana's ALA membership includes ACRL, STS, and IS. She has served as a member of the STS Science Databases Discussion Group, as member and Chair of the Forum on Science & Technology Library Research, and as the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee Intern. Dana received her BS and MAE in agriculture education from Western Kentucky University. Her MSLS is from the University of Kentucky. She also has a Ph.D. in Higher Ed Administration from UNL.



Jayne Germer has been the Collection Development Librarian at Doane College in Crete since 2007. Her previous professional positions were at Cloud County Community College in Kansas, where she worked as a librarian for 14

years and then as the library director for three years. She was a member of the Kansas Library Association from 1990 to 2007. During that time she was involved in the college and university libraries section, the library instruction round table, and the two-year college libraries interest group. She also has been a long-time member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Library Instruction Round Table, and the Reference and User Services Association. In addition, Jayne was selected to participate in the MPLA Leadership Institute in April.



Hello, my name is **Terry Wingate**, and I am the Staff Development Manager and Metrics Coordinator for the Omaha Public Library in Omaha, Nebraska. I have worked for OPL since 2007, starting as a part-time

specialist at the Millard Branch. I graduated from the University of Missouri with my MLS in 2009. As the Staff Development Manager, I most enjoy being able to meet almost all new OPL staff as they go through orientation and training. I also get to train current staff on new products and services. I've been also involved with a grant-funded Community Engagement project for the past two years. It's a busy, but rewarding job!

This is such an exciting time to be working in libraries! There are new technologies to explore and learn, new ways to help our patrons discover all of our materials and services, and new opportunities to engage with our communities. NLA and the sections and roundtables provide support and information for librarians who are making a difference in their patrons' lives every day. If elected, I would be honored to serve and to assist in any way I can. Thank you for your consideration.

ALA Councilor



Brenda Ealey is the branch manager of Gere Library for Lincoln City Libraries (LCL). Prior to her position with LCL she was the Administrator for Southeast Library System for 15 years. She has a BA in psychology and a

master's in library science from Emporia University. She's been active in Nebraska Library Association for many years and in various roles, including NLA President and chair of the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committees. She enjoys music—both as a musician and as a listener—and serves on the board of a local independent radio station. She is also passionate about Free Speech and serves on the board of ACLU Nebraska. She enjoys sports of all kinds, especially biking and jogging. Her daughter, Lily, is a favorite companion and just completed her freshman year at Hastings College. She's been privileged to serve as ALA Councilor from 2012-2014 and would be delighted to serve in that role again.



Matt Kovar is currently the Technology Learning Center Coordinator at the Kearney Public Library. He has been with KPL full-time since 2011 and also worked at KPL as a library clerk from 2008-2010. His current job duties include teaching public computer

classes, assisting with technology questions, and keeping up-to-date with library technology trends. Matt is an active member of NLA's New Member Round Table and is the NMRT Chair for 2013-2014. He has also served on the Communications Committee for the past two years. Matt is currently finishing his MLIS at San Jose State University and holds a BA in 7-12 language arts education from the University of Nebraska—Kearney.

Born and raised in Nebraska, Matt has spent a large amount of time in Nebraska libraries. He believes that libraries are an essential part of our communities, as they create an equal playing field for patrons of all backgrounds to access and share information and new ideas. While attending the ALA annual conference in 2013, Matt was encouraged by the strong voice that the American Library Association collectively creates for the promotion of America's libraries. He is enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring a fresh perspective to the role of ALA Councilor while advocating for Nebraska's libraries.

College & University Vice Chair/Chair Elect



Julie Pinnell has been Library Director at Doane College for the last two and half years. She worked at the Nebraska Library Commission 1995-2011 as Information Services Librarian and enjoyed talking to librarians from everywhere in Nebraska

while there. Before that she was Technical Services Librarian at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Her other library roles were Reference Librarian at JCCC and Reference Coordinator and Science Reference Librarian at the University of Missouri—Kansas City. She enjoys everything about academic librarianship and wants everyone to love their library!



Hello. My name is **Tina Walker** and I want to be your next Vice Chair/Chair Elect for C&U.

I spent my first six years in the library world at the University of Nebraska—

Kearney as a Library Associate. I worked reference, circulation, collection development, interlibrary loan, technology support, and user services. I am currently the Area Director of Learning Resources at Mid-Plains Community College. I oversee a staff of seven for two campuses. I handle everything from employee management to cataloging to budgeting. I have recently been coordinating efforts among the Nebraska community college libraries to assist each other with library services and trying to combat high costs.

On my way to my current position, I used my spare time (LOL) to obtain my master's in business administration and my master's in information science and learning technologies. I also have been involved in numerous committees and volunteered for many library organizations. I currently am a member of ALA, NLA, MPLA, LLAMA, ACRL, and two committees for MPLA. As if I wasn't busy enough, I also am an adjunct instructor for MPCC in the Business Department and teach technology courses to the public through the Center for Enterprise at MPCC.

I strive to be active and support libraries in national, regional and local organizations. Serving as a C&U section officer is one way I can achieve this support.

Paraprofessional Vice Chair/Chair Elect



Sara Nelson – In 2012 I graduated from UNO with an undergraduate degree in library science. I've worked for the Omaha Public Library since 2004 and for two years at the Ralston Baright Public Library. I live in a house with four roommates,

three kittens, one dog, and two fish. In my spare time I read, a lot, run, dance, and draw, but mostly I spend my time with the ones I love.



Kristine Woods – Howdy from Bellevue, Nebraska. I am originally from Southern California. I have lived here 11 1/2 years, and it is a great place to raise a family. I started at the circulation desk in 2006 and have been working part-time in

tech services for over five years at the Bellevue Public Library. It is my dream job. I have five children: Katherine, 23, recently engaged, finished her library degree at UNO and is working at UNL Love library; Richard, 19, is a sophomore at University of Missouri Science and Technology at Rolla; Theresa, 17, is a junior in high school; Robert, 12, is in sixth grade; and Victoria, 8, is in second grade. My husband Tom works as a civilian at Offutt AFB. Reading is my favorite hobby.

Paraprofessional Secretary/Treasurer



Bailey Halibur – I'm originally from Iowa, but I live in Omaha now. I received my BA in sociology from the University of Nebraska—Kearney in December of 2012. I am currently in the library

science master's program at UNO/University of Missouri. I'm in my fourth semester with about a year left! I currently work at two libraries in the Omaha area: Baright Public Library in Ralston and Sump Memorial Library in Papillion. This is my first year in NLA!



Aimee Owen – I am a Reader Services Advisor for the Talking Books and Braille Service at the Nebraska Library Commission, and I have also worked at the Omaha Public Library as a Library Specialist. I am serving as the current

Secretary/Treasurer for the Paraprofessional Section and am wrapping up my second term as the New Member Round Table Secretary/Treasurer as well. I am also involved with the Junior League of Omaha, Girls Inc. volunteer guild, the Nebraska Food Cooperative, and the Omaha belly dance community, and I am a newly minted soccer mom. Oh, and I like to read in my spare time!

Public Library and Trustee Vice Chair/Chair Elect



David Mixdorf - I have been the Director of South Sioux City Public Library for five years. Previous to that I have worked as a school librarian for another six years. Previous to working in libraries, I was a teacher, a job coach, a camp

director, a military policeman, a radio DJ, a butcher, a baker, and a candlestick maker. Through all my different jobs I have brought a lot of those experiences into this position. In my time here at SSC we have seen a 300% increase in circulation and have seen an increase in numbers of programs (1,500 this year) and community participation numbers (10,000). In my free time I like to garden, juggle, perform magic, participate in Renaissance fairs, read westerns and mysteries, raise heritage breeds of chickens and rabbits, and visit zoos and fairs.



Pat Leach is director of Lincoln City Libraries, where she has worked since 1979. Among the positions she has held are Youth Services Coordinator, Public Services Manager, Branch Supervisor, and various positions in

outreach and technical services. Pat has a master's in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign and undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. A passionate reader, Pat is known to many NLA/NSLA members through her annual presentations at conference about the ALA Notable Books list for adults. Other NLA participation includes SCYP Chair, the nominating committee, and the submission of several nominations for the Mari Sandoz and Meritorious Service Awards. Pat is passionate about the role of public libraries in strengthening of fabric of communities.

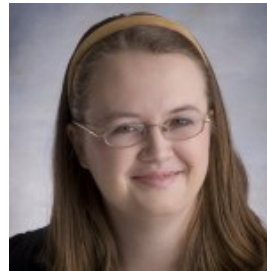
Public Library and Trustee Secretary/Treasurer



Amy Hafer has been the Director of the Hastings Public Library since January 2009. A native Nebraskan, she spent ten years in Denver, Colorado, where she obtained her master's degree in library and information science from the University of Denver in

2002. Working in Denver she held a variety of positions in corporate libraries and in both large and small public libraries. Her passion for libraries originates from a love of early literacy and creating young readers. She is also interested in the changing role of public libraries and their unique position to influence the quality of life in a community. Currently, her work is focused on fundraising for a \$5 million building renovation of Hastings Public Library.

