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Cover Photo Credit: North entrance to Falls City, Nebraska, on Highway 73. Photo by Rachel Kenny.
Welcome readers to the August issue of Nebraska Libraries! Our theme for this issue is small libraries — a category into which the vast majority of Nebraska libraries fall. With the changing landscape and shrinking budgets, these nostalgic institutions have truly demonstrated hard work and dedication to the communities they serve, no matter the size. This issue is our salute to you!

For this issue, I sat down with Hope Schawang of the Falls City Public Library and Arts Center. Garnering much hype upon their initial opening, this library has truly listened to their community’s needs by delivering library service with a touch of art. Hosting multiple art exhibits throughout the year and displaying countless local works of art, the Falls City library is undoubtedly a reflection of the creative community in which it resides.

We’ll also look at efforts made by small libraries across the state and resources essential in providing quality service to a limited population. Learn how Central Community College expands their services through collaboration. Gear up for the next fiscal year with a prime listing of current grant opportunities. Turn back the clock and discover the evolution of the Platte County bookmobile. Explore a free, new resource that can offer your patrons online assistance with driving tests without breaking your budget. Learn how peak oil may be the small, rural library’s new worst enemy.

As in the previous year, the special feature of this issue will be a listing of the current candidates for the upcoming Nebraska Library Association election.

Before you dive in, I’d like to introduce you to our new editorial board members. Nebraska Libraries is pleased to welcome Jessica Votipka, Amy Tasich, Dixie Codner, Tina Walker, and Dan Nieman. Hard at work since our very first issue, Emily McIllece, Martha Grenzeback, and myself round out our team. They’ll be contacting you all shortly in hopes you will become the next great Nebraska Libraries author.

The theme for the November issue of Nebraska Libraries is access — access to the long-distanced, underserved, and minority populations of Nebraska will be our focus. If you have an idea for an article, column, or you want to become a regular contributor to our “Book Bites: Book Reviews (and More!)” column, contact me now at NLAeditor@nebraskalibraries.org.

As always, we are open to any feedback regarding the content and overall nature of our journal. As this publication is still relatively new, outside insight is welcomed to further develop this into a one-stop-shop for anything and everything related to Nebraska librarianship.

Keep your eyes peeled for our next issue, and we’ll see you all at Conference!

Rachel Kenny
Interim Editor,
Nebraska Libraries
Featured Nebraska Library: Falls City Public Library and Arts Center

Rachel Kenny interviews Hope Schawang

For this issue, Rachel Kenny sat down with Hope Schawang of Falls City Public Library and Arts Center. Her unique, small library has quenched the creative thirst of Falls City, Nebraska, at its current location, for eight years.

First of all, this library is really unique and connected to the culture of Falls City. So, tell me how the overall concept came about?

The Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library donated to Falls City in 1902, had been completely outgrown. Fundraising began to build a new library. After ten years, we had raised approximately half of the three million dollars needed for construction. An initiative to pass the additional half-cent sales tax passed and paid for half of the library construction and 100 percent of our city’s new aquatic center.

The Library & Community Foundation was formed, and grants were received from the Kiewit Foundation and the Nebraska Library Commission’s LSTA funding for all new technology. We opened in January of 2007.

I would definitely describe your library as a creative space. Do you believe this approach better serves your patron base?

Yes! Our Stalder Art Gallery exhibits art from museums, other organizations, private collections, and an annual K-12 student exhibit sponsored by the Falls City Federated Women’s Club.
Winners from the student exhibit go on to regional, state, and national competitions of which we have had multiple winners.

Exhibits are arranged, curated, and sponsored by the Arts & Humanities Council of Richardson County, headed by Christina Wertenberger.

The gallery exhibits attract people from surrounding communities and area cities, enhancing our community’s rich history in the arts. We offer children’s programming to increase attendance and a love of reading.

Our Library has collected art over its 100+ year history. The collection has been enhanced recently by generous donations from local artists and collectors, bringing in celebrated artists from around the world. We are also able to loan pieces to other museums.

I read on your website that you have a “Monsanto 100” program. Tell me about that.

With a generous donation from America’s Farmers Grow Communities, our library has received a $2,500 donation from the Monsanto Fund for the third time. This year, with funding from the program, we are waiving our non-resident fee for families to allow many new families to receive library services without the additional cost.

What other organizations support your library?

In addition to our art gallery sponsorship from the Arts & Humanities Council of Richardson County, we are also supported by a Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, donations and volunteers. We average about 50 volunteer hours per month, which we could not do without.
What are some of your most successful programs? Least successful programs?

We have always had the support of area families in children’s programming, monthly book groups and films for youth, teens, and mature audiences. We offer six to eight art exhibitions per year, and multiple meeting spaces for groups. Our computer lab has 20 computers that are available without a waitlist or time limits. We offer basic computer training and partner with other organizations to offer formal classes. Our Art Council has hosted the Vienna Boys Choir, as well as jazz evenings, classical and popular musicale reviews.

Our Friends of the Library group has sponsored children’s programming and have a goal of sponsoring one author visit per year. When we start a new program series, we are not discouraged if only two people attend; we can and have built on that!

What is the biggest challenge facing small libraries?

Competing for budget funding! We have 3.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and are open 43 hours a week. We seek grant funding and rely heavily on volunteer service.

We very fortunately received the BTOP Funds that replaced 24 public computers in 2013.

What can we expect for the future of Falls City Public Library and Arts Center?

We are constantly assessing our current programs, building on successes, learning from experience, and listening to our patrons and community.

We really focus on providing newer technologies and technology classes. Helping people with their first computer experience is both rewarding and time-consuming. Every librarian knows that many government and public services are only accessible through websites. We struggle with making sure enough staff is

The children’s programming room, complete with optimal floor space, a stage, and an outdoor porch for messy projects.

The teen area, located at the front corner of the library with plenty of window view.
available for one-on-one assistance, as we are constantly balancing programming and front desk availability.

Do you have any advice for other small, rural libraries across Nebraska?

Be open to suggestions. Be kind to children. Be enthusiastic!

Hope Schawang is a lifelong Falls Citian. She has been with the library since 1986, and looks forward to next year’s 30th anniversary. She of course loves to read. B.A in English and History from Peru State College.

Does your library have what it takes to be the next featured Nebraska library?

Our next issue theme is Access, and we’re looking for a library that goes above and beyond to provide stellar service to minorities, immigrants, and the underserved.

Contact Rachel Kenny now at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org!
Working Together for Student Success

Sherrie Dux-Ideus, Dee Johnson & Dixie Codner

Central Community College (CCC) is made up of three campuses, each having a Library Resource Center that is operated by a campus-based Library Director: Dee Johnson in Columbus, Sherrie Dux-Ideus in Hastings and Dixie Codner in Grand Island.

Although the three libraries have different resources and the staff have different strengths and expertise, we collaborate on a number of services and projects to ensure student success. Whether we are working together to create policies and procedures and innovative services or combining resources to develop our collections, it is done with CCC’s mission in mind: “Maximizing student and community success.”

Purchasing databases based on college-wide full-time equivalent (FTE) is one of the areas of collaboration. The Library Resource Centers also subscribe to a collection of academic eBooks representing a large range of information relevant to our students’ research needs. This allows our students equal access to resources no matter what campus they are located on or what method of course delivery they choose.

Because of the large number of online courses and programs offered at CCC, it is imperative that our collection of resources serves the remote students taking these courses. Each campus library has a small physical collection, but the majority of funding for collection development is used on electronic resources and databases.

We all contribute to the creation and maintenance of LibGuides, which is our collection of subject guides with information on various topics of interest to our students. Our LibGuides are also used to promote library resources and as a collaboration tool with faculty so they may use them as course guides.

An amenity launched in the past year is the library’s chat service “Ask a Librarian.” This tool is staffed college-wide so the college can share librarian and staff presence with students. It helps with coverage on days when one or more of the libraries is short-staffed.

CCC libraries are a member of the ONELibrary Consortium. Member libraries share the SirsiDynix Symphony Integrated Library System to manage their collections. Libraries in the consortium vary in size and type and include both public and academic libraries. Being part of a consortium promotes resource sharing and enables us to offer a wide variety of services to our students and faculty.

We are members of the faculty distribution lists on our campus email system. This gives us valuable insight into what is being addressed at our faculty meetings and new
topics within college curriculum. It also allows us the ability to communicate important topics or new services we are working on in our libraries.

Our most recent project is an information literacy course we are writing to provide basic information literacy skills to our students. This course will enable students to function as information-literate individuals. In addition, students will develop skills in locating, evaluating, and effectively using information for their future courses. The plan is to have the course ready for student enrollment for the fall 2016 semester.

Quarterly meetings allow us to communicate issues, ideas, and processes. Having this venue for open dialog and sharing generates team building. Collaboration, communication and cooperation have helped us leverage our resources to offer more collectively than we ever could individually.

