

# Northeast Library System

*Better Library Service through Cooperation*



## Annual Report

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

## Our Board Members

Tami Anderson  
Hartington Public Library

Beth Foulks  
Ponca Public School

Judy Hilkemann  
Norfolk Public Library

Sara Lee  
Central City Public Library

Audrey Loosvelt  
Madison Public School

Mary Anne Schwarten  
Emerson Public Library

Tim Sebade  
Emerson Public Library

Dawnn Tucker  
Lied Pierce Public Library

Dee Johnson, Vice President  
Central Community College

Mary Austin  
Little Priest Tribal College

Judy Hagan, President  
Atkinson Public Library

## Our Staff

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Director

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Administrative Assistant

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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. Bloomfield Public Library, 5 stars
2. Central City Public Library, 5 stars
3. Genoa Public Library, 5 stars
4. Hartington Public Library, 5 stars
5. Neligh Public Library, 5 stars
6. Atkinson Public Library, 4 stars
7. Creighton Public Library, 3 stars



48 of NELS’s 71 public libraries are accredited.

Accredited  
Public Library



## For 2013-14

Workshops provided by NELS 15  
(Including those in partnerships with other agencies)

Attendance at NELS Workshops 457

Professional Items Loaned 22  
(books, journals, videos, etc.)

Booksets Loaned 29

## 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 6 issues of the Straight Talk newsletter.
- Maintained a website through the Nebraska Libraries on the Web project. The website had 15,515 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 65 followers.
- Maintained 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. The account currently has 28 followers.
- Awarded 9 "Pat on the Back" Awards to various library supporters and library board members.
- The current director visited 52 libraries and traveled 10,459 miles on system business.
- Assisted with the creation of Atkinson and Ponca public libraries' websites through Nebraska Libraries on the Web.



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

- Held 62 book sets for use by school and library book clubs.
- Maintained a collection of 56 training videos and 162 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.

- Started a Pinterest account to share ideas for displays, summer reading program ideas, programming, etc. The profile page can be found at <http://www.pinterest.com/nelibsys/>



## In order to provide educational opportunities, we:

- Director attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in August at the St. Benedict retreat center near Schuyler.
- Director and Richard Miller met several times with the Walthill public library to being the process of becoming and maintain accreditation.
- Director attended the training session for the Nebraska Digital Literacy Coaching Corps.
- Director attended the Mountain Plains Library Association's annual conference in Sioux Falls.
- Assistant attended the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Association's annual conference in Omaha.
- Director met with students taking the Foundations of Library & Information Services class through Central Community College and answered questions about the system office and the services it provides to member libraries.
- Director and assistant both attended the NLA Annual Conference in Kearney.
- Co-sponsored an NLA pre-conference session aimed at public librarians with the other system administrators.
- Director instructed the Basic Skills class Programing & Outreach.
- Director spoke at a Polk County Library Association meeting.
- Director acted as volunteer committee chair for the steering committee of the Norfolk Chautauqua festival and assisted during some of the scheduled events.
- Hosted two workshops with Richard Miller on strategic planning and accreditation in Randolph and Columbus. 24 people from 14 different libraries and library boards attended.
- Director attended the annual Advocacy Day in Lincoln and met with Senator Schumacher, the representative for Columbus and the rest of District 22.
- Sponsored 3 scholarships that covered hotel and registration for the 2013 ARSL conference in Omaha
- Sponsored 4 \$150 scholarships to attend the 2013 NLA conference in Kearney.



- 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 Diane de las Casas and Tim Davison. The breakout sessions were presented by Bridget Kratt, Dr. Rebecca Pasco, Diane Wolf, Otis Pierce, Corey Dahl, Shannon Coleman, Anne Swanson, Brent Gaswick, Sandra Wallick, Michael Sauers, Elizabeth Gillis, Scott McIntosh, Karen Drevo, Odesa Meyer, Shelia Cermak, and the director.
- Director attended the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.
- Received a grant from the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Program to provide financial literacy training at 22 libraries across the state. The office largely acts as a recipient of funds and a distribution point for program materials.
- Facilitated 3 meetings of our TARGET group, an informal meeting of area librarians. Topics of discussion included the Affordable Care Act, Books are Just the Beginning, makerspaces, and disaster planning.
- Director attended an Open Meetings Act workshop in Lincoln to stay up-to-date on the requirements within the act.
- Presented a Summer Reading Program workshop in Norfolk on March 24. Sally Snyder books and activities that related to this year's theme. We also had Mrs. Science of Palmyra, NE give a demonstration of her possible presentations available for libraries.
- Provided 5 OverDrive training workshops for library staff and patrons at 3 different libraries.
- Presented a Spring workshop in Norfolk on April 28. The sessions were presented by the director, Judy Marco, Jamie Wright, Richard Miller, MeMe Smith, Rachelle McPhillips, and Humanities Nebraska speaker Nancy Johnson.
- Director attended an e-rate workshop from the Nebraska Library Commission to better answer questions regarding it from member libraries.
- Assisted with the beginnings of a weeding project at Clarkson public library.



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.





Tim Davison brought some animal friends with him to the 2013 annual meeting where he spoke about the relationship between training animals and teaching students.



Sally Snyder demonstrated how to poke a sharp pencil through a bag of water without it leaking at the SRP workshop.



Cedar Rapids public library celebrated its 100th anniversary with a presentation from local author Margaret Lukas.



Columbus public library had 3 new friends make their home in the children's room in October.

# System Events