Amy is active in the Hastings community, serving as President of the HastingsNoon Sertoma Club and on the Board of Directors for PaC2, an enriched learning daycare center. She is married to Jason Hafer, and has a daughter, Katherine, age 8 (who also thinks she runs the library on occasion), and an 11-year-old stepdaughter and 8-year-old twin stepsons who are all avid readers.



Heather St. Clair - I began volunteering at my local library when I was fourteen and that lead to a job working there. I worked in a variety of libraries all the way through college. I received my MLIS in 2008 from the University of Hawaii and

began my professional career at the Columbus Public Library, here in Nebraska, as the Reference Librarian. I am now Director of the Ashland Public Library, currently enjoying the construction of our new library.

Special & Institutional Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Tom Schmitz – (No photo or biography provided)

SCYP Vice Chair/Chair Elect



Jill Annis – I grew up with a family of educators and followed in my parents' footsteps and became a teacher. At the beginning of my career, I taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. I then moved to Peter Sarpy Elementary as

their school librarian for four years. While working on my master's degree in library science at UNO, I fell in love with middle school during my practicum at Mickle Middle School. I then applied at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and have been the school librarian there for the past four years. I have been given the opportunity to help open the

new middle school named Elkhorn Grandview Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year. I am an avid reader of young adult literature and am currently the moderator for the YA Golden Sower readers. Next year will be my 17th year of teaching.



Rebecca Brooks is the Assistant Library Director and Creative Director at the Gretna Public Library. She has a BA in English literature from Wichita State University. When not at the library, she blogs (hafuboti.com), crafts,

watches too much TV, plays the ukulele, and runs her own Etsy shop. You may have read one of her articles featured in Nebraska Library Association's *Nebraska Libraries Journal*.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Vice Chair/Chair Elect

K. Joan Birnie – Over my 25 years as Director of the Broken Bow Public Library, it has been my pleasure to serve the Nebraska Library Association in various capacities, and I had the privilege of being President of NLA in 2005-2006. Being asked to run for Vice Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table is an honor as I am very passionate about protecting our constitutional rights. Working in a library makes us constantly aware of how important it is that people have a right to privacy as well as the right to freedom and expression of thought. Because my husband and I are owners of radio stations in Broken Bow, I am extremely conscious of any attempts to restrict freedoms of press and speech as an informed public is vital to any decision making process. I am currently starting my second term on the Nebraska ACLU Board of Directors and know how closely they work with libraries on intellectual freedom concerns and issues. It would be an honor to serve as Vice Chair of IFRT.



Deb Robertson received an MLS degree from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, in 2000. Since then she has directed academic libraries at community colleges in Nebraska and Virginia and Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa.

Currently, Deb is the director of the public library in York. The first thing Deb does after arriving at a new library is join the state library association—which she did when she returned to Nebraska last fall. Deb believes a strong organization is one that has members willing to serve. With this philosophy she has been elected to several positions leading association committees or special interest groups in each state.

Additionally, Deb has been appointed to represent libraries at the state-level on several topics. In 2012, Deb was appointed by Iowa's Governor Branstad to represent libraries on the NW Iowa STEM Advisory Board. While in Iowa, Deb's passion for working with others and providing educational opportunities led into an appointment to the Iowa Library Association and Iowa Association of School Librarians joint steering committee working to strengthen information literacy opportunities for students in Iowa schools and colleges. Deb was also instrumental in developing the coursework for what is now the LIS degree offered through Central Community College in Nebraska.

Deb has also been fortunate to be selected to attend the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2001, the Mountain Plains Leadership Institute in 2002, and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)/EDUCAUSE Leading Change Fellowship in 2013.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table Secretary



Brenda Ealey is the branch manager of Gere Library for Lincoln City Libraries (LCL)—going on a year and a half in that position. Prior to her position with LCL she was the Administrator for Southeast Library System for 15 years.

She has a BA in psychology and a master’s in library science from Emporia University. She’s been active in Nebraska Library Association for many years and in various roles, including NLA President and chair of the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committees. She enjoys music—both as a musician and as a listener—and serves on the board of a local independent radio station. She is also passionate about Free Speech and serves on the board of ACLU Nebraska. She enjoys sports of all kinds, especially biking and jogging. Her daughter, Lily, is a favorite companion and just completed her freshman year at Hastings College. Brenda is passionate about free speech and serves on the board of ACLU Nebraska. She believes librarians have the momentous task of providing access to information and the library’s resources for all their citizens through equity of service, resistance of censorship, protection of privacy, and provision of confidentiality. Intellectual freedom, the First amendment and the Library Bill of Rights continue to be guides in meeting the myriad of challenges in today’s library communities.



Hello, my name is **Terry Wingate**, and I am the Staff Development Manager and Metrics Coordinator for the Omaha Public Library in Omaha, Nebraska. I have worked for OPL since 2007, starting as a part-time specialist at the Millard Branch. I

graduated from the University of Missouri with my MLS in 2009.

As the Staff Development Manager, I most enjoy being able to meet almost all new OPL staff as they go through orientation and training. I also get to train current staff on new products and services. I’ve been also involved with a grant-funded Community Engagement project for the past two years. It’s a busy, but rewarding job!

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Information Technology and Access Round Table Vice Chair/Chair Elect



Hello! **Mark Sorensen**, Library Specialist in business outreach with Omaha Public Library, here and I am glad to serve as a candidate for ITART vice chair. I’ll guarantee you’ve had applicants with more technical savvy—I’m a history

buff, a bookbinder by hobby, and my most recent professional training was in conservation. Along the way, though, I picked up a passion for digital preservation and the power of open data and shared collections to inform and protect our cultural heritage from a local to global scale. Long story short, I love my job but I’d entertain offers from the Black Hills Knowledge Network or the British Library at the drop of a hat. Of course, knowing the value of access to information and information technology is just one part of being an effective vice chair. Since July 2013, I’ve been participating in intensive training for project management and facilitation. It’s helped me refine a skill set that should be a perfect fit for the logistical duties of the position, supporting a productive year for ITART.



My name is **Terri Rickel** and I have worked for the University of Nebraska Libraries since October 2001. Even though I have been on staff here for a while, I am still new to NLA. I am working for user services which includes interlibrary

loan and circulation. I attended my first NLA in the fall of 2013 and gave a presentation sponsored by ITART on Microsoft Lync. Since that time, I have become more active in NLA and have agreed to at least two more presentations for NLA related events, including one at the online Spring ITART meeting. I attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute last summer and am currently working towards a master's in TLTE with a specialty of teaching with technology. I look forward to putting all these skills to use for ITART and NLA.

New Members Round Table Vice Chair/Chair Elect



My name is **Aneka Ramirez**. I am currently an MLS student in the University of Missouri program. I earned my BA in American cultural studies from Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. I am

currently serving on the Eastern Library System Board of Directors as a student representative. I am a Norfolk, NE, native and just recently moved back to my hometown after serving as the director of the Scribner Public Library from 2011-2013. I also just began a position in the newly formed Service Center at Northeast Community College as a Service Center Specialist. I really enjoy reading, crocheting, bike riding, writing poetry, lazing about when time allows, and lots more. I decided to run for vice chair of NMRT because I want to be a more active member of NLA and have a chance to pass on the friendly and helpful welcome to libraryland I received almost three years ago.



Katherine Woods - I work for the University of Nebraska—Lincoln as a Lending ILL Assistant and a Cash Handler managing the financial books for the circulation desk. I recently completed my bachelor's in

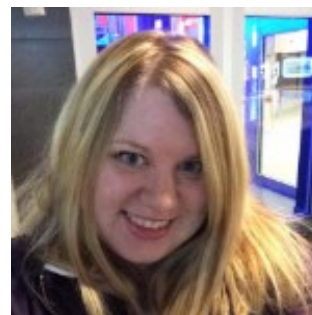
library science and I am excited to become more involved in NLA and NMRT.

New Members Round Table Secretary



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Dana Schipporeit – I am a former English major, who has always been in love with libraries. I am a thorough and responsible note taker. I love being a school librarian and feel that this is my true calling in life. I feel that it is my

calling, also, to take a leadership position in NMRT.

Technical Services Round Table Vice Chair/Chair Elect

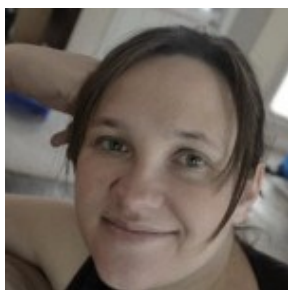


Nannette Bedrosky – I am currently the Metadata Librarian and Sirsi/Dynix Liaison for the Health Sciences Library, Creighton University.

Some of my current responsibilities include:

- Working on some of the Creighton Digital Repository collections (Daily Reflections, Faculty Bibliography, Theses and Dissertations, Newsletters)
- Member of the ILS Steering Committee—tasked with leading the three Creighton Libraries through the exploration, selection, and implementation of a new, enhanced Integrated Library System or Unified Resource Manager via the RFI and RFP processes
- Learning RDA
- Covering an occasional Saturday at the reference desk

I have belonged to NLA and TSRT for many years.



