

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire

CPLS Library Fall Crawl

September, October, & November 2025

Invite library lovers in our System to the fall activities at your library. Participating libraries will receive tri-fold brochures listing library names and addresses, as well as a link to a webpage listing regional library activities. The brochure will also include spots for each library to apply a stamp or sticker for program attendance.

Patrons attending activities in 5 different participating libraries will go into a drawing for three grand prizes provided by the Central Plains Library System Office.



Do you want to send your patrons on a **Library Fall Crawl** this year? [Click here](#) to sign up by August 15th.

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



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BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling
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Sierra Burrows
Jody Crocker
Jamie Dennis
Sherrie Dux-Ideus
Terri Eberly
Jane Hilton
Lisa Mount
Jennifer Norton
Kina Stefka
James Tidei

Public Library Survey

*Sam with
Shaw*

Kearney Public Library
2020 First Avenue

September 29, 2025

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Learn all the ins and outs of Bibliostat with Sam Shaw from the Nebraska Library Commission. Bibliostat reporting is important for libraries to be eligible for state aid and accreditation.

[Click here to register by 9/22/25.](#)

2 CEUs



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Banned Books Week 2025

October 5 - 11, 2025

The American Library Association and Banned Books Week Coalition are pleased to announce the theme for Banned Books Week 2025: "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." Banned Books Week will take place October 5 - 11.

Current efforts to ban books and information held in schools, libraries, archives, and bookstores are a truth close to fiction – namely, the depiction of extreme censorship by an oppressive regime in George Orwell's cautionary and prescient tale 1984. The Banned Books Week 2025 theme reminds us that the right to read belongs to all of us, that censorship has no place in contemporary society, and that we must defend our rights.



BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
8/18 - 8/29	Collection Management*	7/14 - 8/8
9/8 - 9/19	Programming & Outreach	7/28 - 8/29
9/22 - 10/3	Community & Library*	8/11 - 9/12
10/20 - 10/31	Management/Supervision	9/8 - 10/10

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2025 Basic Skills Schedule and to register for any of the classes.

NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)
To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

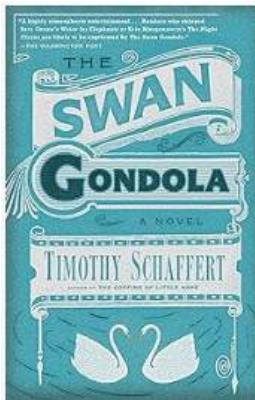
<u>NCompass Live: National Book Festival Near You</u>	Aug 6	<u>Register</u>
<u>NCompass Live: Ditching 1000 Books: A New Initiative</u>	Aug 13	<u>Register</u>
<u>NCompass Live: Banding Together: Lessons from the MPLA Leadership Institute</u>	Aug 20	<u>Register</u>
<u>NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: Upcoming Changes to Nebraska Libraries on the Web Service</u>	Aug 27	<u>Register</u>
<u>NCompass Live: E-rate 101: Just the Basics for 2026</u>	Sep 3	<u>Register</u>
<u>NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech</u>	Sep 24	<u>Register</u>

BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

Nebraska author Timothy Schaffert has stuck close to his state roots in both his writing and professional career. Currently the Chair of English and Director of Creative Writing at UNL, Schaffert is also the co-editor of Zero Street Fiction, and as of this June, the editor of the well-known literary journal Prairie Schooner. Known for his recent bestsellers, *The Titanic Survivors Book Club* and *The Perfume Thief*, Schaffert's 2015 novel *The Swan Gondola*, is perfect for State Fair season and also stays close to home by featuring the 1898 Omaha World's Fair.

A balloon crashes on a farmhouse in the middle of Nebraska and inside is a man of wizardry and illusions. As he is nursed back to health by the Old Sisters Egan, the magician regales them with the tale of his dramatic departure from the tumultuous city of Omaha and the seedy underbelly of the 1898 World's Fair. It is a story of love built on deception, greed, and magic. And at the heart of it, is the fair's mastermind who stole our hero's true love away.



"It was not part of Omaha, but something in place of it, something else entirely. In this new place that had risen from the city's humid summer fog, the breezes seemed blown in from the sea."

