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# Nebraska Libraries

May 2013, Vol. 1, No. 2



**"Every visit to the library should be this good!"**

Nebraska Library Association

ISSN: 2326-3237

# Nebraska Libraries

May 2013 – Volume 1, Number 2

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To find out more about NLA, write to:  
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**Cover Photo Credit:** Photo from the Wayne Public Library's Treasure in the Stacks Easter Egg Hunt on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Pictured are Dave and Nolan Bohnert. In the background making selections is a very regular visitor, Liam Spieker. Photo by Melissa Derechailo.

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# *Editor's Message*

Welcome members of the Nebraska library profession to the second issue of *Nebraska Libraries*, the all-new journal for the Nebraska Library Association. I hope you all enjoyed the inaugural issue in February, which has been downloaded more than 300 times! I received a few emails from happy readers, so I hope you find the second issue just as educating and entertaining.

My big goal for the May issue, as your editor, was to establish columns for the sections and round tables of NLA. A lot of the time our membership is really only aware of what is going on in their own individual field of librarianship. A SCYP member might have no idea what a TSRT member is doing while the TSRT member is clueless about what PLTS does, and so on. Therefore, it is my goal to have a column in each issue for the sections and round tables to inform the general membership of what they are doing and what has been happening. You'd be surprised at some of the helpful things you'll learn from your fellow colleagues! This month we are rolling out columns for the College and University (C&U), Paraprofessional (Para), Public Library and Trustee (PLTS), and School, Children's and Young People (SCYP) sections, along with the Technical Services (TSRT) round table. In our August issue we will see the columns for our other groups: Special and Institutional (S&I), Intellectual Freedom, New Members Round Table (NMRT), Information Technology and Access Round Table (ITART), and the Young Adult Round Table (YART).

Joining our other columns you'll see each month ("How I 'Roll" and "Beyond the Stacks") is the first entry in Marty Magee's "The Knee Bone's Connected to the What?" column, all about finding free creditable health information online that you can share with your patrons. We also see the beginnings of our "News Brief" section and the start of "Book Bites", a section for your reviews of books, movies, games, and more!

We have some interesting feature articles on social media use in Nebraska libraries, technology classes for seniors that the Omaha Public Library did in conjunction with AARP, how two libraries outsourced some of their work, a poet's visit to Kearney, and information about Advocacy Day.

I want to thank everyone that sent in photos for our May cover image! I received so many to choose from. While I couldn't use them all you will be seeing some of them in the August issue as many of the photos showcased some awesome programs our librarians are doing in Nebraska and I asked those librarians to contribute articles. The winning photo came from Wayne Public Library's Treasure in the Stacks Easter Egg Hunt, which was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. It featured Dave Bohnert and his son, Nolan. Also in the background perusing the stacks for books is very regular visitor, Liam Spieker. The photo was taken by Melissa Derechailo and submitted by Julie Osnes.

As I mentioned in the last issue, I can only make *Nebraska Libraries* great with your help! I'm looking for articles about anything related to libraries and about successful (or not as successful as we can learn from those too) programs your library has done recently. With Summer Reading coming up, I expect to see a bunch of articles in my inbox from all you children's and teen librarians about the cool programs you offered your patrons this summer! I am also looking for fun content too—book reviews, news items, profiles of libraries and librarians, creative writing, art, and anything you can think of! Please don't hesitate to contact me your ideas for articles and columns.

Let's make *Nebraska Libraries* a quality publication that showcases the great things that Nebraskan libraries and librarians do!

You can reach me at: [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

Lindsey Tomsu  
Editor, *Nebraska Libraries*

# *Nebraska Libraries Using Social Software*

**By Marcia L. Dority Baker**

Do you remember what you were doing in 2003 or 2004? The evolution of technology during the past decade is amazing to review. Think about how quickly social software incorporated into our day-to-day lives; it's become part of our jobs, libraries, and relationships. It's not only physical technology (hardware) that has morphed; the social software has changed as well. In 2003, the social sites LinkedIn and MySpace were born and Nokia released a cell phone with a camera. For those interested, Facebook launched in 2005 and Apple released the first iPhone in 2007—oh, how time flies.

A conversation with a library colleague on using LibGuides sparked the idea to survey Nebraska Library Association (NLA) members to check the pulse on Nebraska libraries using social software. According to the Mashable website, "social software" is defined as any interactive tools used to communicate. My curiosity piqued, I emailed a brief (six question) survey in March 2013, entitled "Nebraska Libraries Using Social Software," to the NLA membership. The survey asked: (1) What type of library do you work in?, (2) Is your library using social software?, (3) Does your library have a website?, (4) What social software is your library using?, (5) For what reasons does your library use social software?, and (6) How long has your library used social media? The intent was to determine the types of social software used by Nebraska libraries and how long Nebraska libraries have participated in various social software platforms.

I want to thank fellow Nebraska librarians and library staff for your quick replies to this survey! The survey was emailed to approximately 950 NLA members. When asked what type of library respondents worked in I received 97 total responses, which included librarians from public libraries (46 responses), academic libraries (31 responses), school libraries (9 responses), other libraries (6 responses), and special/institutional libraries (5 responses). According to Question 2, a majority of respondents (86 responses) affirmed that their library uses social software to communicate. One interesting response was the "not sure" option as two people responded that they were unsure if their library uses social software. This response may demonstrate that libraries should communicate better with library staff, users, and the board of trustees the technology or social software the library uses or subscribes to.

It can be assumed that most Nebraska libraries have a website providing access to the library catalog, contact information, library hours, databases, or programming details. Yet depending on the type of library, a website may not be a suitable option; some special or institutional libraries use an internal library website for staff only or small libraries may be considered a department providing service to a larger organization. When asked if your library has a website, I discovered that a small percent (5%) of Nebraska libraries do not have a website. As information professionals, it is important we acknowledge that certain technologies may not be relevant for all libraries or users.

Question 4 found that the most popular social software options used by Nebraska libraries are Facebook (78 responses), blogs (39 responses), Twitter (37 responses), Pinterest (33 responses), and LibGuides (30 responses). Pinterest is a newer social media site allowing users to "pin" photos, objects, and things of interest to their boards. Libraries use it to collect local history, photos, promote library events, create new book lists, or gather summer reading ideas. Since this survey was sent to all NLA members, not just an individual library's technology staff or librarian, the responses represent only a cross section of use.

If your library is new to Facebook, check out NLA's Facebook page or other Nebraska libraries with Facebook fan pages for great examples of how libraries of all types connect with users. Don't forget about the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC), which can help libraries wanting to blog with WordPress. According to the LibGuides Community Site, 24 Nebraska libraries subscribe to LibGuides with a total of 1,312 published guides! For librarians interested in learning more about LibGuides, I recommend reviewing the LibGuides Community website to see a current list of Nebraska libraries using LibGuides to connect with users. Links to all the guides and the academic, public, and school librarians who created them are a quick way to talk shop and learn more about LibGuides.

Nebraska libraries continue to use e-newsletters (26 responses) to interact with patrons in a written format, while YouTube (22 responses) and Flickr (15 responses) allow our libraries to share media content in creative visual ways. The Nebraska Library Association has used Flickr since 2007 to host photos of Nebraska libraries, patrons, librarians, and staff using libraries to celebrate National Library Week or to share NLA fall conference photos. Nebraska libraries use several other social software options such as Foursquare (6 responses), wikis (18 responses), and LinkedIn (5 responses) as they fit the culture of their library, providing another avenue to connect with users.

Nebraska libraries of all type use social software to communicate (83 responses) and connect with users (77 responses). The strong response to Question 5 demonstrates that Nebraska librarians and library staff realize the communication potential of social software platforms, using a variety of options to promote, market, and engage with library patrons. See the entire list of social software options from Question 4 for ideas for your library. Interestingly, social software use seems to be more of an external communication option

than internal. Based on the survey results, the least important reasons for social media use include networking with peer libraries (30 responses), for workflow or library functions such as sharing work documents via Google Docs or scheduling with Google Calendar (24 responses), or because the library director or administration wanted to (11 responses). The date Nebraska libraries began using social software varies by library. Question 6 found some libraries started within the last year (6 responses) while many have used social software from one to five years (57 total responses), with most libraries using some form of social software for five-plus years (26 responses).

If you or your library are interested in trying a social software option (go for it!) or a different way to engage users, the wealth of knowledge and expertise displayed by librarians within our state is great. Check out what other academic, public, school, or special libraries are using or see the list of libraries with websites from Question 3 for an idea of who responded to the survey. Attend a spring meeting or fall conference presentation on a new or emerging social software options. Register for an online class or webinar. Read books, blogs, and websites by librarians from ALA or the library group or section appropriate to your library type. As information professionals, we have the skills necessary to find and analyze information. Nebraska is a friendly state full of librarians and library staff eager to help you—the librarian—and your library connect with users both inside and outside of the library building.

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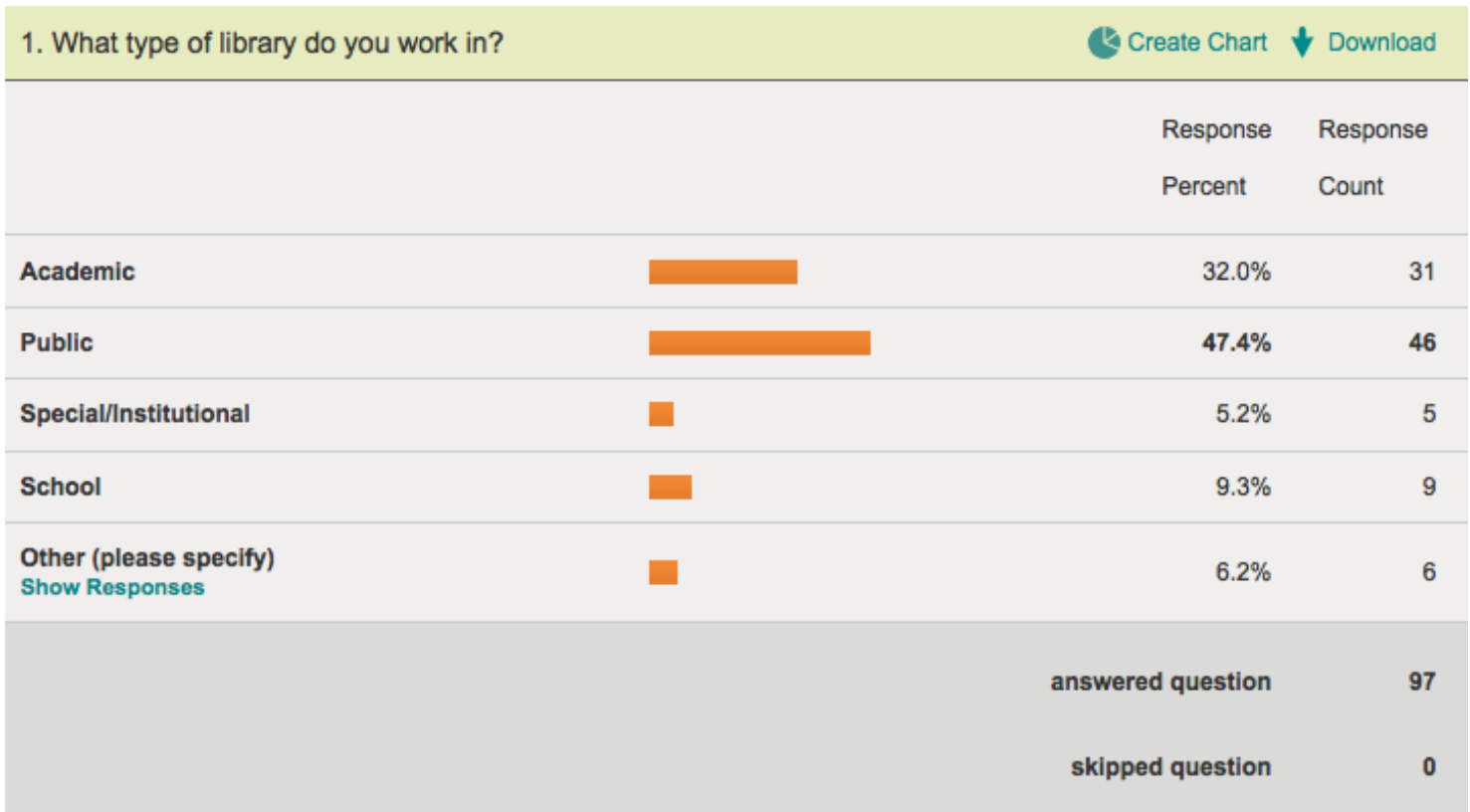
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## About the Author

Marcia Dority Baker is the Access Services Librarian at the University of Nebraska College of Law, Schmid Law Library and is currently serving as Past-Chair of the C&U Section.

