

Northeast Library System

Better Library Service through Cooperation



Annual Report

July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013

Our Board Members

Tami Anderson
Hartington Public Library

Beth Foulks
Ponca Public School

Sara Lee
Central City Public Library

Mary Anne Schwarten
Emerson Public Library

Elaine Tobian
Pilger Public Library

Beth Foulks, Secretary
Ponca Public School

Melissa Baumert
Clarkson Public Library

Judy Hilkemann
Norfolk Public Library

Audrey Loosvelt
Madison Public School

Tim Sebade
Emerson Public Library

Dawnn Tucker
Lied Pierce Public Library

Kathy Ageton, Vice President
Lutheran High Northeast

Judy Hagan, President
Atkinson Public Library

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SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

What is the Northeast Library System?

The Northeast Library System (NELS) is one of six Regional Library Systems in Nebraska. The six systems were established to provide improved library services through the cooperation of all types of library and media centers. The Northeast Library system is a non-profit corporation governed by a local system board. The System is primarily funded by state appropriations and federal Library Services and Technology (LSTA) funds, which are administered through the Nebraska Library Commission.

Our passion is supporting libraries and ensuring that Northeast Nebraskans have access to quality library services.

NELS covers 13, 068 square miles and serves a population of roughly 202,000. The twenty-one counties within the Northeast Library System region are: Boyd, Holt, Wheeler, Antelope, Knox, Madison, Boone, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Butler, Polk, Colfax, Wayne, Cedar, Dakota, Thurston, Dixon, Pierce, Stanton, and Cuming.

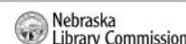
The Library Journal included 7 NELS libraries in its "America's Star Libraries" ratings. Out of a possible 5 stars, the following libraries were listed with 3 stars or above:

1. Atkinson Public Library, 5 Stars
2. Neligh Public Library, 5 Stars
3. Central City Public Library, 5 Stars
4. Hruska Memorial Library (David City), 3 Stars
5. Hartington Public Library, 5 Stars
6. Raymond A. Witwer Tilden Public Library, 4 Stars
7. Lied Battle Creek Public Library, 3 Stars



50 of NELS's 71 public libraries are accredited.

Accredited
Public Library



For 2012-13

Workshops provided by NELS (Including those in partnerships with other agencies)	21
Attendance at NELS Workshops	503
Items Loaned from NELS (books, journals, videos, etc.)	755

NELS by the Numbers

School Libraries	138
Public Libraries	71
Academic Libraries	6
Institutional or Special	8
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Total number of libraries in NELS	223

Our Mission

The Northeast Library System's mission is to be proactive by facilitating communication, education, and access to information through partnerships with area libraries, school media centers, trustees, advocates, and their communities.

In order to facilitate communication, we:

- Published 5 issues of the Straight Talk newsletter.
- Maintained a website through the Nebraska Libraries on the Web project. The website had 7,571 hits in the last year.
- Posted information on a timely basis on the System's listserv.
- Maintained and frequently updated a Facebook page for the System. The page currently has 61 followers.
- Started a Twitter account for the System, which is updated with information about upcoming events, "retweets" from other System libraries on Twitter, and other information important to Nebraska libraries. You can follow the system at @nelsdirector.
- Awarded 4 "Pat on the Back" Awards to various library supporters and library board members.
- The current director visited 43 libraries and traveled 4,422 miles on system business.
- Assisted with the creation of Polk public library's website through Nebraska Libraries on the Web.

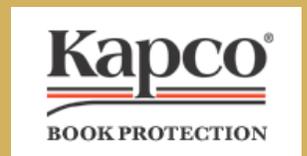


In order to provide libraries with access to information, we:

- Held 57 book sets for use by school and library book clubs.
- Maintained a collection of 56 training videos and 160 professional books for librarians and library board members to further their professional knowledge.
- Subscribed to 9 professional journals and routed these to libraries across the System.
- Provided equipment (projector, AccuCut dies and cutter, Wii system and games, and Flip video cameras for libraries to learn how equipment works and to try it out in their own library setting.
- Began a pricing discount opportunity for Freegal. Currently 6 libraries are subscribing to the service. If the number increases to 12, all participating libraries will receive a permanent 10% discount.

