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Nebraska Libraries

November 2013, Vol. 1, No. 4



Nebraska Libraries

November 2013 – Volume 1, Number 4

Published by the
Nebraska Library Association

Membership in NLA is open to any individual
or institution interested in Nebraska libraries.

To find out more about NLA, write to:
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P.O. Box 21756
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Nebraska Libraries (ISSN 2326-3237), formerly known as
Nebraska Library Association Quarterly, or *NLAQ*, is
published online quarterly in spring, summer, fall, and
winter by the Nebraska Library Association,
P.O. Box 21756, Lincoln, NE 68542-1756.
Subscription price: Free for members of NLA,
\$40 per year to other subscribers.
Single issues: \$10

Cover Photo Credit: Photo of the Nebraska Library
Association's new logo! Unveiled at the 2013 conference, the
logo was designed by Angela Kroger.

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Editor's Message

Welcome members of the Nebraska library profession to the fourth issue of *Nebraska Libraries*, the all-new journal for the Nebraska Library Association. I hope you will enjoy this packed issue as much as the previous three.

This issue marks the end of our first year of publishing *Nebraska Libraries*! We have made four jammed pack issues that I hope you have enjoyed.

This month you will see the faces of all the new NLA officers that you voted on during the elections. I want to thank everyone who voted back in August! Other features we have this month include Christa Burns's article version of her standing room only presentation at the 2013 NLA/NSLA conference on 20 cool tech-related tools for your library, a wonderfully interesting historical article by Oliver Pollak on the decline of encyclopedias, an interesting tool for reporting your library's public access use, among some other features.

Joining these articles this month are our regular columns for the sections and round tables of NLA, our other monthly columns, and book reviews.

As I mentioned in our previous issues, 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. 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

Lindsey Tomsu
Editor, *Nebraska Libraries*

2013 NLA Election Results

By Janice Boyer

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce officers for 2013-2014:



Gayle Roberts, NLA Vice President/President Elect

Currently the director at Blair Public Library, Gayle has served in various NLA positions throughout her library career. She is past chair of both the Paraprofessional and SCYP sections, and has served as an officer in ITART and YART. She has served on both the Advocacy Committee (aka Legislative Committee) and the Publications Committee. She has been awarded the Paraprofessional of the Year award, the NLA Presidential Award for Excellence, and the 2011 Departmental Employee of the Year Award for the City of Blair.

Her formal library career started at the UNO Criss Library, where she started as a reference assistant and left after serving as the Promotions and Marketing Associate. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia program with her MLS and began working at Blair as the Children's Librarian before taking the directorship almost three years ago. Prior to her MLS, she managed law and accounting libraries in her former small firm and corporate assistant days. She loves Kermit the Frog, M&Ms, NASCAR, crocheting, her grandchildren, and, of course, reading! She can be a bit on the crazy side from time to time—even dying her hair rainbow colors when the library patrons read over 25,000 materials in nine weeks.



Megan Klein-Hewett, NLA Treasurer

Megan Klein-Hewett is the senior clerk at the Omaha Public Library's W. Dale Clark Library and has been employed by OPL since 2010. She recently completed her MA in Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri—Columbia and also holds a BA in Journalism & Mass Communications from Creighton University. Megan has spent the majority of her life in the Omaha area, having grown up in Council Bluffs, IA. She spends half the year serving as a volunteer speech coach at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs and is a certified high school speech judge for the Iowa High School Speech Association. She's a member of Toastmasters International, as well as NLA and ALA. When she's not spending six months of the year voluntarily surrounded by teenagers, Megan is an avid runner and enjoys taking care of her old house. She's also totally geeky about theater, history, and—luckily for NLA—finances.



Joyce Neujahr, College & University Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Joyce Neujahr is currently Director of Patron Services at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library. She is also an adjunct instructor for the graduate leadership and management course for the University of Missouri—Columbia, library science program. Neujahr received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri—Columbia and has worked in public, school, and now academic libraries. She is active in state-, regional-, and national-level professional organizations.



Holli Duggan, College & University Section - Secretary

I'm Holli Duggan. I've worked at UNL Love Library as the Returns Assistant for two and a half years. Most of what I do is train, schedule, and supervise student workers with all of our various projects throughout the year. I graduated in 2011 from the University of Missouri—Columbia's ISLT program with my first MA. If all goes according to plan, I'll graduate again this December with an MA in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from UNL with an emphasis on teaching and learning technologies. I'm very much looking forward to finishing as I have no dreams of being an eternal grad student. Last year, I served as the secretary for NMRT. This year, I've had the opportunity to participate in the ALA Emerging Leaders program (with the help of NLA). It's been wonderful so far! I'm really excited for our group to present the Adult Learning Tutorial project in Chicago this summer. I've also been working with the Diversity Committee at Love for the last two years. Outside of the library world, I like to bake cupcakes, watch *Doctor Who*, and run with my Chocolate Lab puppy. In less than a month, I'm attempting my first full marathon which is terrifyingly exciting.



Nancy Black, Paraprofessional Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

I began working at Keene Memorial Library November of 2008 as a library aide in the Adult Circulation Department. I realized in short order that I enjoyed working in the library and wanted to embark on a new career. I enrolled at UNO in the fall of 2011 and began work on my bachelor's degree in library science. I will complete that degree after the completion of four more classes. In the spring of 2012 I applied for and received the 21st Century Librarian scholarship from the Nebraska Library Commission. I am currently on my fourth round scholarship having completed all requirements to maintain my scholarship awards. I attended the 2012 PLA conference in Philadelphia and have attended the NLA conference in 2011 and 2012. This year I intend to attend the Rural Library Association conference and NLA conference. I currently serve on the Diversity Committee for the NLA. In March of 2013 I accepted the position of Library Director at Mead Public Library.



Todd Schlechte, Public Library & Trustee Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Todd has been a certified librarian for about six years now and has enjoyed being able to offer library members increasingly better services during that time. He helped with collection development for Nebraska Overdrive Libraries when it still numbered in the twenties and thirties and was appointed to the Nebraska State Advisory Board for Libraries. Like so many in Nebraska, he possesses his MLS from the University of Missouri. Professionally, some of his favorite memories involve helping immigrants, working with teens, and establishing the trust necessary to accomplish change. Presently, he particularly enjoys those aspects of his present position at Omaha Public Library that involve reference, collections, and programming.

On the side he mentors refugees and is active in the Nebraska Library Association. He is also a member of the PLA and ALA, as well as other organizations compatible with his interests. Todd believes public libraries have an important role to play not only in early literacy and teen programming, but also adult information literacy because the ability to find quality information impacts lives on a personal level. To relax he likes to read up on U.S. and international affairs, speak German while engaged in a family activity, engage in perennial gardening, sit in front of a fire with a good book, or go on a hike with his daughter.



Carrie Trutna, School, Children's and Young People's Section – Chair Elect

Carrie Trutna has been the Youth Services Coordinator for the Wahoo Public Library for the past six years. She has held many jobs before this including janitor, McDonald's cashier (a whole three days), Estee Lauder Beauty Advisor (a very loooong year and a half), dishwasher, and so on. This is her favorite job by far. She has a BA in English with a minor in Spanish (can't speak a lick of it anymore) and an emphasis in Creative Writing from Midland Lutheran College. She also tried majoring in education, journalism, and music and begged for an interpretive dance major but was unsuccessful. She loves working with kids as she is a big kid herself and prefers a good juvenile fiction book over any adult book she's ever read. She believes in the importance of teaching literacy skills at birth so that children have a fighting chance in this world.



Kirsten Wood, School, Children's and Young People's Section - Secretary/Treasurer

I have been the Children's Librarian at the Plattsmouth Public Library since May 2005. I would like to be elected Secretary/Treasurer of the School, Children's, and Young People Section of the Nebraska Library Association because of my experiences with all of the youth librarians across the state. My appreciation for their willingness to share their talents, knowledge, and ideas with a brand new librarian is immense. It is now my turn to start giving back professionally and one of the ways I would like to do that is by becoming more active in our professional organizations. I have extensive experience serving on committees and enjoy exchanging ideas while working towards goals as a group. I am currently a Golden Sower reader for both the intermediate and young adult categories which I have really enjoyed not only for the reading but for getting to meet other librarians. Thank you for considering me for this position.



Carolyn Dow, Special & Institutional Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Carolyn Dow is the music librarian and manager of the Polley Music Library at Lincoln City Libraries. Over the course of many years in NLA, Carolyn has served several terms as Chair of the Special & Institutional Section. She has also served NLA thrice as Chair of the Citations Committee, as a member of the ad-hoc Committee on Committees, and as a member of the merged Scholarship and Awards Committee. Carolyn has been active in the Music Library Association and the International Association of Music Libraries, for which she is currently serving as Public Libraries Branch Chair. Beyond her professional activities, Carolyn plays piccolo in the Lincoln Civic Orchestra and oboe in the Lincoln Community Concert Band and the Waverly Area Community Band. She and her two westies enjoy training in agility and she is a judge for U.S. Figure Skating.