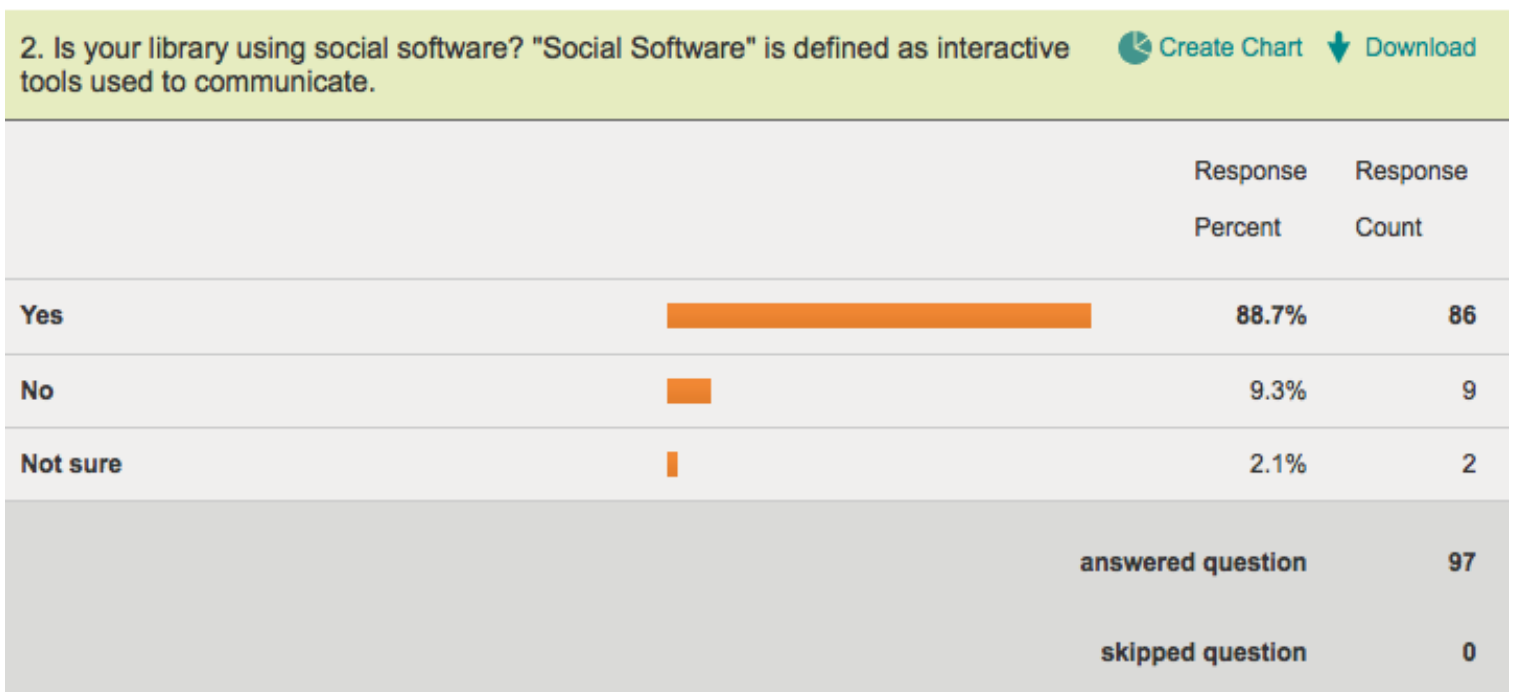
# Nebraska Libraries Using Social Software: A Survey

By Marcia L. Dority Baker





**Other Responses:**

- Board member
- Government
- High school
- University—school library program
- Non-profit corporation under the Nebraska Library Commission
- Serve on the library board



### 3. Does your library have a website?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		94.8%	91
No		5.2%	5
Library Website URL: <a href="#">Show Responses</a>			61
answered question			96
skipped question			1















#### Library Website URL Responses:

- <http://morton-jamespubliclibrary.com>
- <http://www.gips.org/wasmer/media-center>
- [www.rlibrary.org](http://www.rlibrary.org)
- [libraries.ne.gov/dodge](http://libraries.ne.gov/dodge)
- [www.gretnapubliclibrary.org](http://www.gretnapubliclibrary.org)
- <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>
- [waverlylibrary.org](http://waverlylibrary.org)
- <http://lins.lps.org/>
- [www.creighton.edu/law/library](http://www.creighton.edu/law/library)
- [ci.north-platte.ne.us/library](http://ci.north-platte.ne.us/library)
- [www.wahoo.ne.us](http://www.wahoo.ne.us)
- [ralstonlibrary.org](http://ralstonlibrary.org)
- <http://www.creighton.edu/law/library>
- <http://ci.norfolk.ne.us/library>
- <http://www.bellevuelibrary.org/>
- [www.kearneycats.com](http://www.kearneycats.com)
- [www.mpcclibraries.notlong.com](http://www.mpcclibraries.notlong.com)
- <http://www.unomaha.edu/libraryed/>
- [libraries.ne.gov/scrivner](http://libraries.ne.gov/scrivner)
- <http://www.southsiouxcity.org/department/?fDD=11-0>
- [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)
- [www.chadronpubliclibrary.com](http://www.chadronpubliclibrary.com)
- <http://www.bellevue.edu/services/library.aspx>
- <http://www.lb8.uscourts.gov/>
- [www.fairburylibrary.org](http://www.fairburylibrary.org)
- [www.omahalibrary.org](http://www.omahalibrary.org)
- Part of the Doane College site
- [brokenbowlibrary.net](http://brokenbowlibrary.net)
- [www.lincolnlibraries.org](http://www.lincolnlibraries.org)
- <http://www.bellevue.edu/services/library.aspx>
- <http://libraries.ne.gov/rockcounty>
- <http://www.graceuniversity.edu/academics/library/>
- [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library)
- [www.wilsonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.wilsonpubliclibrary.com)
- [www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)
- [libraries.unl.edu](http://libraries.unl.edu)
- <http://follett.paplv.esu3.org/common/servlet/presenthomeform.do?l2m=Home&tm=Home&l2m=Home>
- <http://www.northeast.edu/Library-Resources/>
- <http://www.ops.org/high/northwest/ACADEMICS/Library/tabid/429/Default.aspx>
- [nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs)
- <http://kearneylib.org>
- [www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org)
- <https://sites.google.com/a/nsdstitans.org/hslibrary/>
- [www.omahalibrary.org](http://www.omahalibrary.org)
- [cityoflavista.org/library](http://cityoflavista.org/library)
- [omahalibrary.org](http://omahalibrary.org)
- <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels>
- <http://wp.lps.org/lms>
- <http://wp.lps.org/medialne>
- [www.kearneylib.org](http://www.kearneylib.org)
- <http://library.unk.edu>
- <http://www.southsiouxcity.org/department/?fDD=11-0>
- [www.yorklib.org](http://www.yorklib.org)
- <http://lib.unk.edu/>
- <http://www.bellevue.edu/services/library.aspx>
- [www.omahalibrary.org](http://www.omahalibrary.org)
- [libraries.ne.gov/centralcity/](http://libraries.ne.gov/centralcity/)
- [sumplibrary.org](http://sumplibrary.org)
- <http://www.bellevue.edu/services/library.aspx>
- We currently have a page on the city government website, which is undergoing a massive redesign (but we do know that the library page receives the most traffic out of all the departments).
- <http://hastings.lib.ne.us>



#### 4. What social software is your library using?

[Create Chart](#) [Download](#)








		Response Percent	Response Count
Blogs		42.9%	39
Delicious/social tagging		6.6%	6
e-newsletters		28.6%	26
Facebook		85.7%	78
Flickr		16.5%	15
Foursquare		6.6%	6
Google+		6.6%	6
LibGuides		33.0%	30
LinkedIn		5.5%	5
Pinterest		36.3%	33
YouTube		24.2%	22
Twitter		40.7%	37
Wiki		19.8%	18
Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show Responses</a>		9.9%	9
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>91</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Other Responses:

- None
- IM, Chat
- E-mail
- Reminder—the Nebraska History Library is a Division of the Nebraska State Historical Society—website and all other social software represents the entire agency
- Not using social software
- SocialCast
- Google Docs, Docushae
- Camtasia
- Our city just approved the use of these, but, once again, they are city accounts. We do not have social media accounts just for our library. We have to share with the other departments and have everything approved.

## 5. For what reasons does your library use social software?


 Create Chart  Download







		Response Percent	Response Count
Communication		93.3%	83
Marketing opportunities		75.3%	67
For online presence		71.9%	64
Connect/engage with users		86.5%	77
Network with peer libraries		33.7%	30
Workflow, library function		27.0%	24
Because our director/administration wanted to		12.4%	11
		Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show Responses</a>	5
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>89</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>8</b>

### Other Responses:

- N/A
- Not using social software, nobody has time to set it up
- Instruction and self-help research guidance
- Instruction on database use
- Social media is run by the city so library participation is at the city's discretion

6. How long has your library used social media?

 Create Chart  Download

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than a year		6.7%	6
1 years		11.2%	10
2 years		21.3%	19
3 years		21.3%	19
4 years		10.1%	9
5+ years		29.2%	26
<b>answered question</b>			<b>89</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>8</b>

Survey available at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q89JYVL>

Survey created by Marcia Dority Baker and emailed to NLA membership on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with 97 total responses received as of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

# *Technology Fears Abate When AARP Partners with Libraries*

**By Cynthia Vana**

“I used to have nightmares about using the computer,” said Fran, a 69-year-old student during her second round of taking the “AARP Computer Classes for Older Adults” series at the Omaha Public Library’s Florence Branch. That was almost two years ago. Today, Fran frequently totes in her portable file case full of printed records to research her family tree on the library’s “Ancestry” and other genealogy databases.



A graduating class of “AARP Computer Classes for Older Adults” at the Omaha Public Library. Photo by Cynthia Vana.

When Robin Szwanek, AARP’s Community Outreach Director, first approached Anna Wilcoxon, Adult Programming Librarian at OPL’s Washington Branch, to propose an idea about teaching computer classes to North Omaha residents, little did anyone know that it would mushroom into something that has become overwhelmingly popular.

“AARP Computer Classes for Older Adults’ is a thoughtful title that speaks directly to the intended market—people who are fearful but motivated to learn how to use a computer,” said Robin. Since 2011, librarians and specialists at five branches of the Omaha Public Library have taught more than 400 students who range in age from their mid-30s to their 90s. One student was 96 years old and she was a delight.

“When AARP does their postcard mailings,” said Cynthia Vana, Adult Programming Specialist at Millard Branch in Omaha, “we brace ourselves because the phones ring off the hook!” Within two weeks of last September’s

mailing there were over 100 people on the waiting list at the Florence Branch alone. The Washington Branch dealt with a similar influx of calls. The Florence Branch has only 10 computer stations in the lab so it takes nearly a year to get through the entire list. Nonetheless, people are motivated enough to take the classes so that they will wait without complaint.

In addition to drawing more than 400 mostly new people in, the libraries have issued an estimated 70 new library cards to first-time cardholders. It’s a “prerequisite” for students to have a library card. As each 4-week series begins the library issues an average of five new cards on the first day of class.

“It takes a lot of patience and understanding to teach these classes,” said Anna, “but it is so gratifying to see these special students overcome their fears and learn the technology.” The AARP-Omaha Libraries partnership is a solid one that defines what it truly means to do outreach that benefits the community.

## About the Author

With more than 14 years in the Omaha Public Library system, Cynthia Vana has worn many hats. She served for six years as a public relations assistant in the library’s Community Services Department. Before that, Cynthia worked as a children’s reference and programming specialist for three years. She currently serves as a reference and adult programming specialist and a computer class instructor at the Millard Branch. Cynthia’s education includes 10 credits toward a Master’s Degree in Library Science & Information Technology from University of Missouri-Columbia; a Bachelor’s in Communications—Journalism & Public Relations from University of Nebraska at Omaha where she also studied Spanish; and an Associate’s in Advertising & Graphic Design from Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design. She worked in private sector before redesigning her career in the library profession. Among her favorite books are *Of Human Bondage* by W. Somerset Maugham and *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell.