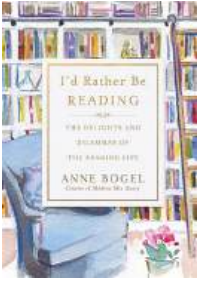
Timothy Schaffert

While the lasting economic impact of the Omaha World's Fair is dubious, its influence on culture is not- most specifically in literature. Inspired by the fair itself, Frank Baum's titular Wizard of Oz is nothing more than a circus magician from Omaha, Nebraska, worshiped by the Ozians for his seemingly real powers. In *The Swan Gondola*, Schaffert has taken this enigmatic character and imagines his down-to-earth origins complete with an emerald palace, winged monkeys, and a little girl named Dorothy. For Book Club Groups looking for a little bit of summer magic and drama, this novel indulges in the classic romantic tale of traveling theatre troupes, circuses, and the rogues who make their living roaming from town to town across the United States. Will Ferret and Cecily's summer love stand up to the test, or will it be as fragile as the grand faux facades dotting the Grand Court?

If you're interested in requesting *Swan Gondola* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). There are 16 copies. (A librarian must request items)

Schaffert, Timothy. *Swan Gondola*. Riverhead Books. (2015)

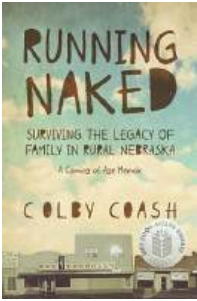
NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



I'd Rather Be Reading: The Delights and Dilemmas of the Reading Life by Anne Bogel (10 copies)

Donated by Hastings Public Library

For so many people, reading isn't just a hobby or a way to pass the time--it's a lifestyle. Our books shape us, define us, enchant us, and even sometimes infuriate us. Our books are a part of who we are as people, and we can't imagine life without them.



Running Naked: Surviving the Legacy of Family in Rural Nebraska by Colby Coash (10 copies)

A former Nebraska state senator hails from the heart of rural Nebraska—tiny Bassett, Nebraska, population 1,010—where his father and grandfather owned and operated the fertilizer plant, the backbone of the rural community. Born into the tapestry of small-town existence, Coash's narrative unfolds against the backdrop of tight-knit neighbors and the enduring spirit of the American small town.

Register Now

The Nebraska Library Association's 2025 Annual Conference will be held in York at the Holthus Convention Center (Oct. 22nd – 24th) with the theme of “Soaring to New Heights.”

[Click here to register.](#)



Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference 2025

SOARING

to new heights

BACK TO SCHOOL

Library and Information Services

Fall 2025 Online Course Offerings

Aug. 18, 2025 – Dec. 12, 2025

Registration is open as of April 14, 2025



LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundational Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies

Michael Straatmann, Instructor

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum

Patty Birch, Instructor

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

<i>Fall 2025</i>	<i>Spring 2026</i>
Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services	Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services
Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	Libr 2150 Develop and Organize Collections
Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	

The Library & Information Services Certificate is a 15-credit hour program. All credits can be applied to a Central Community College associate degree.

For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see:

<https://www.cccneb.edu/lis/>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration,
contact: Michelle Setlik, msetlik@cccneb.edu, 308-398-7341

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



Don't Forget About...



Reader Zone

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission have teamed up to provide access to Reader Zone. This web-based software lets you create paperless reading logs. Your students and patrons can report their progress through the Reader Zone app or via the Reader Zone website. You will be able to see statistics and reports without having to compile them yourself. **This program is free for your library.** If you are not familiar with Reader Zone, [click on this link](#).

You will be able to create multiple "groups" to best serve your community's needs. For example - you might create a group for young readers that has the goal based on the number of books read per week, one for teens based on number of minutes spent reading per month, and then one for adults that has per-page milestones.

This system is available to public, school, and academic libraries year-round for reading programs for all ages. [Click here to sign up now!](#)

Contact denise.cpls@gmail.com if you have any questions.

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

2025 ARSL Conference

The 2025 Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico on **September 17-20!**



This year's conference theme is Libraries Rise!