Dee Johnson (left) has a Bachelor of Science in Business and Master of Art in Business Leadership. She has been employed at CCC in Columbus for twenty-one years – five years as Library Resources Assistant, fourteen years as LSS Director and the last two years as Virtual Campus Director. She oversees the Media, Printing, Online Learning and Library Resources departments on the Columbus Campus.

Dixie Codner (center) has worked in libraries for 24 years, first as a library director at a small public library, then as a library assistant at Central Community College in both Grand Island and Hastings. Now, she serves as the Resource Center Director on the Grand Island Campus. Dixie earned her Master of Art in Library Science in 2014 from the University of Missouri, through the local program at Omaha, Nebraska, and has been in her current position for one year.

Sherrie Dux-Ideus (right) has a Master of Library Science from Emporia State University. In addition, Sherrie has a Master of Art in History and a Master of Art in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Sherrie has worked in academic, public, and special libraries for over thirty years. She has been employed at CCC in Hastings for 12 years.
Small libraries—particularly in Nebraska—have a bounty of grant resources available, but a competitive field for said grant monies. According to the Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey of 2013-2014, 267 libraries call Nebraska home, with over 80% having a legal service area under 2,500.

In fiscal year 2014 (FY2014) the Exeter Public Library (legal service area 570) received $3,127 in grants, boosting its total revenue per capita to $36.59 (Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey, 2014). Having gained additional grant-based funding in the current fiscal year, the Exeter Public Library has begun to heavily depend on grants to improve both services and facilities.

Tipped off by a watchful patron and Exeter’s Village Clerk, the Exeter Public Library applied for the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation. The Fund provides support to public libraries located in Nebraska communities with populations under 3,000. In 2014, the Exeter Public Library received $2,545 from the Fund with a matching requirement to start a “tech lounge.” The lounge features state-of-the-art furniture that allows users to charge their electronic devices via embedded USB ports. The powered furniture, a sign designating the area, and a new computer desk were courtesy of the Kreutz Bennett grant and matching funds from the Village of Exeter.

The lounge received further grant-funded inspiration after the Exeter Public Library Director found out about the AWE Early Literacy Station. A larger library had purchased the specialized children’s computer, and after researching the system, the Director and Exeter Public Library Board decided that it would be an excellent addition to the lounge. By the Exeter Public Library’s standards, the system was quite expensive (even after obtaining a quote from AWE), and obtaining the computer was contingent upon securing outside funding. Research led the library to the Wal-Mart Community Foundation Grant. This grant is tied to specific stores’ localities. According to the Foundation’s web site:

Funds must benefit the facility’s service area: potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within the service area of the Walmart store, Sam’s Club or Logistics facility from which they are requesting funds. (Wal-Mart Community Foundation, 2015)

Grants such as the Walmart Community Foundation Grant are often excellent opportunities for small libraries, though service areas sometimes include a sizeable swath of the awarding store’s surrounding area. The Walmart location that awarded the Exeter Public Library the Community Foundation Grant is located in York, Nebraska—about 25 miles from Exeter. In 2015, the Walmart in York, Nebraska, granted Exeter Public Library $1,000—enough to take a large chunk out of the computer’s cost.

Grants towards static items make up only a portion of the resources available to small libraries.
Director to the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) annual conference. Without the help of this grant, chances are that a representative from Exeter’s library would not have been able to attend the conference.

The State of Nebraska has steadily decreased funding to NLC since 2012 (State of Nebraska, 2015). Because of this, NLC grant funding has also decreased. One grant affected is the aforementioned Continuing Education and Training Grant, which is unavailable during the current cycle. Even so, in FY2014 the NLC divvied up a total of over $44,000 in Continuing Education and Youth Grants for Excellence among Nebraska libraries—including, but not limited to, small libraries (Nebraska Library Commission Statistical Survey, 2014).

Grants like the ones detailed above are of particular importance to small libraries. The costs of materials and services are often equal for libraries large and small; the issue is a matter of expense relative to a library’s budget. Paying for an AWE Early Learning Station, for example, might not be seen as a huge expense by large libraries. To small libraries like Exeter’s, however, a few thousand dollars is a major slice out of its budget. Due to a ready supply of grants, Nebraska’s small libraries have the chance to keep up with the technology and services of their larger counterparts. Check out more grant opportunities to the right.

References


Jessica Votipka is Director of the Exeter Public Library in Exeter, Neb., and a member of the Nebraska Libraries editorial board. She has a bachelor’s degree in English from Doane College-Crete, where she was a writer for the Doane Owl and a member of the forensics team. A self-proclaimed “recovering journalist”, she resides in Burress, Neb. with her furry child Catbert and an arsenal of knitting supplies.

More Grant Resources for Small and Rural Libraries!

Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL): Getting Grants for Your Library http://arsl.info/2013/02/resources-getting-grants-for-your-library/

The Libri Foundation Books for Children http://www.librifoundation.org/

Nebraska Access: Grant Resources http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/grants.asp

Nebraska Library Commission Grants http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/

Nebraska Community Foundation: Affiliated Funds for Libraries http://www.nebcommfound.org/affiliated-funds/find/category/libraries/

Public Library Association (PLA): EBSCO Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award http://www.ala.org/pla/awards/ebsoexcellencesmallruralaward
2015 Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Louise A. Nixon (1897-1989) worked constantly to enlighten the legislature about Nebraska’s libraries’ needs, and our lives have been enriched by her open-minded, conscientious dedication to building library service in this state. The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund, intended to support students pursuing graduate level library education, was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon’s goals of dedication and vision. The 2015 winners of this scholarship are Mandy Peterson, Monica Maher, and Rachel Kenny.

Mandy Peterson is excited to begin her tenth year of teaching at Schuyler Community Schools. Although it will be her second year in the Schuyler Central High School library, Mandy has entered her final year in her graduate program through the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Because the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship has invested in her, Mandy is able to finish her program with vigor, focus, and renewed spirit. Anticipating graduation in May, she looks forward to the new possibilities that a master’s degree and full Library Media endorsement hold for the future of her career as a School Librarian.

Monica Maher began an online graduate program for Library and Information Science through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this summer. She currently works for Omaha Public Library as a youth services specialist. Her interests include library technologies, the accessibility of tools and digital environments, digital humanities, and current digitizing and archival practices. She would like to thank the NLA for supporting students in their library studies and for granting her the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship.

Rachel Kenny will begin her final year of graduate school this August. “Student” is merely one of Rachel’s many hats. She is currently serving as Interim Editor for Nebraska Libraries, where she spreads the magic of libraries across the state. At the Council Bluffs Public Library Reference Department, she is hard at work preparing for the city’s first-ever Science Fiction and Fantasy book club. She has battled databases and demystified homework for the past almost four years at the Clarkson College Library. At the Union Pacific Railroad Museum, her heart is content digitizing, cataloging, and developing digital preservation standards for the photo archive. On top of all that, Rachel manages to garden, camp, and spend quality time with her husband and three cats (read: children) Janet, Lois, and Mr. Furley.
The Story of the Platte County Bookmobile

Drew Brookhart

The Platte County bookmobile has traversed its 685 square miles of Nebraska for 48 years. You can look at a bookmobile from a kaleidoscope of perspectives. One example is the child who experiences the wonder of a new story, has the learning experience of a conversation with a good-natured adult, and discovers that learning takes place beyond their classroom. Having been a rural bookmobile user throughout elementary school, I know this perspective well. I still remember the excitement I felt in selecting a new book from the red and gold bookmobile. I remember the librarian who patiently guided me to stories that captured my imagination.

My childhood perspective of the bookmobile has given shape to my adult one, and I know this is true for a lot of people in Platte County. The bookmobile has introduced three generations to the joy and power of reading. The mechanic keeping the bookmobile on the road today credits his love of reading and learning to the bookmobile he utilized as a child. Similarly, there are three doctors who attribute their professional success to learning to read, and acknowledge the bookmobile for giving them access to a seemingly endless supply of books.

Providing such excellent bookmobile service in Platte County has required great effort and perseverance. The bookmobile has slid around icy corners, spilling its books on the floor; its generator has quit in hundred-degree heat and subzero cold. Despite challenges, the bookmobile has helped educate and inspire; it has also helped to build community. Much of this service and community building is a direct result of Karen Hake.

In 1981, Librarian Karen Hake assists two students from Platte Center School.

Indeed, the story of the Platte County bookmobile is forever joined to its one and only bookmobile librarian. In 1967, then-Director of Columbus Public Library, Winn Jacobson, worked with the Nebraska Library Commission to secure funding for bookmobile service. Karen had just graduated from Columbus High School that spring. When funding was won, she was hired to deliver the services of Platte County’s new bookmobile to the people. A self-described shy young woman, Karen was supposed to be accompanied by an assistant and a driver. As winter took hold, Karen and the driver stuck it out, but Karen’s counterpart left the bookmobile, expressing a well-founded fear of the icy roads and dislike for the long, cold days.
Very quickly, Karen Hake became an ambassador of library services to a lot of people, and it is a role she still assumes today. She can now boast 47 winters as the Platte County Bookmobile Librarian (this is her 48th summer). The community relationships she has nurtured over her career contribute greatly to the continuing demand for bookmobile services. “The mouse that turned into a dinosaur,” is the compliment Winn Jacobson paid Karen early in her career. In the late 1960’s, before school consolidation, the Platte County Bookmobile made 66 stops each week. Karen was instrumental in forming relationships with parents, teachers, and community members, and these relationships continue to be the sustaining power of the County Bookmobile service.