# *Technically at Your Service!*

## *How Two Different Libraries Approached Outsourcing and How It's Working Now*

### **By Laura England-Biggs and Jake Rundle**

Every library at some point in the last five years has had to evaluate the model in which they were running operations and make changes to reflect budgets, librarianship, and other outside influences. Two libraries, Keene Memorial Library in Fremont and Hastings Public Library in Hastings, have taken this approach in the last three years. Both libraries shifted their tech service processes to remarkably similar approaches (albeit for very different reasons). The shift in both cases was made to offer better customer service, quicker response to customer demand, and an expedited technical service workflow.

#### **The Way We Were: Keene Memorial Library**

Fremont had 3 FTE staff with cataloging responsibility, supported by 1.25 FTE Tech Services staff. There was one full-time adult cataloger including some AV, one half-time children's and YA cataloger (no AV), and one part-time (primarily AV) cataloger who was also responsible for the ordering processes. There were catalogers a plenty. But then the city's budget got tight, and many divisions of the city had to make cuts. City department heads tried numerous approaches to the shortfall. In an attempt to make the cuts as painful possible—and obvious to the public—the library's book budget was cut by \$35,000.

Unfortunately, additional cuts were required by the budget constraints. As in any business, personnel costs made up the largest portion of all departmental budgets. The final budget proposal included 11 positions to be laid off from the Parks and Rec, Fire, and Library departments. We proposed cutting both Library Assistant II positions (the full-time cataloger and the part-time AV cataloger). The loss of these positions would be made up by outsourcing our cataloging and processing with our primary vendors (Baker & Taylor and Brodart). Thanks to the advocacy of community members and the raised voices of the staff members affected, one City Council member proposed a stop-gap measure to fund one of the positions using reserves. The person with least seniority was laid off; her primary job duties included acquisitions, cataloging, and interlibrary loan.

Not long after the layoff, our children's and YA cataloger retired, putting even more strain on an already burdened tech services staff. Some of the immediate changes included shifting the responsibility for ordering materials under the interim director of the library. This was a haphazard solution which left us behind on ordering and selection. New titles were not being ordered in a timely manner, and this in turn didn't engender any good will with the public.

Baker & Taylor's middle road processing solution, Tech Express, has a seven-page questionnaire and conference calls to try to set up a profile that will accommodate your library's local practices. Tech Express is entirely computer generated, with the exception of applying labels and wrapping books. Initially, we had hoped to be up and running right away with outsourced cataloging. The true story is that it took far longer than we had anticipated and meant time spent on paperwork and phone calls working out the details. After trial and error, we discovered that Keene's cataloging practices required more than just "what the computer thought was best." (We have a large number of collection codes and use a different cutter system than the defaults allowed—five letters of the author's last name, a space, and the first initial.)

These complicated specs resulted in us enrolling in Customized Library Services (CLS) from Baker & Taylor. This program has a 39-page set up sheet. After even more conference calls, plus test batches to make sure that the product received matched our specs, we declared ourselves successfully outsourced. The additional cost and set up resulted in a much better product coming to the library shelf ready. It's as simple as opening a box, receiving the item, and putting a new sticker on it.

Our Brodart experience was much easier, as we chose to go with the Custom Flex plan from the start. There was a 15-page questionnaire covering cataloging and processing specs, and we were tweaking along the way as we noticed errors to get the system working perfectly. The great thing is that they met our standards from the start. Baker & Taylor took longer to work out the details, but Brodart does not always have the availability or pricing, so it ultimately comes down to "selectors choice" when ordering. (The discrepancies in pricing may have been caused by an issue with the VIP software process and does not necessarily reflect an ongoing issue. Your mileage may vary!)

Other vendors also do processing for libraries, but we were able to get the most for our money sticking with just these two. Since we still have a full-time staff member who works on cataloging and ILL, we stayed simple on AV. We have leased DVDs from Baker & Taylor which are minimally processed (opened with a security strip on the first disc only). For items we purchase, we go through Midwest Tape; they also open our product and security strip the first disc but that's the extent of "physical processing".

We do purchase OCLC MARC records from Midwest Tapes for \$1.20 (at the time of this article) and have to add our own call numbers into the record once it gets to the library. Sometimes we settle for the vendor-on-the-spot records, with OCLC records being provided when they become available.

We have also extended our outsourcing to Penworthy. Like Baker & Taylor, it took a little bit of time to get the cataloging side of things worked out. Fortunately, we had the different charts and setup specs in generic spreadsheets by the time we placed our first big order with our representative this year. As with the other vendors, we submit orders to Penworthy with collection codes assigned. For the most part, the books arrive at the library just the way we would like them.

(All our orders are submitted with collection codes pre-assigned to assist with cataloging. The B&T/Brodart orders are done using a freeware product, JTAcq—short for Jim Taylor Acquisitions—which interfaces with our ILS and creates 970 tags to communicate relevant information to the vendors. With Penworthy, we have to handwrite the collection code on the order and fax it back.)

### **A Wee Baby Cataloger Finds His Sea Legs: Hastings Public Library**

I began my first professional position at Hastings Public in the winter of 2011. I had just graduated with my master's the month prior and did what any good grad student does—apply for anything that looks like a “real” job. Up until that point, I worked in an academic library doing reference and at Keene Memorial doing event planning and youth services, along with some adult programming as a practicum student at Hastings Public. My only experience with technical services was with the librarians at Hastings College, doing some very basic cataloging and working with ILL. Suddenly, I found myself hired as a hybrid cataloger/acquisitions librarian. If you imagine a fish out of water, you can imagine my first few weeks.

The reason it was difficult was twofold. One, I didn't think I was a cataloger (nor did I think I ever wanted to be one) and two, having completed only one cataloging course<sup>1</sup> in grad school, I was ready for cataloging in a vacuum. That is to say, I knew the fundamentals. I knew why I was doing the things I was doing, but actually doing the cataloging on a library scale, with the idiosyncratic cataloging rules of a single branch library putting books on shelves for over 100 years, was like trying to drink from the fire hydrant. You'll be happy to know, I am doing just fine now<sup>2</sup>. No worries.

One of my first official tasks as the new collections librarian was to research outsourcing of the physical processing for certain collections in the library. The initial collections were adult fiction and nonfiction, DVDs, and music CDs. We chose to move to this service for a few reasons. One, we employ a single technical services assistant who does an amazing job. However, when she goes on vacation or is out ill, there is not a single other librarian who can do everything that she does. Second, we had added a line in the budget for exploring avenues exactly like this in an effort to expedite the lag time between receiving materials from the various vendors and getting that material out to patrons.

The first vendor we worked with was Midwest Tape. The volume of DVDs and music CDs isn't enormous, so the thought process was to see how simple it would be to set up a processing profile and see what kind of work can be done for us. From that point, we could determine how many other collections we could outsource to our other vendors. By far, the trickiest part in setting up processing is the specification process. There are a number of forms to fill out, conference calls to attend, and test orders to create. After that, there are many exchanges via email and phone calls to finalize stray questions. However, the results were spectacular. Midwest repackages all of our DVDs and music CDs into new cases. DVDs come with new cover art that includes the disc number (if a TV series), our logo, a spine label, an alpha label, and a barcode. CDs have a barcode, the album name, the artist, and our logo. The discs themselves have a hub label with the last seven digits of the barcode printed on it so discs can be quickly matched to cases. We do not security strip these because we no longer employ a security system. We also download MARC on the spot records from Midwest Tape at the cost of \$1.25 a record. This is an OCLC record that can be imported directly to our ILS, allowing me to update OCLC with holdings instead of copy cataloging every item as it comes into the library. Turnaround on our AV materials has gone from a week to a day. When items come in, those items are received, revised, and taken to the shelf.

The second big vendor Hastings Public Library works with is Baker & Taylor. Similar to Keene, we began with B&T's Tech Express, but the price point of moving to CLS did not outweigh the benefits to the library. Another reason we didn't go with CLS is because the cataloging control that comes with it was not as important, but more on that in a second. Hastings also contracted with B&T to update our holdings for us on OCLC and supply us with full MARC records at time of shipment. Books from B&T come covered (if hardback) with a spine label, one property stamp, and a barcode. Since we do not do the full customization of processing, there are limits, i.e., only eight characters on a spine label (we traditionally use the full last name) and Dewey call numbers are printed to four digits past the decimal (when sometimes for your collection all you need is two). The other catch is that since these labels are

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: The cataloging course I took through the University of Missouri-Columbia with Corinne Jacox was absolutely amazing. However, thinking I would never catalog again, I never took the time to learn anything past the basics.

<sup>2</sup> A very special thanks to Emily Dust Nimsakont at the NLC for her beginning cataloging webinar series.

computer generated there is no checking by the staff at B&T when you put a book from a different collection into a processing cart. Juvenile fiction titles and easy readers will come with a barcode and a spine label set up for the adult collections, so the selector has to take some care when ordering. Baker & Taylor also processes all of our AY (“Automatically Yours”) titles, making the turn around on “hot” titles much shorter than the week they used to spend in cataloging.

One other vendor we have used for some limited processing is Thorndike Large Print. After receiving some memorial money, we decided to make a very large order of large print titles and have it come with a spine label set as closely to our specifications as they could be done. While the spine labels do not match exactly what we already have in Large Print, it does serve the public in finding materials, and it expedited getting the order onto the new shelves.

As mentioned before, Hastings Public Library went with Tech Express over CLS because we didn’t need the cataloging control that CLS gives libraries. Part of that decision comes from my philosophy that sometimes in order to better serve the public doing what is “good enough” is all that needs to be done. If that means I have to go back and fix subject headings or series statements once I download records from our vendors, or if that means we only have one property stamp on our material instead of three, or if a book comes labeled with “Patterso” and not “Patterson” then I’m ok with that. Fundamentally, Hastings Public Library wants to try and get new, current, and popular materials to patrons as quickly as possible. After having been a cataloger for two years now, I certainly can see how incredibly important it is to have as full a cataloging record as possible, but I’m also not about putting a title, an author, and a subject heading on an item record and sending it on its way out the door.

As you can see, both libraries were forced to rethink their processes. While the reasons that brought us to these changes were different, the end result was the same. We both achieved quicker turnaround for new products with decreased hands-on staff time to get the same results. Is it the perfect solution? Not necessarily. But for us, it’s “good enough!”

#### About the Authors

Laura England-Biggs (Librarian I—Youth Services) has played many roles during her years working in public libraries. Starting out in 1991 as a technical services clerk at Bellevue Public Library, she donned the hats of administrative assistant, assistant director/head of technical services, and even interim director before achieving her favorite title: Miss Laura, aka “The Library Lady”. She has been hooked on cataloging since her supervisor (Diana Boone) allowed her to assist with the retrospective OCLC project at BPL. She owes her career in libraries to the support of Ms. Boone and Mrs. Bev Lusey, who recognized the kindred spirit and encouraged her to enter library school.

Jake Rundle is the collections librarian at the Hastings Public Library. He has been working in libraries in some capacity since 2007. In his spare time, he likes to run half marathons and obstacle course 5ks. His next big adventure will be to learn computer coding so he can make his millions in app development.

# *B. H. Fairchild Returns to Kearney*

By Jennifer Harvey

The Calvin T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) in collaboration with the Kearney Public Library and additional sponsors recently presented a poetry reading by B. H. Fairchild, a nationally acclaimed poet and former Kearney State College (now UNK) instructor. This free, public event was held on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney. Approximately 50 people attended.

Fairchild's Great Plains heritage is evident in his poetry. Of this he has said, "I don't 'insist' upon beauty being found in strange, overlooked places; that's just the way it seems to emerge in many of my poems. Nobody could be more surprised at this than I am" (Mariani, 2005). However, he does not consider himself a regional poet—a distinction he finds that tends to be used to marginalize poets by the literati of the coasts. Reflecting on his return to Kearney, Fairchild, emotions barely in check, commented, "One thing nobody told me, and they should have, is that the older you get, the closer your emotions get to the surface."