Susie Dunn, Special & Institutional Section - Treasurer

I've been employed by Southeast Community College since 1992. I began my employment with SCC as the Lincoln Campus

reference librarian and later became the assistant to the Vice President for Access/Equity/Diversity. In that capacity, I prepare a number of written reports and in-house newsletters and perform research as requested as well as maintain a small library of diversity audiovisuals. I am also the liaison to the campus disability support services staff. I've been active in S&I since I began working at SCC and find involvement with the section very satisfying and rewarding. I serve on the Christ United Methodist Church library committee and as the editor for the Lincoln-Lancaster Genealogy Society e-newsletter. I keep up-to-date by participating in various educational offerings available through NLC.



Todd Schlechte, Intellectual Freedom Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

I have been a certified librarian for about six years and have enjoyed being able to offer library members increasingly better services during that time. Presently, I work for Omaha Public Library and enjoy my relationships there with colleagues and library members.

I believe intellectual freedom provides a crucial, fundamental basis for democracy. It is a bulwark against dictatorship. Libraries in particular need to be a safe place to access all sorts of information and, ideally, intellectual freedom needs to become so much a part of the culture in Nebraska that we no longer even have to worry about defending against censorship efforts. This is an issue that, I believe, is non-partisan. Personally, intellectual freedom has played a huge role in my own life and being able to exercise it is one reason I am in the library profession today. I have also found that librarians who resist attempts at censorship may at times put their positions at risk, so I applaud all those who strive to defend intellectual freedom, as well as engage in educational efforts promoting intellectual freedom.

Presently, I particularly enjoy those aspects of my job that involve reference, collections, and programming. On the side I mentor refugees and am active in the Nebraska Library Association. I am also a member of the PLA and ALA, as well as organizations battling discrimination. To relax I like to read up on U.S. and international affairs, speak German while engaged in a family activity, engage in perennial gardening, sit in front of a fire with a good book, or go on a hike with my daughter.



Emily McIllece, Intellectual Freedom Round Table - Secretary

Emily McIllece currently serves as a Reference Associate at UNO's Criss Library, teaching students how to research beyond Wikipedia and coax the print card machine to accept their dollars. Although there is plenty to love about working at libraries, Emily loves when an "ordinary" reference question turns into a "cool!" moment for the student. If she had a magic wand, she'd fix copyright, DRM, and ebooks today, but it looks like she'll have to fight the good fight the old-fashioned way. She just completed her MLS from the University of Missouri—Columbia and now can focus this summer on mastering the art of sailing.



Rebecca Stavick, Information Technology & Access Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

I work as a Library Specialist at the Omaha Public Library. I have an MLIS from San Jose State University, and my professional interests include emerging technologies, business librarianship, and library instruction to name a few! For more information, visit www.linkedin.com/in/rebeccastavick

As your Vice Chair, I will establish ITART as the leading group of library technology experts in the region. I will seek out new ways to improve communication and foster the sharing of knowledge among rural and city librarians alike, and I will explore new, creative ways to boost membership and engagement in NLA/ITART activities. I'm also interested in discovering how ITART can become more involved in advocacy efforts in Nebraska.



Christa Burns, Information Technology & Access Round Table – Secretary

Christa Burns is the Special Projects Librarian, Technology & Access Services, at the Nebraska Library Commission. She provides organization, training, and consultation for special projects, such as E-rate, Learning 2.0, and group purchases of library products and services. Christa also coordinates, produces, and hosts the Commission's weekly webinar series, NCompass Live. Previously, she was the OCLC Member Services Coordinator for NEBASE, the OCLC Regional Service Provider for Nebraska, providing support and training on OCLC products and services at conferences and meetings across Nebraska.

Before coming to Nebraska in 2000, Christa spent 8 ½ years at Pace University in Westchester County, NY, starting as a Reference Librarian and working her way up to become Head of Research & Information Services. She received her MLS from the University of Albany School of Information Science and Policy in 1991 and her BA from the University of Binghamton in English Literature and Folklore. In her spare time, Christa is a gamer, bibliophile, floriculturist, and cat minion.



Holli Duggan, New Members Round Table - Vice Chair

I'm Holli Duggan. I've worked at UNL Love Library as the Returns Assistant for two and a half years. Most of what I do is train, schedule, and supervise student workers with all of our various projects throughout the year. I graduated in 2011 from the University of Missouri—Columbia's ISLT program with my first MA. If all goes according to plan, I'll graduate again this December with an MA in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from UNL with an emphasis on teaching and learning technologies. I'm very much looking forward to finishing as I have no dreams of being an eternal grad student. Last year, I served as the secretary for NMRT. This year, I've had the opportunity to participate in the ALA Emerging Leaders program (with the help of NLA). It's been wonderful so far! I'm really excited for our group to present the Adult Learning Tutorial project in Chicago this summer. I've also been working with the Diversity Committee at Love for the last two years. Outside of the library world, I like to bake cupcakes, watch *Doctor Who*, and run with my Chocolate Lab puppy. In less than a month, I'm attempting my first full marathon which is terrifyingly exciting.



Aimee Owen, New Members Round Table - Secretary/Treasurer

I am a graduate of the MLS program at the University of Missouri. I also have a MS in Management Information Systems from UNO. I currently work as a Library Specialist at Omaha Public Library. My extracurricular activities include the Jr. League of Omaha, Girls Inc. of Omaha girlFriends volunteer guild (President-elect), Nebraska Food Cooperative (member email coordinator), Raqs Awn Bellydance Collective, and of course NLA (NMRT Secretary and Paraprofessional Section Secretary/Treasurer). I also enjoy gardening, crafting, reading, watching my husband's rock band, and chasing after our toddler son.

I would love to continue contributing my talent and energy to the NLA New Members Round Table as your Secretary.



Melissa Moll, Technical Services Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Melissa Moll is a catalog and metadata librarian at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Together with other technical services librarians from Nebraska, she is currently preparing a workbook on RDA. Melissa holds an MA in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a DMA in organ performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Prior to coming to UNL in 2012, she taught at Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS) and worked as a director of music in congregations in Connecticut and Wisconsin.



Wendy Lukert, Young Adult Round Table - Vice Chair

My name is Wendy Lukert, otherwise known as Secret Agent Obedient Pail. I have been the Young Adult Librarian at the Blair Public Library for the last 3 ½ years. As your Vice Chair/Chair Elect I will help prepare for the Zombie Apocalypse and charter space exploration projects whenever possible. Ok, seriously folks, I am close to finishing my bachelor's degree and will be pursuing my MLS in the near future. I enjoy teen services and look forward to serving YART and learning from all of you!



Autumn Hill, Young Adult Round Table - Secretary

Autumn Hill is the Young Adult Specialist at Omaha Public Library's Benson Branch and just earned her MLS degree this May. She has been living in Omaha on and off since high school, but grew up being shuffled around the country by restless parents. Her favorite YA author is John Green, and right now her essence is safely stored in one of Maureen Johnson's jars. She does not promise you candy in exchange for your vote, but neither does she discourage you from purchasing some and telling yourself it was from her.

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the candidates for their willingness to run for office and their support of the Nebraska Library Association. The newly elected officers began their terms at the conclusion of annual conference on October 11th.



NLA/NSLA Conference Spotlight

Rachel Mayfield

I am a complete “newbie” to the library world having only worked at Kilgore Memorial Library in York for seven months. Being thrust into the mix of things rather quickly (I have gone from shelver to cataloger in five months), I am a little desperate for opportunities to learn more about what

working in a library means, what it involves, etc. The NLA/NSLA conference was a wonderful way to begin this learning process. It was fantastic to meet so many enthusiastic people who genuinely care about the continuation and advancement of libraries in our communities. Such a diversity of topics was covered! I particularly enjoyed the session “Breaking the Rules,” which involved lots of cataloging talk. It confirmed my suspicions that I have much training ahead of me if I am to become proficient, but I left the session truly feeling like I was in the right position as a cataloger. I gained a wealth of information in a wonderful networking environment. Overall, I had a marvelous first experience at this year's NLA/NSLA conference.

About the Author

Rachel Mayfield is a cataloger at the Kilgore Memorial Library in York, Nebraska. She is hoping to branch into providing teen services in the future as well.

Rachel Zill

Arriving in Kearney minutes before the departure of the shuttle, I hurriedly checked-in and went looking for my ride to the Wednesday night event. Outside the Younes Conference Center sat a public trolley that was every bit of fantastic inside as it was out. When everyone had boarded, the trolley headed toward the World Theater for a presentation of *Desk Set*. The movie theater's atmosphere was wonderful—a perfect pairing to the old-style trolley ride and 1957 feature film. Arriving an hour before the film start time, I had plenty of time to order a drink, cram my face with popcorn, and visit with friends and colleagues. It was nice to unwind after the long drive. After the movie, it was straight to bed before an early start to a day of conference.

Thursday's programs unrolled nicely throughout the day. I first met the New Member's Round Table and guests to do some pre-conference networking. The room was filled with first-time conference attendees, library science students, and some experienced facilitators. Between bites of muffins and fresh fruit, we swapped emails and talked about the exciting things happening at our libraries. After a five-minute discussion, we traded spaces until the majority of the room was acquainted.

Next, I attended Marty Magee's “Business Communications: Library Style” to gain some tips for writing clear, concise, and professional communiqués. Marty breezed through the basics of writing papers, business plans, grant proposals, budget justifications, and annual reports. Due to the allotted time, these topics were merely introduced. However, they were met with wonderful examples and resources for further instruction.

During the exhibitor's break, I collected the usual free re-usable grocery bag, pens, notepads, ribbons, and candy, and discussed pertinent matters with vendors in the field.