Karen’s early years on the bookmobile were not easy. After one year as the Bookmobile Librarian, Karen was married to Jim Hake, and after only one month of marriage, Jim was drafted into the Vietnam War. The bookmobile was scheduled for a program with the Behlen Manufacturing Auxiliary Club when an army officer came to find her; Jim had been wounded and was in the hospital in Okinawa. Before he came home to Platte County, Jim spent a year at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver. Karen took two weeks off to help Jim get settled, while an overwhelmed volunteer took over the bookmobile, leaving her a final note that read, “I don’t want your job.” In her ’67 Camaro, Karen could make the drive to Denver in only five hours—a trip she made every weekend for an entire year. Her only pit stop was for coffee in Big Springs with the Nebraska State Patrol.

In 1995, funding for the bookmobile was cut and Karen took over the entire operation. She drives, keeps the non-live ILS system working, plans and implements programs, and coordinates vehicle maintenance. As the library works to build a new Library and Cultural Arts Center in downtown Columbus, an outpouring of support for bookmobile service has been received. Platte County community members want reassurance that their bookmobile will be preserved and these invaluable services will continue for rural children. This year, the library hopes to bring WiFi to the bookmobile, creating a mobile hotspot and allowing students and rural patrons to request books in real time on the bookmobile. It is the hope that encouraging patron-placed holds through wireless Internet access can empower readers to use the bookmobile as a delivery service. The Columbus Public Library has also been saving money to purchase a new bookmobile, hoping to celebrate 50 years of bookmobile service by positioning it well for another 50 years.

The Platte County Bookmobile, with great patience and considerable investment, has become an institution for good. The bookmobile stands as an example of a successful library service built from scratch, one that owes its success to the community’s belief in the power
of literacy and education—an enthusiasm for providing their children with the ability to think critically, learn new skills, and foster creativity. Fortunately, the community’s bookmobile service also found a champion in the form of Karen Hake. As the Columbus Public Library moves forward with plans for a new building with space for new library services, the community can rest assured that the inimitable Platte County Bookmobile will be a part of the library’s bright future. Ultimately, Platte County’s stable bookmobile is living proof of a community’s desire not just to continue, but to thrive.

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Drew Brookhart is the ninth Director of the Columbus Public Library. He is a graduate of the University of Denver’s MLIS program, member of the American Library Association, avid bookmobile supporter, and new Nebraskan.

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**New NebraskAccess Databases**

Today, nearly 1,020 public, school, college, university and non-profit libraries partner with the Nebraska Library Commission to offer NebraskAccess resources to their patrons. With funding provided by the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, Nebraska residents will have access to a refreshed lineup of fifteen databases, including the following thirteen new resources, starting July 1st:

- MasterFILE Complete
- NoveList Plus
- NoveList K-8 Plus
- MyHeritage Library Edition
- Consumer Health Complete
- Legal Information Reference Center
- Small Business Reference Center
- Biography Reference Center
- Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
- Science and Technology Collection
- Primary Search
- Points of View Reference Center
- Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia

Residents can link to NebraskAccess resources from computers at home or at public, K-12 school, college, or university libraries across Nebraska. Access these resources from any Internet connection using one password (given to the library by NLC), or a Nebraska driver’s license or state identification number. To see a list of all the available resources, visit [http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/resources.asp](http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/resources.asp). To learn how to add links to these new databases on your library website and more, visit [http://nlc.nebraska.gov/nebraskaccess/index.aspx](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/nebraskaccess/index.aspx).
A free service is offered to Nebraska library patrons to help make an impact on driver safety. Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for teen drivers in the United States and driver’s education is on the decline in our nation’s school system. Currently, only seven states offer driver’s education in their high schools and parents are many times unaware of changes in laws and driver safety recommendations to effectively teach their teens as nearly 40% of drivers fail their written driver’s permit test the first time. Driving-Tests.org is a website that fills a need concerning new driver safety education behind the wheel. In an effort to help new drivers pass their driving tests without concern and become safer drivers on the road, Driving-Tests.org offers free online practice permit tests created by experts based on each state’s driving manual.

In April of 2014, Driving-Tests.org launched a pro bono community-based online driver education program as a public service initiative especially for public libraries, colleges and universities in Nebraska and across the nation providing them with ad-free online permit practice tests and educational best practices to increase the driver safety skills of their patrons. To date, more than 1,000 libraries in 49 states, including 11 Nebraska libraries, are offering this public service to their patrons.

Seward Memorial Library is one of the 11 libraries currently offering the service to their patrons in Nebraska. “We are excited to offer our patrons access to the free Driving-Tests.org resource that helps them find driver’s education information and provides them with practice tests,” said Becky Baker, Director of the Seward Memorial Library. “Helping drivers pass the test and become safer drivers is a benefit to our whole community, and just one more way the library can provide services to our citizens.”

Omaha Public Library also finds value in the service. “Omaha Public Library strives to connect people with information and resources to help achieve their goals in life. Being able to offer practice tests at no cost to the library or patron is a win-win,” says Omaha Public Library Marketing Manager Emily Getzschman.

“We are passionate about online driver education and setting high standards in the United States to help lower the number of teen driver related crashes, injuries and fatalities,” said Andrei Zakhareuski, Founder of Driving-Tests.org. “Car crashes are the number one killer of
teens and this partnership with public and private libraries helps us to prepare more drivers not only for their permit tests, but more importantly for their safety on the road.”

**How does it work?**
This is a free program for libraries and their patrons that helps users prepare online for the written portion of their driving test at the DMV. There is no registration to use the service, no personal information is collected, and no ads will be displayed. Driving-Tests.org takes care of the setup, design, development and maintenance of each library’s driver’s education program. The program website is hosted on Driving-Tests.org server, but features the partner library’s logo on each page. Libraries can provide the URL to their patrons, include a link on their webpage and also offer the service on library computers.

**What is included?**
The website features state-specific practice exams based on the Nebraska guidebook. The driver’s education program includes best practices, a parent-teen driving agreement, ten car practice tests, five motorcycle practice tests, three CDL practice tests, three online driver’s manuals and an FAQ section with detailed answers to more than 100 DMV-related questions.

**Is it truly free?**
Yes, the main public website is ad-supported and users who visit the main page will see ads. However, library patrons who visit through the program URL will not see ads. The revenue received from advertisers on the main website allows Driving-Tests.org to sponsor the ad-free library program as a public service to help reduce car crash related fatalities and injuries.

**How do I get involved?**
More information on the Driving-Tests.org library public service initiative can be found at: [www.driving-tests.org/library](http://www.driving-tests.org/library). To start offering the free service to your patrons visit: [http://driving-tests.org/elr/](http://driving-tests.org/elr/). Libraries are provided with a unique web address, promotional graphics, printable posters, implementation guidance, usage reports and a sample press release to announce the driver’s education service to patrons.

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**Jennifer Huebner Davidson** is the communications director for The Gillen Group and a recognized traffic safety expert with more than 17 years of experience in program, campaign and curriculum development. She has authored and published several contributions in textbooks, journal entries and “The Expert’s Guide to the Baby Years”. She has been featured on national radio tours, the Today Show, in Parents Magazine, USA Today, Parade Magazine, Reader’s Digest and various media outlets educating motorists on the importance of driving safely. With a background in public health and marketing, Jennifer brings a passion for traffic safety issues and a desire to see public education programs bring about behavioral change in individuals.
Many libraries in the rural United States are facing cutbacks and, at the same time, dealing with increased usage which results in uncertain economic times. When citizen patrons are in desperate need of information to deal with dramatic changes in their lives, they turn to libraries for the latest news to deal with these challenges.

One issue related to our economic downturn is peak oil. This simply means we have reached the point where we have used 50% of the known oil and that demand is increasing while supply is not. Peak oil should never be confused with oil depletion. We will have oil for many years to come, but it’s going to become much more expensive and scarce.

So much of the oil we use is based on societal pressures. This is especially true with our constant use of personal motor vehicles. What will happen to our personal transportation issues of getting to work, school and the library when this activity becomes too expensive? Many citizens will have less energy to use at home and will turn to their local libraries to use Internet service and other costly activities.

Peak oil hard times, as in the current economic hard times, mean budgets for libraries will decrease and result in less staff and services. This will be especially true for rural, public and college libraries who currently struggle with these issues. Library hours might have to be reduced, along with downsizing staff and operating funds. This, coupled with the possibility of increased patron usage, would stretch libraries' limits more than they currently are.