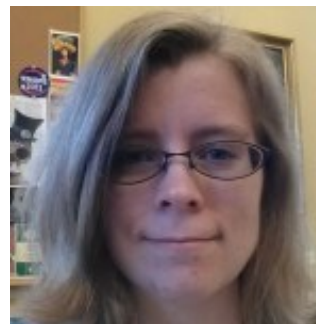
Emily Dust Nimsakont is the Cataloging Librarian at the Nebraska Library Commission, a position she has held since October of 2008. In addition to her duties at NLC, she teaches cataloging classes as an adjunct instructor for UNO and the

University of Missouri—Columbia.

Emily earned her master’s degree in library science from the University of Missouri—Columbia. She also holds a master’s degree in museum studies from UNL and a bachelor’s degree in history and psychology from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.

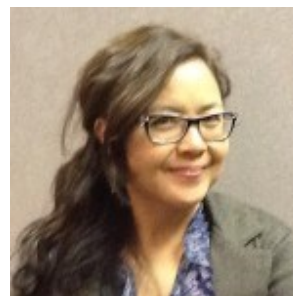
Emily has been an active member of the Nebraska Library Association. She worked as the association’s webmaster from 2008 to 2010. She served as Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair of the New Members Round Table, and she is currently the webmaster for the Technical Services Round Table. She also served on the 2011 NLA Conference Planning Committee.

Technical Services Round Table Secretary



Billie Cotterman is the Technical Services Librarian at Hastings College. During her two years at the college, she has also taught about computer tools, introduction to the liberal arts, and Roman history. She received her MA in classics

from the University of Iowa in 2010 and her MA in library science from the University of Iowa in 2012. She is originally from Tallahassee, Florida.



Euem Osmera – I grew up as an “Air Force brat.” Dad’s job took us through three continents: Asia, Europe, and North America. It was quite adventurous to learn the dialects of different countries and states, and one particular

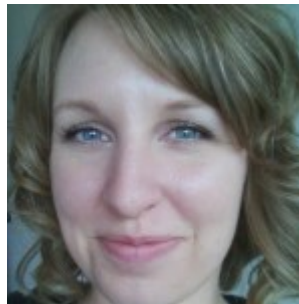
favorite would be the southern one. It took all of one day for me to say, “Hi ya’all” instead of “Hi you guys!” Also it would not be uncommon to hear me combine a Thai, German, and southern drawl in a conversation.

I am working as a Digital/Tangible Media Cataloger at the McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center. My main duties are to catalog all formats, create authority, clean-up the database, offer reference service, and teach.

Young Adult Round Table Secretary

I am currently the NLA TSRT Secretary, which has been great because it gave me the opportunities to practice my listening and writing skills—where have the last two years gone?! I am the past chair of the Publicity Committee, McGoogan Library of Medicine; Governmental Relations Committee, MidContinental Medical Library Association (MCMLA); LiveGreen member, University of Nebraska Medical Center; and finally a member of ICON (Nebraska medical librarians group).

I would be honored to be the NLA TSRT secretary for the next term!



My name is **Odessa Cooley**. I have worked in the South Sioux City Public Library since June 1, 2009. I am the youth librarian and work with youth from birth to 18. Here at the library, we have a very well-functioning Teen Advisory Board, which I started in 2010,

and we are working on starting a Minions group—this is like TAB but for middle school students. We have run around 30 youth programs a month for all ages in our community. I am currently taking classes for my associates' degree in library science.

2014-2015 Nebraska Library Association Candidate Ballot

Remember to cast your vote for NLA officers before August 30, 2014!

For full candidate bios on the web, please visit the voting section of the NLA website here:

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/nominating/2014-2015-candidates/>

To vote, please go to this link:

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/nominating/2014/08/01/voting-is-now-open/>

Remember you will need to log into your Memberclicks account in order to access the ballot.

If you have any difficulties voting, please contact the NLA Webmaster at webmaster@nebraskalibraries.org

C&U — College & Universities Section:

Discovery and Sharing at the C&U / S&I 2014 Spring Meeting

Jon Ritterbush

One of the best reasons to join and participate in the Nebraska Library Association is the opportunity to learn how other Nebraska libraries are creatively meeting the needs of current and future users. On May 16, the College & University and Special & Institutional sections held a joint meeting at the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Criss Library. The meeting's theme and program tracks emphasized two aspects of libraries: "Discovering Uniqueness" of our individual special and archival collections and "Sharing Commonalities" in discussing the services many academic libraries are implementing or investigating in response to changing user needs.

"Discovering Uniqueness" Track Programs

Lindsey Bailie of the KANEKO-UNO Creativity Library shared about this unique facility that combines print and digital collections with creativity supplies, technology, and comfortable spaces to promote learning and innovation. Additional information is featured on the library's website at <http://thekaneko.org/library/>.

Sabrina Riley and Kelti Dickerson of Union College presented on the founding of the Medical Cadet Corps at their school, which provided Adventist men with the means to serve in the U.S. military in non-combatant roles during the mid-20th century. The historical record of these "Conscientious Cooperators" in the form of photographs, film, manuscripts, and other materials is still being processed, with a growing digital collection available at <http://cdm15913.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>.

Amy Schindler of UNO gave a presentation on the Criss Library's Archives and Special Collections, which includes the Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection and the archives of former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel. Items from Omaha and campus history, as well as examples of other rare

materials were also shared. More information is available online at <http://unomaha.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>.

"Sharing Commonalities" Track Programs

Rebecca Bernthal of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offered an overview of UNL's plans for digitizing 18,000 master's theses for open access in the DigitalCommons institutional repository at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>. She described the scanning equipment, workflows, and expertise required for this significant endeavor, as well as the challenges of obtaining authors' permission for extending open access to their theses online. The "closing and cast party" for completing this digitization effort is anticipated to be held in 2018.

Jayne Germer of Doane College facilitated a panel discussion with Valerie Knight of Wayne State College and Ronald Wirtz of University of Nebraska-Kearney on their experiences investigating and implementing a learning commons space within their respective libraries. Timelines, construction plans, photographs, and mutual hopes and disappointments associated with major construction projects were shared with those in attendance.

Terri Rickel of UNL presented on the topic of "flipping the classroom" as a means of providing students with self-paced instruction prior to hands-on learning during a scheduled class session. Terri demonstrated several tools including Camtasia Studio and Jing for creating screencasts and recorded her presentation at <http://www.screencast.com/t/RZHrPtjLAzIj>.

All six of these presentation slidedecks have been shared on the NLA's SlideShare account at <http://www.slideshare.net/neblibraries/tag/CUSI14>.

Connecting with Other Nebraska Librarians

Beyond these outstanding presentations, those who attended the spring meeting also had an opportunity to share experiences during the luncheon “Table Talks” on a variety of topics: , including archives and special collections, cataloging, discovery platforms, e-resources, instruction, and outreach and special programming. At the Table Talk I facilitated on discovery platforms, librarians from academic institutions large and small, public and private discussed their perceptions of discovery products from EBSCO, Innovative, OCLC, and ProQuest. For those institutions who have implemented these tools, there was an opportunity to also share potential pitfalls and lessons learned with those libraries shopping for new or alternative discovery tools.

This luncheon was followed by hour-long “Affinity Meetings” which allowed librarians from the community colleges, state and independent colleges, University of Nebraska system, and special libraries to discuss issues of particular concern within their respective groups. The affinity group moderators addressed these questions as suggested by attendees through the online registration form:

- What will the academic library look like in the next two to five years? How do you prepare (plan) yourself and your organization for the future? How do you “vision”?
- What are you doing with your space due to compression of print and moving into ebooks: Common area with flexible study space, cafe, 24 hour, etc.?
- Updates on activities, new purchases/subscriptions, discuss possible cooperative efforts/purchases

Many favorable comments about the Table Talks and Affinity Meetings were expressed in-person and through anonymous survey responses, citing the collaboration and “new ideas” shared during these periods. One person

especially enjoyed “not having the business meeting during lunch.”

The spring meeting was a wonderful success with sincere thanks to our gracious hosts at the University of Nebraska -Omaha’s Criss Library, to the many volunteers who shared their knowledge and insights during these sessions, and to our attendees who also contributed to these valuable conversations. Meetings like these should remind us all of the value in connecting with other librarians, for together we form a human network essential toward meeting the information needs of our institutions and communities. I hope to see you in South Sioux City in October!



Jon Ritterbush is the E-Resources and Serials Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Kearney’s Calvin T. Ryan Library, and is the 2013-14 Chair of the C&U Section.