I grabbed a coffee and headed to a very popular presentation by Christa Burns entitled “20 Cool Tools for You and Your Library.” After finding a seat on the floor, the presentation promptly began. Christa effortlessly detailed each free tool in a manner of a couple of minutes. My favorites included a user-created tutorial website called Instructables, a word cloud generator by the name of Tagxedo, and an online reading service aptly named Readability.

After the usual NSLA and NLA business meetings over lunch, we were herded toward the keynote room to hear from author, lobbyist, and advocacy guru Stephanie Vance. Attendees learned how passion for one's point of view is essential, how to choose and enlist the right partners, and how to develop compelling arguments. Stephanie Vance's eight critical keys to influencing others, techniques developed over years of working as a lobbyist and congressional aide in Washington, were applied to the circumstances faced by many library science professionals. Her energy was high and her speaking skills were extraordinary—definitely keeping the room awake right after lunch.

I then attended “Inspiring Student Employees and Non-Professional Staff to do Great Work,” a program co-presented by Dr. Jenny Bossaller, Peter Johnson, and Annette Parde. The presentation began with a description of statistics collected from student workers at the University of Missouri's campus library. The overall take-back was that student employees, though often looked at as miniscule, perform their jobs as professionals who wish to have more responsibility. Annette Parde finished by examining the different

techniques that have worked to empower her student employees at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Her students appreciated flexible schedules, the ability to communicate through text messaging, and a wiki page that kept everything in one place.

The last program I attended that day was “Essential Technologies for Special Libraries” by Annette Parde, Brian Maass, and Jen Barnason. Initially a final project in an Emerging Technologies graduate class, the adapted presentation delineated some inexpensive, free, and/or open source tools for special libraries. These included acquisition management, digital archiving, and HTML/CSS code training online tools. My favorites were CamScanner, Internet Buttons, and CodeAcademy.

The end of a long first day of conference was happily met with an exhibitor’s reception and wine tasting event. I grabbed a plate full of hors d’oeuvres, a free sample of wine, and commenced the mingling Bingo game. Each square of the Bingo card included a short description of someone to meet—a presenter, an individual one had just met, someone with whom one discussed a favorite fiction title, etc. Each bingo served as an entry into a drawing. After a long night, I hit the hay in preparation for the next day’s festivities.

I began my day with a discussion of the Nebraska Portal, a project developed by the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The portal contains several online reference resources that were developed with the help of scholars and other libraries. My favorites included “Nebraska Newspapers: Digitizing Nebraska’s History” and “Nebraska Public Documents.” The presentation commenced with a discussion of other reference resources that would be of use to Nebraska librarians and Nebraskans.

The next presentation I attended was “Thinking about Library UX” by Michael Sauers and Laura Johnson. User Experience (UX) is a way of seeing design from the user’s perspective or, in our case, of seeing the library from the patrons’ perspective. UX can often be lost by envisioning what we, the librarians, think is important. This program delved into numerous examples and ways in which we can better serve our patrons by taking a walk in their shoes.

Now it was my turn to present my first NLA conference program—“Advocacy from Within: Celebrating National Library Week at a Law Firm.” I reveled in the insightful suggestions given by my audience. I connected with other library professionals working in special libraries across Nebraska. I was honored to be asked if my graphics and materials could be borrowed and altered—a small insight into how the library community interacts.

I left the conference a bit early to indulge in various Kearney sights—the Nebraska Museum of Art, the Kearney Public Library, and the Great Platte River Road Archway. All in all, my conference experience was insightful, heartwarming, and unique. I arrived in Omaha with more than a million things I learned and was eager to share with my colleagues. Thanks for the wonderful experience!

About the Author

Rachel Zill is a Library Assistant at both the Baird Holm private law library and Clarkson College’s academic nursing library. She has also worked at UNO’s Criss Library as an Interlibrary Loan Student Worker and at Omaha Public Library as both an intern and a practicum student. She is a graduate of UNO with a bachelor’s in library science. This fall she will begin to work towards her master’s in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

20 Cool Tools for You and Your Library

By Christa Burns

New Internet tools, technologies, and websites are appearing every day, and you can make use of them in both your personal and professional life. I'd like to introduce you to 20 new and emerging online tools that will empower you to accomplish great things at your library. By harnessing the full potential of these tools, you can provide innovative library services and programming, stay organized, be creative and improve productivity.



Animoto (<http://animoto.com/>) is a web-based video creation service with mobile apps available for both Android and iPhone devices. There is no software to download or install. It offers free or paid accounts, including a Free for Educators account for classroom use. To create a video, you upload your own video clips and photos, choose a video style from their pre-made templates, select music from their library of licensed

songs, add your own captions and you're done. You can download your video, embed it onto a website or a blog post, or share it via Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter, and other social networking sites.

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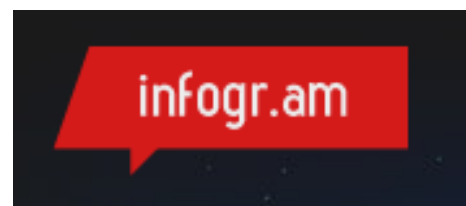
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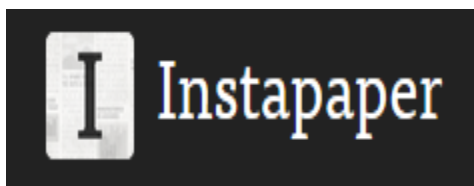
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Goodreads (<http://www.goodreads.com/>) is a book-based social network that provides users with the opportunity to share their reading tastes. The core of the website is the user-populated database of books, annotations, and reviews. Users can sign up and register books to generate library catalogs and reading lists. You can also create your own groups of book suggestions and discussions.

Infogr.am (<http://infogr.am/>) is a free online tool to create infographics and interactive online charts. Users pick from the library of pre-made templates, and then add text, pictures, and data from a spreadsheet to create the visual representation of the data. You can publish your infographics to Facebook, Twitter, or Pinterest, or embed them on a website.





Instapaper (<http://www.instapaper.com/>) is a free online tool for saving web content to read later on your iPhone, iPad, Android, computer, or Kindle. First, you install the Instapaper bookmarklet in your browser. When you find something you want to read, but you don't have the time, you can click the bookmarklet to save it. You can return to the article later, either on one of the apps or the web.

Instructables (<http://www.instructables.com/>) is a website specializing in user-created and uploaded do-it-yourself projects that other users can comment on and rate for quality. In this directory of free instructional videos you will find almost any topic imaginable from knitting to learning Chinese to crafts for storytime.



Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit website that supplies a free online collection of more than 4,700 micro lectures via video tutorials stored on YouTube. They teach mathematics, math, science, economics and finance, and humanities. Step-by-step exercises are available to improve your skills and you can use the instant data about your performance to track your progress.

Piktochart (<http://piktochart.com/>) is a free infographics creation tool. Users choose a theme for their graphic and then upload statistical data into the DIY editor which helps you decide the best way to display it. With the drag and drop functionality you can choose colors and fonts and reposition blocks of data until you have the look you want. You can also upload your own images, such as photos or logos. Your infographic can be exported as an image, as HTML, or shared on social media.



Pixlr (<http://pixlr.com/>) is a set of free online photo editing tools. It has Advanced and Express versions that you can use to fix, adjust, and filter your photos, depending on your skill level and the type of editing you might want to do. Pixlr-o-matic uses filters, lighting, and borders to give your photos a vintage or retro look. It's available as a download, on Facebook, as a Chrome web app, and for your iOS or Android device.

Readability (<http://www.readability.com/>) is a free reading service that allows users to download a bookmarklet that turns almost any webpage into a clean, uncluttered view for reading on your computer, tablet, Android, or iOS device. Readability can also store articles you find on the web for later reading at your convenience.



Reddit (<http://www.reddit.com/>) is a social news site where users—anyone in the world—can post a news story that they've found online and share it. Other users then get to vote on that story, making it appear higher or lower on the list of news items. In this way, the reading community decides what is more interesting or relevant. There is a sub-reddit community specifically for Libraries: <http://www.reddit.com/r/Libraries/>

Screencast-O-Matic (<http://screencast-o-matic.com/>) is a free online screen recorder for instant screen capture video sharing. It lets you create a video recording of exactly what is happening on your computer screen. It shows not only where you are clicking with your mouse, but also what happens when you click: Does a drop-down menu appear? Does a new window open? Is your cursor positioned in a text box so you can begin inputting text? If you have a microphone, you can also record audio along with your video so you can describe what you are doing on the computer screen as you do it. After your video is done, you can embed it into a webpage, upload it to YouTube or other social media sites, or export it as a Quicktime (MP4), Windows Media Player (AVI), or Flash (FLV) file.





Tagxedo (<http://www.tagxedo.com/>) is a free word cloud generator, which creates a visualization of word frequency in a given text. You enter your text, either from a document or website, choose a shape for your words to fit into, and your word cloud is created. Words that appear more often display in a larger font than those that occur less often, indicating the relative importance of the terms. You can save your word cloud as an image, either in JPEG or PNG format, and then print it out or share it online.

TeacherTube (<http://www.teachertube.com/>) is an educationally focused, safe venue for sharing instructional videos. The site is designed for teachers, schools, and home learners, but is free and open for anyone to use. Community members upload educationally relevant videos and use the rating system to highlight videos they find valuable as an educator or learner.