Other services that could become much more expensive are interlibrary loans (ILL), which rely on courier services. With fuel costs rising, many libraries may have to limit the amount of ILLs they can receive, and some smaller libraries may cancel these services. Fortunately, with the advancement of online services, ILL items might be delivered in the form of E-books, which patrons can read online within a specified period of time.

Another valuable service for rural public libraries that may become too expensive is that of the bookmobile. With high transportation costs, many alternative energy sources will be needed to run the bookmobiles from electric-solar cell technology, vegetable oil powered engines and even the extreme possibility of horse-drawn bookmobiles.

The operational costs of lighting and heating libraries could be challenging as well. For lighting, some of the solutions are solar panels, passive solar windows, skylights, and even lanterns. For heating, fireplaces, geothermal and solar power batteries to run the furnace and air-conditioning are possibilities. Library staff will still use energy to run library computers, photocopiers, and fax machines, but solar technologies and even wind turbines could be used.

"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."
— Thomas Edison, 1931
Another cost issue for libraries will be maintaining and developing the collection. The cost of printing books will increase and paperback books, which are disposable, will be seen as a waste of paper. Hardbacks, which cost more, will last longer and may be a better investment. Repairing books will be more of an option and fewer books will be thrown in the trash, even if they can’t be sold in book sales.

One possible solution is an increase in volunteerism from patrons. It is possible that some of these libraries will return to the practice of existing without librarians and must rely on others in the community to give time to the library. It is also possible that private community subscription libraries will blossom out of someone’s house and grow from other private collections. City library systems may need to develop more and smaller community branch libraries may need to become more accessible to patrons on foot, bike paths, and public transportation.

These new branch libraries, like rural libraries, will play an even more important role as community centers, becoming the heart and soul of the community in which they are located. Overall, citizens might appreciate their libraries, not only as a source of information in turbulent times, but as a way to reconnect to local communities like never before.

Eric R. Green is Senior Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission and the Coordinator for the Western Library System in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. He has a master’s degree in Sociology from American University in Washington, D.C. and a master’s degree in Library Science from Emporia University in Emporia, Kansas.

2015 Mari Sandoz Award

Mari Sandoz was a Nebraska novelist, biographer, lecturer, and teacher. She was one of the West’s foremost writers, and wrote extensively about pioneer life and the Plains Indians. This year’s recipient of the Mari Sandoz Award is Twyla Hansen.

Twyla M. Hansen is the Nebraska State Poet. Her newest book, Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet (with Linda M. Hasselstrom), was Winner of the 2012 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry and Finalist for both the 2012 WILLA Literary Award and 2012 High Plains Book Award. She has five previous poetry books, including Potato Soup, Winner of the 2004 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry. For over 20 years, Twyla has been a creative writing presenter through the Humanities Nebraska Speaker’s Bureau throughout the state in schools, libraries and community groups, and also recently through the Nebraska Arts Council. She earned a B.S. and M.Ag. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her writing has appeared widely in a variety of periodicals, newspapers, anthologies, an encyclopedia and a textbook, including Prairie Schooner, Midwest Quarterly, South Dakota Review, Prairie Fire Newspaper, Organization & Environment, Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West, and A Contemporary Reader for Creative Writing, among many others. She grew up on land in northeast Nebraska her grandparents farmed as immigrants from Denmark, and lives in Lincoln where her yard is maintained as an urban wildlife habitat, earning the Mayor’s Conservation Landscape award in 1994.
Candidates for 2015 NLA Election

The candidate bios for the 2015 Nebraska Library Association election are below. The polls were opened on August 1st and will remain open until August 31st at 11:59pm. Please visit https://nebraskalibraries.site-ym.com/?2015Elections and log in to vote. Your NLA membership must be up to date in order to vote. Make sure to vote for all the sections and roundtables to which you belong. If you have any issues with voting, please click on the "Contact Us" link on the top of the page to report what issues you are having.

Nebraska Library Association
Vice President/President Elect

Robin Bernstein
Robin has worked at the Bellevue University Library since 1978 and has been the Director since 1994. Robin received her BA in Business Administration from Bellevue University and her MLS from Emporia State University.

Robin has been very active in NLA for over 20 years and has served on several committees including the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Nominating Committee, Citations Committee, Scholarship Committee, and was the very first Chair of the newly formed Scholarship & Awards Committee in 2012. In addition, Robin chaired C&U Section in 2001/02, chaired the Citation Committee in 2004/05, and within the C&U Section, Robin chaired the Nominating Committee for many years. In 2008, Robin received the College and University Section “Distinguished Service Award,” and in 2012, Robin received the Nebraska Library Association “Presidential Award for Excellence.” Further commitments to the State include serving on the Eastern Library Board from 2006 until 2012, and as an alternate through 2013, serving as President for the 2011/12 term. Robin also served on the State Advisory Council on Libraries from 2009 through 2014.

In addition to her commitment within the State, Robin is an active member of ALA, ACRL, LAMA and MPLA. Some of the many committees on which Robin has served are: LAMA Membership Committee, ACRL Conference Program Planning Committee, and LAMA Statistics Section Committee. Furthermore, Robin's professional work includes conference presentations, participating on several panel sessions, and conducting numerous workshops focusing on library-related topics, computer-related topics, teambuilding, and assessment.

Robin thoroughly enjoys her job and is extremely passionate about her work. She is committed to providing the best quality service to all and hopes to continue this tradition of service on behalf of Nebraska Libraries by serving as Vice President/President Elect of the Nebraska Library Association.

Angela Kroeger
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. Her interests include metadata, standards, and ethics, and how all of these things influence user access to library resources.

In May 2015, she completed her master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the University of
Missouri. She attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2005. She joined the Nebraska Library Association 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. When not serving in an elected office, she has served as By-Laws Chair for either the Paras or TSRT. During her two Chair experiences, she enjoyed being a part of the NLA Board, and is eager to continue serving NLA.

Nebraska Library Association
Treasurer

Christa Burns
Christa Burns is the Library Development Consultant at the Nebraska Library Commission. Her duties include assisting libraries with their Strategic Planning process and E-rate applications, through training, consultation, and review. Christa also coordinates, produces, and hosts the Commission’s weekly webinar series, NCompass Live.

Previously, she was the Special Projects Librarian, Technology & Access Services, at the Nebraska Library Commission. She provided organization, training, and consultation for special projects, such as E-rate, Nebraska Learns 2.0, group purchases of library products and services, and Gates Foundation Grants for libraries.

In her first position at the Library Commission, she was the OCLC Member Services Coordinator for NEBASE, the OCLC Regional Service Provider for Nebraska, providing support and training on OCLC products and services at conferences and meetings across Nebraska.

Christa has been a member of NLA since 2000. She served as Secretary of the College & University Section from 2003-2005, Secretary of ITART from 2011-2015, and has been the Website Coordinator for ITART since 2013.

Before coming to Nebraska in 2000, Christa spent 8 and 1/2 years at Pace University in Westchester County, NY, starting as a Reference Librarian and working her way up to become Head of Research & Information Services. She received her MLS from the University of Albany School of Information Science and Policy in 1991, and her BA from the University of Binghamton in English Literature and Folklore.

In her spare time, Christa is a gamer, bibliophile, floriculturist, amateur chef, and cat minion.

Nebraska Library Association
MPLA Representative

Wendy Lukert
Hello everyone, my name is Wendy Lukert. I have worked at the Blair Public Library since January 2010 as the Young Adult/ Adult Services librarian up until recently. I am currently serving as the Children’s/Adult Services Librarian. I am also currently in the process of applying to San Jose to begin working on my MLS. I would love the opportunity to serve as the MPLA representative for NLA.

Margaret Mering
Margaret (Meg) Mering is the Coordinator of Cataloging and Metadata at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She is a past chair of TSRT. She has presented at NLA annual conferences and spring meetings. She has served as an officer of the Serials Sections of IFLA and the American Librarian Association’s ALCTS and NASIG. As the ALCTS Planning Chair this past year, she oversaw the revision of its strategic plan. She edited and wrote the RDA Workbook with other Nebraska librarians. She was recently named a co-editor of a column for Serials Review.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Jake Rundle
Jake is the Technology and User Services Librarian at Hastings Public Library. He’s been the MPLA rep for the NLA the last three years. Prior to that, he was the chair of NLA’s Young Adult Round Table.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading and going to the gym.