Fairchild has been awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Pushcart Prize in Poetry, the California Book Award, the William Carlos Williams Award, the PEN Center USA West Poetry Award, and was a National Book Award finalist, among many others. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.



B.F. Fairchild speaks to the audience. Photo credit: Rick Brown, *Kearney Hub*



Photo credit: Michael Sutherland

Fairchild's books of poetry include *The Arrival of the Future*, *The Art of the Lathe*, *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*, *Local Knowledge*, and *Usher: Poems*. Fairchild has also written a critical study on the poetry of William Blake, *Such Holy Song: Music as Idea, Form, and Image in the Poetry of William Blake*.

In addition to the Calvin T. Ryan Library and the Kearney Public Library, additional sponsors included the UNK Reynolds Reading Series, UNK Faculty Senate Artists and Lectures Grant, and UNK's English Department.

## References

Mariani, P. (2005). *A conversation with B.H. Fairchild*. Retrieved from <http://www.cstone.net/~poems/essafair.htm>

## About the Author

Jennifer Harvey is the Curriculum Librarian at the Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska, Kearney.





NLA Lobbyist Ken Winston addressing the audience.

# *Advocacy: Influencing Others from the Annual Advocacy Day to Everyday Advocacy*

**By Francine Canfield  
NLA Advocacy Chair**

NLA held its annual Advocacy Day in Lincoln on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Despite the surprise of a January snowstorm that closed Lincoln Schools, about 80 people made it to Lincoln. In the morning, John C. Lindsay and Don Wesely provided the attendees with insights into talking with senators and into the legislative process. Their presentations sparked questions to help constituents talk to their senators more effectively.

NLA lobbyist Ken Winston updated attendees on the progress of the Nebraska Library Commission's budget request which went before the Appropriations Committee on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **NLA 2013 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

There is no legislation specifically focused on libraries in the 2013 legislative session. The Nebraska Library Commission budget request is the primary issue of interest for NLA in 2013.

## **NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION 2013 BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY**

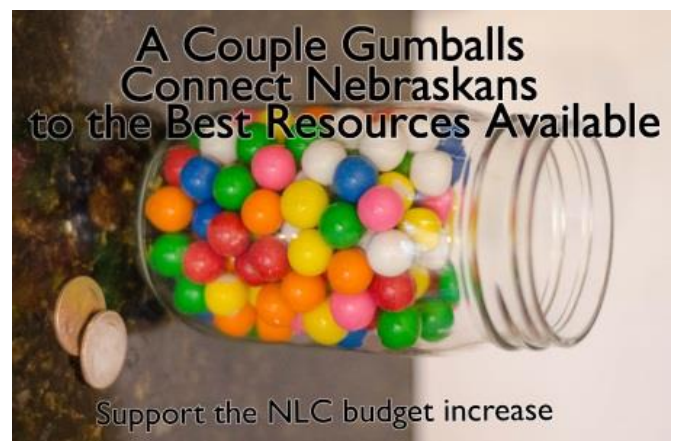
There are three requests that need to be funded:

1. Direct state funding for e-books and e-audiobooks for public libraries. The request is for \$925,000 or \$.50 per person. This means more e-books to check out for free. Funding would be distributed to local public libraries on a per capita basis. More than half the funds would be allocated to the Nebraska Overdrive Libraries group, which is composed of more than 130 public libraries which have joined forces to loan downloadable books to their patrons.
2. Funds for NebraskaAccess. This would help Nebraska residents find the information they need. Increases for database subscriptions and access to eLibrary or similar databases for public and private schools are being sought.
3. Funds for the Regional Library Systems. Nearly \$90,000 was requested to fund these valuable institutions that help unite libraries across the state. The six systems were established to provide access to improved library services through the cooperation of all types of libraries and media centers within the counties included in each system area.

By mid-morning, the Legislature had adjourned for the day because the snow prevented some senators from getting to Lincoln. While that prevented the volunteers from being recognized on the floor, it gave more people the opportunity to lobby their senators before lunch.

As participants visited their senator, they gave them postcards describing the three aspects of the NLC budget request (all which can be viewed here: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/legislationadvocacy/2013-legislative-session>) and two gumballs to remind them that the cost of two gumballs, or just \$.50, would fund the NLC budget request.

At lunch, volunteers were honored for their service to their local libraries. Their senators or their representatives presented their awards. The volunteers honored were: Pat Apel, Syracuse (Senator Dan Watermeier); Karen Baisinger, Hastings (Senator Les Seiler); Carol Barnes, Springfield (Senator Bill Kintner); Marche Cepure, Lincoln (Senator Kate Bolz); JoAnn



Thomas, Lincoln (Senator Kathy Campbell); Judith Thompson, Arapahoe (Senator Mark Christensen); and Kathy Throne, Omaha (Senator Tanya Cook).

Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, Executive Director of the Peter Kiewit Foundation, spoke after lunch. She talked about the interconnectedness of Nebraskans and the roles of libraries in their communities as the places where children learn to read and where our cultural history should be preserved.

As NLA members continue influencing others about the meaning of library programs and services in their communities, National Library Week is another opportunity to connect with local and state officials and show them how a specific program or service impacts the lives of community members. Take the time to thank local and state officials not only for their support, but for the time and effort that they give to make your community better. Perhaps your library storytime has helped a toddler learn to follow directions while enjoying a story. Or the expertise of a local librarian helped someone learn how to download e-books. Or someone learned how to use Facebook to follow their grandchildren. Maybe your teen book clubs are providing the opportunity for students to make new friends and, thereby, create a stronger community. Perhaps the library's collection of household tools has saved community members hundreds of dollars. Advocate in your community in the way that best fits your resources and your supporters!

Advocacy is the process of creating more supporters for your cause. Advocacy means establishing relationships with policymakers. What kind of relationship with your local policymakers do you have? Are your communications with them thoughtful? Informative? Engaging? Empathetic? Make advocacy an everyday practice!

About the Author

Francine Canfield is the Director of the Baright Public Library in Ralston, Nebraska. She is currently the Chair of the Advocacy Committee of NLA. She can be reached at [fcanfield@cityofralston.com](mailto:fcanfield@cityofralston.com)

# *The Knee Bone's Connected to the What?: Finding Free, Credible Health Information Online*

By Marty Magee

This column, “The Knee Bone’s Connected to the What?” features resources from the National Library of Medicine and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, McGoogan Library of Medicine. All resources included here have been evaluated by medical librarians. Please share them at your library!

What do you know about the world’s largest medical library?

Did you know . . .

- It is more than 175 years old
- The library is located in Bethesda, Maryland, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health
- It is home to more than 200 freely accessible databases supporting health information and research, including one you may know about—MedlinePlus.gov—a free, credible site for consumer health information
- It supports a 6,000-member National Network/Libraries of Medicine that promotes and provides free access to health information in communities across the United States. (Perhaps you’re one of those members and, if not, perhaps you’ll want to join!)
- It houses the History of Medicine division with manuscripts dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, over 15,000 historical audiovisuals, and over 150,000 historical prints and photographs



The National Library of Medicine

In Nebraska, there are two representatives for the National Library of Medicine. They are Marty Magee, the Education and Nebraska Coordinator, who is based at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Monica Rogers, Health Information Literacy Coordinator, who is based at Creighton University. Beginning with this issue of *Nebraska Libraries*, you’ll be able to learn about some of those most used databases and resources that may be of interest to you.

Today’s theme is focused on our very beginnings. The History of Medicine division documents health and disease in all time periods and cultures through manuscripts, books, photographs, and films. There are a variety of materials available online. The following are a few highlights that may be of interest to you, your libraries, and your patrons.

**Images from the History of Medicine** (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/ihm/index.html>)

There are some 70,000 images in the History of Medicine collection, including portraits, photographs, caricatures, genre scenes, posters, and graphic art illustrating the social and historical aspects of medicine dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century from around the world. Please note that some images are protected under U.S. or foreign copyright laws.

**Turning the Pages** (<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/ttp/v2/about/>)

You can enjoy rare works of antiquity at home or in the classroom by turning the pages digitally! Explore the beauty of the world’s oldest surviving surgical text, travel back in time to view the world from a 13<sup>th</sup> century Islamic perspective, or peruse one of the most influential anatomy works in Western medicine. Select titles are also available for iPad viewing (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/turning-the-pages-ttp/id423830194?mt=8>).

**Online Exhibitions and Digital Projects** (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/onlineexhibitions.html>)

There are numerous exhibitions that are available online with instructional resources for middle and high school students and teachers. Explore the history of forensic medicine and the science behind unexplained or suspicious death fact-finding, discover the many contributions women have made to the practice of medicine, or explore the human body beneath the skin in the Visible Human. For teachers and educators, there is also a brochure with lesson plans, learning games, and career information (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/pdf/Exhibition-Educational-Resources.pdf>).



Image from the History of Medicine (NLM) A021081

**Profiles in Science** (<http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/>)

Explore the leaders in biomedical research and public health. Each scientific profile contains significant life and work documents, including text, audiotapes, video clips, photographs, and scientific papers.

For more information, visit the History of Medicine website at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/>

About the Author

Marty Magee is a medical librarian with the National Network/Libraries of the Medicine, MidContinental Region. She is the Nebraska Coordinator and represents the six-state Mid-Continental Region as the Education Coordinator. Her work experience includes teaching and training in both academic and business settings. Marty has a master's degree from the University of Missouri, School of Information Science and Library Technology, and a master's degree in administration from the Mendoza School of Business at the University of Notre Dame. Marty is based at, and serves on the faculty of, the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She can be reached at [mmagee@unmc.edu](mailto:mmagee@unmc.edu)



## *Summer Reading Program Planning* By Sally Snyder

A number of summer reading program workshops were held last November and this past March. Public and some school librarians are preparing for the annual tradition of holding a summer reading program to give children and teens something fun to do while helping them retain what they learned in school. All kinds of ideas were shared at the workshops and all participants were encouraged

to bring an idea or try out an idea from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) manual and bring along the final product. It is good to check out how difficult a craft might be and everyone loved seeing the results.

Some of the ideas that were shared included the following.

Scottsbluff Public Library shared their clever idea of a plot of land laid out in a large box. A rectangle of Styrofoam was placed on the bottom of the box. It was covered with shreds of brown paper crinkles to look like a field. A house and shed were created and placed on the paper shreds. A little farmer, a tractor, some animals, and other such items were also posed in believable positions. Fields could be indicated by Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, or toy fences if someone has some left over pieces. The main point of the diorama was to hold many, many tiny flat sticks (Popsicle sticks cut in half the long way) put into the Styrofoam that each had a minute picture of a flower or a vegetable on the top of the stick. When the stick was pulled out there was a number on the bottom of the stick indicating which prize they had won or, instead, there were spider mites or other root-eating bugs on the bottom. For every three books read, the participant could choose which little stick to harvest and see if he or she had won a prize or what kind of pest they had uncovered. This was used previously for their adult reading program and now they plan to use it this summer with the teens. It was incredibly popular with everyone and they are excited to be using it again for this summer.

Jody Crocker, Craft Presenter Extraordinaire at four of the workshops, shared a clever idea. Give each child a paper cup to draw a face upon—eyes, nose, mouth, etc. Then fill the cups with some dirt and plant grass seeds in it. Soon the grass will grow and will become the hair for the faces drawn by the children.

Another use for paper cups and craft sticks is to have the children take a strip of green paper and cut fringe in it to place around the top of the cup. This will be the grass and the cup is the hole in the ground. Then they can choose whether they want an outline of an earthworm, a mole, or other underground animal you provide to them. They can color or decorate their animal before gluing it to the craft stick. Placing the craft stick in a pre-cut hole in the bottom of the cup they now have a stage for their puppet creature. (Maybe teen volunteers can cut the strips of paper and make the holes for you.)

I hope everyone is excited about their upcoming Summer Reading Program. I know the children and teens in your town will have a great time!

## ***In This Together:*** ***A New C&U Column*** **By Marcia L. Dority Baker**

Welcome to the inaugural publication of “In This Together”. This will be a regular C&U column in the revamped *Nebraska Libraries* journal. I am excited for this opportunity to write and look forward to hearing from colleagues who have topics of interest, C&U events, academic trends, and services or conversations from which we can learn and share.