**Planning to attend the
2014 NLA/NSLA Annual Conference?**

**This year’s theme is
“Motivate, Innovate, Integrate.”**

**The conference will be held
October 8-10, 2014, at the
Marina Inn and Conference Center in
South Sioux City, Nebraska.**

**Registration is now open and a full
conference schedule can be found on the
NLA website at [http://
nebraskalibraries.org/conference2014/](http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference2014/)**

NMRT—New Members Round Table: Professional Awards

Matt Kovar

We were all new to the area of librarianship at some point, and I'm sure that everyone can agree that beginning a new career path can be intimidating. Whether you are starting a part-time job during college or beginning your first full-time job after graduate school, it can be difficult to become comfortable in your new surroundings. If you take a moment to think back on your time working in libraries, I'm sure you can think of at least one person that you would consider a mentor. NMRT seeks to recognize these mentors each year by awarding the *Houchen Bindery Mentor of the Year Award*.

The *Houchen Bindery Mentor of the Year Award* goes to an individual who has aided significantly in the professional development of librarians, media specialists, or library staff and, by example, has influenced their careers. Thanks to the generosity of the Houchen Bindery, the award has come with a \$150 cash prize as of 2007. If you know someone who has had extraordinary influence on the professional development of one or more junior staff members, encouraged involvement of staff in professional endeavors, provided strong leadership, and set a good example of professional involvement then you know someone who deserves the *Mentor of the Year Award*.

Along the same lines, mentors and more seasoned librarians are often encouraged by the work that new professionals are doing to advance the field of librarianship. While still learning the ropes, new professionals often take initiative and share innovative ideas that improve library services. While still learning themselves, these beginning professionals are also setting an example for other newcomers by showing that great strides can be made at the beginning of their careers. NMRT also recognizes the accomplishments of these professionals by awarding the *Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award*.

The *Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award* is a cash prize sponsored by Houchen Bindery. It is awarded to a beginning librarian or media specialist who has made significant contributions to library and/or media services in the early stages of his/her career. If you know a new professional who has created innovative programs or services which improved library service in Nebraska; made exceptional use of local, state, or national library resources, including special grants; made significant contributions toward the betterment of library and community relations; and been active in professional library organizations on a local, state, or national level then please consider nominating that person for the *Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award*.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 *Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award* and the 2014 *Houchen Bindery Mentor of the Year Award*. To nominate someone for either award, simply fill out the nomination form located on the NMRT website (<http://nebraskalibraries.org/nmrt/>). The forms and accompanying documentation may be returned to Dana Schipporeit, NMRT Awards Chair, at dana_schipporeit@live.com. The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2014.



Matt Kovar is the Technology Learning Center Coordinator at the Kearney Public Library, and the New Members Round Table chair for 2013-2014. He is also currently working on his MLIS through San Jose State University.

PLTS—Public Library & Trustee Section: The Issue of Net Neutrality

Evonne Edgington

In 1994 I was taking a reference class at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the teacher introduced us to a new service named “Gopher” after the University of Minnesota. This was a simple version of the Internet—no graphics, no color, and only limited search results. Now, 20 years later, we take the Internet for granted, with graphics and color, movies, and unlimited search results. We use “Google” as a verb and even search online on our phones. We access the Internet almost everywhere: home, businesses, and especially libraries. We have customers who come in every day to use the library computers for a variety of reasons, including playing games, checking email, applying for jobs, printing, and many other uses. They expect the Internet to be available, fast, and open.

This all leads to the debate about net neutrality and the impact it will have on our patrons. Net neutrality was established in 2010, when the FCC issued an Open Internet Order to prevent large Internet service providers (ISPs) from stifling competition and innovation online (under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 706). Net neutrality is the principle of fair and equal access for all users to legal content on the Internet. This means an ISP cannot prevent users from accessing websites or services, throttle speeds for certain websites over another, or redirect users from one website to another, e.g., a cable Internet provider cannot block access to Netflix and redirect users to its own streaming video service. Without net neutrality, for example, a company or political group could strike a deal with an ISP to slow or block access to a site, whether it is a competing company or political opposition group. Considering that only 75% of the U.S. population only has one choice for a high-speed Internet provider, and only 48% have access to one broadband provider, this is a concern. ISPs must also be transparent with users on how it monitors and manages

bandwidth usage, such as throttling all streaming traffic in peak hours.

Net neutrality was struck down in January when a DC District Court ruled that the FCC did not have the authority to enforce net neutrality and cannot regulate information services (current ISP classification) as common carrier utilities (like wired telephone service providers). Essentially, the FCC cannot prohibit ISPs from discriminating against content providers. To enforce an open Internet, the FCC would need to reclassify Internet service as a utility, and the court ruled it has the authority to do so. So far, the FCC has opted not to take this action.

The large, Internet-providing media companies and their supporters, however, are opposed to this and state this would threaten new investments and jeopardize the spread of broadband technology, holding back Internet speeds and deepening the digital divide. Other opponents are simply concerned about more government regulation. Proponents of net neutrality argue that prior to the Open Internet Order, the U.S. had fallen far behind other industrialized countries in Internet speed and access (from first to ninth) while prices increased, and this will only get worse without net neutrality. They also argue that innovative startups will be quashed by “fast lane” or redirection deals between big content providers and ISPs, and a “complete” Internet will only be available to those who can afford it. It is interesting to note that telephone companies’ common carrier status is what enabled many people to gain Internet access in their homes through dial up companies like AOL and Juno.

How does this affect the public libraries? Many people who use library computers do not have access to computers at home or anywhere else. They use library computers for job searches and obtaining skills, whether through an online class or watching instructional YouTube videos. If network operators are allowed to serve as the gatekeepers that decide which content should be relegated to “slow lanes” or completely blocked, this will undermine the platform of intellectual freedom and access for all promoted by libraries. Also, this could increase the cost that libraries pay for Internet service and providing content (such as digital or streaming content).

This is a complex issue and the result of a fast-growing service that has quickly become essential to our everyday lives. As with many technological advances, regulations have not kept pace. I see every day how much the Internet has grown and changed since I first saw it in 1994. It took several years before the majority of people even knew what the Internet was and how to use it. Now it seems the majority of people expect it to be available and use it every day for almost everything. People access the Internet on all sorts of devices besides computers. It is used on tablets and smartphones. If someone has a question, they just whip out their smartphone to find the answer. In my opinion, net neutrality is in the best interest of all who use the Internet and provide access or content. Yet I am left with questions on how to best regulate it and what ramifications this may have for the consumers we have not yet considered or imagined.

Additional Readings

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Evonne Edgington has a Master's of Arts in Library Science from University of Missouri, 2005. She has worked for Omaha Public Library since 2001. She is the branch manager of the Willa Cather Branch of

Omaha Public Library.

What would you like to see in future issues of *Nebraska Libraries*?

Please email the editor at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org with your suggestions, comments, and thoughts.

We would love to hear from you!

Let us know what we can do to make *Nebraska Libraries* even better.

S&I—Special & Institutional Section:

The Future of S&I? The Current State of the Section

Annette Parde

I pose the following questions to members of the Special and Institutional Section and general members of NLA. What is our purpose as a section? How are we to achieve that purpose?

I ask these questions for several reasons. We only have one of four nominations for officers for the 2014-2015 year thus foregoing our financial allotment from NLA. Programming and attendance are continuing issues and have been for over a decade. This is not a commentary on our membership. We consistently seem to have a membership of 20 to 25 people (half as many as the next smallest section), many of whom are involved in other organizations and areas of NLA. We have very active members who already have full plates. We keep tapping the same people for office over and over again. (Our incoming Chair, Carolyn Dow, has served as chair no less than four times in the past ten years.) I appreciate the willingness of these people to keep serving. However, it seems that the section adds to members' exhaustion and frustration and even repels potential members because of the continual pleas to serve the section. This is not a new issue.

In 2007, the S&I membership voted on dissolution. It did not pass. However, not much has changed in seven years, and the section continued to stagnate in participation. In the past 15 years, the section averaged 2.25 sessions at fall conference, with no year larger than three except for last year with six. No sessions were accepted for the 2012 conference, and it appeared 2007 did not have any either. There was no programming for 2012-2013. In 2013-2014, we had a tour in March with four attending (two were members), and a joint spring meeting with C&U. Three members attended. Only two were available for the meeting—the same two from March—me and my husband. During that meeting, I hoped to garner some

ideas regarding this situation, but there were no other members available. These few instances were indicative of the general state of the section.

Based on feedback from the nomination email I sent in May, I proposed to the NLA board that the general NLA membership vote on dissolution during the fall conference as per the NLA bylaws. This proposal was tabled with the intention of creating a task force to address the issues. Based on the S&I files, NLA took a similar step in 2007.

Little has changed since then. How do we help that? What can be done? Increasing membership seems more allusive than it appears. Many potential members seem to find what they need in other NLA sections in combination with other organizations (such medical or law library associations). They receive more broad information and are not demanded to serve as often in other sections and receive more specialized information from the other organizations. This seems to fit them well. Or am I mistaken?

I think special and institutional libraries need to be seen and heard, and the section has done so through informative joint spring meetings and pre-conferences. Often these are well attended by members of NLA, but not necessarily the S&I membership. I believe programs can continue to appeal to and promote S&I libraries without S&I remaining a section of NLA. As it currently stands, the section may be hurting its current and potential members more than it is helping.