Twtpoll (<http://twtpoll.com/>) is a free, web-based service to create surveys on social media sites. You can create your poll, with a single question or many, using the online web form. You then share your polls via Twitter, Facebook, or email or you can embed them on your blog and website. You must have a Twitter account to create polls, but your responders don't need one to respond.

Visual.ly (<http://create.visual.ly/>) is another infographic creator with the same basic features as Infogr.am and Piktochart, but Visual.ly can also gather information from your Facebook or Twitter accounts to create personalized infographics. Once you have approved the app to access your Facebook account it can pull the statistics of your library's Facebook page into an infographic to make your library's "Facebook Social Life". Via your Twitter account you can create a graphic about a particular hashtag. For example, if you have created a hashtag about an event or program at your library you can show how it is being used. After you have created your infographic, you can download as an image or a PDF, share it on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest, email a link to the graphic, or get the embed code to put it on a website. Visual.ly is not just a place to create infographics. It's also a repository for infographics created by others. You can search for, and share, infographics on all sorts of topics.



WeGif (<http://www.wegif.com/>) is a free online service which allows you to make simple animated GIFs. You can create wegifs by taking snapshots from your webcam or uploading a few different photos from your digital camera and combining them into an animation right on the site. Wegifs can be emailed, shared, downloaded, embedded, blogged, made into avatars, and used as visual messages.

ZoHo Writer (<https://www.zoho.com/docs/online-word-processor.html>) is a free online word processing program so you do not need to download, install, or maintain any software. You do need to create a ZoHo account to use Writer. Once you are in your account it looks and works just like a traditional word processing program. Documents can be shared, opened, and edited online by multiple users at the same time, facilitating collaboration in real-time. You can save your documents into ZoHo so they are saved online, giving you access to them from any computer. You can also Export your document in whatever format you need, such as Word (.doc and .docx), Plain Text (.txt), Web Page (.html), or PDF (.pdf).



Bonus Tool!

NEBRASKA LEARNS 2.0

All of these tools have something in common—they have all been part of the Nebraska Library Commission’s ongoing lifelong learning program, Nebraska Learns 2.0 (<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nelearns/>). This is a self-discovery program which encourages participants to take control of their own learning and to utilize their lifelong learning skills through exploration and PLAY. Each month, we offer you an opportunity to learn a new Thing (or lesson). This program is open to ALL Nebraska librarians, library staff, library friends, library board members, and school media specialists.

If you’d like to know more about the tools I’ve shared, or if you’d like to see what’s coming up, check out Nebraska Learns 2.0. We hope you’ll join your library colleagues in the fun as you learn about new and exciting technologies!

About the Author

Christa Burns is the Special Projects Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission.

Tomato Tasting Contest Brings a Harvest of Flavor to the SSC Library

By David W. Mixdorf

The South Sioux City Public Library hosted a harvest of great flavors at their first Tomato Tasting Contest on September 5th, 2013. The Tomato Tasting Contest was the first event of the library's International Homesteading Education Month activities teaching living resourcefully, seed saving, and starting a garden from scratch.

The contest was hosted by the library and some of the library's seed saving members.

Results of the Contest: We had eight tomato growers enter the competition, with nearly 40 plates of tomatoes representing 36 different varieties. The winning varieties were:



Red Slicing Category:

1. Bloody Butcher
2. Mortgage Lifter

Yellow Slicing Category:

1. Dr. Wyche's Yellow
2. Wapsipinicon Peach

All Other Colors Slicing Category:

There was a three-way tie so we held a taste off!

1. Pink Brandywine
2. Black Krim
3. Cherokee Purple

Cherry Tomato:

1. Mexico Midget

Grape/Pear/Egg:

1. Italian Ice Hybrid.

Paste/Canning:

1. Italian Heirloom

The City Administrator, Lance Hedquist, was one of the judges of this event, which included much laughter and camaraderie, which comes from breaking bread (or rather sharing tomatoes) together. After the judging was completed, library patrons had their chance to taste the beautiful, tasty varieties of fruit.

The event drove home the benefits of growing your own food, saving your own seeds, and exploring different tastes. Both the judges and library patrons mentioned that they had never seen so many different looking types of tomatoes and were amazed at all the different tastes. Several commented, "They sure don't taste like the grocery store types."



Thirty-three tomatoes were open pollinated varieties and three were hybrids. With open pollinated varieties you can save the seeds and expect the same type of tomato to grow. Many open pollinated varieties are considered heirloom varieties. What is an heirloom variety? Many people consider an heirloom to be a variety that has been grown for 50 years or more. Library Director Dave Mixdorf has a rhubarb variety and an onion variety that they have grown in his family for over 100 years.

The library plans on hosting a tomato tasting contest again next year with the addition of a salsa competition.

About the Author

David W. Mixdorf is the Library Director of the South Sioux City Public Library in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

Understanding Your Library's Public Access Technology Usage

By Samantha Becker

U.S. librarians know that access to public computers and the Internet are popular and increasingly necessary resources among their patrons. But most librarians only have a general impression of how patrons use their library's technology. They glean insight from over-the-shoulder glimpses of patrons' computer screens and cull basic statistics about the number of sessions they host. But without a richer, more accurate picture of how library technology is used, librarians lack important information that can help shape services and result in better outcomes for patrons and their communities.

With 17,000¹ public library outlets serving all 50 states, librarians across the U.S. face the challenge of providing technology services to a growing and increasingly dynamic population. In addition, how patrons use technology services at the library may vary significantly across the state. Communities in Los Angeles are likely to seek out different services than communities in rural Nebraska. Therefore, it is critical that library staff have the tools to understand the unique technology needs of their communities so they can improve services for patrons.

Such a tool exists, and it's free.

How the Impact Survey is already Improving Technology Services

A research team at the University of Washington Information School (iSchool) has developed the "Impact Survey," an online service designed to help public libraries in the U.S. assess how their communities use technology at the library and how that has had a positive impact on the lives of their patrons.

The Impact Survey grew out of the 2009 U.S. IMPACT Study, the first large-scale U.S. study assessing how people use technology services at public libraries. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Washington iSchool in partnership with the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings of the study were published in the 2010 Opportunity for All report, which showed how individuals and communities benefit from technology services at public libraries. To augment the survey results, researchers developed a supplemental web survey and enlisted libraries across the country to help collect responses through their websites.

In 2009 and 2011, a total of nearly 600 U.S. library systems participated in the U.S. IMPACT Study and surveyed their patrons using the supplemental web survey. The libraries yielded a high-response rate from their patrons—45,154 in 2009 and 30,628 in 2011. This provided librarians with rich data that illustrated how their communities benefitted from their technology services. In appreciation for their help with the research, these library systems received polished reports detailing the survey responses provided by their patrons.

In response to the overwhelming positive feedback from participating public libraries, the research team at the iSchool developed a more sophisticated and cost-effective version of the survey tool—the Impact Survey—and have made it available to all U.S. public libraries for free through 2014. The survey focuses on how patrons use technology in education, employment, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, eGovernment, civic engagement, eCommerce, and social inclusion.

Advancing Libraries through Community Insight

Collecting patron-level data is a key part of any library's internal planning and strategy process. According to the Edge Initiative (<http://www.libraryedge.org>), a national public library assessment program that evaluates and supports technology service improvement, surveying patrons and stakeholders is a key step in assessing community needs and advocating for new resources, projects, and public support. This includes asking patrons about the technology services at their library.

Capturing this type of information is critical if libraries are to continue to provide useful services and positive outcomes for patrons. Further, having data to compare from year to year can help libraries identify trends, evaluate performance, and create improvement plans.

¹ IMLS Data Collection. (2010). *Public libraries in the United States survey: Fiscal year 2010*. Retrieved from http://www.imls.gov/research/fy_2010_pls_state_profile_map.aspx

Demonstrating Your Library's Value

Even as the country rebounds from the economic recession, funding for many libraries continues to be a struggle. The Impact Survey provides librarians and their supporters with the data they need to quantify the value of technology services and make strong arguments with local decision makers who in today's policy environment are more likely to respond to data than they are purely anecdotal evidence.

Surveying Patrons is Fast and Easy

The Impact Survey is designed to get data into the hands of busy librarians quickly and easily, saving them the time and costs associated with writing, programming, analyzing, and reporting an in-house survey. The Impact Survey's questions have been written and validated by the iSchool's research team so that librarians can be assured that the questions are relevant, valid, and reliable.

Implementing the survey locally is as easy as copying and pasting, and can be done by most libraries in a matter of minutes. The Impact Survey provides libraries with small snippets of HTML code they can insert into their websites. The code creates "hot links" to buttons, banners, and/or links that direct patrons to the survey which is hosted at the iSchool.

Results are available the day after a library has completed its survey period. Not only do libraries receive a clean dataset of their survey responses, they also can choose among a variety of attractive preformatted reports, including hand-outs, articles, and presentations, all populated with local results and ready to take directly to community leaders, funders, and staff.

Comprehensive support for using Impact Survey is available to libraries five days a week. All iSchool research assistants are trained in every aspect of the service. They're available to walk library staff through hosting the survey, to help promote the survey with patrons, and to help library staff understand the reports and use them for advocacy and internal planning.

Public libraries in the U.S. can learn more about the Impact Survey and how to run the survey at their own libraries by visiting www.impactsurvey.org. The survey will be **free** until October 1st, 2014. After that, libraries will be asked to contribute a small annual fee that will directly support maintenance of the Impact Survey and its services.

