

Northeast Library System

Better Library Service through Cooperation



Annual Report

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Our Board Members

Joyce Sullivan
Elgin Public Library

Judy Hagan
Atkinson Public Library

Michele Hastreiter
Humphrey Public Library

Kathy Ageton
Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk

Elaine Tobias
Pilger Public Library

Sally Stahlecker, Vice President
Norfolk Public Library

Melissa Baumert
Clarkson Public Library

Beth Foulks
Ponca Public Schools

Dawnn Tucker
Lied Pierce Public Library

Jolene Klein, Secretary
Wakefield Community Schools

Tami Anderson
Hartington Public Library

Susan Tyndall
Nebraska Indian Community College

Kate Ostenrude, President
Neligh Public Library

Our Staff

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System Snapshot

Workshops provided by NELS
(including those in partnership with
other agencies)
2008-2009 : 25
2009-2010 : 13
2010-2011 : 24

Attendance at NELS Workshops
2008-2009 : 652
2009-2010 : 309
2010-2011 : 648

Material loaned from NELS
(books, DVDs, etc.)
2008-2009 : 205
2009-2010 : 337
2010-2011 : 272

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



South Sioux City Public Library received a Gates Foundation grant to add 12 new computers to their library, replacing the dumb terminals that the library had used for years.



The Lied Battle Creek Public Library moved into their newly renovated library building in the summer of 2010.

Accredited
Public Library



51 of NELS's 71 public libraries are accredited.



Author and illustrator Steven Kellogg visited O'Neil and Tilden in March 2011.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL INDEX OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE **2010**
AMERICA'S STAR LIBRARIES

The Library Journal included seven NELS libraries in its "America's Star Libraries" ratings. The following libraries were listed with 3 stars and above:

- Central City Public Library - 5 stars
- Hartington Public Library - 5 stars
- Atkinson Public Library - 5 stars
- Neligh Public Library - 4 stars
- Lied Battle Creek Public Library - 3 stars
- Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library - 3 stars
- Bloomfield Public Library - 3 stars



The Stanton Public Library and its staff, Carol Armbruster and Laura Hess, were named Hometown Heroes in October 2010.



Kids "Made a Splash" during the Summer Reading Programs held all around northeast Nebraska in 2010. The kids shown here are celebrating at the Rising City Community Library.

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 facilitate **communication**, we:



- Published 6 issues of the Straight Talk Newsletter, in print and electronic formats.
- Maintained a System website through the Nebraska Libraries on the Web project, which is updated frequently. The website had 2,048 hits in the last year.
- **Posted information on a timely basis on the System's email discussion list.**
- Maintained and frequently updated a Facebook page for the System, which currently has 38 followers.
- Discussed with librarians issues ranging from funding to board relationships to collection management, in person, on the phone and via email.
- Provided promotional items (posters, bookmarks, bags, etc.) at NELS workshops.
- Awarded 10 Pat-on-the Back Awards to various library supporters and Board Members.
- Created window decals to distribute to accredited public libraries.
- The director made 96 visits to libraries and traveled over 7,480 miles on system business.



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

- Circulated a set of four eReaders to 19 libraries.

Librarian Comments about the eReader Set:

- **"Having all four choices to try was nice, because myself and my patrons had heard about the devices but had never tried them..."**
- **"We liked the opportunity to learn more about them firsthand. The staff was not particularly impressed but the younger patrons were very intrigued."**
- **"...a perfect opportunity for them [teachers] to experiment."**



- Participated in the E-Rate discount program and assisted libraries with various questions and forms on E-Rate throughout the year.
- Provided equipment (projector, AccuCut dies and cutter, Wii game system and games, and button maker) for libraries to check out.
- Loaned out 272 pieces of material (books, videos, periodicals, etc.).

In order to provide educational opportunities, we:

- Co-sponsored with Nebraska Regional Library Systems the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute Reunion in July 2010.
- Presented a **“Best of ALA 2010” Roadshow in Central City, Hartington and O’Neill to 25 people.** The director also presented this as a webinar for NLC’s weekly NCompass Live that has since had 329 views on SlideShare.
- Offered a demonstration of the AWE Early Learning Computer at Wayne Public Library. Ten librarians from seven different libraries attended.
- Co-sponsored with Republican Valley Library System, Meridian Library System and Panhandle Library System, through a Continuing Education Grant from the **Nebraska Library Commission, “Bridging the Gender Gap: Enticing Boys to Books”** with Carole Fiore. Thirty-six people attended in Aurora on September 14, and thirty-one people attended in Paxton on September 15.
- Hosted an Annual Meeting along with a day-long workshop on September 23. Seventy-eight people attended.
- **Coordinated a local group to participate in Library Journal’s “Libraries @ the Tipping Point”** e-conference on September 29 at Northeast Community College. Twelve people attended.
- Presented a program on eBooks for the community of Emerson at the Emerson Public Library on October 6. Seven community members attended.
- Sponsored seven scholarships for librarians and school media specialists to attend the Annual NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island in October, 2010.
- Co-sponsored with Nebraska Regional Library Systems an NLA Pre-conference event, **“Black Belt Librarians” with Warren Graham.** Sixty-nine people attended.