This theme captures the resilience, innovation, and collaboration that define small and rural libraries. We recognize the challenges our communities face—tight budgets, small spaces, and limited staffing—but also the incredible creativity and determination that allow us to soar despite these obstacles.

Together, we will rise to new heights!

Registration ends September 2, 2025.

Questions? Contact the ARSL office at info@arsl.org or 206-453-3579 (call/text).

CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

Would you like to have a live performance at your library?

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers. Browse the Speakers Bureau Catalog: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/catalog/>.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Buffalo Bill's Nebraska by Jeff Barnes
- Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train by Charlotte Endorf
- Grit 'n' Gumption by Cherrie Beam-Callaway
- Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest by Jeff Kappeler
- Meet Buffalo Bill by Terry Lane
- Music of the Plains by David Marsh
- Nebraska Territory Stories by David Seay
- Overland Trails: The Children on the Trail by Renae Hunt

The Central Plains Library System will provide the administrative fee for each library in our System that books a Humanities Nebraska program this year. That means you can have a terrific live performance any time, without cost for your library.

1. First, contact the performer.
2. After your program details are finalized, fill out the form on the Humanities Nebraska website: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf>, print it out and mail it to the address on the bottom of page 2.
3. When completing the form, include the following on the bottom of the first page: "Please bill to CPLS."



AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

My Friends by Fredrik Backman

Be Mine by Lizzy Barber

Nobody's Fool by Harlan Coben

Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

Say You'll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez

We Would Never by Tova Mirvis

The Rose Bargain by Sasha Peyton Smith

The Last Sunrise by Anna Todd

Run for the Hills by Kevin Wilson

Three Wild Dogs (and the truth): A Memoir by Markus Zusak

ADVOCACY AWARD

The Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association is accepting nominations for the PLTS Advocacy Award from July 1 to August 31. Nominations should be submitted to the PLTS Chair at nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org. This award recognizes a trustee, user, friend, foundation, or library board that has provided exceptional support for their local library. The award can be given to an individual or a group. The award will be given for support of the library or library community. Some of the areas include but are not limited to the following:

- Advocacy in supporting the library in the community or state.
- Significant contribution to a specific program or support of the library.
- Contribution to the work of the Nebraska Library Association.

It is preferred that the nominee(s) are residents of Nebraska. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, street address, email address and telephone number; the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, title, street address, email address and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination. The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, request additional information, support, or endorsements from the nominee's co-workers, board members, or others. The Advocacy award is presented at a time arranged by PLTS and the recipient(s), typically after October 1st.

Grants for Little Free Libraries

We are happy to announce the opening of applications for mini-grants of up to \$500, offered by the Nebraska Library Commission, as a part of our initiative to get childhood literacy back on track. We've partnered with the Little Free Library organization to offer these grants, with a focus on improving access to books in unserved (communities with no library) and underserved (communities that have a library, but would benefit from additional access points, or increased hours of availability) areas. The applications can be submitted now, and the applications are set to close at midnight on **August 22, 2025**.

If the applicant already has an existing little free library, grants of up to \$250 are available for the purchase of early literacy books to stock the LFL location. For those communities seeking to install a little free library, grants of up to \$500 are available for the library box, post, and children's books.

For some facts about how Nebraska has fallen behind when it comes to childhood literacy, and how little free libraries can help, visit our webpage here: <https://nlc.nebraska.gov/lfl/>

Here is a link to more information about the grants, and a link to the online application: <https://nlc.nebraska.gov/lfl/grants.asp>

Questions? Feel free to contact Sam Shaw.

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Nebraska Library Commission
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Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
402.471.3216
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Golden Sower Book Sets

CPLS has Book Sets of the **Golden Sower nominees for 2025-26** available now! Call or email the System Office to reserve your choice of the sets!



System Services Spotlight

Deb's Preschool Projects

These craft projects feature shapes made by the System's die cutting equipment. Our intent is to save our CPLS librarians valuable time each month. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at cplsasst@gmail.com. There is no charge for this service.

The Preschool Projects are provided for the months of September through May. Please place your order individually for each month prior to the deadline. This project will fit on an 8.5" x 11" background.