When Lindsey Tomsu, the *Nebraska Libraries* editor, emailed me about starting a new C&U column, I’ll admit I was a bit nervous and wondered when I would find the time to write. If your library is like mine, most likely you wear more hats than can fit on your head to complete the daily library to-do list. But what better way to gather and share what’s going on in C&U libraries across the state and in academic libraries in the United States than with our new practitioner journal? I’m happy to contribute to this endeavor and look forward to this new adventure.

Before I promote the upcoming 2013 C&U Spring Meeting, I want to mention the title of this column. I was brainstorming with a colleague for potential column names, and honestly it went from good idea possibilities such as “Higher Ed Ruminations”, “Of Note”, “In the Academic Stacks”, and “Speaking of Libraries” to pretty silly ones like “News Nuggets” and my favorite, “C&U: Cats and Unicorns in the Library”. I even have the Facebook chat transcript of this flurry of ideas to prove it. I was thinking about the statement that Red Green of the *Red Green Show* concludes his TV series with, “. . . we’re all in this together.” In my opinion, that sums up C&U libraries in Nebraska. We’re in higher education together. We may serve different users in a variety of locations (we have two time zones and I believe Nebraska has five different eco-zones) but College and University libraries in Nebraska have a common goal—to provide excellent library service on our campuses. The official goals expressed by C&U as posted on the C&U website (<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/cu/>) are:

- To provide a forum for librarians of public and private academic institutions
- To promote professional growth and development
- To enhance the quality of academic librarianship in Nebraska
- To provide a professional communication network for academic librarians
- To maintain a supportive relationship with the Association of College and Research Libraries

The most visible means to meet the C&U goal to promote “professional growth and development” is our annual spring meeting. I hope you had a chance to attend the 2013 Spring Meeting, which was Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at Bellevue University and co-hosted with ITART. This year’s theme was “Voices From Outside the Box”. The 2013 spring meeting program included the following sessions: *Ethics in Technology* (Karla Carter from Bellevue University), *Learning in the Learning Commons* (Taffnee Faimon, Keri Pearson, and Dr. Ron Wirtz from UNK), *iPads in Higher Education* (Jane L. Peterson from UNK), and *Critical Information and Technology Literacy* (Dr. Bob Whipple from Creighton). Informal discussion time was scheduled during lunch with Table Talks hosted by ITART—attendees had plenty of time and a variety of topics to talk about over a pleasant meal.

I hope you made plans to attend a spring meeting this year; if not the C&U and ITART meeting, then perhaps another opportunity in Nebraska to learn, exchange ideas, and meet other people in our great profession. Be it libraries, access to information, technology, books, informal learning, or a program for credit we are all in this together.

### About the Author

Marcia Dority Baker is the Access Services Librarian at the University of Nebraska College of Law, Schmid Law Library and is currently serving as Past-Chair of the C&U Section.



## *News from the NLA Technical Services Round Table*

**By Angela Kroeger**

The NLA Technical Services Round Table (TSRT) had our spring meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, at Mahoney State Park. Even on a cold and lightly snowy day, Mahoney was a beautiful place for a meeting, with lovely forest views and an overlook of the Platte River.

The theme of the meeting was “Technical Service *is* Customer Service”, and we had a full slate of presenters.

The first session, “What Did You Do with ALL of Our Journals?”, was all about weeding the collection. First, Rebecca Bernthal talked about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s recent experience with a major weeding project. The Library Depository Retrieval Facility, used for offsite storage, was full so some de-accessioning was in order. UNL developed a proposal, a plan, detailed guidelines, and a well-documented process. Above all, they focused on communication between the library and the university faculty. Because they needed a substantial payoff in shelf space, they targeted serials, journals, and physically large monographs. They sought faculty input regarding every withdrawal, and they retained things if the liaison was able to provide some rationale for keeping a title. This process is still underway, and they hope to remove more than 40,000 pieces from their storage facility by 2015 which will buy them all of three or four years of growth space.

Sally Gibson took the second half of that session to describe withdrawals at the Creighton University Reinert-Alumni Library. Unlike UNL’s comparatively comfortable two-year timeline, Creighton was allowed only six months to clear 7,000 square feet. Even with the addition of compact shelving, this meant extreme weeding was in order. Due to such crushing temporal restrictions, they didn’t have the time to consult with faculty and deselection decisions were made by the library. Journals were de-accessioned if they were available in databases, if holdings were incomplete, or if they hadn’t been used in 12 years. Microform cabinets were targeted as well as print journals, and even the ERIC microfiche documents found themselves heading for the recycling bin. Space was the key consideration and the preservation of student study space was prioritized over journal space. This required weeding and shifting at the same time. The circumstances may not have been ideal, but the project was successful and the library gained the space it needed.

The second session was “Communicating from the Backroom: Hands-On Customer Service”. First, Casey Kralik and Jennifer Sorensen described their collection development and acquisitions policies at Bellevue University. Their collection development policy focuses on peer-reviewed, highly-recommended, essential sources for supported disciplines while their acquisitions policy focuses more on budget and space. For both journals and books, online is preferred to print. Faculty will place requests by every method imaginable from formal purchase request forms to little scraps of paper with a title jotted on them. Every year, fewer order requests are submitted by faculty. Some heavy requestors have retired and new faculty members are not as devoted to library materials requests. As the tools have changed, the way faculty view the collection has changed.

Jennifer described Bellevue University’s direct approach, using LibGuides for departmental requests, where faculty may view the status of all outstanding requests. The library keeps the faculty informed of all developments via campus email, the departmental request page, social networks, face-to-face meetings, and assorted newsletters. Casey then described the indirect approach of demand-driven acquisitions, where the first use of an e-resource triggers a short-term loan and the second use triggers a purchase. Both the direct and indirect approaches in tandem are essential to meeting the needs of faculty and students.

In the second part of this collection development session, Heather Buckwalter described the more hands-on collaboration she enjoys with faculty at Creighton University’s Klutznick Law Library. Heather supports only about 30 faculty members so she’s able to have personal interactions with them at a level possible only for a small specialty library. She focuses on building relationships and meeting faculty face-to-face in their offices to ask about their research needs and to let them know what tech services can do for them. Because the faculty knows her and keeps the library in mind, Heather ends up doing a lot of things that most library tech services departments wouldn’t do, such as converting faculty-produced trial preparation videos from VHS to DVD. Anything that is within the skill-set of technical services is a potential service to offer the faculty.

The third session of the spring meeting featured three lightning rounds on diverse topics.

Laura England-Biggs of Keene Memorial Library in Fremont presented “Free like a Kitten (only better because it’s REALLY free): JTAcq, Jim Taylor’s Acquisitions Software”. Keene has been using JTAcq, a MS SQL platform for acquisitions, for several years and couldn’t be more pleased. Jim Taylor charges nothing for software or tech support and his response time usually within minutes. How

is this possible? Because Jim Taylor is not in it for money but for the pleasure. Fortunately, he's very good at writing software and providing tech support. His software works with several integrated library systems, including Horizon and Symphony, and with several vendors, including Amazon, Brodart, and Baker and Taylor.

For the second lightning round, Margaret Mering from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln described her upcoming publication *RDA Practice Workbook* (working title), co-authored with Casey Kralik, Melissa Moll, Emily Nimsakont, and Deirdre Routt, with Ruth Carlock and Corinne Jacox as consultants. The book was inspired by the Nebraska RDA Practice Group, which has been running since February 2012. Content is organized around the basic concepts of Resource Description and Access, the new cataloging code, and the book includes many examples and exercises targeted toward librarians new to RDA, especially those for whom cataloging isn't their full-time responsibility. The manuscript is due to the publisher on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with an expected publication date in October 2013. Any royalties from the book will be donated to TSRT's treasury to fund programs for TSRT.

The third and final lightning round saw Laura England-Biggs back on stage, complete with a costume change. This time, she presented "Making Sense of Leveled Readers for Simpler Ordering and Cataloging". Publishers' scales for defining the targeted age range or elementary school grade for children's books differ wildly which can make it very difficult for a library to consistently and accurately sort books by the actual reading skill level of the students. At Keene Memorial Library, Laura developed specific parameters for defining the grade level of a book based on number of words per page, font size, importance of pictures, whether a non-fiction book contains enough factual information to be suitable for writing a school report, and so on. These don't always match up with a given publisher's grade or step levels, but they do insure that each grouping of books targets the same level of real reading skill. To ensure consistency of application, Laura has created a binder filled with illustrative examples as well as a spreadsheet showing where specific publishers' levels and series typically fall within Keene's system.

The final session of the day was "Technically at Your Service: Streamlining the Acquisitions Process through Outsourcing and Other Practices". Laura England-Biggs took the stage again for the third and final time with yet another costume change. She talked about how deep cuts to both material and staff budgets drove Keene Memorial Library to outsource most acquisitions and cataloging work. They set up multiple shelf ready programs, including B&T Customized Library Services, Brodart Custom Flex, and Penworthy. Some services required more tweaking than others, but all of them have saved the library money while streamlining processes.

For the second half of the last session, Jake Rundle described the outsourcing at Hastings Public Library. Unlike Keene, Hastings doesn't outsource children's materials because they're "just too weird" and there is "just too much stuff to have a computer do right." However, for adult collections, vendor records from Baker and Taylor Tech Express and Midwest Tape have proven sufficient. Before outsourcing some processes required as many as four different people to handle an item between the time it arrived in the building to the time it landed on the shelf. The patron just wants access and long waits for things to come out of cataloging made the library seem less relevant. The library had to make the decision that "close is good enough." With outsourcing, turnaround time has been greatly improved. Some sacrifices had to be made, including a reduction in quality control from checking every field to simply ensuring that the call number and series match. The library stopped using cutters and switched to the author's last name for the second line. However, it's worked out to the satisfaction of both the library and the patrons.

All in all, it was a day packed with useful information on acquisitions, collection development, cataloging, weeding, and other exciting technical services topics. I think everyone learned several new things.

#### About the Author

Angela Kroeger is the Cataloging Associate at the Criss Library of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is currently the Chair of TRST.



# *To Know Us is to Love Us: Get Acquainted with the Paraprofessionals*



**By Cynthia Vana, 2013 Chair, NLA Paraprofessional Section**

NLA's Paraprofessional Section boasts a membership of nearly 50 people from across the state of Nebraska. Each and every member has demonstrated his or her support for the Para Section, as well as the Nebraska Library Association, simply by their membership.

Therefore, I want to acknowledge each of them by listing their names following this column. But first I would like to introduce seven of those members who serve as officers on the Paraprofessional Executive Board.

I am Cynthia Vana, Adult Programming Specialist at Omaha Public Library's Millard Branch, and I currently serve as the 2013 Para Chair. As the Para Chair, my job is to provide leadership and guidance to achieve our stated goals. I serve as Liaison between the Para Board and the Nebraska Library Association Board by attending NLA's quarterly meetings. My duties also include connecting with the Board and members of other NLA Sections and Round Tables as well as connecting with library-related organizations outside of NLA whenever it's appropriate. I am also responsible for overseeing any changes in the Para Bylaws that are being considered by the Board.

My well-organized and always on-task predecessor Chrystal Dawson, Access Services Specialist at Bellevue University Library in Bellevue, serves as Past Chair. As Past Chair, Chrystal shares her experience in an "advisory" capacity with me and her fellow board members. Her duties include chairing the Nominating Committee which works to develop a slate of at least two candidates per office for upcoming elections. If you are interested in running for a Para Officer position, for the next election or anytime in the future, shoot her an email at [nlc.parab@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.parab@nebraska.gov). We always welcome newcomers as well as colleagues and friends.

Jennifer Sorensen, Technical Services Assistant at Bellevue University Library, transitioned last October from the Spring Meeting Chair to the Chair-elect position. Next October I will pass the gavel to Jennifer and she will serve as the Para Chair through 2014. In the meantime, as Chair-elect, Jennifer is responsible for eliciting presentation proposals for the 2013 NLA/NSLA Conference (to be held in Kearney, Nebraska, this coming October). Additionally, her duties include coordinating those Para-sponsored events and working with her fellow officers and committees to plan a special vendor event in preparation for the fall conference.

Janet Greser, Information Systems Technology Specialist at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln, keeps us timely, current, and relevant by serving as the Para Webmaster, as well as the Para's biannual *Keynote* Newsletter Editor. Janet is really the glue that holds us together! She has contributed her services to the Para Section in many capacities for a number of years. Janet is also a thoughtful and generous mentor who is quick to share her knowledge and expertise. She is always warm, receptive, and welcoming to new people and fresh ideas.

