



# Three *Rivers* Library System

Annual Report 2015-2016



## **Serving the libraries of the Platte, Elkhorn, and Missouri River Valleys**

Three Rivers Library System service area includes 95 public libraries, 24 academic libraries, over 421 school libraries, and over 56 special and institutional libraries.

We seek to promote collaboration and exceptional library service through a variety of services and continuing education opportunities.

The System is a 501(c)(3) organization governed by a board of directors with representatives from around the system. The board meets quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

## **TRAILS Board of Directors**

**Aimee Morlan**  
**Weeping Water Public Library**

**Beth Foulks**  
**Ponca Public Library/Ponca  
Schools**

**Kathy Ageton**  
**Lutheran High Northeast**

**Francine Canfield**  
**Baright Public Library**  
**President**

**Lauran Lofgren**  
**Wayne Public Library**  
**Vice President**

**Laura England-Biggs**  
**Keene Memorial Library**  
**Secretary**

**Rose Barcal**  
**La Vista Public Library**  
**Treasurer**

## **TRAILS Staff**

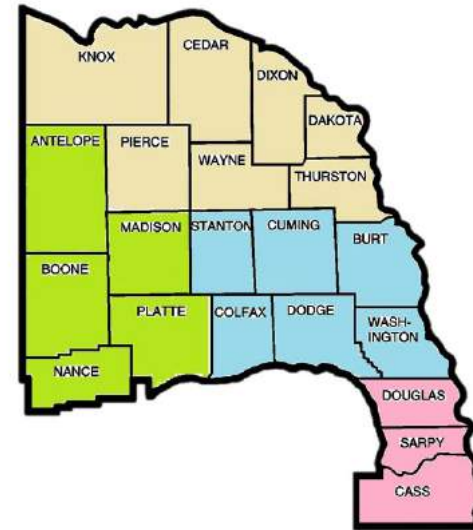
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**Executive  
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**Chelsea Morlan**  
**Library Services  
Assistant**  
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# System Peer Coordinators: a new way to serve

In August 2015, the TRAILS board voted to implement a new service model. This new model establishes four county groups in the service area and recruits System Peer Coordinators (SPCs) for each group. The first SPC to begin was Tammi Thiem, director at Genoa Public Library. She is coordinator for Antelope, Madison, Boone, Platte, and Nance counties. *The second SPC will begin in July 2016 for Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Washington, Dodge, and Colfax counties. We are currently seeking SPCs for the remaining two county groups.*

The anticipated outcome for the SPC service model is efficient and relevant delivery of services while helping to build meaningful relationships among librarians in the TRAILS service area.





# Trainings, Workshops, and Meetings

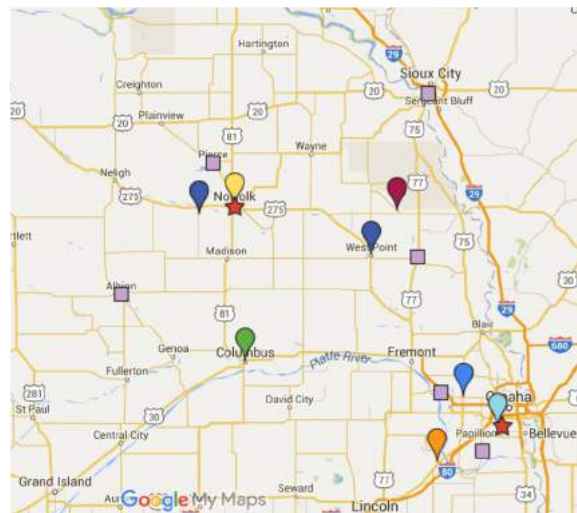
A landscape photograph showing a wide field of tall, golden-brown grasses in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a line of green trees and a few utility poles. The sky is a clear, light blue. The overall scene is bright and open.