College & University Section Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Sherrie Dux-Ideus
My name is Sherrie Dux-Ideus. I am the Resource Center Supervisor (Librarian) at Central Community College, Hastings, Nebraska. I have worked at Central Community College since 2004. Previously, I worked in several library positions including academic, public, and special libraries for more than twenty-five years. I have a master’s degree from Emporia State University (Kansas) in Library Science. In addition, I have a master’s degree in History from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In addition, I have a master’s degree in Education also from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I have a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with endorsements in Library/Media and History. I am married and have a grown daughter teaching at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Margaret Emons
I have been a librarian for 20+ years, working in special, public and academic libraries. My educational background includes a BS from Nebraska Wesleyan University in History, English and Library Science, and MLIS from Emporia State University. I am currently University Librarian at Cochrane-Woods Library, Nebraska Wesleyan University. Previously I held positions at Iowa Central Community College, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln Public Libraries, and the Nebraska State Historical Society. I am also active in National History Day and the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Terri Rickel
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 relatively new to NLA. I am working for User Services which includes Interlibrary Loan and Circulation. I serve as the ILL Lending Team Leader. Since the merge of ILL and Circulation, new doors and opportunities have opened up to me. I attended my first NLA conference in the fall of 2013 at which I gave a presentation sponsored by ITART on Microsoft Lync. Since then, I have presented at the C&U Section Meeting on Camtasia and flipping the classroom, the ITART spring meeting where I presented on workflows using Popplet and Prezi, as well as NLA last fall where a co-worker and I presented about conflict, team building, and leadership.

I attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute and have gained in knowledge as well as experience in leadership and team building. This year, I have earned a master’s degree in TLTE with a specialty of teaching with technology. I have served as secretary for the NMRT and continue to try and become a stronger, more experienced leader in the library community, especially in the areas of instruction and technology. I look forward to putting all these skills to use for the C&U section and NLA as a vice-chair.
Holli Duggan
Holli Duggan is the Distance Education & E-Resources Librarian at Concordia University in Seward. Holli received her MA from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2011. She also holds a master’s degree in learning technologies from UNL (2014) and just completed her first semester in UNL’s Educational Studies Ed.D. program (hoping to focus on online learners and libraries).

Holli has served as the C&U secretary from 2013-2015 and would be delighted to continue in this role.

Jayne Germer
Jayne Germer has been at Doane College since 2007, first as the Collection Development Librarian and now as the Learning & E-resources Librarian. 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 3 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 Section, serving as president 2006-2007; the Library Instruction Round Table, which she chaired 1999-2000; 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, she had the honor to be selected to attend the Mountain-Plains Library Association’s Leadership Institute in 2014.

Willa Bitney-Garay
Willa worked at Lincoln City Libraries as a paraprofessional and a Library Assistant from February 2009 to May 2011. While working as a stay-at-home parent she continued to study Library Science and was awarded the 21st Century Librarian Scholarship in August 2011. In May 2013, Willa earned her Master of Art in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She currently works as a newsletter writer for News Link.

Janet Greser
I have worked at the Nebraska Library Commission for 20-some years in their Computer Department (no details, you might guess my age). Of that time, I have been a member of the Para Section for almost all of it. I am not a Librarian, but I tell my family I play one 8-5 M-F then my calling card says I am an Infrastructure Support Analyst (big words for Computer Helpdesk, I do just about what anyone asks me to do and if I don’t know how, I find them one of my experts). I have been on the Para Board before in different positions, currently the Webmaster & Bylaws Chair. Being on the board, I know how we handle most items that come up—as a team. That is a blessing so when what needs to be done can and will be done by the team member who has the time, knowledge, ability, or comfort level (I don’t like to call people; I’m more comfortable face-to-face, so that task gets handed off). I have a great deal of flexibility in my office so going to meetings (board, planning, etc, as long as there are snacks) is feasible.
Hello, I am Stephanie O’Connor, the Library Director of the Alliance Public Library. I am a nominee for the position of Vice Chair of the Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association.

I have been at my library for eight years, during which I served the first three years in the role of the Children’s Librarian. I have been a lifelong user of libraries and I know full well that the key to a successful library is the strong support of the community that hosts it. Funding for libraries has been challenged recently in so many ways, and my library here in Alliance has been no exception. As our Library Director, I have had to take a stand on several levels to protect our library’s funding, with the most challenging of those stands being the introduction of a non-resident fee being implemented in our library policy. When challenged with a strained collection that was not being funded by many of our non-resident users, I was tasked with finding ways to increase our materials budget to meet the demand being placed upon it. And, while the decision to begin a $25 annual fee for non-residents did not win me any popularity votes with our county users, it did allow for us to use the funds from these fees to increase our book buying ability. I spent many hours speaking to local organizations about the importance of this fee and what it meant to the success of our library. I found that through patient understanding of both sides I was able to bring about an understanding of how important the support of the library is by ALL that use and benefit from it. This process taught me that listening, understanding, and responding to all those concerned is what results in great support for libraries. When using these guidelines, I think the possibilities for every library at the center of a community are endless. Encouraging citizens to get out and know what the possibilities of their library are is the crucial key to its support. This approach has worked for us here in Alliance thus far, and I would like the opportunity to share ideas with libraries across the state on ways we have advocated here in Alliance while hearing and learning from their stories of success.

I have been a resident of Nebraska for 20 years. My educational background includes bachelor’s degrees in Business Management and Library Information Management. A current project for our library is the completion of our basement to hold the Children’s Library, which will again require a very large undertaking of advocacy on my part. I would like nothing more than to share my experiences here with others and in turn to have the opportunity to learn from them as well.

Deb Robertson

The first thing Deb Robertson does after arriving at a new library is join the state library association -- which she did when she returned to Nebraska the fall of 2013. After that she begins to look for leadership opportunities, which is why she wholeheartedly accepted this nomination to run for the Vice Chair/Chair Elect position of the Public Library and Trustee Section. Deb is currently serving as the director of the public library in York where is involved in several community organizations and projects. Since earning her MLS degree from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, in 2000 Deb has directed academic libraries at community colleges in Nebraska and Virginia and at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. 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. In 2012 Deb accepted an appointment by Iowa’s Governor Branstad to represent libraries on the NW Iowa STEM Advisory Board. Before leaving Nebraska in 2006, Deb was
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, held in Washington, D.C., in 2013. If elected, Deb Robertson will be thrilled to lead the PLTS of NLA.

**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 was co-chair for the Student Chapter of SLA and help organize and hold the. I received my MLIS in 2008 from the University of Hawaii, and while there I was co-chair for the Student Chapter of SLA and helped organize and hold the library program’s first annual mini-conference, highlighting the work of the students with a poster session and presentations.

I began my professional career at the Columbus (NE) Public Library, as their Reference Librarian. I have since moved to Ashland and am now the Director of the Ashland Public Library. I have spent my time here working towards a new building, which opened earlier this year and am currently working on expanding our services to the community.

I am also interested in becoming more involved in the library community, as the PLTS vice-chair. I enjoyed serving on the student SLA board and would like to serve in a similar capacity, bringing workshops to and keeping library employees and trustees informed about the current state and future of public libraries.

**Jill Annis**

I’m heading into my 18th year of teaching and have 10 years of library experience. I began teaching 4th-6th grades for eight years, and I had the opportunity to become an elementary school librarian at Peter Sarpy Elementary in Bellevue. After finishing my practicum through UNO at Mickle Middle School, I felt a push to move up. I became the school librarian at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and remained in that position for four years. When an opportunity came my way to help open a new middle school in Elkhorn, I jumped right in. I am currently at Elkhorn Grandview Middle School and am also the YA Golden Sower Readers Coordinator. I’ve been happily married for 16 years to my husband, Brad, and have a daughter (Hanna) who will be in 6th grade and a son (Caden) who will be in 2nd.

**Karen Berry**

I have worked for Omaha Public Library for 21 years. I’m presently located at the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch. My current title is Youth Service Librarian. I enjoy my job and location very much. I love it that I get to work will all ages of youth. One of the many joys I receive from my job is that I get to see children excited about reading. I enjoy learning all the new technology that is coming to libraries and how we can be stepping stone to the future for our patrons.

I have two adult children and I enjoy traveling, reading and meeting new people.

**School, Children’s & Young People’s Section**

**Vice Chair/Chair-Elect**

SPECIAL FEATURE

**Jill Annis**

I’m heading into my 18th year of teaching and have 10 years of library experience. I began teaching 4th-6th grades for eight years, and I had the opportunity to become an elementary school librarian at Peter Sarpy Elementary in Bellevue. After finishing my practicum through UNO at Mickle Middle School, I felt a push to move up. I became the school librarian at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and remained in that position for four years. When an opportunity came my way to help open a new middle school in Elkhorn, I jumped right in. I am currently at Elkhorn Grandview Middle School and am also the YA Golden Sower Readers Coordinator. I’ve been happily married for 16 years to my husband, Brad, and have a daughter (Hanna) who will be in 6th grade and a son (Caden) who will be in 2nd.

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I have two adult children and I enjoy traveling, reading and meeting new people.

**Special & Institutional Section**

**Special Election to be held at Annual Conference**
New Members Round Table
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Allison Buss
My name is Allison Buss and I live in Norfolk, Nebraska. I’m the Library Technical Services Specialist at Northeast Community College. I’m responsible for cataloging incoming material, maintaining serials, and assisting students with research and resources. I spend most of my days happily navigating the ins and outs of MARC records. Prior to joining the library world, I taught 6th grade English for three years and enjoyed introducing new novels to the young readers in my classroom. I love coffee, coffee-flavored ice cream, and dark chocolate. My husband, Chance, and I like to road trip during the summer and we have one dog, named Luna, who keeps us laughing. We recently embarked on the adventure of home ownership, and are tackling one renovation project at a time.