For more information, or if you'd like to share the survey with other libraries and librarians, please see the iSchool's social media blurb following this article.

About the Author

Samantha Becker is the Research Projects Manager of the U.S. IMPACT Study at the University of Washington Information School.

Impact Survey News Blurb + Social Media Examples

By Samantha Becker

The University of Washington Information School (iSchool) launched a new survey tool in October called the Impact Survey, an online program designed to help public libraries assess how their communities use technology services at the library and how it has had a positive impact on their lives. The survey asks about technology use in the following areas: education, employment, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, eGovernment, civic engagement, eCommerce, and social inclusion.

Written and validated by research staff at the iSchool, the Impact Survey is designed to quickly and easily provide busy librarians with useful data on how their patrons use library technology services. Using the Impact Survey saves libraries the time and costs associated with writing, programming, analyzing, and reporting an in-house survey.

Collecting patron-level data is a key part of any library's internal strategic planning. Listening to patrons helps ensure that libraries continue to provide useful services and positive outcomes for patrons. Further, having data to compare from year to year can help libraries identify trends and evaluate performance and create improvement plans.

In addition, data from the Impact Survey is a powerful advocacy tool. Reliable, local facts and figures are critical when communicating with decision makers about the social and economic value of the library. The Impact Survey provides librarians with a clean dataset of their survey responses and preformatted reports, including handouts, articles, and presentations, that are populated with an analysis of their library's unique results. These materials are ready to take right to community leaders, funders, and local decision makers.

To learn more about the Impact Survey and how it can benefit your library, visit www.impactsurvey.org. The survey will be **free** until October 1st, 2014. After that date, libraries will be asked to contribute a small annual fee that will directly support maintenance of the Impact Survey and its services.

Social Media:

Example Tweets:

- Learn how your patrons use technology services at your library with the new #ImpactSurvey @ImpactSurvey
- How does the new #ImpactSurvey benefit #librarians and patrons? Find out more <http://impactsurvey.org/>
- Learn how to quickly survey your patrons about technology services with #ImpactSurvey! Sign up for FREE www.impactsurvey.org
- Surveying #library patrons is now easier than ever thanks to the FREE #ImpactSurvey! www.impactsurvey.org
- The wait is over! You can now use #ImpactSurvey to survey your patrons on #technology services www.impactsurvey.org
- [Want to improve your @LibraryEdge score? Survey your patrons with the new #ImpactSurvey at www.impactsurvey.org](http://www.impactsurvey.org)

Example Facebook Posts:

- Does your library need a rich picture of how patrons are using the technology services? Surveying patrons is now easier than ever with the new and FREE Impact Survey from the University of Washington Information School. Find out more at www.impactsurvey.org
- Don't miss the opportunity to survey your patrons for FREE! The Impact Survey is a new online survey program from the University of Washington Information School that quickly and easily allows libraries to survey their patrons about technology use at the library. Learn how you can survey your own patrons at www.impactsurvey.org
- [It's finally here! Find out how the new Impact Survey from the University of Washington Information School can help your library survey its community about library technology use. Start running this FREE survey now by going to www.impactsurvey.org](http://www.impactsurvey.org)

Endcyclopedia: The Decline of Print Encyclopedias

By Oliver B. Pollak

This essay is dedicated to John Bernardi, librarian at Omaha's Charles B. Washington Branch library, who died in November 2009.

This past month, October 2013, marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Denis Diderot, the creator of France's 28-volume *Encyclopédie*, the Enlightenment Wiki. The first volume was published in Paris in 1751. The first volume of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (*EB*) appeared in Edinburgh in 1768. *EB* moved to America in 1901. The prized India paper leather bound 11th edition appeared in 1911.

Literacy, cheaper paper, and efficient printing technology fostered the publication of well ordered information, knowledge, and reference volumes.

The biggest books in the library, encyclopedias, dictionaries, telephone books, city directories, and the card catalog, while not obsolete, are close to extinction in the form that we have known them for the last 200 years—as bound volumes occupying shelves near the reference desk.

Encyclopedias are expensive. At the beginning of the 20th century middle-class members of Omaha's women's club, Mu Sigma, founded in 1891, prepared their monthly book discussions and larger projects in Omaha's downtown public library where encyclopedias were standard equipment.

I acquired the 1971 200th anniversary *Encyclopaedia Britannica* facsimile three-volume edition in the late 20th century for about \$60. It's a window into the state of knowledge and interests in mid-eighteenth century England and the practical difficulties of an ambitious project: Volume 1 covered A through B; Volume 2, C through L; and Volume 3, M through Z. By the 3rd edition in 1797 the original encyclopedia, standing at 18 volumes, gave a better alphabetical representation! AbeBooks.com recently had two sets with asking prices of \$13,834 and \$12,490.

The phenomena of loading up the front part of the alphabet was recognized by the *Oxford English Dictionary* editors. As they prepare the next edition, projected to be completed in 2037, they started with M and will not tackle A until they finish Zed.

Literacy, education, and the desire for self-improvement originally fueled schemes to get encyclopedias into the home. Encyclopedia door-to-door salesmen ranked with the Fuller Brush Man, Hoover Vacuum cleaner salesman, magazine salesmen, and telephone solicitations, as ambiguously welcome knocks on the door and ringing telephones. At its height in the 1970s, *EB* had 2,000 salespeople but by the 1990s they had declined to barely 1,000. The sales pitch was always aimed at middle-class aspirations, such as giving your children access to knowledge to enhance their schoolwork, grooming, and cleanliness. Encyclopedias advertised in *National Geographic* even came with their own bookshelf!

WHEN IN DOUBT—"LOOK IT UP" IN

The

Encyclopaedia Britannica



The Sum of Human Knowledge

29 volumes, 28,150 pages,
44,000,000 words of text.
Printed on thin, but strong
opaque India paper, each
volume but one inch in
thickness.

(New 11th Edition) issued 1910-11 by the
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS (England)

THE BOOK TO ASK QUESTIONS OF

FOR READING OR FOR STUDY

Supermarket purchasing incentive programs pushed glassware, encyclopedias, and dictionaries. My family acquired the multivolume *Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia* and two-volume dictionary in the late 1950s while my wife's family got the cumbersome screw post loose-leaf *Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary* (1957).

The 20th century biggies of encyclopedias were *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Colliers Encyclopedia*, *Grolier*, and *Funk and Wagnalls*. They were still so big that Microsoft approached *EB* in 1985 about a collaborative venture. *EB* declined. Thus, Microsoft created *Encarta* out of *Funk and Wagnalls*. By the 1990s encyclopedias were making CDs and going online. We all know what came after that—Wikipedia. The last *Encyclopaedia Britannica* print version appeared in 2010.

Between 1981 and 2000 I wrote nearly 30 encyclopedia entries in 13 encyclopedias on bankruptcy, Burma/Myanmar, censorship and propaganda, the environment, Jews, and Namibia. It is exacting work to encompass the state of authoritative knowledge, in a readable and useful style, within a limited number of words. Compensation ranged from five cents a word to \$60 per article or off print copies of the article, the actual volume, or simply the pleasure of being asked to contribute! At least three of the thirteen encyclopedias I wrote for are now online, including *American National Biography*, *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, and *Encyclopedia of American Jewish Women*.

There are still people who enjoy the old print volumes, such as Herculean extreme obsessive readers like A.J. Jacobs, who took the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, read it in one year, and published the smart *The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World* in 2004.

If the 18th century Enlightenment was the great age of the Encyclopedists, the golden age of encyclopedia profitability was the mid-20th century. As the Internet became ubiquitous, the business model of heavy volumes eroded and plummeted.

The lesson from the great age of the democratization of knowledge is to eke out sound information from printed and online reference works. Wikipedia started in 2001. By September 2013, it had 4.3 million self-published articles. However, unlike the classic printed volumes, Wikipedia's anonymity raises issues of reliability, authority, and validity. However, the output of Wikipedia puts the print encyclopedias to shame. For example, the 2010 15th edition quality controlled, authoritative, and signed by its contributors *Encyclopaedia Britannica* had *only* 65,000 entries!

Keeping up with the information revolution is a continuous process. Listen and filter the buzz. Don't forget to use print sources that are unavailable online. The prospect of increased online reference material is inexorable. But those who believe that the totality of research resources is online, and rely solely on those sources, are not thinking clearly. The library continues to be the bastion and preserver of a well-rounded investigation.

About the Author

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

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

By Marty Magee

This month's topic—Four Easy Promotion Ideas: Make a Connection in Your Community with National Library of Medicine Resources

Not long ago, I was having a conversation with a younger friend who shared that she had learned about gout from watching a TV episode of *King of the Hill*. The character, Bobby, had been diagnosed with gout after eating too many organ meats at the showbiz deli!