- Visited area libraries 95 times
- Traveled a total of 14,063 miles

- The system collaborated with the NNCC to organize the 2015 Fall Library Workshop - **50 attendees**
- Worked with SELS on the 2015 Youth Services Retreat - **36 attendees**
- Held six DiSPEL meetings - **41 total participants**
- Cooperatively sponsored Reaching Teens through Graphic Novels, a preconference at the NLA/NSLA 2015 Annual Conference, with NRLS
- The system director attended six public library board meetings to provide training for trustees
- Conducted and archived a Summer Reading webinar - **199 views (live + archived)**

Other workshops included:  
 Technology Programming and Makerspace. 8 attendees  
 How to manage the green: Working with your library's budget. 8 attendees  
 Bully-proofing your library. 13 attendees  
 Library Strength Training Day. 26 attendees

**System staff made intentional choices for workshop, meeting, and training locations in order to provide access to continuing education opportunities throughout the service area.**



This map plots the locations of TRaILS workshops, trainings and DiSPEL meetings

**Many of the workshops were provided free of charge; saving 106 participants an estimated \$2,650 in registration fees.**

# TRaiLS offered workshops covering a variety of topics including:

- ❑ Budgeting
- ❑ Makerspaces and Technology Programming
- ❑ Bullying in the Workplace
- ❑ Intellectual Freedom
- ❑ Summer Reading Programs
- ❑ Overdrive and e-Readers
- ❑ Working with Spanish-speaking patrons
- ❑ Tech Trends
- ❑ Book Clubs for Youth
- ❑ Writing Groups in the Library
- ❑ NebraskaAccess
- ❑ Communities in Poverty



**TRaiLS created a scholarship fund to promote attendance of librarians, library staff, and trustees at local, state, regional, and national continuing education and networking events.**

**\$1,235** awarded in continuing education scholarships

**\$2,530** available in specific funds to attend the Public Library Association's 2016 Conference, Mountain Plains Library Association's Leadership Institute, and the American Library Association's Annual Conference. An additional **\$4,133** available to attend other events at an applicant's choosing.

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# 31

public libraries were accredited in the 2015 cycle

- The director conducted 27 personal contacts with libraries regarding strategic planning and accreditation
- Arranged two workshops geared toward libraries applying for accreditation. **10 total attendees**



# Communication Presence



TRaiLS Pinterest page offers Summer Reading tips and ideas, as well as boards about readers advisory, annual reports, book displays, fundraising, and more. [www.pinterest.com/trlsdirector/](http://www.pinterest.com/trlsdirector/)

The newsletter, *TRaiLS*, is issued **6 times a year**. The current issue is always featured on our website at <http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/services/trls-newsletter/> and averaged **126 people per issue**.

The website [libraries.ne.gov/trls](http://libraries.ne.gov/trls) is regularly updated with information regarding upcoming events and relevant library news. In the 2015-16 year it was viewed **7,842** times.



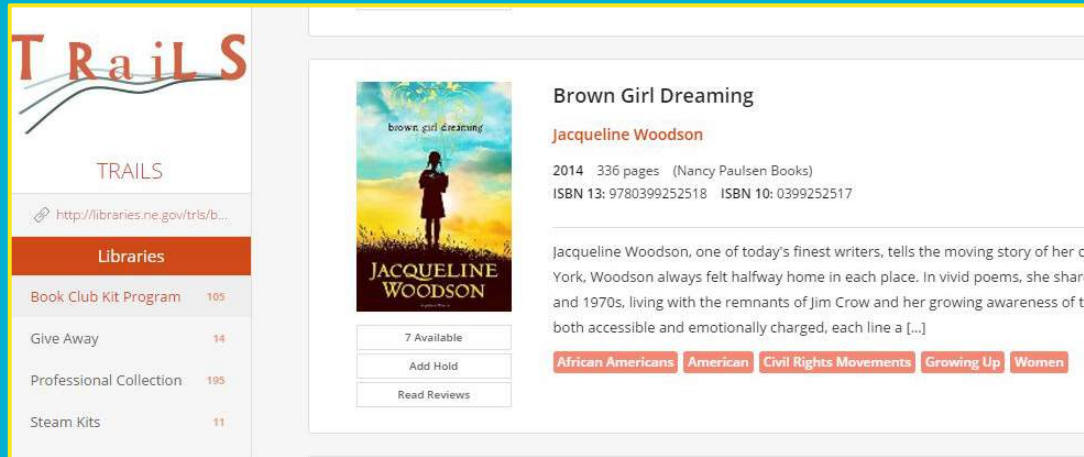
A Facebook page was established and efforts undertaken to increase Likes and connections

TRaiLS routes **6 professional magazines**. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year an estimated **188 articles** were sent to system members.