Our three newly elected first-year officers are Todd Schlechte, Aimee Owen, and Connie Hagedorn.

Todd, part-time Adult Programming & Technology Specialist at Omaha Public Library's Saddlebrook Branch, serves as the Publicity & Citations Committee Chair. The principal responsibility of Todd's committee is to be the public relations arm of our Section by providing avenues for people like you to learn as much as possible about the Paraprofessional Section's purpose and goals. Todd photographs events and meetings, maintains an archive of photos on the Para's Facebook page, and develops various plans to promote the Para Section. The result of Todd's work shows and tells you what we are all about—past, present, and in the future—and how we can benefit you!

Todd's committee also solicits nominations for Paraprofessional of the Year. If you have a friend or colleague who happens to be a current Para member that has made a significant contribution in any capacity within the library profession, by all means, please nominate them for the Paraprofessional of the Year award! For details, shoot an email to Todd at [nlc.parab@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.parab@nebraska.gov) or visit our webpage at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/> for a nomination form and more information. Mark your calendar now and plan to nominate someone by June 30<sup>th</sup>!

Aimee Owen, Floating Library Specialist for Omaha Public Library's 12 branches, helps the Para Section stay goal-oriented and financially flush by serving as Secretary-Treasurer. Aimee's duties include taking notes at our general and officer meetings, writing and submitting to the board the minutes of those meetings, and reporting on our fiscal status. Aimee also happens to be an excellent photographer and uses her talent in photography by taking "special project" photos for the Para Section, such as the ones she took recently for some really cool READ posters you can see on the Para's Facebook page.

Last, but certainly not least, is Connie Hagedorn, Assistant Librarian at Blair Public Library. Connie jumped in feet first this fall as our amazing Spring Meeting Chair to coordinate three valuable “Learn from Experience” presentations for our very well-attended Spring Meeting last month. This is the first of three years that she has committed to handling our Spring Meeting programs and we are delighted to have her on board!

I hope you’ve enjoyed getting acquainted with us by way of this, NLA’s new publication! If and when you cross paths with any of us, please stop to say hello and introduce yourself.

Now that you’ve met seven of us, as promised, here are the rest of the Para members. Have fun hunting for the names of anyone you might know!

*PEGGY BIERHAUS*, Library Information Service Assistant, Northeast Community College / *NANCY BLACK*, Student / *REBECCA BODMER*, Assistant Director, Rock County Public Library / *BETTY BREIER*, Student, University of Missouri / *SARAH BROWN*, Library Information Services Assistant, Northeast Community College / *SHELIA CERMAK*, Library Assistant, Northeast Library System / *AMY COREY*, Clerk II, Omaha Public Library / *JANE CRIDER*, Reference Librarian, Bellevue Public Library / *PEGGY L. ENGEL*, Circulation Supervisor, Columbus Public Library / *MARTHA GRENZEBACK*, Librarian I, Omaha Public Library / *TERRI L. JOHNSON*, Computer Technology Assistant, North Platte Public Library / *JANE JUHLIN*, Library Assistant, Norfolk Public Library / *JOAN KOLLARS*, Library Technical Services Specialist, Northeast Community College / *ANGELA KROEGER*, Project Manager, Cataloging, Criss Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha / *CLAIR LACOSSE*, Circulation Clerk, Bellevue Public Library / *LISA LEAHY*, Library/Media Paraprofessional, Yutan Elementary School Library / *CELESTE LUX*, Library Assistant, Blair Public Library / *AUREL MARSHALL*, Support Technologist, Ralston Baright Public Library / *MARY MATUSZEWSKI*, Youth Services Assistant, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion / *EMILY MCILLECE*, Reference Associate, Criss Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha / *STEPHANIE MIKA*, Office Manager/Assistant Librarian, Sidney Public Library / *MARGUERITE MILLER*, Library Specialist, Omaha Public Library / *MICHAEL MOEGLIN*, Library Aide, Omaha Public Library / *VICKIE MORLOCK*, Bookmobile/Adult Services, Sidney Public Library / *SANDRA NELSON*, Cataloguer, Sidney Public Library / *CASSANDRA NIELSEN*, Youth Service Assistant, Ralston Baright Public Library / *AIMEE OWEN*, Library Specialist, Omaha Public Library / *Dr. R. J. PASCO*, Coordinator of Library Science Education Programs, University of Nebraska at Omaha / *MELISSA PROHASKA*, Library Tech II, Columbus / *LINDA RAY*, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Bellevue Public Library / *ROGENE SCHNEIDER*, Circulation Librarian, Bellevue Public Library / *SKY SEERY*, Library Technician, Mid-Plains Community College / *DANA STILL*, Library Assistant, Hastings Public Library / *MICHAEL STRAATMANN*, Executive Director, Nebraska Library Association / *EVIS ZAMORA*, Circulation Supervisor, Plattsmouth Public Library / *RACHEL ZILL*, Library Assistant, Baird Holm LLP



Former Para Officers, Terry Johnson (left) and Jennifer Wrampe both receive awards for their service to the Para Section.

Find anyone you know? If and when you cross paths with them ask about their membership with the Paras and think about nominating someone for Para of the Year. They’ll thank you for it! Remember, the deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

And while you’re traveling through cyber-world, be sure to visit our website and “Like” our Facebook page (use the search term “NLA Paraprofessional Section Facebook” to find us).



## *PLTS Spring Meeting Report*

By Jessica Chamberlain

We were able to hold four PLTS Spring Meetings this year, one in North Platte, Kearney, Lincoln, and Blair. Our featured speaker was Carolyn Davidson Brewer who is the Executive Director of North Texas Library Partners, a licensed social worker, and a licensed private investigator. She spoke to us about how to handle situations in the library where we may feel more like a social worker than a librarian.

When dealing with any patron, first find out if they are rational or irrational. A rational person is someone with whom you can cognitively connect. They are capable of reasoning and normally follow library policy. When these patrons get upset, look for ways to diffuse the situation. Make sure to listen to their concerns and try saying, "What do you see as a solution?" You may not be able to do what they want, but you have given them an opportunity to speak their mind. Explain why you have whatever policy or rule that is making them upset. Try switching places with another staff person. Often, just a new face, a new person to listen to their concerns, is enough to calm down an angry patron. Consider having a code word or phrase so that a fellow staff person will know that you'd like them to intervene. If you find that patrons are routinely becoming upset about the same issue, recognize that this is a friction point. See if there is anything you can do to alleviate it. It may be a policy that needs to be updated.

Patrons who are irrational are any of our patrons with whom we can't get a cognitive connection. They could have a mental illness, have a substance abuse problem, or for whatever reason be someone with whom you can't make a connection. When dealing with an irrational patron, consider first if they are breaking any library policies. Don't think about *who* they are, but *how* they're acting. However, if this irrational patron starts to violate the patron behavior policy then their behavior needs to be addressed. If the person seems agitated, try to get them to sit down with you. Avoid touching the person or looking directly into their eyes continuously. Do not use humor or sarcasm. If the person seems like they may be a danger to themselves or others, err on the side of caution. Ask other library patrons to leave the area. Stay out reach of the irrational patron. Call the police and inform them of the situation. Hearing library staff yell, "Call 911!" will likely escalate things, so this is another situation where having a code word or phrase would be helpful.

We also talked about different personality types using the True Colors approach. Understanding our own personalities helps us identify why we do things the way we do. It helps us understand that not everyone sees things the way we do. Realizing that a patron or fellow staff person may have a personality that is very different from our own better equips us to communicate with them in a way that will be the most helpful when conflict arises.

It was an interesting, inspiring, and enjoyable week of Spring Meetings. Thanks to all who were able to attend and I look forward to seeing you at the fall conference!

Jessica Chamberlain  
PLTS Chair

# *How I 'Roll*

## By Emily McIllece & Rebecca Brooks

“How I 'Roll” is a column of highly recommended blogs that all librarians should check out! We also want to know which blogs you carve time out of your busy day to read. What do you look forward to in your blogroll? What blogger tickles your brain? Share with us your favorites and they could be featured in a future issue of *Nebraska Libraries*.

This month we have some recommendations from guest columnist Rebecca Brooks from the Gretna Public Library.

### **NewsBlur** [Newsblur.com](http://newsblur.com)

When Google announced it was letting go of its Reader, I was one of the people who was devastated. I did some research and decided that I would go with newsblur.com and opted to pay for a subscription (I never want to be without a RSS feed again). If you've never used a RSS feed before then you should check it out—it's like having the most amazing magazine full of the items you like to read at your fingertips (you can even “train” NewsBlur to show you the stories that you're interested in). The only recommendation I make would be to add sites that don't constantly update, otherwise you'll become overwhelmed very quickly. RSS feeds are perfect for those blogs/sites that post occasionally that you may otherwise forget to check on a regular basis.

### **Sturdy for Common Things** <http://www.sturdyforcommonthings.com/>

This blog is run by Rebecca (no relation) who works part-time as a youth librarian assistant at the Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, Kansas. She is very inspirational and is very generous with sharing her storytime ideas. Definitely check out the amazing job she does with [Adventures with Annie](#).

### **Rachel Moani: The Crafty Life of an Almost Librarian** <http://rachelmoani.com/>

I humbly bow before Rachel Moani's amazing paper art skills. Her inventive and simple displays have rocked my world and inspired me to work harder/smarter at my own displays. Be sure to check out the [mind-blowingly awesome dragon](#) that she made for last year's Summer Reading Program.

### **Librarian Problems** <http://librarianproblems.com/>

Hilarious but *Not Safe for Work!* William Ottens, Library Director at the Oskaloosa Public Library, runs this tumblr that has me laughing almost every time something new is posted. You can also create your own gif and submit it for possible posting.

### **The Library as Incubator Project** <http://www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/>

This site's mission “is to promote and facilitate creative collaboration between libraries and artists of all types, and to advocate for libraries as incubators of the arts”. I believe that they excel at their mission statement!

### **Boing Boing** [boingboing.net](http://boingboing.net)

Several years back Boing Boing teamed up with the ALA to create [Library Boing Boing](#). Boing Boing also has wonderful library-related posts now and then. However, I mainly use this site to keep more current with the digital world (especially in terms of digital rights and privacy). At times, it has also been a good guide in terms of collection development for graphic novels and sci-fi titles.



## How I 'Roll Submissions

Wish to submit your own blogroll suggestion? Email Emily at [em.mcillece@gmail.com](mailto:em.mcillece@gmail.com) and include "How I Roll" in the subject line. Submissions should include links to your recommended blogs, a brief description of what you enjoy about each blog, and a short personal profile. Blogs do not necessarily need to be library-oriented, i.e., a DIY blog might inspire programming for your library or a webcomic that gets you in a good mood for the work day.

## About the Authors

Rebecca Brooks is the Assistant Library Director and (will soon be) the Creative Director at the Gretna Public Library. She has a BA in English Literature from Wichita State University and hopes to begin pursuing a MLS next year. When not at the library, she blogs ([hafuboti.com](http://hafuboti.com)), crafts, watches too much TV, and runs her own Etsy shop.

Emily McIllece is a reference associate at the University of Omaha's Criss Library and will complete her MLIS from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2013. Prior career aspirations included being a jockey and a published-well-enough-to-eat author. Now the dream is to sell the house, buy a boat in the Caribbean, and become The Sailing Librarian!



## ***Beyond the Stacks: Judy Andrews, Puppet Queen*** **By Lindsey Tomsu**

“Beyond the Stacks” is a column that will appear in each issue that highlights an awesome librarian in their lives beyond the stacks of their library. We all have heard of, and are probably very tired of hearing, the common stereotypes about librarians—they are all little old ladies wearing glasses on a chain with their hair in a bun shushing everyone at any opportunity they get. However, we all know that is not the reality. There are many librarians throughout Nebraska that have interesting stories to tell. Whether it is a special talent or a unique hobby, “Beyond the Stacks” is meant to highlight these individuals and let other librarians get to know fellow members of their profession better.

Judy posing with Ramone (left) and Sunshine (right), two of her favorite puppets.

Librarian and Assistant Director of the Kilgore Memorial Library in York, Nebraska. If anyone knows Judy one of the first things that comes to mind is her (open) obsession with anything and everything to do with puppets. She is the Puppet Queen!