While I suspect some people may be getting their healthcare information from TV, there are other avenues and perhaps you can make a connection in your community using some of these suggestions for resources from the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

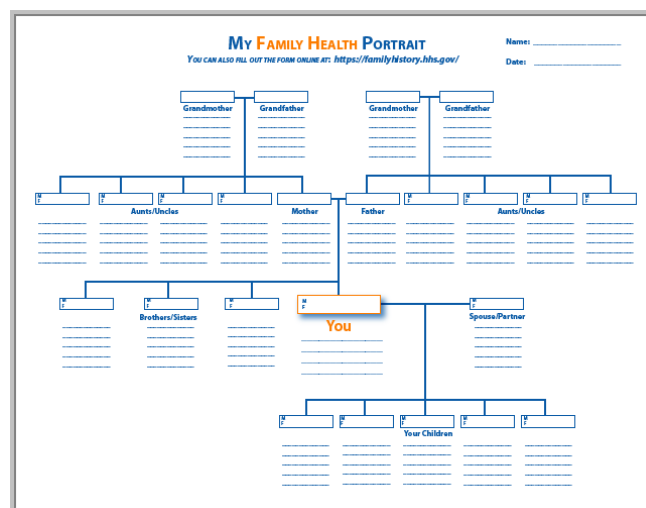
For those who may be unfamiliar with the National Library of Medicine, it's the world's largest medical library. The actual library is located on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. It has been in existence for more than 175 years. The value of the National Library of Medicine for your library lies in the **free**, online resources. These resources require no username or password and are available to anyone to use. Further, they are credible and reliable resources.

So, how might you promote these resources in your community?

1. Do a workshop on family health history . . .

My Family Health History (<http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/>)

Perhaps you'd like to suggest such an activity for a Thanksgiving celebration which the Surgeon General's Office recommends! The "My Family Health Portrait" could be just the ticket! Shown here in English, it's also available in several other languages. And, best yet, it's available to be shared and completed online as well with other members of your family who may live elsewhere.



2. Working with patrons to enroll in the Affordable Care Act?

After they've explored insurance, how about sharing a health resource with them? Try MedlinePlus (<http://medlineplus.gov>)

If you only recommend one site for consumers this should be the one! This site brings together authoritative information from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations. MedlinePlus has more than 800 health topics, extensive information

about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, surgery videos, and the latest health news. And, yes, it has information on the Affordable Care Act as well!



- There is a printable brochure for MedlinePlus, great for distribution to patrons:
<http://nnlm.gov/training/resources/mptri.pdf>
- More brochures and tutorials are available from the page “Information for Librarians and Trainers”:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/training/trainers.html>
- Be sure to sign up for the free subscription for your library with the MedlinePlus Magazine. Sign-up details are included as a link from the front page of MedlinePlus under “Magazine.”

3. **Make a connection with your local high school**

Resources for Teachers (http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/promotional_materials.html#teachers)

Look for “Students and Educators” and click on the “Resources for Teachers” handout—a great resource covering multiple different resources for teachers and students at the high school and college level, including biology, chemistry, genetics, Spanish-language resources, careers, health, earth science, and environmental science.

Resources for Teachers

Classroom Resources from the National Library of Medicine
k12.nlm.nih.gov

BIOLOGY

Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health (Grades 9-12+)
 How communities work to improve quality of life. Classroom resources included.
apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds

MedlinePlus® (Grades 6-12+)
 Easy to read health information. An excellent source for all ages. Also available in Spanish.
medlineplus.gov

PubMed®/MEDLINE® (Grades 11-12+)
 A citation index for articles from medical and life science journals. View the PubMed tutorial for site navigation.
pubmed.gov

Rewriting the Book of Nature: Charles Darwin and the Rise of Evolutionary Theory (Grades 9-12+)
 Explores the scientific discoveries and contributions of Charles Darwin.
www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/darwin/index.html

Visible Human Project® (Grades 6-12+)
 Complete, anatomically detailed, 3D representations of the normal male and female human bodies.
www.nlm.nih.gov/research/visible/visible_human.html

CHEMISTRY

ChemIDplus®/ Chemicals Page (Grades 7-12+)
 View and manipulate chemical structures for more than 388,000 chemicals. Create cis and trans models, conduct structure similarity searches, and view chemical synonyms.
sis.nlm.nih.gov/chemical.html

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE

Environmental Health Student Portal (Grades 6-8)
 Connects middle school students to environmental health information.
kidsenvirohealth.nlm.nih.gov

Household Products Database (Grades 6-12+)
 Learn about the potential health effects of chemicals in common household products.
hpd.nlm.nih.gov

TOXMAP® (Grades 9-12+)
 Uses maps of the United States to visually explore Superfund and Toxic Release Inventory data from the EPA. Includes classroom materials.
toxmap.nlm.nih.gov/toxmap

ToxMystery™ (Grades 1-5)
 Interactive site teaching elementary school students about toxic substances in the home. Includes lesson plans and activities. Also available in Spanish.
toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov

Tox Town® (Grades 6-12+)
 Guide to commonly encountered toxic substances. Includes classroom materials. Also available in Spanish.
toxtown.nlm.nih.gov

Tox Town® Environmental Health Curriculum for Middle School (Grades 6-8)
 Lessons and activities combine research on the Tox Town Web site with hands-on experiments and social action activities.
www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/text_version/teachers6.php

ToxLearn and Toxicology Tutorials (Grades 9-12+)
 Written at the introductory college student level; teaches basic toxicology principles.
sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor.html

FORENSIC SCIENCE & MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Frankenstein – Penetrating the Secrets of Science (Grades 6-12+)
 Explores Frankenstein as a framework for discussing the ethics involved in scientific research. Lesson plans included.
www.nlm.nih.gov/frankenstein

Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body (Grades 6-12+)
 Collection of images, videos, and stories about the history and the development of forensics. Classroom resources included.
www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs

National Library of Medicine
 8600 Rockville Pike • Bethesda, MD 20894
 1-888-FIND-NLM • custserv@nlm.nih.gov

4. **Does your town have a Poison Control Center? Or share with your local hospital.**

Household Products Database (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>)

Find out about the chemical make-up of products for automobiles, inside the home, pesticides, landscaping, personal care/use, home maintenance, arts and crafts, pet care, and home office. Check ingredients, health effects, and learn about the correct disposal. You can even do fun activities like have your students check the ingredients of acne scrub and toilet bowl cleaner for similarities!

These free resources only represent a few of the many databases available from the National Library of Medicine. As you collaborate with those in your community perhaps they can learn more about gout than by just watching *King of the Hill*! Check out these databases today!

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-00006-C with the University of Utah Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library.

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

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

The NLA College and University (C&U) section consists of over forty academic libraries located throughout our state. Some of the section libraries are part of a larger educational system, while other C&U member libraries operate in support of an independent college or institution. No matter the system in which we are organized through C&U our libraries can provide material via the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement. This agreement has been in place for a number of years (any guesses how long?) with participating libraries offering to loan material amongst the C&U section libraries. To review the details of the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement, please visit the Reciprocal Borrowing section of the C&U website at www.nebraskalibraries.org/cu

In 2012, the C&U board decided to change how we update the Reciprocal Borrowing Form. Instead of sending paper forms to all member libraries we can now use the C&U listserv to email a digital agreement form. As part of the migration process, we reviewed the paper form to determine the necessary data to collection. Then with the help of Michael Straatmann, the NLA Executive Director, we were able to create a digital version of the form with the MemberClicks software. The revised and digital Reciprocal Borrowing form allows the C&U board member responsible for the maintenance of the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement the ability to update the agreement paperwork in a timely manner, ensuring the library information collected is accurate— no more illegible scrawl! We hope to improve the response from C&U section libraries for completion of the digital form by removing the wait for the paper form to arrive via snail mail. Finally, collecting the Reciprocal Borrowing form data electronically makes updating the C&U website easier for our Webmaster.

To review the libraries that are part of the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement see the directory on the C&U website. This useful list of all C&U libraries provides contact information for circulation, as well as loan details for library materials. To see what specific materials each library will loan, visit the “Reciprocal Borrowing by Library” link for material type, loan periods, and patron type restrictions. If you don’t see your library, or find the information out-of-date, don’t fear! We are emailing the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement form to C&U members this fall for updates and changes. Our goal is have the updated Reciprocal Borrowing directory available when the new Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and C&U websites go live. Since all C&U members will receive an email to participate, we would appreciate your help in making sure your library submits the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement form.

While each of our C&U libraries supports a higher education institution, we can all work together to provide great service to our library users through the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement. Remember, we’re all in Nebraska libraries together.



Technically Speaking

By Heather Buckwalter

Cool Tools Café! 60 apps in 60 minutes! There's an app for that! Widgets and gadgets! Sometimes I feel like Cindy Lou Who standing in the family room after Christmas and I don't know which gizmo to play with next. This summer I attended the American Association of Law Libraries' Annual Conference and learned about technology that may be helpful to me in doing my job. Some of the tools/technology I had heard of but never tried or was unsure how it related to what I do as a technical services librarian. One session was called "Cool Tools Café". There were about fifteen concurrent stations set up around the room with each being staffed by a librarian with the knowledge and expertise to explain the tool to everyone interested. I liked the setup of the room because it meant I could visit the stations that I was really interested in and concentrate on those specific tools. One of the tools I learned about was Evernote. I had heard of Evernote but never used it.

So as I was coming home from the conference, I thought about all of the interesting tools I had learned about in various sessions and from other colleagues but did not know where to begin. I decided the best route to take would be to choose one tool, learn to use it, and figure out how it fits with my job duties. I chose Evernote because it can be used on multiple platforms/devices, has different browser extensions, interacts with other apps and can be used anywhere I go and that appealed to me. I had picked up a nice handout at the session that explained how Evernote worked on different devices, used browser extensions, and in general how the program worked. I had also read a great article in the *Charleston Advisor*.² I downloaded Evernote to my PC, iPad and Android phone and began exploring its uses.