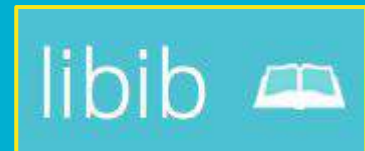
# Lending Services

The **Three Rivers Library System** moved the lending program to [trails.libib.com](http://trails.libib.com) to provide system members easier access to the **three** lending programs.

- ❖ The **Book Kit Program** has **105** titles available to borrow.
- ❖ The **STEAM Kit Program** has **11** items available to borrow.
- ❖ The **Professional Development Collection** has **195** titles available to borrow.



The screenshot displays the TRAILS website interface. On the left, a navigation menu lists 'Libraries' with the following items: Book Club Kit Program (105), Give Away (14), Professional Collection (195), and Steam Kits (11). The main content area features a book listing for 'Brown Girl Dreaming' by Jacqueline Woodson. The book cover shows a silhouette of a girl standing in a field under a cloudy sky. The listing includes the title, author, publication year (2014), page count (336), publisher (Nancy Paulsen Books), and ISBN numbers (13: 9780399252518, 10: 0399252517). A description of the book is provided, along with a '7 Available' status, an 'Add Hold' button, and a 'Read Reviews' button. Below the book listing, there are several red tags: African Americans, American, Civil Rights Movements, Growing Up, and Women.

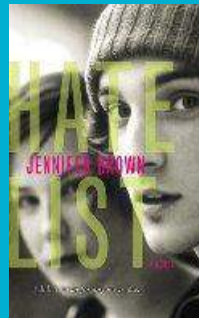
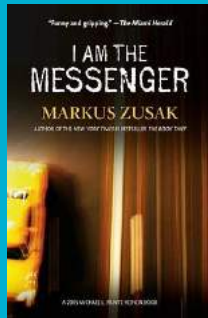
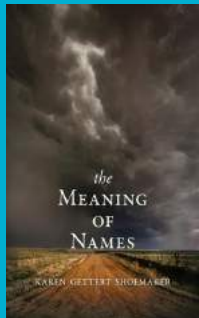


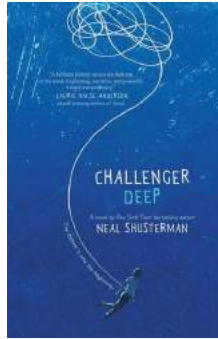
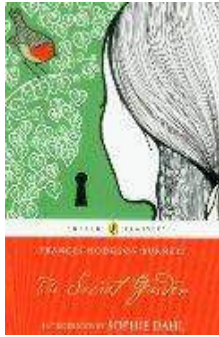
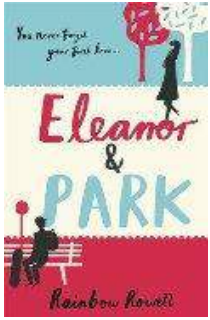
# Book Kit Distribution for the 2015-2016 Year

**22 patrons** were served in the last year spanning across the system.

**822 copies** from our Book Kit Program were lent out to system members.

The **top 3 titles** lent out (in order) were *The Meaning of Names*, *I am the Messenger*, and *The Hate List*.





# Book Kit Additions

The Three Rivers Library  
System has added **11** titles to  
our book kits.

- ❖ God of Beer
- ❖ Getting the Girl
- ❖ In Cold Blood
- ❖ Age of Innocence
- ❖ Secret Garden
- ❖ Wait Till Next Year
- ❖ Eleanor & Park
- ❖ Brooklyn
- ❖ Brown Girl Dreaming
- ❖ Challenger Deep
- ❖ The Meaning of Names

Nine titles were donated; two bought by TRaILS.



# STEAM Kits

TRaiLS created STEAM kits to assist libraries working to increase access to technology and cut costs.

There are **11** kits to check out covering areas of learning such as engineering, computer programming, circuitry, robotics, etc.