LT: So the ultimate librarian question—what is your favorite book?

JA: I seriously can’t pick just one. If I had to make a choice it would be *Lassie Come Home* by Eric Knight. I read it when I was a little girl and it really touched me. The book has a lot of heart in it. It is definitely in my Top 10 favorite books. I know classics aren’t popular with young children anymore, but I think sometimes it’s good to introduce the classics to them and hope that they enjoy them. There is a movie version but the book is so much better!

LT: How long have you worked in libraries?

JA: It is nearing more than 30 years. I’ve done just about everything in libraries. I actually started out as a cataloger for about three years at a university in Virginia. I then took time off to raise a family. I then got back into libraries in the college and university area and finally made a move to the public area. I wasn’t always in children’s services. At one of the first public libraries I worked at my job kind of included doing a little bit of everything so I was exposed to children’s stuff, fell in love with it, and stuck with it ever since. I am currently the youth services librarian and assistant director.

LT: Did your love of puppets begin during your own childhood?

JA: When I was young my mother did buy me a lot of puppets. There was this company called the Tasty Cake Company in Maryland that made a bunch of sweets you could take to school. They had commercials on TV that featured two puppets. If you ate so many of the treats you could get your own puppets of the characters. I was probably about six or seven. I sent away for them and ever since I was hooked. I remember specifically when I was a sophomore in high school. I was in the French Club and I had to do a puppet show that I wrote in French and I came in third place. I even used my own puppets. I’ve always been crazy for them so using them with kids just seemed pretty natural. Gordon [Wyant, YA Librarian at Bellevue Public Library and Judy’s son] probably remembers me using puppets with him when he was young. He and his younger sister were a built in audience for my puppet shows.

LT: What is your favorite puppet?

JA: Like books I can’t really pick one, but if I had to make a choice it would be a tie between Sunshine and Ramone. Sunshine is a puppet that was handmade in South America, in Peru I believe. He is probably my most interesting and unique puppet. Ramone is my storytime helper. I made him myself about 23 years ago. He is just awful cute. However, my favorite puppet really does change on a daily basis. For example, I have a new tree puppet from the Wizard of Oz that I like a lot right now.

LT: How many puppets are in your collection and where do you store them all?

JA: If I had to estimate I'd say 300-plus. I have too many. I also have some marionettes too. I'm looking at a few on eBay too. The marionettes are harder to work with, especially teaching teens how to work with them, so they don't get used as much. In the basement of the library there is a storage area where I have a number of Rubbermaid tubs full of puppets. I have one big puppet tree in my office and one shoe tree I turned into a puppet tree. I think I have the best office in the world! You walk in and it just screams, "Fun!" It's full of puppets and a lot of Harry Potter stuff. People probably walk by my office and think I just play with puppets all day long.

LT: Do you have a favorite puppet memory?

JA: Probably during my first year at Millard as a children's librarian. I worked with the Junior Friends that year to put on a puppet show. We did Rudyard Kipling's "The Elephant Child". It was a group of all girls and I just remember how creative and fun they were. It was my first year doing puppets for quite a while. The girls were fabulously fun. They really got into the whole idea of a play from performing to set building. It was wonderful to watch. I really just let them run the whole show. Every time since that I do a show with Junior Friends it is fun but nothing is as memorable as that first year.

LT: So how do you utilize puppets in your programs for children?

JA: I believe puppets can be good literacy tools for early learners. I have a helper puppet for storytime. His name is Ramone. He kind of does a booktalk to the kids about what we're going to read that day and he also tells them the ground rules for behavior, such as sitting with their legs crossed and listening to the story. The kids really focus on him and what he has to say sometimes more so than if I was talking to them. I find puppets are a great tool to teach kids stuff. For example, a spider puppet can be used to teach the parts of a spider's body. Puppets are also a great way to get teens and children working together. Teens put on a puppet show for younger kids and gain important skills, such as how to perform and how to work together. I have seen so many kids get a puppet placed in their hands and they just bloom—they get so excited. I also think that older tweens and teens like to play with puppets under the guise of doing something for the younger ages because it gives them an excuse to do something that is fun but others might think is childish so they'd be embarrassed any other time to be caught playing with puppets. It gives them an excuse to be like a kid again.

LT: How do the teens react when you want them to play with puppets?

JA: I find puppets are a great way to reach teens that might be super shy, antisocial, or have speech difficulties. Working with puppets really gives some of these teens a way to work through their shyness, work together with other teens, and practice their performance and public speaking skills.

LT: How do you usually get teens involved in such a huge project? Some might think teens would be all, "Ugh, puppets are lame."



Junior Friends practice "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" for the 2011 Christmas show. Note: Reindeer roles are being played by the sharks!

JA: I perform in plays myself so I tend to run the puppet shows like a real play would be run. I let them know about an upcoming puppet show and they all get a chance to audition for parts. I usually end up with more teens wanting to participate than I have puppet parts for them! In that case they might share a part or I might use some creative means to extend a part or add something to a play so they can all be involved. One time at Millard I had to actually do two performances because I had 23 teens show up all wanting to be in the same play. I really get them involved in all parts, including acting, set design, and more. To make it a little bit easier, and so they don't have to worry about memorizing parts and moving a puppet at the same time, they rehearse the play and then we record their voices with Audacity software. This then gets played back

during the actual play so they can focus on controlling the puppets. It also helps take the edge off of performance jitters. When we practice with the puppets themselves they learn all about puppet movement and how to work in the scenes. We learn about props and staging. I really try to do my best to give the teens a role in the play that they want whether it is performing or doing background stuff. After we have the sound recorded we usually rehearse with the sound playing and the teens have final input in any staging decisions. Basically if the teens show up to the auditions I try my best to find a part for everyone. I try to be fair when assigning roles. If someone just had the lead in the last puppet play I'll make sure another teen has the chance to be the lead in the new play. I want them to be able to take turns.

LT: What plays do you perform?

JA: Most of the plays I perform with the puppets are actually plays I have written myself. That way I don't have to worry about copyright issues and if I need to tweak something I can make the changes easily. I've probably written about 12 puppet plays total.

LT: Do you have any advice for librarians looking to get into working with puppets?

JA: I would tell new children's librarians or librarians new to puppets to just try it and see how it feels. If you are worried about looking like an idiot or aren't comfortable being silly, practice playing with a puppet in front of a mirror. Practice is the best thing to do. Give yourself permission to let go and be silly. Just have fun with it. Never be disappointed in your performance or those of any teens working on a show with you. If you go in with the goal of having fun it will be a success. Plus, if anyone needs to borrow any puppets or you want to work with puppets but don't have the budget feel free to contact me. I will gladly share my puppets with other librarians.

LT: Any last comments for our readers?

JA: This summer the teens at Kilgore Memorial Library will be doing a puppet show called "Who's in the Rabbit House" based on an African folktale. If anyone would like to come and see how we do a puppet show and ask me or the teens questions, feel free to join us. It will be on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Submissions for "Beyond the Shelves"

Do you know of a librarian with a cool hobby, special talent, or interesting story to tell? Please send potential candidates for spotlight to Lindsey Tomsu at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org) with the title "Beyond the Stacks" in the subject line. In your email please give me the name of your librarian, a short description about what makes them special, and contact information so I can reach them for a possible interview.



Alex shares her puppet she made at the Library during Yorkfest September 2012.



# *News Briefs*

## *Association Announcements*

### **SCYP Seeks Nominations for Mad Hatter Award**

The Mad Hatter Committee is seeking nominations for the Mad Hatter Award, presented each fall at the NLA/NSLA Conference, to a children's librarian in the state of Nebraska who has made an outstanding contribution to children and librarianship. The nominee must exhibit the qualities listed in the nomination form and be a member of SCYP. A copy of the nomination form can be found here: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/archives/849>

Nominate a deserving colleague for the 2013 Mad Hatter Award. This fall's conference will be October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney.

If you have any questions you can contact Sally Snyder at [sally.snyder@nebraska.gov](mailto:sally.snyder@nebraska.gov) or Judy Henning at [Judy.Henning@kearneypublic.org](mailto:Judy.Henning@kearneypublic.org)

### **MPLA Award Nominations Sought**

MPLA is seeking nominees for various awards to be presented at the 2013 MPLA/SDLA/NDLA tri-conference to be held in September in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The deadline for nominations is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The awards include the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award, the MPLA Distinguished Service Award, the MPLA Literary Contribution Award, the MPLA Beginning Professional Award, the MPLA Innovator Award, and the MPLA Unsung Hero Award. More information and guidelines for nominating someone can be found at <http://www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html>

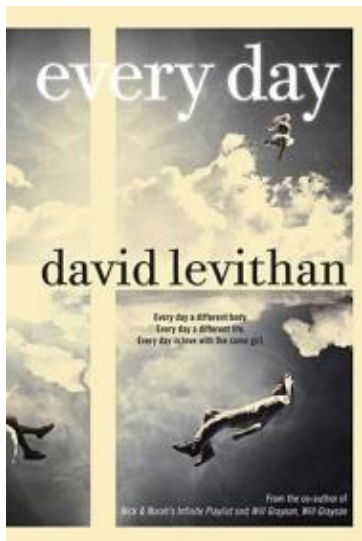
Please consider nominating someone today!

## *Member Announcements*

- We are sad to announce the passing of **Lyle R. Schreiner**, 83, on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He had been battling Parkinson's disease. He was a faculty member in the University Libraries at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln from 1958 to 1994 and a past NLA member. Lyle was the recipient of the Nebraska New Members Round Table Mentor of the Year Award in 1993. The article regarding him can be found in the *NLAQ* archives (Volume 25, Number 2, Summer 1994, p. 31-35). After his retirement from UNL he enjoyed more than 10 years of service at the Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln.
- **Betty Armstrong** retired in February 2013 after serving as the Elementary Librarian for the Ogallala Public Schools for 30 years. She has served on the Golden Sower committee since the late 1990s, serving as chair for one year and then for the last six years as the Author/Publisher Contact. She also served six years on the (then) NEMA board.
- *Nebraska Libraries'* own editor, **Lindsey Tomsu**, was nominated by members of her Teen Advisory Board at the La Vista Public Library for the 2013 class of *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers. Her profile can be found here: <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/03/people/movers-shakers-2013/lindsey-tomsu-movers-shakers-2013-marketers/>. She was also interviewed by *School Library Journal* (<http://www.slj.com/2013/04/librarians/a-voice-for-teens-up-close-with-youth-librarian-lindsey-tomsu/#> ) and recently had her teens' Life-Size Arkham Horror program featured by *SLJ* (<http://www.slj.com/2013/05/librarians/loving-lovecraft-nebraska-teens-host-life-size-arkham-horror-game/>) .

# Book Bites

## Book Reviews (and More!)



### **Every Day by David Levithan**

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012  
Hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN: 978-0307931887

“A’s” story was fascinating to me on several levels mainly from the perspective of my own wishes to change lives with specific people over the years. This idea occurs to me when something incredibly challenging is going on and it feels as though all of the easy parts in life belong to other people.

The character of “A” never experiences this feeling because each day begins by acclimating to another person’s life as soon as he is awake. “A” will spend the next 24 hours as the person whose body he now inhabits. There is no age, gender, or geographic limitations to this daily shift so he literally has to be aware of his surroundings and adjust accordingly immediately.

He also follows his own set of rules for this lifestyle, all based around the basic principle of not leaving the person’s life significantly different than when he arrived. Everything changes for “A” when he inhabits Justin’s body for a 24-hour time period and meets Rhiannon. Is love affected by not only the person’s appearance but if they change age, gender, or race? This is only the beginning of the

questions that occurred to me after reading this book. Can you use the phrase “living his life” when talking about “A” since technically he is experiencing everyone else’s lives?

This book has not only a brilliant concept, which succeeds because the characters are well-written, but also great dialogue and a satisfying resolution. I would recommend it particularly for book clubs due to the thoughtful discussions it would generate.

--Kirsten Wood, Plattsmouth Public Library

### **Want to Go Private? By Sarah Darer Littman**

Scholastic Press, 2011  
Hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN: 978-0545151467

This book is the definition of the word “chilling” to me. Abby is shy and hesitant about being a freshman in high school even though her parents are pushing her to see the experience as a way to expand her horizons. She begins to use a new website, ChezTeen.com, as an outlet for chatting with her best friend to avoid her mother’s monitoring of her computer use.