Some ideas have been thrown out as to what S&I can do—switch from a section to a roundtable, partner with another related organization like the Nebraska Association of Institutional Librarians (NAIL), or, as mentioned, disband entirely. I would like to hear thoughts and ideas

from you. As I posed at the beginning of the column, we need to figure out our purpose and how to achieve it if we want to continue. Please send thoughts and ideas to me at annette.parde@gmail.com. I would appreciate if you would include your interest or participation in S&I libraries and if you are a current member of the section to help me gain a perspective of the section, both inside and outside of its current membership.



Annette Parde will become the Librarian at Midland University at the start of the Fall 2014 semester. She has spent nearly five years at Nebraska Wesleyan University, first in the history department then in the library. She has a Library Science Master's from Mizzou and a history BA from UNL.

She is married to guybrarian, Brian Maass, and they have two kids.

Thank you for reading this. I want to do what is best for the special and institutional libraries and librarians in Nebraska, and I need your help to achieve that.

Sandra Herzinger Award for Technical Services Advocacy Award

Nominate a Nebraska library professional who has advocated for technical services.

Each nominate must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed in a technical services position in a Nebraska library (according to the TSRT statement of purpose, technical services includes acquisitions, collection development, cataloging and classification, preservation, serials control, interlibrary loan, and document delivery)
- Be an active and involved employee of his/her library, as well as an active and involved member of the Nebraska library community
- Have a proven record of demonstrating the value of technical services, both to colleagues within the library community and to library patrons

The letter of nomination should include contact information for the nominee (name, title, address, email address, and telephone number), the nominee's accomplishments (particularly as they relate to the award criteria), and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, position title, address, email address, and telephone number of the nominator. Also required are at least two additional letters of support which further endorse the nominee.

Nominations and letters of support should be sent to TSRT Chair, Heather Buckwalter, HeatherBuckwalter@creighton.edu. More information about the award can be found on the TSRT website at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/tsrt/award/>.

The deadline is August 31, with the award being presented at the NLA/NSLA annual conference in October.

SCYP—School, Children’s & Young People’s Section: Suggestions for Incorporating Cultural Literacy into Children’s Services

Karen Pietsch

Each year, hundreds of libraries around the U.S. participate in an American Library Association (ALA) initiative called *Día*, an American version of an internationally celebrated holiday called “Children’s Day.” The library holiday not only honors children, but also celebrates diversity of culture and language and promotes multicultural and multilingual books and resources.

It’s a bit of a loaded holiday. Many separately important concepts are mashed together into one initiative that is not always well understood by the public. *Día* does showcase an important role that public libraries play though—that of a mingling space, physically, mentally and socially, for people of different backgrounds. Whether or not it makes sense to celebrate *Día* in your library, one thing is certain: children’s librarians have a unique opportunity to increase cultural awareness in their communities by incorporating multicultural and multilingual concepts into their collections, programs, and regular storytimes. My library’s service area is one of the most, if not the most, diverse in the state of Nebraska, but the guidelines I’ve outlined below are just as relevant for a smaller, less diverse library.

Acknowledge your multicultural neighbors. It is always fun to explore exotic places via books with children, but do your collections, storytimes, and cultural programs give a nod to the backgrounds and home countries of the people in your community too? Do some research on the immigrants and minority populations in your county and make sure they are included in some way in your collections and programs. Highlighting these cultures with the children in your library will help all of them develop an awareness and deeper understanding of their neighbors in addition to making newcomers feel welcome.



Children and parents work on crafts and peruse multicultural art projects created by Gateway Elementary students during a “Children’s Day, Book Day” art reception at the South Omaha Library. The event celebrated children and their achievements while highlighting multicultural and multilingual resources.

Get input from people of different backgrounds. This is a step that many librarians choose to pass over because they assume that it is too time-intensive or unnecessary. I know from experience that this is a mistake. Inclusion can be as simple as interviewing the leadership at your local refugee services organization or administering a survey about children’s collections and services at a Latino Parents meeting in a neighboring school. Librarians can also take the opportunity to form new relationships with multicultural patrons by planning a storytime or program together, as the Saddlebrook Branch of the Omaha Public Library did with a Russian ESL student for a special Russian Children’s Day storytime. Children, parents, multicultural

partners, and the library all benefit when the library allies itself with multicultural community members to share their stories and experiences.

Leverage your relationships. Making new, diverse friends and soliciting their input is necessary to providing accurate and well-rounded multicultural collections and programs, but don't forget to include your long-term library partners as well. Teachers and school librarians are looking for ways to teach cultural literacy to their students too, so why not invite them to the table? For "Children's Day, Book Day" last April, the South Omaha Library and Gateway Elementary School formed a partnership to host a student art reception at the library in which 750 students displayed art pieces in the library, many of which were inspired by *Book Fiesta!*, a bilingual children's book by Pat Mora. Dr. Diana Casey, the Gateway Elementary School librarian, coordinated with her school's art teachers to gather art pieces for display and won a Sherwood Foundation grant which paid for Mexican food and raffle prizes at the event, while I coordinated marketing, entertainment, a bilingual book display, and a bilingual book giveaway for the art reception. Working with schools and other youth-oriented organizations that

promote cultural literacy can drastically increase your resources and chances for successfully reaching children in your community.

Keep it age-appropriate. This is where a professional understanding of curriculum and brain development comes in handy. Many children are just beginning to learn about different cultures, countries, and languages by the time they hit elementary school, and they develop a more nuanced understanding as they progress into middle school. Consider providing visual aids, simple explanations, and some fun sounding vocabulary words in a different language before telling a simple folktale for a preschool audience or hosting a Native American storyteller who can answer questions about cultural artifacts and symbols for an elementary-aged audience.

Karen Pietsch is the Youth Services Librarian at the South Omaha Library, a joint-use library facility for Metropolitan Community College and Omaha Public Library. South Omaha is home to immigrants and refugees from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, and several other countries, and is proud to be one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Omaha.

Paraprofessional of the Year Award

This award is given to a library employee who has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Innovative programs that the nominee has worked with which have resulted in new or improved library services
- Exceptional volunteer work in library service or related field
- Exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise

Nominations are due on August 31. To nominate, send an email detailing how the nominee meets the above criteria to the [Paraprofessional Section Publicity and Citations Committee Chair](#).

TSRT—Technical Services Round Table: It's All About the Data

Heather Buckwalter

As Technical Services staff we very often get caught up in technical details, software and jargon and forget that we are also human. “It’s all about the Metadata” is a great slogan but we need to remember that without the people working with the data and materials we would not have much information for our patrons. Over the years, I have attended many a program session on management and supervising. I am always trying to improve my management and people skills as I think this is an important aspect of my job as a librarian. Before going to graduate school for my MLIS, I worked in retail for many years as a sales clerk, assistant manager, and eventually as a manager of a women’s clothing boutique. I had some managers who really did not have the people skills to be supervising and this sets a bad example for someone who wants to have a career in management.

Last year I attended two programs at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting about supervising staff and dealing with conflict between staff in the workplace. The two presenters from the session on supervising posed some great questions that really got me thinking about my staff and if am I doing things to help them.

One of the first questions asked of the audience was “*Do you treat your staff like adults?*” What an intriguing question. It certainly made me go hmmm! One would think that as adults ourselves we would treat our staff as adults, but I could see in some situations where we might slip into more of a parent and child relationship. This does nothing for you or your employees as staff will become resentful if you are constantly telling them what to do all day long. They are adults. There is a difference between training someone to do their job and micromanaging a person. When you are training staff, whether it is a new employee or a current employee learning a new task, make sure the



Data, everyone’s favorite artificial intelligence android from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

training sessions are open, allowing for questions, communication, and the free flow of ideas.

Other interesting questions were “*Do they have enough work or too much? Are they interested in their work?*” I think for each staff person you need to determine how they work, what their time management process is, and how they react if you assign projects on top of their regular work. Ask staff if they like what they are doing and if they are honest with you and say no, ask them what aspects of the job they do not like. Think about whether the job duty could be changed or modified to make it more interesting or would it be possible for them to swap duties with another staff member.

“*Do you show staff that their work is meaningful? Do you give staff feedback throughout the year?*” Performance reviews are not the only time to give your staff feedback on their performance. Throughout the review time period you should let staff know that they are doing a good job. Are

they meeting expectations or do they need to make changes to what they are doing? Are there issues that they need to improve upon? If you speak with them about these things during the year you give them a chance to improve and be successful. I think supervisors should have an open door policy, allowing staff to talk to you when they need you not just at review time. Sometimes staff just need a little bit of your time to encourage them to finish a project or strive to improve. I also think staff will understand the big picture better if you explain how what they do in their jobs contributes to the mission and goals of the library.

“Do you encourage innovation?” So often you hear the phrase “but that’s how we’ve always done it” both from staff and supervisors. This is not always the right way. Let your staff ask why a task is performed in a particular way; ask your staff the same question. Open a line of communication that will encourage staff to suggest changes or new ideas. If staff feel that they can make suggestions then they may be more receptive to new ideas and changes themselves.