Carole Fiore

Librarian Comments about Warren Graham:

- **“He gave some great ideas for working with problem patrons. Have already had opportunity to put into practice a few things. “**
- **“This workshop gave me a lot of ideas of things we can do in our library to make it safer not only for staff, but for all patrons. Fabulous, fabulous presentation!”**

- Presented two sessions at the NLA/NEMA Conference October 14 and 15. **“All About E-Readers”** was attended by about sixty people. **“Picture Book Read-a-Thon”** was attended by seventeen.

- Offered, in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Commission, “Basic Skills: Public Library Administration.” This last “in person” class was held at the Madison Public Library, was taught by the NELS director and was attended by twelve people.

Critical Conversations
Staffing for Success

- Co-sponsored with the Nebraska Regional Library System’s and UNO’s Library Studies Program a new series of workshops called “Critical Conversations” for new directors of public libraries. The November 30 workshop focused on personnel issues and labor laws and was attended by thirteen new directors. The March 22 workshop focused on budgeting and was attended by seven new directors.
- Restarted the TARGET group, an informal quarterly meeting of librarians. The first meeting was in South Sioux City with ten librarians in attendance. The second was in Clarkson with seven librarians in attendance.
- Helped facilitate a Nebraska Library Commission E-Rate Training Workshop in Norfolk on January 25. Eleven people attended.
- Cooperated with the Nebraska Regional Library Systems (through a grant from NLC), the PLTS section of NLA and Read Aloud Nebraska to provide four workshops with Michael Sullivan. Around fifty librarians attended the workshop in Norfolk.
- Offered a day-long Winter Workshop on February 8 that featured breakout sessions with Mary Jo Ryan, Susan Knisely, Jan Jorgensen, Cindy Simeon, Julie Pfanstiel and Peggy Leiting. A grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council helped up provide a lunch program that was many people’s favorite part of the day. Fifty-seven people attended.



Three sessions were held in the computer lab to provide hands-on training. A class on basic graphic design was led by the director of the Tilden Public Library, Cindy Simeon. Classes were also held on the NebraskaAccess databases, taught by Susan Knisely, and “Setting Up a Facebook Page”, taught by Peggy Leiting and Julie Pfanstiel from the Randolph Public Library. Six people said the Facebook session provided them with the incentive to create Facebook pages for their library.



Lyn Messersmith, from Alliance, hosted our lunch program which featured stories and poems about “Not-So-Well-Behaved Women” in history. Her program got rave reviews from attendees. One participant said, “Fascinating stories! These gals are excellent story tellers.”

- Offered a Summer Reading Program workshop in Columbus on March 31, with help from the Nebraska Library Commission in providing speakers Sally Snyder and Jody Crocker. Fifty-eight people attended.



Jessica Chamberlain led a presentation on ALA's Every Child Ready to Read initiative. One participant called the presentation "one of the best we have had." Four people indicated that they would begin this program in their library.

Sally Snyder's book talks and suggestions for Summer Reading were very well received by participants. Sally stayed during the Talk Tables to allow for more time to look at the books she brought which was appreciated by quite a few people.

Jody Crocker's light-hearted presentation of craft and activity ideas for the Summer Reading program was enjoyed by all the attendees. One librarian said that she was planning on doing "all the craft ideas" that Jody presented!

- Co-Sponsored with Meridian, Panhandle and Republican Valley Library Systems, through a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission, two workshops on branding for libraries with Mary Palu. Fourteen people attended the workshop in Central City and fourteen attended the workshop in North Platte.



- Director met with Library Technical Assistant (LTA) and LIS students to inform them about the Nebraska Regional Library System and its role in Nebraska Libraries.
- Director attended meetings on library issues and emerging trends at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in June of 2011.



NELS Annual Conference 2010



Dr. Becky Pasco led a session called **"Balancing Life and Libraries in Support of Excellence."** Her program was many people's favorite of the day and one librarian remarked that Dr. Pasco was **"very insightful and entertaining, made me consider going back to school."**



Michael Sauers led a session on **"Social Media in Libraries."** When asked what one idea from the day that librarians would take back to their library and implement, four indicated that they would start engaging in social media.



Karla Shaffer, formerly of Hooper Public Library, shared her experience teaching English to Hispanic immigrants. One librarian called her message **"powerful"** and called Karla an **"inspiration."** Another indicated they would seek a grant to replicate Karla's program.



Jessica Chamberlain and Michael Sauers co-presented **"E-Readers 101"** which was packed full of librarians eager to learn. Two librarians indicated that this session helped urge them forward to get an e-Reader of their own.



Amy Kucera, director of the Howells Public Library, poses by the centerpiece she won at our lunch program.



Motivational speaker Dan Kuester got people excited about serving up a **"Recipe for Success"** as our keynote presenter. Several librarians commented he was **"entertaining," "enthusiastic"** and **"excellent"**. His high-energy presentation wasn't everyone's cup of tea, but his focus on customer service was right on target.