In order to provide educational opportunities, we:

- Co-hosted an NCompass Live session on the new library accreditation standards with Denise Harders, Richard Miller, and Laura Johnson.
- Hosted a workshop with Richard Miller on the accreditation standards. 15 people from 9 different libraries and library boards attended.
- Sponsored a Week of Weeding to educate librarians about collection management and encouraged the weeding of outdated items. 14 libraries participated. The Fullerton public library won the drawing for a Kindle for participating in the Week of Weeding.
- Sponsored 4 \$150 scholarships.
- Previous director and assistant both attended the NLA Annual Conference in Omaha.
- Hosted an Annual Meeting as a day-long workshop on September 19. We partnered with the area ESUs to provide a workshop that would appeal to public, school, and academic librarians. The featured speakers were John Kalkowski and Bruce Hale. The breakout sessions were presented by Rachelle McPhillips and Karen Stuart, Karen Drevo, Georgia Scurlettis, Gloria Christiansen, Amy Mather, JoAnn McManus, Corey Dahl, Micki Dietrich, Susan Kinsley, Kim Zach, Marci Retzlaff, and Eileen Brammer.
- Facilitated three meetings of our TARGET group, an informal meeting of area librarians. The meetings took place in Stanton, Tilden, and Hartington. Topics included Facebook strategies, passive programming, Boomerang Kids, Ways to Save, and fresh program ideas.
- Attended a PLTS meeting “Help! I’m a librarian, not a social worker!” workshop in Lincoln.
- Conducted an Ipad tips and tricks workshop in Osceola. Five people attended.
- Presented a Summer Reading Program workshop in Columbus on March 12. Sally Snyder and Jody Crocker presented books and craft ideas that related to this year’s theme. We also had Mad Science of Iowa give a demonstration of one of their possible presentations.
- The previous director attended Hruska Memorial Public Library’s “Food for Thought” program
- Helped facilitate the Technology Planning Summer Camp in Norfolk in August.
- Facilitated a Windows 7 & Office 2010 training workshop. The class was instructed by Kaye Eicher.
- Held a Youth Services Workshop in Battle Creek. Topics included were Every Child Ready to Read by Odessa Meyer, an AWE Early Literacy Station demo, and Storytelling Tips & Techniques by Sandra Wallick of Lincoln. 18 people attended.
- Attended a workshop on ADA technology resources in Norfolk.



- Attended a board roles and responsibilities workshop in Fremont.
- Helped facilitate one of the PLTS Spring Conferences in Columbus.
- The previous director attended the ALA Annual conference in Anaheim and held a “mini roadshow” about favorite sessions, topics, and ideas from the conference.
- The current director and assistant provided 10 OverDrive training workshops for library staff and patrons at 8 different libraries.
- The previous director and assistant presented at the Polk County and Antelope County directors meetings on planning and saving for the future, accreditation changes, and branding.
- Current director presented at the Antelope County director’s meeting on branding and marketing.
- Assisted with a Hobbit-themed party at Stromsburg public library to kick off their summer reading program.
- Hosted two Book Repair Workshops with the Kapco company at the Norfolk and Central City public libraries.
- Attended a Ponca public library board meeting to present about Zinio, Freegal, and OverDrive.



Thank you to the Nebraska Library Commission for their support of the Northeast Library System, to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems for their partnership in so many endeavors, and the many agencies and libraries that worked with us to host these educational and inspirational events.



LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



After receiving an unexpected donation, the Hartington Public Library decided to have a gazebo and landscaping done on the backside of

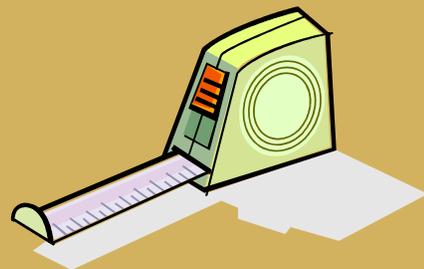


Construction began on the expansion project for the Wausa public library in April.

Ponca Carnegie Library 100 Years



To celebrate its upcoming 100th anniversary, the Ponca public library had a custom stained glass window above the entrance.





Amy Mather from Omaha Public Library led a session on using Pinterest in the library at the Annual Meeting.



Mad Science of Iowa demonstrated a dry ice "explosion" at the Summer Reading Program Workshop.



John Kalkowski spoke about his book *Red Cell* at the Annual Meeting.



Jody Crocker required some assistance to tell a short story at the Summer Reading Program Workshop.