“Do you know what motivates staff, if not have you asked them?” Before attending the program I do not think it would have occurred to me to ask my staff what motivates them. For some of them I could guess at what motivates them, but I could not be one hundred percent sure. I know that for myself, although I am fairly self-motivated, having my supervisor on occasion confirm that I am doing a good job helps to keep me going. Other motivating factors for staff might be creating a good work environment, making sure they have the resources they need to do their job, and giving them positive feedback whether it is a verbal “good job” or an email letting them know you appreciate their hard work. Other fun things that you might try to let staff know you appreciate them include bringing them a treat once in a while (homemade or store bought) as it shows them that you are thinking about them, letting them decorate their workspace for holidays as long as it does not go against library policy, and if the library has an annual outing encouraging them to attend and turn it into a fun time.

As supervisors we have a duty to encourage our staff to do their best, keeping in mind they are human and sometimes they need encouragement and motivation to do their best. Supervisors should be aware of staff rights and responsibilities, their own responsibilities as supervisors, and library or company policy in regards to human resources. Even Data on Star Trek wanted to have human emotions.

Photo Credit:

Data (Star Trek). (2014, July 1). Retrieved July 1, 2014 from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Data_\(Star_Trek\)&oldid=615102472](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Data_(Star_Trek)&oldid=615102472)



Heather Buckwalter is the Serials /Acquisitions Librarian at the Creighton University Law Library. She started working at there in the Fall of 1996. She received her Master’s of Information and Library Studies in 1991 from the University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies.

Congratulations to the 2014 NLA Scholarship Recipients

The NLA Scholarship & Awards Committee would like to congratulate the following recipients!

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Jessica O’Dowd
Lindsey Stier

Duane Munson Scholarship

Kelli Keyes

More information can be found on the Scholarship & Awards Committee webpage at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/sanda/>

My Own Personal Library:

Lindsey Tomsu, Series Books Collector, Researcher, and Advocate

Rebecca Brooks

To walk into Lindsey Tomsu’s apartment is to walk into a book lover’s paradise. Books adorn every wall—either on shelves, bookcases, or hanging in frames. After taking a tour wherein books were found in every room but the bathroom, we settled in the large book alcove where most of her nearly 3,000 series books are shelved. The passion Lindsey has for series books is apparent in both how she collects them, as well as how enthusiastically she speaks about them.

Would you call these books “young adult” or “children’s” series?

In my research I refer to them as “youth series” because that encompasses birth to teen. So instead of always saying “children’s and young adult series,” it’s easier to just say “youth series are classified as *this*” and then keep saying “youth” again and again.

When did you start collecting the series books?

Unbeknownst to me, I probably started collecting them right when I began college since I was into old antique books. While I was trying to learn more about classics, I ended up finding Horatio Alger’s books. I didn’t even know his importance as one of the grandfathers of series books until I began my research. So most of this, this, and this [points to several shelves] are his books. He wrote in the mid- to late-1800s and basically pioneered the “rags to riches” story. I have about half of the books he wrote.

When I started my master’s degree, I ended up coming across my research idea in my very first class. It was the basic “intro to librarianship” course and my professor said for our final project we could write anything we wanted to as long as it dealt with libraries or books. I had taken an



Just a small fraction of some of Lindsey’s 3,000-plus collection of youth series books. Some of the series shown here include the Happy Hollisters, Cherry Ames, and Nancy Drew.

ALA course on the Newbery Medal, and the professor had provided articles about the dilemma of popularity versus literary merit. So I decided that I’d do my paper on that. While writing the paper, I realized that there was a glaring hole in all the texts on the history of youth literature. No mention was ever made of series books. They were completely glossed over. If you think about it everybody has read a series book at some point.

So I did a little bit more research and I discovered here and there some articles but only one true scholarly book written about series books which was published in 1991. It is Paul Deane’s *Mirrors of American Culture*. He basically discovered that the attitudes of critics and librarians

toward series books, starting back in the 1920s, was that the books were trash and if a kid wanted to read them they had better buy them with their own money because they would not be shelved in a library. I have decided to take Deane's research and pursue it further. Essentially, series books, especially older ones, were written by ghostwriters and were not an individual person's perspective. Therefore, these are important cultural artifacts that can tell people about American history. For example, the easiest way I try to express this idea is with the 1940s because of World War II. Many series for youth began featuring boys going off to fight for their country and girls studying nursing to take care of the boys when they come back.

So my scholarly research is essentially showing how one can study a social and cultural history of America through the pages of youth series fiction.

Is there a particular series that's your favorite?

Yes. It's these pretty ones right here [Vanna White arm gesture along one shelf where a set of *Penny Parker* books reside].

[Reading spines] I have not heard of Mildred A. Wirt.



Three books, with their neon-colored dust jackets, from Mildred Wirt's Penny Parker series, originally published in the 1940s.

Actually you have! Mildred Wirt was the original Carolyn Keene. Aside from doing things for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, she also did a number of series under her own name with a different publisher. The Penny Parker books were always her favorite, and it is my favorite too because they have these awesome neon dust jackets. Basically Penny Parker is how Nancy Drew would have been if she [Wirt] had had full creative control over Nancy.

What other gems do you have in your series collection?

[Showing a book] This is *the* book that is considered "The Birth of the Series Book." This is the first in Stratemeyer's *Rover Boys* series. It was published in 1899. So it is important to me for historical reasons. I recently went to The Brass Armadillo antique store. I can walk into a book sale room and be like "SERIES BOOK!", zeroing in on them. When I was there, I saw this tiny little shelf at the back of a cubby with some series books. I pulled out one that made me start freaking out. There was an elderly man who was walking by who had a look on his face like, "Whoa! What's going on?!" Basically, the importance of this book [takes a book down from a shelf] is that this predates *The Rover Boys* by a couple of months. This is a book in *The Old Glory* series. This is the first series that Edward Stratemeyer actually wrote, and it is important because it has his actual name on it. Not a pen name or anything. So when I saw it I freaked out because it is pretty rare and special.

How on earth do you keep track of all of this?

I have a binder with a list. My list is no longer small enough to staple, or even small enough to roll up and fit inside a purse. It is no ordinary list either. [Shows me a page.] The various columns tell me about the individual book—the number in the series, title, author, year, publisher, does it have a dust jacket (and, if so, what it looks like), does it have end pages, does it have a frontispiece, and, lastly, a column for how many books are in that particular series. There are a lot of series in here where I'm only one or two away from having a complete set.

The list is mainly to help me know what I have and don't have when I am collecting. I really need a list because there are so many series beyond the ones that most people know—the ones that are still around today. You might have a few people who remember Cherry Ames or Judy Bolton, but there were hundreds of thousands of series books. That's why there's a part of me that wants every single copy of every series books, but then there's another part of me that wants to diversify for my research. My research will never end because every time I get something new it could be chock full of good evidence that supports my research.

Is there a rule of thumb for librarians for when it's time to let go of a series?

I wouldn't tell anyone to feel bad about letting any series go. But if you're getting rid of them, I might gladly take them! [Laughs] I think that nowadays the thing that most librarians struggle with is their own prejudices and the parents' prejudices against their children reading series books. But think about it. First, series books do not stunt your love of reading. Telling kids that they can't read what they want to read is what is going to do that. You could do a survey of every patron that is currently in your library and ask them, "Did you read series books when you were young?" Most likely all will say yes, and that it didn't turn them away from reading.

Secondly, I especially dislike the parents who tell their kids, "No you cannot read the Hardy Boys. No, you cannot read the Magic Tree House. No, you have to read better things!" And then they go off and are like, "Oh look! It's the new James Patterson book!" The new book that happens to be in a series. It's not cool.

Series books today are proliferating, especially in teen literature where it seems everything is a trilogy at least. These books are popular and if they will be checked out then you should get them for your community. When talking about the older fashioned ones, if they're not circulating, then get rid of them. Don't feel bad to let go

of Nancy or the Boxcar Children. Just move onto newer series that will circulate.

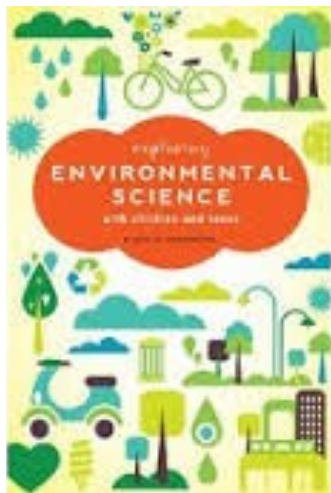
Any other thoughts or book you'd like to share?

The interesting thing about the whole stereotype that started against series books is that it was never actually about the books themselves. All the complaints in old articles and literature are about the *format* and not actually the books' content. Back then people assumed if a book was a series the books were going to be horrible with just the same story over and over again. Yes, some of the books are utter crap. I've got some that are utter crap. I love that utter crap just as much as I love the stuff that is really good. And there are some that are really well-written.