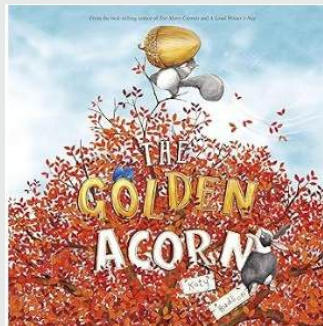
September



This fun fall frame has an opening just right for a 4" x 6" picture.

First Order Date:
8/1/25

Deadline Date:
8/25/25



Suggested Books

The Golden Acorn
by Katy Hudson
3-7 years old

Acorn Party
by Audrey Sauble
1-5 years old



Have You Seen My Acorn?
by D.K. Ryland
4-8 years old



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

You may be looking forward to attending a training opportunity that will come up in 2025 or early in 2026. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Who should the check be made out to _____

Other information _____

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2025, thru June 30, 2026, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.



INFORMATION SESSIONS

LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING CHANGES TO NEBRASKA LIBRARIES ON THE WEB

Due to software and budgetary issues, the NLC can no longer offer free WordPress web hosting. To make the transition easier, we are offering a free basic website hosted by the NLC, or reduced rate web hosting through Libchalk.

Register for an information session to learn more:

(Sessions will be recorded.)

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

11am- noon CDT

Registration link:



<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventreg.asp?ProgID=25549>

Thursday, August 7, 2025

4pm- 5pm CDT

Registration link:



<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventreg.asp?ProgID=25552>

NCompass Live: Wed, August 27 @ 10am

<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/>





Above: Artist Ben Darling with participant at the Chadron Public Library.

Apply Now!

Announcing special funding for CAAP in Nebraska public libraries beginning in summer 2025.

Apply for CAAP grants at least six weeks ahead. Grants cover most or all expenses.

Funds are limited, and grants are processed first-come, first-served.

Find complete information here:
[Creative Aging Arts Program - Nebraska Arts Council](#)

Special CPLS Summer Reading 2025 Edition

The Central Plains Library System is publishing a special “messy” edition of the ***Plain Speaking*** newsletter on September 1st. Our libraries have spent all summer elbow-deep in art projects of all kinds, Mess-tivals, and stuff that is just plain fun!

Now is the time to tell everyone about your celebration of art for the Summer of ‘25. Please email me a few photographs and a story about what you did this summer at denise.cpls@gmail.com by Monday, August 25th to be included in this special edition of the System newsletter.



2025 NEBRASKA Makerspace CONFERENCE

Save the Date

November 4-5, 2025

Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center
Lincoln, Nebraska

Use this QR Code to access the Makerspace Conference webpage hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission to get and stay informed. There you will find information about the conference to include: a "Call for Session Proposal Form," Sponsor, Vendor, Makerspace, and Makers applications for those that would like a display table at the conference. Once the sessions have been selected, a registration flyer will be posted. We expect that with the help of vendors and sponsors, we can keep the two-day conference registration to under \$100. Questions? Click the contact link at the bottom of that webpage and ask any questions you might have. You can also find the webpage at: <https://nlc.nebraska.gov/libraries/maker/index.2025.Conference.aspx>



Nebraska
Library Commission



NEBRASKA
INNOVATION
STUDIO

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

August 1	Deadline for Fern V. Heim Trustee Scholarship Application
August 6	Advanced Book Repair, 1-4 pm, Columbus Public Library
August 21	Systems Quarterly Meeting with the Commission, Scottsbluff
August 28-29	Joint Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland
September 1	Labor Day Holiday, CPLS Office Closed
Sept. 2 - Nov. 30	CPLS Library Fall Crawl
September 4	Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am, Directors Talk
September 11	Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am, All Staff
Sept. 17-20	Association of Rural and Small Libraries, Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 29	Bibliostat Survey Workshop, Sam Shaw, Kearney Public Library, 10am-Noon
October 5-11	Banned Books Week, "Censorship is so 1984. Read for Your Rights."
October 13	Columbus Day Holiday, CPLS Office Closed
Oct. 22-24	Nebraska Library Association Conference, Holthus Conference Center, York
Nov. 4-5	Makerspace Conference, Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center

Did it ever occur to
anyone that if you put nice
libraries in public schools
you wouldn't have to put
them in prisons?
~Fran Lebowitz

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