Terri Rickel
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 relatively new to NLA. I am working for User Services which includes Interlibrary Loan and Circulation. I serve as the ILL Lending Team Leader. I attended my first NLA Conference the fall of 2014 and really enjoyed it. I would like to be more involved with the New Members Round Table to help create a rich, inviting atmosphere for first-time attendees. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the organization and to further the NLA mission.

New Members Round Table
Secretary

Julie Kirk
My name is Julie Kirk and I work at the UNL Libraries. I’ve worked at the UNL Libraries since 2001—most of that time at C.Y. Thompson Library (CYT), the library on UNL’s East Campus. While at CYT, I was the main contact person for Interlibrary Loan, local Document Delivery, Financial Services, General Library Supplies and Payroll—a little of everything. For the last 6 months I’ve moved to Love Library and am now working with Interlibrary Loan Borrowing team and am responsible for ordering materials through our Interlibrary Loan Purchasing Project.

I attended my first NLA Conference the fall of 2014 and really enjoyed it. I would like to be more involved with the New Members Round Table to help create a rich, inviting atmosphere for first-time attendees. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the organization and to further the NLA mission.

Jessica Votipka
Jessica Votipka is the director of the Exeter Public Library (Exeter, Neb.). She started working at the library in several years ago as the Assistant Librarian. As director of Exeter’s library, she has written several grant applications. Grant monies awarded to the Exeter Public Library have been instrumental in establishing a “Tech Lounge,” which includes a computer designed for children ages 2-8. Plans and fundraising are underway for major renovations to the library’s park (Storybook Park). This is a joint effort between Jessica and the Exeter Public Library Board.
Since becoming a member of the Nebraska Library Association, Jessica has joined the editorial staff of *Nebraska Libraries*. She is certified by the Nebraska Library Commission, and is working towards her Cataloging Certificate.

Prior to her adventures in librarianship, Jessica was a journalist. She is a 2007 graduate of Doane College-Crete, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in English, with a minor in Speech Communication. During her time at Doane, Jessica was a staff member of The Doane Owl, competed on the forensics team, and was on the editorial staff of Xanadu (Doane College’s literary journal). She looks forward to someday earning her master’s degree in library science, and getting more involved in the profession’s learning and leadership opportunities. Jessica hopes that serving as NMRT secretary will be included in these pursuits.

**Intellectual Freedom Round Table**

**Vice Chair/Chair-Elect**

**Michael Elsener**

Michael Elsener received his master’s degree in Information Science and Learning Technologies through the University of Missouri in 2013. Previously, Michael worked as an English teacher in Taiwan and taught civics classes to immigrants and refugees at the Lincoln Literacy Council. Michael was a project manager for youth aging out of foster care in Nebraska and is a community leader working with at risk young adults with a serious mental health diagnosis. Michael is also an active member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and Street Outreach Committee.

Michael worked as a library service associate in Lincoln, Nebraska and completed his internship at Polley Music Library. He is an avid reader of non-fiction and a lifelong learner of science and history. Through his library work, he learned about the need to focus on intellectual freedom and believes in unlimited access to information without restriction. He is a passionate believer of providing cutting edge library services to the community. Through all of his work, he emphasizes training, learning, and contributing to the theories and practice of library studies.

**Sue Ann Gardner**

Sue Ann Gardner, MLS Scholarly Communications Librarian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Biographical Information: I currently work with two publishing experts, Paul Royster and Linnea Fredrickson, in the area of scholarly communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We help build the public repository at UNL, making scholarship freely available to anyone with access to an Internet connection. We also publish scholarly books. I have been working in this area since 2008, and was a cataloger, map librarian, and science librarian before that. I have been a librarian since 1992, and have worked in libraries since I volunteered at my local public library when I was 13 years old.

Candidate’s statement: Information freedom refers to more than just challenges to specific titles in public and school libraries. It’s about easy access to information that helps us make decisions, participate fully as citizens, communicate effectively in all spheres of life, and realize our full potential. The most challenging threats to overcome are the subtle ones. It behooves us to work together to be vigilant to ensure that information remains free. As vice chair and chair, I would work to bring issues of interest to the membership and help bring meaningful programs to the statewide conferences.

**SPECIAL FEATURE**
Information Technology and Access Round Table 
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Paul "Pete" Fey
Pete Fey has been intrigued by the intersection of libraries and technology ever since the summer of 2000, when he discovered he could play Age of Empires II on the computers at the A.V. Sorensen library. He is now a clerk at the Main Branch of the Omaha Public Library. When not at the information desk he can be found reading, writing poetry, or searching for loose change to pay his library fines.

Technical Services Round Table 
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Melanie Feyerherm Schultz
Melanie F. Schultz is currently the Collection Processing Manager at Omaha Public Library. She has held various roles at Omaha Public Library since 2010 and started her library career at Baright Public Library (Ralston, NE) in 2009. Prior to entering the library world, she spent time working with youth as an AmeriCorps volunteer and was a training manager at a data management system company in Colorado.

Melanie earned her master’s degree in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Melanie is a member of NLA and ALA and has served as the Secretary of NLA’s Young Adult Round Table from 2011-2012 and served as an ALA Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Blog Advisory Board Member from 2011-2013. In 2011, she received the BWI/YALSA Collection Development Grant for Baright Public Library’s young adult collection.

Melanie attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2013 and participated in OPL’s grant-funded community engagement facilitation project over the past two years.

Melanie is passionate about the future of libraries and the ways that traditional technical services can evolve. As Vice Chair, Melanie would be interested in finding more ways for TSRT members across the state to connect, share ideas and learn from each other.

Allison Reisig
I am the Technical Services Librarian at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE. Before coming to work at the college, I was the Director of the Morrill Public Library for five years. During my time at the public library, I oversaw many large projects including adding our collection to an ILS and then joining the Panhandle Library Consortium a few years later. At the college I oversee all the cataloging and processing of new materials, as well as editing the website.

During my lack of free time I enjoy spending time with my two children, husband, and our menagerie of animals. I also enjoy gardening, crocheting, and trying to make my way through my constantly growing “to be read” pile.
C&U—College & University Section
Free Online Tools for Small Academic Libraries

Joyce Neujahr

Many smaller academic libraries, like their public counterparts, have to make their budget dollars stretch. The following list is a sampling of useful online tools for you and/or your patrons when purchasing subscription databases, services, or equipment are not an option.

For researching legal information try these:

How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers
This free, informative seven-page online guide from the American Association of Law Libraries is intended to help non-lawyers with the basic steps of legal research.

Free Full-Text Online Law Review/Law Journal Search Engine
From the ABA, this free search engine searches the free full-text of over 350 online law reviews and law journals, as well as document repositories hosting academic papers and related publications such as Congressional Research Service reports. Several of the law reviews and legal journals (such as the Stanford Technology Law Review), working papers, and reports are available online only.

Need old Internet sites or TV news for comparative research purposes?

Wayback Machine
A digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Also available is a WordPress broken link checker and a “Save Page Now” feature which allows you to capture a page as it appears for use as a citation in the future.

TV News Search
Contains over 724,000 news programs collected since 2009 from national U.S. networks and stations in San Francisco and Washington D.C. The archive is updated with new broadcasts 24 hours after they are aired. Older materials are also being added.

Tired of teaching information literacy the same way?

Try this free game from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

How about an Online Teleprompter for speech classes?

CuePrompter is a free teleprompter/autocue service. Your browser works like a teleprompter -no extra software needed.

And don’t forget about the resources provided by the Nebraska Library Commission!

Librarian’s Toolbox

Have you found other tools you are willing to share with your colleagues? Why not start your own site of recommended free online resources?
Cataloging is an important component of the technical services, behind-the-scenes part of the library world. It also can be an area that is tricky to navigate if you have little formal training. In small libraries, staff members can be thrown into cataloging as one of just many duties they perform, and it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. Fortunately, there are many free tools that can help these “accidental catalogers” with their work.

One of the challenges of cataloging in a small library is accessing MARC records to import into your catalog. While larger libraries usually pay to access OCLC’s database through either Connexion or CatExpress, smaller libraries’ budgets may not allow for this means of obtaining records. One source of free records is the Library of Congress catalog (http://catalog.loc.gov). The Library of Congress authority records are freely available as well (http://authorities.loc.gov). Library and Archives Canada also makes its records available through its online catalog, Amicus (http://amicus.collectionscanada.ca). I’ve found that their catalog includes records for some things that the Library of Congress does not have, including some audio-visual items.