When I lecture on series books, I like to end my presentations with one fun fact. So I will share it with our readers. If someone ever says that series books stunt a child's reading and are good for nothing you can share this true fact with them. When Jack Cover, a NASA researcher, was a young boy he devoured the Tom Swift books like candy. Tom Swift was the classic boy inventor/scientist. Cover loved the technology in the books and Tom Swift influenced him, when he grew up, to go into science. Cover eventually became the man who created the TASER, which, unknown to most people, stands for "Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle"—the name of the tenth book in the series published in 1910 in which Tom creates a device similar to what Cover would perfect in real life more than sixty years later. Everyone can thank a youth series book for that.

Want to share your own private library with readers of *Nebraska Libraries*? Please email the editor at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org!

Book Bites: Book Reviews (and More!)



***Exploring Environmental Science with Children and Teens* by Eileen G. Harrington**

ALA Publishing, 2014

Paperback, \$50.00, ISBN 978-0-8389-1198-3

Looking for creative ways to incorporate science into new or existing children's and young adult programming in your library system? *Exploring Environmental Science with Children and Teens* by Eileen G. Harrington, a recent addition to the Professional Collection at Omaha Public Library, is a valuable source worth examining. This publication is filled with ready-made programs for science storytimes, book clubs, preschool and kindergarten programs, and family science workshops. In addition later chapters delve deeper into self-guided activities and citizen scientists programs.

Harrington provides background information on research studies which suggest a deficiency in science education in U.S. schools where a greater emphasis has been placed on math and reading scores. When thinking about science education, public libraries may not be the first place considered but perhaps we can be in the future. Libraries can play significant part in raising public awareness, providing age-appropriate science materials (in a variety of formats), offering science focused programming, and collaborating with schools and museums.

This resource offers suggestions on how to structure a successful program. Also discussed is the need for creative displays, handouts, and list of titles and websites for all program attendees to discover and investigate on their own. Included in chapter themes are learning outcomes, read aloud book suggestions, materials needed, procedures, and the science behind the topic. An extensive background in science is not required.

Whether it's offering preschool science storytimes or starting a science related book club, the goal is to help children and teens improve literacy skills, develop socially and emotionally through interaction with others, and to encourage an awareness of our environment and the science that surrounds us all.

Omaha Public Library has taken an active approach by encouraging youth librarians to include a nonfiction book in preschool storytime programs, by developing a [Science Rocks LibGuide](#), and by creating 13 [Sensational Science kits](#) for parents and educators.

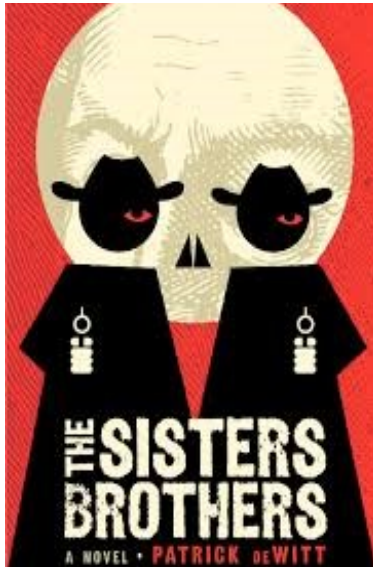
--JoAnn Prout – Youth Collection Librarian, Omaha Public Library

***The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick deWitt**

Ecco Press, 2011

Hardcover, \$24.99, ISBN: 978-0-0620-4126-5

The best thing about book clubs is they introduce you to books you would never pick up yourself. Such is the case with *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick deWitt. This novel is a literary western, set against the backdrop of the California Gold Rush of the 1850s. It follows the story of Eli and Charlie Sisters who are on a mission to kill a man. Eli, as the younger brother, is reluctant to carry on his savage killings, but Charlie is all about more money and adventure. Eli



narrates the tale in an understated, formal way. At times he is tender and wistful but at other times violent and angry. The brothers meet eccentric characters along the way, and the tale turns truly dark after they decide to help two prospectors who have a secret way to find gold. Their relationship is contentious and at the same time makes for some humorous reading. I particularly enjoyed Eli's discovery of dental care.

This is a delightful, quirky western, part dark comedy and part morality tale. If you enjoy the Coen Brothers movies (*No Country for Old Men*, *Fargo*) you will enjoy this fast paced read. The ending hints at more to come, and I do hope the Sisters brothers continue their adventures. I won't wait for my book club to read the sequel.

Readalikes include *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy, *True Grit* by Charles Portis, and *Welcome to Hard Times* by E.L. Doctorow.

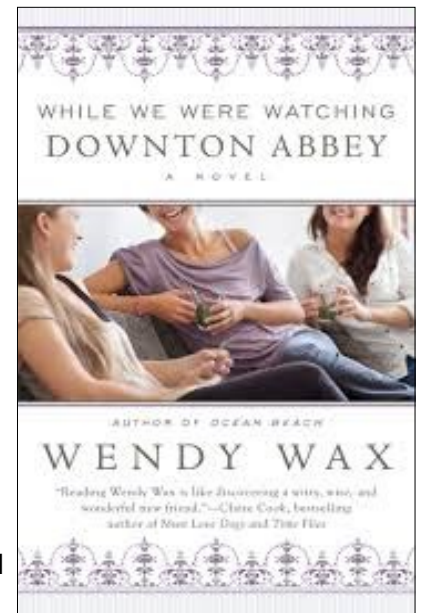
--Maggie Tarelli-Falcon, Omaha Public Library

While We Were Watching Downton Abbey: A Novel by Wendy Wax

Berkeley Trade, 2013

Softcover, \$15, ISBN: 978-0-4252-6331-0

When Edward Parker, concierge of a posh downtown Atlanta apartment building, begins weekly Sunday night screenings of *Downton Abbey*, so begins the unlikely friendship of three very different women. Samantha Davis is a wealthy socialite, Claire Walker is an author suffering writer's block after recently moving from the suburbs when her only daughter left for college, and Brooke MacKenzie is still feeling the sting of her recent divorce while raising two young girls. Each chapter is told from alternating perspectives among the three women as they face the unique challenges in their lives and learn to lean on each other in the process. While somewhat predictable, this was a quick, easy, and enjoyable summer read. With discussion questions at the end, it might be a good candidate for a women's book club choice when a fun and lighthearted read is in order. Fans of *Downton Abbey* will especially appreciate the many reference to the show.



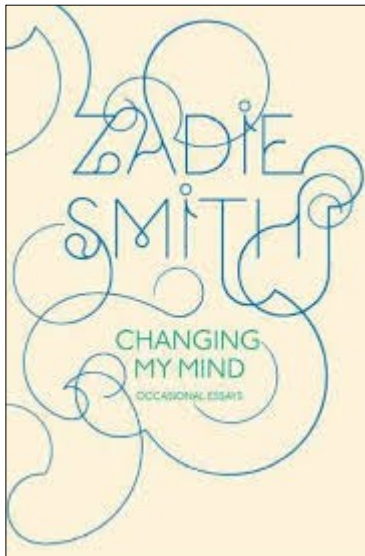
--Nicole Caskey, Resource Librarian, Clarkson College

Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays by Zadie Smith

Penguin Books, 2010

Softcover, \$17, ISBN: 978-0-1431-1795-7

Zadie Smith's collection of non-fiction, *Changing My Mind*, is billed in the subtitle as containing "occasional essays," meaning that there is no larger theme binding the essays together. The reader is instead treated to one of the foremost voices in contemporary literature turning her focus to a wide range of topics, including everything from Greta Garbo to Franz Kafka to the weirdness of Los Angeles during Oscars weekend. In the absence of an overarching theme, what unites the work is the voice of the author. Smith's voice is the product of a two-part upbringing, equal parts working

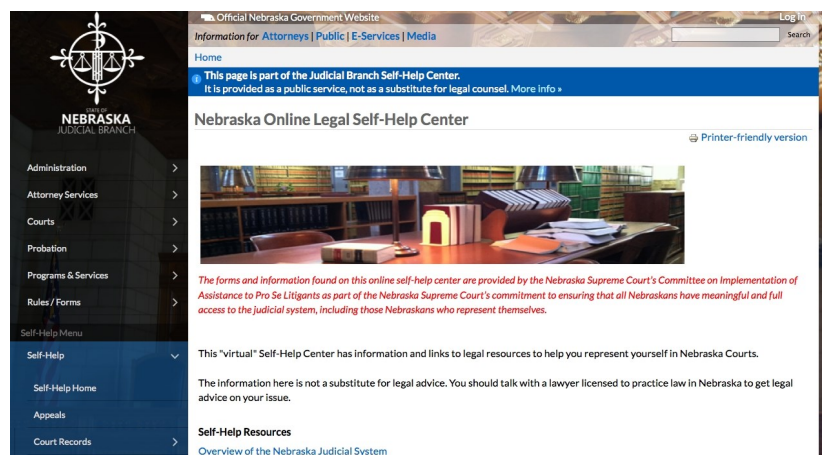


class North West London childhood and the more refined Cambridge University education. The manner in which she reconciles the old and new voice infuses her writing with a discernible level of uncertainty; Smith reads as though she’s still coming to terms with the change. Through her wonderful gift for the phrase and a slightly non-standard approach to punctuation (the use of colons in particular is delightful), Smith suffuses these essays with a voice that is at once intelligent and self-conscious. This voice is not unique to Smith’s non-fiction work; she burst onto the literary scene with her debut 1999 novel *White Teeth*, and established herself as a fresh voice in literary fiction. In *Changing My Mind*, Zadie Smith displays the full force of her talent across genre distinctions. This alone is enough to justify its presence in any collection: one of our greatest living authors, writing in her signature style at an incredibly high level.