Science Wiz Cool Circuits

T4 Transforming Solar Robot

Laser Maze Logic Game

LittleBits Electronics Space Kit

Snap Circuits Jr. Discovery Kit

Robotic Hand

LittleBits CloudBit Starter Kit

LittleBits Premium Kit

SparkFun Inventor Kit

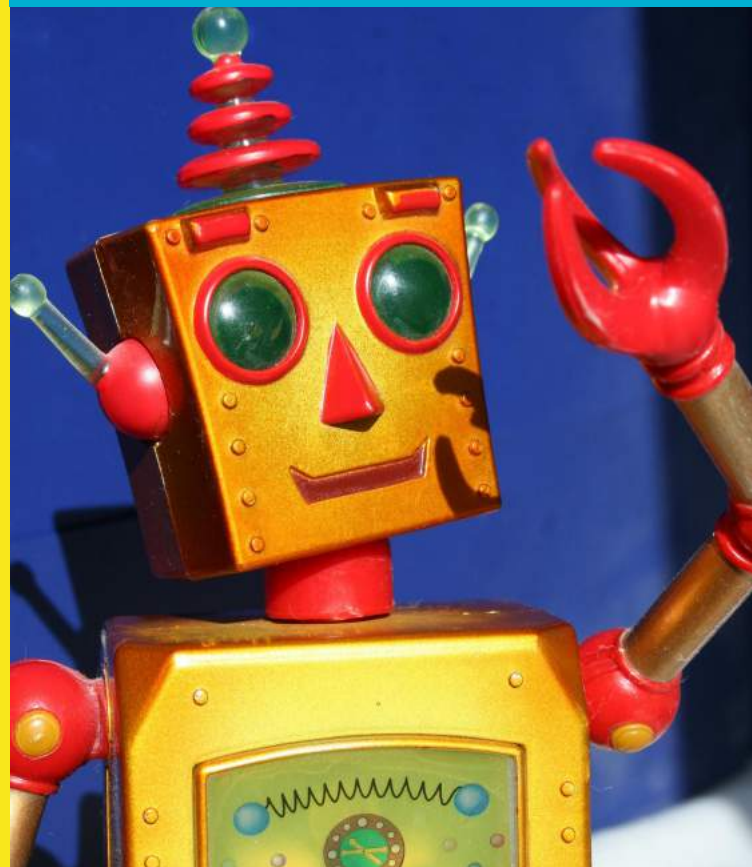
Makey Makey Standard Kit

EM4 Robot

70 Piece Blocks Set

Basic Raspberry Pi Kit

\$766 in resource savings for librarians using STEAM kits



STEAM kits available for checkout.  
<http://trails.libib.com/i/steam-kits>

# Director's Activity

## Attended:

- Antelope County Libraries' meeting
- Norfolk Public Library's 2015 Literature Festival
- Kaneko Library's 2015 Information Exchange
- ARSL 2015 in Little Rock, AR
- NLA/NLSA 2015 in Lincoln, NE
- Participated in Advocacy Day
- School Librarian's Day 2016
- PLA 2016 in Denver, CO
- NLA NMRT/ISRT/TSRT 2016 Spring Meeting
- ESU #3 Media Specialists Quarterly Meeting
- Various Metro Directors Lunches
- Quarterly meetings with NRLS directors and NLC staff

## Presented:

- *Book Clubs for Youth* at 2015 Fall Library Workshop
- *New Director's Guidebook* at NLA/NLSA 2015 and NCompass Live Session
- *Overdrive and e-Readers* at Emerson Public Library
- *Trustee Orientation* at multiple libraries
- *Feelings are Messy: Building Emotional Intelligence* at Baright Public Library

## Also:

- Wrote an article for the May issue of Nebraska Libraries about the NRLS book kit lending programs
- Led a section of the Basic Skills course, Readers Advisory
- Continued to serve as NLA NMRT chair and attend NLA board meetings
- Consulted with libraries on a variety of topics, including:
  - Foundations and Friends groups
  - Nebraska State Statutes pertaining to libraries
  - Collection Development
  - Teen Programming
  - Librarian/Board Certification
  - Personnel
  - Library Board and Local Government Relationships

**We are excited about the year to come.**

# **We plan to:**

- Serve Nebraska libraries as they support ever-changing communities of learners in physical and digital environments
- Establish a schedule of Youth Services staff networking meetings
- Provide training and support for public library trustees
- Work with all public libraries interested in accreditation
- Develop stronger relationships with academic, school, institutional, and special libraries
- Provide workshops that explore relevant topics and promote 21st Century learning among librarians and library staff
- Build upon the System Peer Coordinator service model
- Continue to collaborate with Nebraska Regional Library Systems, the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska School Library Association, Educational Service Units, and other potential partners

**As always TRailS remains open to ideas and feedback in an effort to never stop improving.**

# Credits

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Slide 5

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