Early on a Thursday morning insomnia hit, so I decided to start writing this column. I grabbed my phone, since it was the handiest device, and started to write the article as a note in Evernote. Later, I opened the note on my PC and finished the column. This is just one example of how being able to start a note on one device at home easily was finished on my PC at work. Another example of the helpfulness of Evernote's mobility is when I was washing dishes at home and realized I needed to make a note about someone's performance review for this year. So I grabbed my iPad and made a note in Evernote. The next day, I opened the note on my PC, edited the contents, and saved it for when I needed to write the actual performance review. I have also used the browser extensions to clip web pages to notes and clear up web pages for cleaner printing. My goal is to use Evernote for about three to six months and then evaluate how it is working for me and either continue to use it or try something else. I have a feeling I will be using Evernote for a long time as I can already see how useful a tool it is.

²

van Arnhem, J. (2013, July). Unpacking Evernote: Apps for note-taking and a repository for note-keeping. *The Charleston Advisor*, 15(3), 55-57.

To Know Us is to Love Us

By Cynthia Vana

AFTER THE CONFERENCE: A RECAP FROM THE NLA
PARAPROFESSIONAL SECTION



THE PARA RAFFLE. Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket at the Paraprofessional conference booth in Kearney this October. Together, you purchased hundreds of raffle tickets which not only covered the cost of the two prizes we purchased for the drawing—a beautiful Nebraska Sweets Basket and the newest version of a Kindle Paperwhite eReader—but more than that, your support helped raise the visibility of NLA’s Paraprofessional Section and all the ways the section contributes by providing scholarships, conference stipends, awards, and wonderfully informative conference and spring meeting presentations that help you keep abreast of the latest and greatest happenings in the library world.

Congratulations to the raffle winners! Casey Kralik, Technical Services Librarian at Bellevue University Library, won the Nebraska Sweets Basket. Carolyn Dow, Music Librarian at Lincoln City Libraries, won the Kindle Paperwhite. We weren’t able to get a photograph, but Carolyn told us that her raffle winning couldn’t have come at a better time. She explained that she had an unexpected windfall of time and is currently using that time to read on her new Kindle while she recovers from a heart attack from which she suffered immediately following the conference! Our thoughts and get well wishes are with you Carolyn!



L-R: Para Chair Cynthia Vana presenting chocolate gifts to presenters, Laura Johnson and Michael Sauers.

Assistant at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, for winning this year’s Para of the Year award! Wanda was one of four library paraprofessionals nominated for the award. It was a tough choice as all the nominees clearly demonstrated tremendous contributions in library services. The three runner ups were Gavin Flint, Circulation Clerk at Omaha Public Library’s Millard Branch; Lynn Sullivan, History Specialist at Omaha Public Library’s W. Dale Clark Branch; and Angie Krejci, Library Paraprofessional at Louisville Middle School Library in Louisville, Nebraska. Even though they didn’t win, it was an honor to have been nominated. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who nominated a colleague! New this year—it is no longer a requirement that nominees for Para of the Year be a Para or NLA member.

PARA-SPONSORED SESSIONS. More than 225 conference goers attended four Para-sponsored sessions. Sally Snyder presented two sessions—Best New Children’s Books of 2013 and Best New Teen Books of 2013. Michael Sauers and Laura Johnson teamed up for an engaging presentation entitled, “Thinking About Library UX”. Amy Mather shared a multitude of creative ideas through her presentation entitled, “Program Planning Using Pinterest”. Thank you presenters for a job well done!

PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD. Congratulations to Wanda Butts, Library



Wanda Butts, with her boss Robin Clark, receives the 2013 Para of the Year award and a \$50 cash stipend.

ELECTIONS. We are happy to announce our newly elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect Nancy Black (pictured below, left) who will serve for one year (October 2013 through October 2014) before she accepts the gavel from our current Chair, Cynthia Vana. We also want to extend a warm welcome to Dana Still (pictured below, right) who volunteered to join the team in the capacity of incoming Spring Meeting Chair. Dana will work closely with Connie Hagedorn, our current Spring Meeting Chair, to “learn the ropes.”



OTHER BOARD POSITIONS. Jennifer Sorensen, our 2012-2013 Chair Elect, resigned over the summer to accept a new job in Iowa so there was no one to take over the Chair position for the upcoming year. The current Chair and Past Chair, Cynthia Vana and Chrystal Dawson, had agreed to stay on another year if elected. Per the bylaws in such circumstances, we held a special election at the fall meeting on October 11th and Cynthia was elected to serve a second year as Chair. That means Chrystal will also serve as Past Chair for a second year. Thank you, Chrystal!

PUBLICITY CHAIR WANTED. Additionally, Todd Schlechte, our former Publicity/Citations Chair, has resigned to accept a post with another section. Therefore, the Para section is in need of someone to fill the Publicity Chair position. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more, visit us at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/> and click on Committee Duties. Or you can contact us by email at nlc.parab@nebraska.gov or call 402-212-9938.

By Jessica Chamberlain

Strengths-Based Librarianship and Advocacy: My Own Wake-Up Call

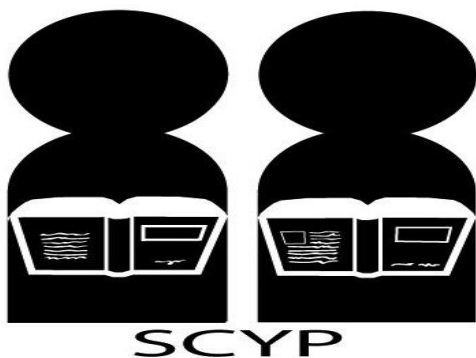
At the recent NLA/NSLA conference, PLTS sponsored two sessions with John Fulwider on Strengths Based Board Leadership, and it got me thinking about how this applies not just to our boards, but to ourselves and our staff. I know that in my library we have some really amazing folks who, because of their job description or place in the hierarchy, do not get to show us all the amazing things they can do. We have others who are being asked to do things that are really not strengths of theirs and are things that they dread doing. There is an ongoing struggle in many libraries to get the right people into the right jobs so that they flourish as individuals and have our libraries flourish as a result.

I was further provoked into thought (conference has a way of doing that) about advocacy after Stephanie Vance's tremendous keynote address. I admit that I was prepared for an informative, but possibly dry, lecture. I was pleasantly surprised by her humor and very practical approach to advocacy. What I took away from her presentation were two simple ideas: get to know my legislators and then communicate with them about where our priorities overlap. (With the breadth of services that libraries provide, it would be nearly impossible to have a legislator who didn't have at least ONE priority that overlapped with the public library.)

I don't know about you, but I was not drawn to library work for its glamorous political opportunities. I don't pay much attention to politics and I hate asking people for things, so advocacy is obviously not my strength, right? (Cue here the mental images of holding picket signs while wearing a sandwich board and/or attending gala luncheons with \$1,000 price tags.) I think that by pigeonholing what I thought advocacy was I limited myself. I put it in a category of things that I was not good at. I may not want to stand on the street wearing a sandwich board or attend expensive lunches, but I do care about my library and the future of all of our libraries. And I can talk about what is important to me. My legislators may be politicians, but they are also human beings who care about real things. More than likely, the public library is playing a part in those real things they care about.

I learned that I can work advocacy into the strengths that I have, and I can find a way to communicate with my legislators about the important work that our libraries do every day.

I have really enjoyed being your PLTS Chair this year. Thank you for this wonderful experience! ~ Jessica



School, Children's and Young Person's Section

By Sally Snyder

2013 SCYP Mad Hatter Award

Mary Matuszewski, Youth Services Assistant at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, has been named the Mad Hatter Youth Services Award winner for 2013. The School, Children's and Young People's Section of the Nebraska Library Association, Duane Munson and son, Tom Munson, and Child's World sponsor this award. The award recognizes a librarian who has demonstrated outstanding service to children through innovative programming, service to the community, and professional contributions to the field of librarianship.

Matuszewski is a well-respected professional in the field of children's librarianship and builds partnerships and relationships with everyone she comes in contact with, never missing an opportunity.

Matuszewski has a passion for serving children with special needs which prompted her to successfully write a grant application to the Nebraska Library Commission. This project provided needed training to librarians in the state to help them better understand and serve children who live with developmental and behavior issues on a daily basis. She is described by her peers as "creative, a fast thinker, and a valued team player."

As those who nominated her stated, Matuszewski "personifies" the ideal characteristics of a children's librarian and information professional, striving to tailor her programs to the growing and changing needs of her beloved community.

Congratulations, Mary Matuszewski!



School, Children, and Young People's Section of the Nebraska Library Association: Report from the Chair

Annual Meeting, October 11th, 2013

My year as SCYP Chair has been wonderful, with a few challenges and a lot of rewards, thanks to the wonderful board, our terrific programs, and new ideas for the future. Here are some highlights of the 2012-2013 year for SCYP.

A contest was held to develop a logo for SCYP (which can be seen at the beginning of this column). Details were available on the SCYP website. The contest winner received a free one-year membership to NLA/SCYP.

SCYP held a Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 13th, 2013 at the Blair Public Library. While it did not attract big crowds, we had some remarkable presenters who shared wonderful ideas with all of us who were there.