--Andrew Baumgartner, lifelong library patron, former Omaha Public Library page, and current student at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. He blogs about books at www.andrewbaumgartner.wordpress.com and tweets about dogs at @abaumgart.

Nebraska Legal Information Available Online

Finding good legal information can be a challenging and stressful situation for many library users. The Nebraska Online Legal Self-Help Center (<http://supremecourt.ne.gov/self-help/welcome>) section of the Nebraska Judicial Branch website is a public service initiative by the Nebraska Supreme Court’s Committee on Implementation of Assistance to Pro Se Litigants, to ensure all Nebraskans have access to timely and relevant legal information. The “For the Public” self-help section information includes an overview of the Nebraska courts system, self-representation in court, legal terms, forms, court date calendar, county or district court locator, and the ability to pay fines online. This information is for guidance only and does not substitute legal advice; pro se litigants should always contact a lawyer who is licensed to practice in Nebraska for legal advice.



Many customers visit local libraries for legal forms; unfortunately, legal forms are not available like tax forms. Recently, the Nebraska Judicial Branch updated the forms web page (<http://supremecourt.ne.gov/forms>). The available forms (in PDF format) are for use by the legal community and the public. The legal forms can be searched by type, category, title, language, and form set. Many of these forms are also available in Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese.

Library staff and/or customers are always welcome to contact Schmid Law Library with questions on finding legal information or using the Nebraska Judicial Branch website. We have links to Nebraska-specific legal information available on our website (<http://law.unl.edu/library/>). Reference assistance is available during the day Monday through Friday. Librarians can be reached by phone at (402) 472-3548.

--Marcia Dority Baker is the Access Services Librarian at the University of Nebraska College of Law, Schmid Law Library.

EDITORIAL POLICY

(Updated May 2014)

Mission

Nebraska Libraries is the official journal of the Nebraska Library Association. It strives to inform its members and subscribers of NLA's activities and represent the broad scope of issues and news that affect all Nebraska libraries. To encourage the sharing of knowledge and inspiration throughout the state, *Nebraska Libraries* is an inclusive, flexible journal that publishes feature articles, editorials, news, and reports from anyone who cares about and is involved in the library world.

Content

Nebraska Libraries welcomes content from volunteer authors, including feature articles, news briefs, columns and opinion pieces, and photographs and artwork. Content is also provided by overseeing NLA Communications Committee members. The *Nebraska Libraries* Editor and the Communications Committee have the responsibility to publish accurate information regarding NLA and its activities and to provide a balanced spectrum of coverage for all Nebraska libraries and members. Content is accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Editorial Board and is subject to editing for clarity and grammar.

Editor's Responsibilities

The Editor is responsible for each journal issue providing a balanced mixture of relevant and thoughtful articles and features on the interests, responsibilities, problems, and concerns of the varied library professionals throughout the state of Nebraska. The Editor is responsible for determining the strategic direction for the practitioner journal and developing editorial policies and submission standards, actively soliciting manuscripts from various library professionals, conducting manuscript revision and editing, and serving as a primary liaison with authors. By submitting an item to this publication, an Author is implicitly granting the Editor permission to make minor editorial changes, such as correcting grammar, punctuation and spelling, and making layout and formatting changes as needed to speed along the publication process.

Author's Rights

An Author agrees upon the stipulations of the Submission Policy when submitting an article to the Editor. Upon submitting works to the Editor, if revisions are needed the Author will receive a copyedited version of their work and be given a one-week deadline to contest or make any changes. If the Editor does not hear from the Author within that deadline the article, as per the Editor's rights, will be published as the Editor sees fit, or saved for a future issue, in order to speed along the publication process. Authors should explicitly note when a submission is a creative work, such as poem or story, where such changes would negatively impact the Author's intent.

The Author shall, without limitation, have the non-exclusive right to use, reproduce, distribute, and create derivative works, including update, perform, and display publicly, the article in electronic, digital, or print form in connection with the Author's teaching, conference presentations, lectures, other scholarly works, and for all of Author's academic and professional activities.

After a period of six (6) months from the date of publication of the article, the Author shall also have all the non-exclusive rights necessary to make, or to authorize others to make, the final published version of the article available in digital form over the Internet including, but not limited to, a website under the control of the Author or the Author's employer or through other digital repositories.

NLA Communications Committee Purpose

The NLA Communications Committee assists the Editor with the direction, publication, and distribution of *Nebraska Libraries* and ensures that the journal meets the needs of the Nebraska library community. The committee aids the Editor in developing *Nebraska Libraries'* policies and procedures, and its members contribute to the journal as well as solicit content from the broader library community.

Disclaimer

The statements, comments, or opinions expressed by *Nebraska Libraries* contributors are those of their respective authors and do not represent the views the Nebraska Library Association.

SUBMISSION POLICY

(Updated May 2014)

Who Can Submit

Nebraska Libraries will publish various articles, columns, and creative content from any authors actively involved in the library world—public libraries, school libraries, university and special libraries, museums, archives, students, volunteers, staff, etc. If you are unsure of whether or not your piece would fit with our publication, please query the editor at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org.

Submission Guidelines

Nebraska Libraries will start publication as a quarterly practitioner's journal. If interest is high, bi-monthly publication could occur in the future. Submissions for quarterly issues are due as follows:

- February Issue = Due January 1
- May Issue = Due April 1
- August Issue = Due July 1
- November Issue = Due October 1

Any submissions received after a due date will be held and considered for the following issue. Submissions accepted but not published in the current issue may be published in a future issue with the author's permission.

Submission File Type: Please send all submissions in Word .doc or .rtf forms. Please no PDFs.

Word Count: There is no strict length minimum or maximum word count. We do recommend 1,500-2,500 words for feature articles and 500-1,500 for columns.

Photos: Please send all photos saved as separate high-quality JPEG files not embedded in the Word document and include detailed captions (either in the file name or as a note at the end of your submission).

Citations: Nebraska Libraries is a practitioner journal and not a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Not all articles will require sources and citations; however, if citations are needed in your article the citation style used by *Nebraska Libraries* is APA.

Please send all articles, ideas for articles, and other queries and communications to the Editor at

nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org

Items Eligible for Publication

We are looking for the following items or columns but we are open to submissions of all kinds:

- Feature articles about anything library related
- Articles about what is going on at your library and how it affects Nebraska libraries (successful programs, collaborations, etc.)
- Short columns in each issue by members of the sections and round tables
- Spotlights on new NLA members
- Member announcements (jobs, births, marriages, retirements, deaths, publications, etc.)
- Suggestions for future columns, article ideas, etc.
- Opinion pieces about hot topics in the library profession
- Recommendations for the "How I 'Roll" column (recommended blogs)
- Recommendations for the "Beyond the Stacks" column (interviews with interesting people who work in libraries)
- Recommendations for the "My Own Private Library" column (share your book collection with NLA)
- Recommendations for the "What Makes Your Library Special?" column (a spotlight on a specific Nebraska library)
- Answers, comments, and potential questions for the "Question" column (favorite library moment, favorite book, etc.)
- Creative works—short stories, poems, art, etc.
- Book, movie, game, software, website, etc., reviews

Editor & Author Review

If revisions are needed, Authors are asked to review their edited submissions within one week of being sent a revised draft. If the Editor does not hear back from the Author within that week, the submission will be published as the Editor deems fit or saved for the following issue in order to not stall publication.



Picture This: Willa, Elsie, and Jack at the Cather Childhood Home

Pulitzer prize-winning author Willa Cather reads to her younger sister Elsie (standing) and younger brother Jack (kneeling) at what we now call the Cather Childhood Home, occupied by the family from 1884 until 1903. It is clear from the many photographs of Willa Cather and her family reading, from Charles Cather's role as the first president of Red Cloud's Auld Public Library board (established in 1917), and from Willa Cather's own writing just how much the Cather family valued literature and story. Willa Cather talked often about the influences of literature she read, and she remained a supporter of the Red Cloud library her whole life.

Nebraska Libraries would like to thank Tracy Tucker, Education Director at The Willa Cather Foundation in Red Cloud, Nebraska, for digging up this treasured photograph. In addition to an extensive collection of historical photographs, The Willa Cather Foundation owns a number of books and magazines from the Cather home library, many of which date back to Red Cloud's pre-library times. The Foundation welcomes inquiries about the Cather home library and her connection to Red Cloud's first library.

Photo Credit: Willa Cather Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society