If you need to create an original MARC record, there are tools that can help you with that as well. The Amazon-to-MARC Converter (http://chopac.org/cgi-bin/tools/az2marc.pl) and the IMDB-to-MARC Converter (http://chopac.org/cgi-bin/tools/imdb2marc.pl) do exactly what their names imply—convert information from either Amazon.com or the Internet Movie Database into MARC records. While these records are not perfect according to library standards (for example, they do not have subject headings), they can be good starting points, rather than creating records from scratch.

Once you have the MARC records for the items in your collection, you may need some help interpreting the MARC tags used. There are several free online resources you can use to look up MARC information. The Library of Congress has a wealth of information available on their MARC Standards web page (http://www.loc.gov/marc/), and OCLC makes similar information available in their Bibliographic Formats and Standards (http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/). Both of these websites allow you to look up particular MARC tags, find out the uses of their indicators and subfields, and see many examples.

Sometimes, you have the MARC records you need, but you need to manipulate them in ways you can’t do in your catalog system. There’s a very useful suite of tools for this called MarcEdit (http://marcedit.reeset.net/). Unlike the other tools I have mentioned so far, which have all been web-based, you will need to download MarcEdit to your computer, but you can do so for free.

An all-purpose cataloging tool that all practitioners of cataloging should have available to them is the Cataloging Calculator (http://calculate.alptown.com/). This handy tool allows you to look up things like Library of Congress cutter numbers, subject headings, MARC codes for countries, and many more.

Sometimes, assigning a call number is the trickiest part of cataloging an item. If you need help with this aspect of cataloging, I recommend a free web service from OCLC called Classify (http://classify.oclc.org/). With this tool, you can search for an item in the WorldCat database, and see what call numbers other libraries have assigned to it. The results are presented in a handy pie chart format, which makes it very easy to see what classification decisions other catalogers have made.
Lastly, don’t forget that one of the best tools at your disposal is networking with other technical services librarians. Joining NLA’s Technical Services Round Table is a great way to make that happen.

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Emily Dust Nimsakont is the Head of Cataloging & Resource Management at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Schmid Law Library. She teaches cataloging courses at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Missouri and is currently serving as chair of TSRT.

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Learn to be a MarcEdit Ninja: Automating Technical Services

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Time: 9 AM-5 PM (Lunch is on your own)
Location: Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

$35 for members of TSRT or MPLA
$50 for non-members

Calling all technical services ninjas and manipulators of library data! Join us for a preconference event at the 2015 Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Library Association Annual Conference.

“Learn to be a MarcEdit Ninja: Automating Technical Services” introduces MarcEdit, a freely downloadable metadata software suite. The tool is designed for large-batch record processing, including batch editing of MARC records, character set conversions and record extractions. MarcEdit provides a number of useful functions that can be used to simplify database maintenance activities, as well as provide libraries with an invaluable tool for customizing and correcting vendor records before introducing them to one’s database. Additional information about MarcEdit is available at [http://marcedit.reeset.net/about-marcedit](http://marcedit.reeset.net/about-marcedit).

This preconference is sponsored by grants from the Mountain Plains Library Association and the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.


Questions? Contact Emily Dust Nimsakont at emily.dust.nimsakont@unl.edu.
The Knee Bone’s Connected to the...

Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT)

Monica Rogers

How do you know if patients will understand and follow their instructions? A lot of patient handouts and patient education materials found online might give great information, but these are essentially useless if a patient can’t act upon that information. There are numerous tools for evaluating reading level and organization of information. These can be great for gauging if a patient will be able to understand, but they don’t tell you if the patient is able to take action.

The Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is a tool to evaluate a patient handout or audio/visual material for its understandability and its actionability. This tool is a step-by-step evaluation with 26 items to check for and assess as a simple “yes” or “no.” There are separate items for print versus audiovisual.

For example, when discussing nutrition, does the material provide a tangible tool, such as a meal planner or grocery checklist? If it does, it is actionable. A patient can immediately take action and start filling out the meal planner or take the grocery list of healthy foods to the store that night. Without the action component, the material is only giving the patient information. They are educated, but have not taken steps to apply that newfound knowledge.

PEMAT helps check for actionability, where other assessment tools would not. While instructions such as, “patients should take twice daily” sound clear on their surface, PEMAT can help frame the instructions to be more actionable. “You should take one in the morning and one at night,” are more clear, explicit instructions. The use of active voice clarifies not only what the patient should do, but when. These definite terms are helpful for a patient and a benefit of actionable instructions.

Access the free PEMAT resource and tour the remaining 26 checklist items here: http://www.ahrq.gov/pemat

If you are interested in training for your library on the use of PEMAT, please contact Monica Rogers, Health Information Literacy Coordinator, at monicarogers@creighton.edu.

Ms. Rogers is the Health Information Literacy Coordinator on behalf of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region. She holds a Masters of Library and Information Science, as well as a Consumer Health Information Specialization from the Medical Library Association. She has an office at Creighton University, and does outreach working with community-based organizations to improve health literacy.
Thinking about small libraries and grants reminds me of the genesis of my library career which began in my small hometown library, not very long ago. It had two part-time librarians, three patron computers, and the good ol’ card catalog. We did not scan books—we stamped them. I loved flipping through the cards full of scrawled names and date stamps; each book had its own growth chart, its own history of passing from hand to hand, physical narratives of the library’s impact in the community.

Yes, I was aware of bigger libraries moving to online catalogs, more computers, more everything… but I did not care. I loved my library. Sure, looking up a book is faster on the computer, but I felt clever using the wooden card catalog like a pro. Checking books in or out involved a process and system of sorted cards, and I loved perfecting my counter jockey skills during the summer reading deluge. How fast and accurate could I get with crate loads of books swapping places across the counter, with bouncing children competing for my attention?

Like the computers, my summer job came by way of a grant. Unlike the computers, my tenure was limited. Each hour ticked down to when my funding disappeared. Barring any disasters, the computers would remain, but I would be gone. The next summer, another source of funding allowed me to return. Then it was gone for good.

Since then I’ve worked in libraries big and small. Nearly all faced funding issues and were supplemented with grants and/or donations. When it comes to grants, small libraries may face greater challenges: who has the time or knowledge to seek these grants? Some libraries run on volunteers and goodwill—finding someone to write a grant proposal may be more difficult than, say, storytelling or book sale recruits. But fundraising has changed in recent years, especially with the advent of social media and crowdsourcing. One does not need to be a “grant writer” to write a proposal or access funding opportunities.

Below are some resources scouted from around the web that may provide avenues for funding, inspiration, or good deals on technology and supplies.

**Grants, Awards, Crowdfunding**

**Library Journal’s Best Small Library Award**
Deadline: September 5, 2015
Want to nominate your small library as Library Journal’s Best Small Library? Nominations are due Sept. 5, 2015. The winning library takes home $20,000 in cash, and two finalists will receive $10,000 each.

**Library Grants Blog**
Authors Stephanie Gerding and Pam MacKeller update this blog with grant opportunities for libraries.

**Google AdWords Grants**
The AdWords grant program allows nonprofits to advertise in Google searches. This can be a fundraising and marketing tool for libraries, who qualify for up to $10,000-worth of ad space per month. These ads use targeted keyword searching and appear in users’ search results.

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**
**Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions**
Small libraries may apply for this grant to “improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records,
decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.”

Grants Listed on NebraskaAccess
A list of grants suggested by other librarians.

Good360.org
Kickstarter for nonprofits.

DonorsChoose.com
Aimed at K-12 schools, this may still be an option for libraries who partner with schools for specific programs.

GrantWrangler.com
Also slated for schools, this grant search engine features a libraries section.

Podcasts/Radio Shows

Keys to the Whole World: America’s Public Libraries
This NPR series premiered in 2013, but it’s still worth a good read or listen. One story focuses on a one-room library in rural Missouri, another features lending beyond books.

Lost in the Stacks:
The Research Library Rock’n’Roll Radio Show
Although this radio show out of Georgia Tech does not focus solely on small and rural libraries, it featured the Rural Library Project (http://www.rurallibraryproject.org/Projects.html). Topics range from the “Internet of things” to community building to archives.

Other Resources

Big Talk from Small Libraries
This is a free conference specifically for small libraries co-sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and Association for Small & Rural Libraries. Presentations are posted online, so if you missed February’s event, you can catch up before the next one.

TechSoup for Libraries
A branch off TechSoup Global, TSL addresses technology needs of public libraries and receives funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This site gathers stories from public libraries (check out Spotlights), offers discounted software and hardware, hosts webinars, and creates “cookbooks” with tips and techniques for maintaining technology in a public library.

NAEIR
Need supplies? NAEIR allows companies to donate excess supplies and merchandise to nonprofits. NAEIR members only pay shipping and handling on merchandise.

Each issue, readers are encouraged to share their favorite blogs in their blogrolls and RSS feeds. What do you look forward to reading over coffee or lunch? What blogger tickles your brain? Wish to submit your own blogroll recommendations? Email Emily at em.mcillece@gmail.com and include “Digital Watercooler” in the subject line. Submissions should include links to recommended blogs, brief description of what you enjoy about each blog, and a short, personal profile (if you wish).