One big action taken was to open a second bank account for the Golden Sower funds. This year's board members were mostly new to their positions (thank you Gayle Roberts and Terry Osborn!) and there was some confusion at first over the amount of funds for SCYP and the amount of funds for Golden Sower. Many thanks to our treasurer at that time, Bethany Grabow! We feel confident that future board members will be ready to go at the start of their terms.

The benefits of being a member of SCYP this past year included free or discounted rates to the Norfolk Literature Festival and the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival. Unfortunately, the board found it necessary, due to budget issues, to look at a different way of providing some funding to the Norfolk Literature Festival for next year. We hope many librarians will attend and will announce our new approach in plenty of time for the event.

The board continues to plan and suggest ideas that will help the membership of SCYP. If you have a good idea, please let us know! The new SCYP officers for 2013-2014 are:

- Chair—Michelle Bullock
- Vice Chair—Carrie Trutna
- Secretary/Treasurer—Kirsten Wood

Please think about becoming an officer yourself!

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Snyder, Chair

Young Adult Round Table

By **Rachelle McPhillips**



Another school year is in full swing and more than a month of after school programming is behind us here at Columbus Public Library. The public middle school is just down the street from the library and dismisses early most Wednesdays. The Teen Space is bursting with young patrons by 3 p.m. and an easy program is a welcome distraction.

A couple of times a year, the Teen Space hosts a Jeopardy-style game after school. I can make my own Jeopardy games if I want to but I don't. And I don't have to! Brilliant librarians have created games and shared them with the YALSA listservs. To find these, sign up for the listserv at <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/ya-yaac>. If you'd like to make your Jeopardy game with PowerPoint, check out the Pinterest board I created for this column.

The YALSA Young Adult Advisory Council listserv (YA-YAAC) is one of my favorite resources for after school programming. Like most people who work in libraries, I have a lot of things to tackle every day. Reinventing the wheel is not on my to-do list.

Our first craft project was a simple one—friendship bracelets. Supplies for this program are easy to come by if you eat food that comes in boxes and know someone with a dormant yarn stash. Once your patrons have started their bracelets, they can sit at the craft table and visit or hang out elsewhere with friends. It's helpful to have printed instructions they can take with them if they have to leave before they finish.

Young adults were introduced to a new program this year—Zentangle! This is a seriously addictive way of doodling that allows the least skilled artist to create a masterpiece. Introduce this technique to your patrons and watch your Zentangle books fly off the shelf.

Patrons ask if they can use our cool duct tape all the time, so I try to schedule a couple of duct tape crafts each year. This can be an expensive program because somehow someone manages to cover an entire three-ring binder when I'm busy helping someone make a pocket for their duct tape wallet. Every single time!

Games are popular too. Young adults are excited to see the Wii set up in the Teen Space after school. The most popular game is *Band Hero*. It makes for a noisy day, but it is fun. Thanks to our Friends group, the library has a nice collection of board games. *Apples to Apples* is by far the crowd favorite, but *Scrabble Slam* is good for getting a couple of quiet visitors to participate.

For more details on these programs, contact me at rmcphil@columbusne.us or visit <http://www.pinterest.com/cplne/after-school-activities/>.

Do you have a great program idea for young adults? Please share with us at www.facebook.com/nlayart.

How I ‘Roll

By Emily McIllece

“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*.

Fall is here, it’s getting crisp out, so why not snuggle up to a new blog or two? Guest columnist Katie Bishop, Fine Arts & Humanities Librarian and UNO’s Criss Library, dishes up mix of delicious and informative blogs.

Smitten Kitchen - <http://smittenkitchen.com/>

In my mind any blog that contains a list of everyday cakes can’t be bad. Deb’s blog is full of tasty recipes and gorgeous photos of her food. Some personal favorites are her big crumb coffee cake and jacked-up banana bread. Her basic red bean chili is easy and delicious, and her creamed chard and spring onions is divine.

Attempting Elegance - <http://www.attemptingelegance.com/>

Jennica Rogers, Director of Libraries at SUNY Potsdam, blogs about the profession in her frank, no-holds-bar style. I especially enjoy her thoughts on leadership and management. Students looking to enter the profession should check out her posts on cover letters and the job interview.

Librarian Design Share - <http://librariandesignshare.org/>

This blog is most useful for librarians who need to advertise library programming, but it is also great for anyone interested in design elements. Here you will find flyers, slideshows, tutorials, and other materials designed by librarians. Readers are encouraged to submit their own designs to share.

Stephen’s Lighthouse - <http://stephenslighthouse.com/>

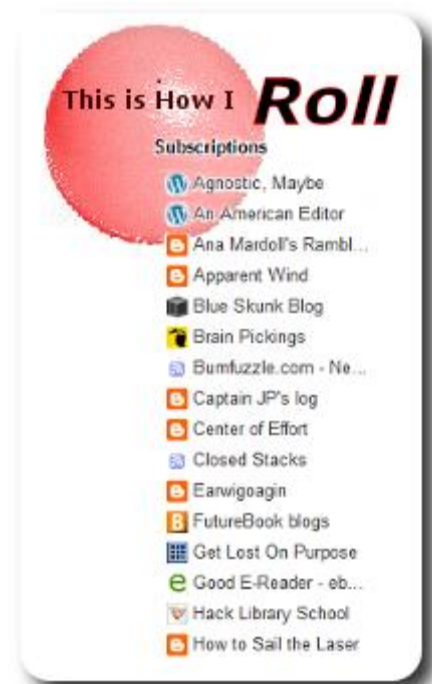
Along with original content, Stephen’s Lighthouse rounds up information on topics of interests to librarians, including technology and management. He loves lists and infographics and posts updates several times a day.

How I ‘Roll Submissions

Wish to submit your own blogroll suggestion? Email Emily at 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.

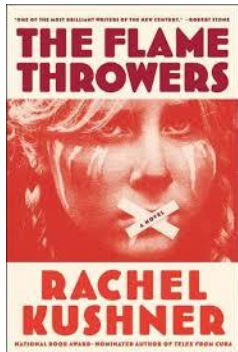
About the Author

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!



Book Bites

Book Reviews (and More!)



The Flamethrowers by Rachel Kushner

Scribner, 2013

Hardcover, \$26.99, ISBN: 978-1439142004

Reno is an artist, fresh out of school and still learning the trade. With thoughts of motorcycles and land art, she leaves her desert hometown behind and plunges head-first into New York City life. Once in the big apple, Reno makes friends with a group of dreamers and raconteurs who blur the boundary between making art and living. She soon meets Sandro Valero, an artist and the scion of an Italian motorcycle and tire empire. When they both visit Sandro's family in Italy, betrayal ensues and Reno falls in with members of the radical movement that overtook Italy in the 1970s. Through all of her encounters and estranged twists of fate, Reno discovers what really lies behind the charade of an artist's ego.

Rachel Kushner is a powerful writer. She delves deep into her characters' emotions while remaining ambiguous—a letting readers experience the plot as if it were their own lives unfolding. Kushner jumps between tales of the young artist Reno and the history of the Valero empire—revealing Italy's struggle along the way. This is a great book for lovers of art, the 1970s, and historical fiction alike.

--Rachel Zill, Baird Holm LLP and Clarkson College libraries

Where'd You Go, Bernadette? by Maria Semple

Little Brown and Company, 2012

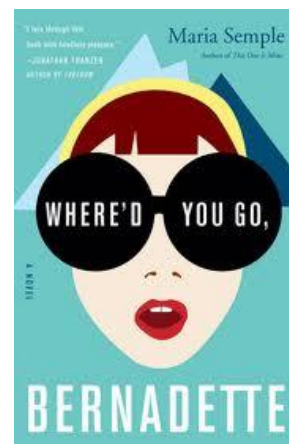
Hardcover, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-0316204279

Bernadette Fox is a mystery and a riot. Fellow private-school mothers in Seattle are ashamed at her behavior, while design connoisseurs marvel at her architectural ingenious. The story begins with Bernadette's 15-year-old daughter, Bee. Bee aces her report card and wishes to cash in her reward—a family trip to Antarctica. Meanwhile, Bernadette's nervous aversion to all things public leads her to hire a long-distant assistant in India who accomplishes all her basic errands, from planning the vacation to choosing where to eat (and ordering it!). Bee's father Elgin, a Microsoft employee whose TED talk has made him infamous, sees Bernadette's anxiety as a sign to consult a psychiatrist. A trip to the end of the earth, through some of the most tumultuous waters, is more than problematic.

Bernadette's scattered conscious begins to spiral downhill. Her Indian assistant is beginning to control her life. Elgin becomes close friends with his new colleague, one of Bernadette's mortal enemies. Bee is stuck in the middle. When all of the commotion collides, Bernadette jumps ship. Now Bee must research past emails, letters, faxes, and other communication in order to locate her lost mother.

Where'd You Go, Bernadette? is a wonderful insight into a dysfunctional family and the mother-daughter bond that holds it all together. The unique format, a compilation of correspondences with no chapter breaks, is a relief from the traditional construction of a book. The language is simple and fluid with entangling plots that will make you laugh out loud—and it's no surprise coming from an author who wrote for *Mad About You*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Arrested Development*. This book is a must for your shelf and your reading list.

--Rachel Zill, Baird Holm LLP and Clarkson College libraries



***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

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

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)