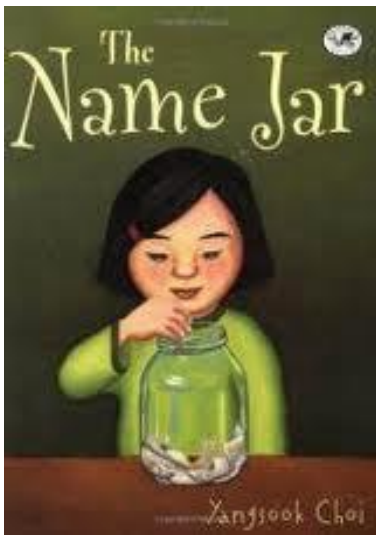
BlueSkyBoi is another member of the chat room who begins to message Abby directly to establish a relationship with her. The truly frightening scenes in this book to me begin after he asks her if she would like to bypass the chat room to talk directly via webcam and headphones.

Once she agrees, the rest of the book is focused on the consequences of this choice. It was frightening to me how quickly she began distrusting the other people in her life to focus on this mystery man. The scenes and language at the end of the book are very graphic and mature, which I felt in some ways was unfortunate. While on one hand it did convey the seriousness of the situation Abby finds herself in, it also limits the audience that I can recommend this book to as a librarian.

That said, from a parent’s standpoint (I have a 13-year-old daughter), it reminded me that even caring, involved parents can miss signs and suddenly find your child has made a life changing decision without realizing the impact on everyone involved. I think Sarah Darer Littman has written a book that should open discussions and be a warning to parents and teens about the potential dangers of Internet predators.

--Kirsten Wood, Plattsmouth Public Library





***The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi**

Dragonfly Books, 2003

Paperback, \$6.99, ISBN: 978-0440417996

For lovely artwork and a great school time story, read *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi. Unhei is worried that the kids at her new school won't like her because she is different. Instead of introducing herself as Unhei she tells them she is going to pick an American name by next week and puts a jar on her desk for them to give her suggestions. She tries being Suzy, Laura, and Amanda but none of the names feel quite right. One of her classmates runs across her in her neighborhood, discovers her real name, and convinces her that its beautiful meaning is better than any American name her class could choose for her. The next week she bravely stands in front of the class and introduces herself with her true name, teaching her class how to pronounce her Korean name.

One of the first things we know about anyone else is their name, and whether we love or hate our names it can be difficult to introduce yourself to someone new. I think this book did a lovely job of not only exploring how hard it is to be different but how being different can be beautiful all on its own.

This is especially important as areas become more culturally diverse—the U.S. is approaching the year where race will be made up of 50% Caucasian and 50% (or more!) minority races. Presenting children with books that show these children, especially immigrant children, experiencing the same troubles and joys as them is the best way to teach them that everyone is the same.

--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART

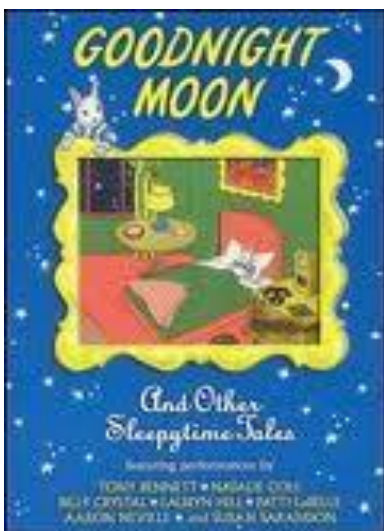
***Signing Time! Volume 1***

Directed by Emilie de Azevedo Brown and J.P. Francia

DVD, \$21.99, 2007, 30 minutes

Communication is one of the greatest struggles for young children, and while many people think tantrums are the result of bad kids or bad parents there is growing research to show tantrums are simply expressions of frustration—linked strongly to a child's inability to express what they want to say or what they feel. This DVD is a fantastic way to connect with your child, and children as young as nine months are able to communicate via American Sign Language (ASL). This DVD plays in English and Spanish and teaches children basic ASL words such as "milk", "more", "eat", "mom", "dad", etc. It has won over 55 parenting awards and teaches children through basic instruction, song, and animation. This is a great way to bond with young children (learning a "secret language") and can help to reduce frustration in the very young. While created for birth to five years old, the fun and easy interaction makes it great for any age—even adults.

--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART



***Goodnight Moon and Other Sleepytime Tales***

Directed by Amy Schatz

DVD, \$12.97, 2005, 30 minutes

This is a star studded affair! With Susan Sarandon, Tony Bennett, Lauryn Hill, Billy Crystal, Natalie Cole, Aaron Neville, and Patti LaBelle, parents will enjoy this as much as their children will! The gorgeous animation with these well-known voices makes for a powerful and lovely bedtime routine. The DVD features seven well-known bedtime stories and lullabies (Goodnight Moon; Hit the Road to Dreamland; Hush, Little Baby; There's a Nightmare in My Closet; Tar Beach; Brahms's Lullaby; and Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star) all with a little celebrity flair. They retain a sense of their classic being with some personality shining through in the voice acting. This is a good DVD to put on and play in the background or to snuggle down and watch before bed to help get little ones into the calm, ready-to-sleep mood. Other than being just darn sweet this DVD has some very beautiful animations that, combined with the soothing voices of the actors, makes for a very relaxing end to your day whether you're two or 32. The classic songs and stories are familiar to parents making it easier to sing along or

recite with the actor as they rock with their child in a chair or in bed. It's a very quiet way to get ready for bedtime and a good way to entice reluctant sleepers.

--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART

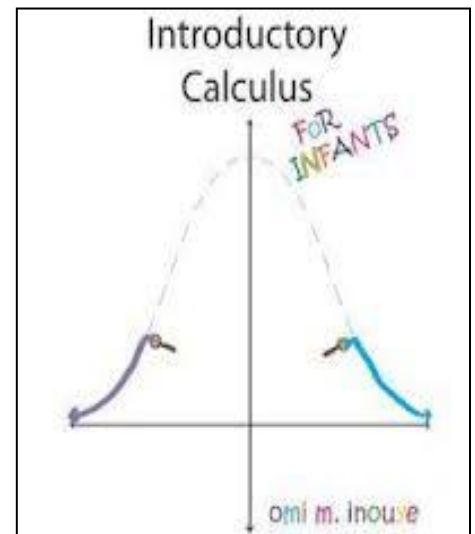
***Introductory Calculus for Infants* by Omi M. Inouye**

omionline.ca, 2011

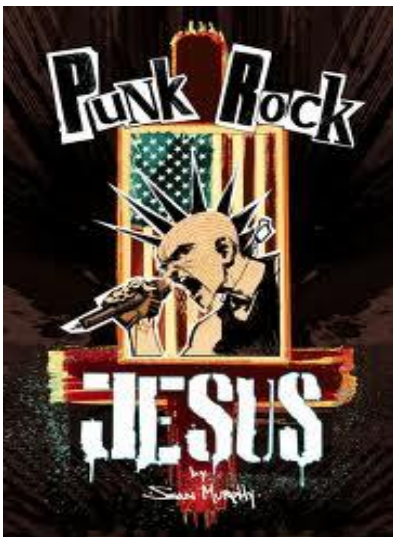
Paperback, \$10.95, ISBN: 978-0987823915

Not being a math fan I find myself surprised to say this is one of the best children's books I have read in a long time. I bought this for my niece, just now turned five months, and she literally threw herself at the pages! She stared wide-eyed at every page and reached towards the letters. The black and white lines make it easy for infants to see the pictures and the bold primary colors and easily recognizable shapes of letters, crayons, etc., make it simple for older children to know what is on the page. The story is very, very simple—the letter X realizes he doesn't start a lot of words and feels lonely because the other letters won't be friends with him. One day the letter F shows him how he is very important in math and the book shows pictures of different graphs with their titles and how without him they wouldn't exist. As he becomes happier with himself other letters join him and become his friends.

What I love best about this book is how long lasting it will be in a child's life—not only is it as the title says appropriate for infants, but as children get older they will be able to learn lots of new words from the book. They will enjoy the story and even be able to see the images in real life (a boundless diagram is seen in stock charts, for example, and any child would be excited to see something they recognize while daddy is doing his boring money thing). The basics to higher mathematics are introduced with the diagrams and letters so this book would even be useful as the child ages into school and begins learning math. Many buyers and comments on review sites and the sites this book is sold on have said they wished they had this book when they were in junior and senior high! It's an adorable book that is fun to read, which isn't always found in educational books.



--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART



***Punk Rock Jesus* by Sean Murphy**

Vertigo, 2013

Paperback, \$16.99, ISBN: 978-1401237684

*Punk Rock Jesus* hits all the right notes. Sean Murphy's *Punk Rock Jesus* is a fantastic addition to the newish genre of "dystopian fiction". Set in a future where reality TV is king, and no line is above being crossed, we follow the birth and upbringing of "the second coming" as he lives with his mother, his bodyguard, the scientist responsible for his birth, and the television producer who brought this whole group together. Intermixed throughout the story, we also see into the life of the dutiful bodyguard, and come to understand how a child of faith and man of violence can find himself protecting an innocent child from a society that wants him to be their next president or wants him to die for his heresy.

What makes the storytelling transformative is the illustrations. With nothing done in color, the weight of the lines add depth to the characters and settings in a way that I haven't experienced in quite a while. The characters are beautifully composed and expertly rendered, allowing the text to convey the story while readers get wrapped up in the beautiful faces and places. Verdict—More suited for the older teen or an adult collection, but most certainly worth the read.

--Jake Rundle, Collections Librarian, Hastings Public Library

# ***Nebraska Libraries* Editorial Policy**

(Updated January 2013)

## **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, white papers, news, and reports from libraries, conferences, and NLA.

## **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 provide a balanced spectrum of coverage for all Nebraska libraries and members. Content is accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Editor and is subject to editing for clarity and grammar.

## **Editor's Rights**

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 NLA 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, the Author will receive a copyedited version of their work and be given a one-week deadline to contest or make any changes. If the Editor does not hear from the Author within that deadline the article, as per the Editor's rights, will be published as the Editor sees fit in order to speed along the publication process. Authors should explicitly note when a submission is a creative work, such as poem or story, where such changes would negatively impact the Author's intent.

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

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

## **NLA Communications Committee Purpose**

The NLA Communications Committee assists the NLA 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 in *Nebraska Libraries* contributors are those of their respective authors and do not represent the views the Nebraska Library Association.

## **Nebraska Libraries Submission Policy**

(Updated January 2013)

### **Who Can Submit**

*Nebraska Libraries* will publish various articles and creative content from all authors actively involved in the library world within the State of Nebraska. If you are unsure of whether or not your piece would fit with our publication, please query the editor at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **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.
- Please send all submissions in Word .doc or .rtf forms. Please no PDFs.
- 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.
- Since we are publishing on Digital Commons there is no strict length minimum or maximum for submissions. Please be logical; i.e., a news brief should not be longer than a featured article.
- *Nebraska Libraries* is a practitioner journal and not a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Therefore, citations are not necessary. If you would like to include them in your article the citation style used by *Nebraska Libraries* is APA.
- Please send all articles, ideas for articles, and other queries and communications to the Editor at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Items Eligible for Publication**

- We are looking for the following items or columns but we are open to submissions of all kinds:
  - Feature articles about anything library related
  - Articles about what is going on at your library (successful programs, etc.)
  - Short columns in each issue by members of the sections and round tables
  - News briefs—what has happened at your library, what is going to happen?
  - Spotlights on new NLA members
  - Member announcements (jobs, births, marriages, retirements, deaths, publications, etc.)
  - Suggestions for future columns, article ideas, etc.
  - Opinion pieces about hot topics in the library profession
  - Recommendations for the “How I ’Roll” column (recommended blogs)
  - Recommendations for the “Beyond the Stacks” column (interviews with interesting people who work in libraries)
  - Recommendations for “My Own Private Library” column (share your book collection with NLA)
  - Recommendations for the “What Makes Your Library Special?” column (a spotlight on a specific Nebraska library)
  - Answers, comments, and potential questions for the “Question” column (favorite library moment, favorite book, etc.)
  - Creative works—short stories, poems, art, etc.
  - Book reviews
  - White papers (not sought but will be considered for publication)