Emily McIllece is the Reference and Instruction Librarian at Nebraska Methodist College. When not learning medical jargon and helping panicked students, she enjoys sailing with her husband Mike and slowly remodeling the “80s charm” out of their house.
**Book Bites: Book Reviews (and More!)**

**Half-Resurrection Blues by Daniel José Older**  
Roc, 2015  
Digital, $5.99, ASIN: B00KWG5UIE  

Call him what you want—an inbetweener, a halfie, a weirdo with a cane who appears to talk to himself. No matter. If you’re a ghost and you’re up to no good, you can be sure to find yourself on the wrong end of a sword if you run into Carlos. Carlos thinks he’s alone in the world—a man stuck somewhere between half-alive and half-dead—going through the daily grind as an agent for the New York Council of the Dead to dispatch inconvenient ghosts… until one fateful New Year’s Eve. Not only does he discover more beings like him, but one may be the love of his life and the other plotting to open the entrada to the Underworld and destroy the balance of life and death. Get ready to hit the ground running from page one as Carlos and his posse of house ghosts, Santeria practitioners, and a few burned out COD agents stalk the Brooklyn streets for one bad, bad sorcerer. The first novel in a new urban fantasy series, *Half-Resurrection Blues* introduces a raucous, sultry side of spectral New York you won’t want to leave.

**The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers**  
Hodder & Stoughton, 2015 (originally self-published, 2014)  
Hardcover, price TBD, ISBN: 978-1473619791  
Digital, $6.99, ASIN: B00LUJD700  

The *Wayfarer* is just your average wormhole driller, traversing the Galactic Commons for the next assignment. Its nine crew members take pride in what they do and (mostly) enjoy one another’s company in this confined space. Their workaday life changes when they are granted the lucrative opportunity to create a tunnel linking the Commons to its newest member, a hostile planet with ambiguous intentions. The long journey will elicit each shipmate’s story and secrets to unfold in the process, but not without humor, spirit, and dedication.

Originally funded through a Kickstarter campaign, *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* has been picked up by a publisher (to be released August 13, 2015), providing this brilliant debut novel the exposure it so thoroughly deserves. Chambers has crafted a joyous take on the space opera genre, exploring compassion among a truly diverse cast of characters. The episodic nature of the novel suits it well in balancing complex world-building with the ever intriguing and often hilarious mounting plot, and it remains optimistic while tackling big issues. I dare you not to fall in love with this stellar newcomer to science fiction.

—Lindsay Beckman, Youth Services Manager at Brentwood Public Library (St. Louis, MO)
Leo: A Ghost Story by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Christian Robinson
Chronicle Books, 2015

Leo is a kindhearted and friendly young ghost who is misunderstood by the new family who moved into his house. No longer welcome, Leo leaves his home to roam the city where he befriends Jane, a wonderful girl with a vivid and playful imagination. Jane and Leo have great fun together, although Leo is saddened to find out that Jane thinks he is just another one of her imaginary friends. Jane learns the truth when Leo comes to the rescue of her and her mother, but she doesn’t mind at all that he is a ghost; in fact, she is even happier to have such a wonderful new friend.

While imaginary friends can be fun to many children, ghosts often get the bad reputation as being a scary subject matter. Barnett does an excellent job at blurring the distinction between Leo and Jane’s other imaginary friends and teaching children that a ghost can be just as much fun as their other imaginary pals. The illustrations have a unique, childlike feel to them and are done primarily in various shades of blue with a good use of white space throughout. This picture book is appropriate for 3-5 year olds, and would serve as an excellent book to introduce to children who are afraid of ghosts.

—Jeff D. Corrigan, Oral Historian at the State Historical Society of Missouri (Columbia, MO)

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing by Marie Kondo
Ten Speed Press, 2014

Japanese organizing expert Marie Kondo has found international fame with her trademark KonMari Method. Readers are sure to be roped in by the premise of a system that requires tidying up only once. Kondo urges readers to keep only items that spark joy, a simple and effective technique for reclaiming their space and—she claims—changing their lives. Although some readers may balk at the more spiritual aspects of the method, such as thanking items for their service, this slim volume contains much practical advice. Kondo’s method appeals to those who simply desire a more aesthetically pleasing method of storing their clothing, as well as to those who do not wish to be instructed to purchase additional bins, boxes, and other containers. Patrons feeling overwhelmed by their possessions or frustrated with other organizing schemes will enjoy this bestseller.

—Jennifer Gravley, Library Associate at Columbia Public Library (Columbia, MO)
Look Who’s Back by Timur Vermes, translated by Jamie Bulloch
MacLehose Press, 2015

The old adage, “History repeats itself,” is brought to life in this tale of political satire and (somewhat bizarre) historical review. German author, Timur Vermez, serves up an intriguing story about what modern day society might look like to one of the world’s most infamous scoundrels: Adolf Hitler. In 2011, Mr. Hitler inexplicably wakes up in Berlin with impeccable health and vigor. The former ruler of the Nazi party wastes no time in familiarizing himself with modern society and capitalizing on the benefits afforded by technology and media. Narrated by the Fuhrer himself, what unfolds is a disturbing, yet witty tale of how the Hitler of 1945 engages with the new world. Full of political commentary and criticism, this book is an intriguing comparison of politics past and present.

Appealing to those interested in history and/or global politics, this book will have book clubs talking. Its darkly humorous and sarcastic tone manages to provide an abundance of historical information without sacrificing entertainment value. In the end, readers are left to ponder our own fascination with celebrity, regardless of whether it is heroic or villainous.

—Erica Rose, Library Science Instructor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Missouri

The Meaning of Names by Karen Shoemaker
Red Hen Press, 2014

Set in 1918 on a farm in North Central Nebraska, this is the story of Gerda Vogel, her husband, Fritz and their four children. The rigors of farm life are depicted in detail as well as the relationships with friends and neighbors, especially the local doctor and priest. World War I is occurring overseas, but the Vogels and their friends think that the war is far away and will not affect them or their community. They couldn’t be more wrong. At the same time, a more serious danger lurks in the form of the influenza pandemic. This novel will appeal to readers who are native Nebraskans, those with a rural background, anyone of German descent and anyone who appreciates a beautifully told story.

—Ann Moore, Access Services Librarian at Clarkson College (Omaha, NE)
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 responsibilities, 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 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.
Who Can Submit

*Nebraska Libraries* publishes articles and creative content from authors actively involved in the library world within the State of Nebraska. If you are unsure whether or not your piece would fit with our publication, please query the editor at nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org.

*Nebraska Libraries* requires that all submissions be original contributions and that full disclosure of possible redundant publication must be made in the letter of submission.

Editor & Author Review

Authors are asked to review their edited submissions within one week of being sent the final Editor-approved draft. If the Editor does not hear back from the Author within that week, the submission will be published as the Editor deems fit in order to not stall publication.

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.

Please send all submissions in Word .doc or .rtf forms. Please no PDFs.

The submission of photos to accompany articles is encouraged. Please send all photos saved as high-quality JPEG files. Please send all photos and artwork as separate files not embedded in the Word document.

If your article has sidebars or any special items that need to be formatted a certain way, please clearly state this in the submission.

*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, and other queries 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, including successful programs, collaborations, events, etc., at your library and how they are applicable to other Nebraska libraries
- Opinion pieces about hot topics in the library profession
- Short columns in each issue by members of the sections and round tables that highlight advantages conferred via section or roundtable participation, hot topics in the profession, or opinions
- New briefs—what has happened at your library or within your section/round table? Is there something notable upcoming?
- Member announcements (jobs, births, marriages, retirements, deaths, publications, etc.)
- Guest columns
- Spotlights on new NLA members
- Suggestions for future columns, article ideas, etc.
- Recommendations for the "Digital Watercooler" 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 "Featured Libraries" column (a spotlight on a specific Nebraska library)
- Creative works—short stories, poems, art, etc.
- Reviews of books, software, online resources, library products, etc.
- White papers (not sought but will be considered for publication)

Recommended Article Lengths

- Feature Articles: 600—1800 words
- Opinion Pieces: 300—600 words
- News Briefs: 50 words or less
- Reviews: 100—200 words

Articles longer than the recommended length may still be considered; however, articles may be truncated in the published issue with a link to the full article on the *Nebraska Libraries* website provided.
**Picture This: Albion Public Library**

Circa 1920-1930, a studious librarian sits at her desk in the main reading room of the Albion Public Library as five busy patrons occupy themselves at the nearest table. Although an addition was added in 1976, this small Nebraska library still operates in the original 1908 Carnegie building. Currently serving a population of under 2,000 residents, Albion Public Library delivers superior library service with three staff members and over 22,000 titles.

*Nebraska Libraries* would like to thank the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Memories Project for making this treasured resource available publicly online at [http://memories.ne.gov/](http://memories.ne.gov/).