

T R a i L S

Libraries and Their Communities

by Tammi Thiem



It is well known in the library world that librarians do all they can to address the needs of their community members and patrons. Librarians compile information for Community Needs Response Plans to do just that – assess the needs of the community and plan how to respond to those needs. Librarians develop programs and collections that reflect the needs of their own communities, so these are likely different from city to town to village. What is successful for one may not be a consideration for another, and that is what makes libraries so special and wonderful. They are not a one-size-fits-all, nor do they conform to umbrella standards.

...or so I thought.

I recently attended the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, and it was wonderful to visit with librarians from across the country. One eye-opening conversation was about the micromanagement of library branches and the limits imposed upon them by their administration. In this instance, the librarians are not allowed to advertise programs or activities for their own library branches for their own patrons and communities. This is supposed to be done by the marketing committee. However, even submitted promotions seem to be neglected for the smaller branches, so these never get shared. Another issue facing these librarians is that they are not allowed to create and plan their programs without specific approval at least two months in advance. This certainly limits their ability to respond to their patrons' needs. These librarians are not allowed to decorate their own libraries, either. They are limited to predetermined decorations and promotional items. The librarians cannot create displays that reflect their patrons' unique tastes and styles. These libraries are not allowed to recognize any holidays or create programs around them.

In another state, a librarian told me that if their library joined the state's system, they would then have to conform to all demands of that system. While this would be monetarily beneficial for them, it would limit their ability to serve their patrons. They would be pigeon-holed into someone else's ideals rather than adapting to the direct needs of their unique community. I have heard that the term "library system" has some negative connotations, but I had never quite understood why. I am happy that the systems in Nebraska serve as resources to help libraries, as the Nebraska systems absolutely do not try to control or limit what librarians can offer. Instead, the four systems in Nebraska serve as support for libraries, offering whatever services and resources possible to help make libraries the best they can be for their communities.

The accreditation process just wrapped up for select Nebraska libraries. While this can be a daunting task, I hope it was also rewarding. This offers the opportunity to view your community and determine what the needs are. It is a chance to put your goals into writing and build enthusiasm for your profession. It is the ideal time to recognize the importance of your library.

Please contact me if there is anything I can do. tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com 402-910-7005.



At the TRails Office

Identify the book where you would read this quote, and send the title of the book to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com by October 20th to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

**"otnay
allyay
osehay
owhay
anderway
areyay
ostlay."**

Basic Skills

(* Required Class)

Management / Supervision

Registration Dates: 9 September 2024 - 4 October 2024

Class Dates: 14 - 25 October 2024

Leadership

Registration Dates: 23 September 2024 - 18 October 2024

Class Dates: 4 - 15 November 2024

Library Services to Children & Teens

Registration Dates: 21 October 2024 - 15 November 2024

Class Dates: 2 - 13 December 2024

Upcoming NCompass Live

Pretty Sweet Tech: Digital Navigators & Digital Equity in Nebraska

Date: 2 October 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Dragons at the Library: An Exciting New Reading Program

Date: 16 October 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Letters About Literature 2024

Date: 23 October 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Pretty Sweet Tech

Date: 30 October 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Calendar of Events

Nebraska Library Association Conference

Younes Conferences Center (Kearney)
9 - 11 October 2024
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Nebraska Celebration of Books

University of Nebraska - Lincoln
12 October 2024
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Public Library Survey Workshop

Madison Public Library
18 October 2024
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Internet Librarian Connect 2024 Conference

Online
22 October 2024
9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SKILLS Meeting

Online via Zoom
29 October 2024
10:00 am - 11:00 am

10 Copies Available at TRaiLS



PLACE HOLDS AT:
[LIBIB.COM/U/TRAILS](https://libib.com/u/trails)



NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:

[You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!](#)

Mackenzie Marrow is the librarian in charge of book clubs at the Nebraska Library Commission and wants to share with everyone the hidden gems in the [NLC's Book Club Collection](#). Below is an excerpt, but to read the full details go to [Mackenzie's blog post](#).

Jilly's aunts say that after her baby sister is born, life will never go back to normal. And they're right! When Emma is born Deaf, her parents aren't prepared, but Jilly is way excited to tell her Deaf online friend Derek aka profoundinoaktown, the news. When his excitement doesn't match hers, she's confused and hurt. While her parents are busy meeting with audiologists, Jilly begins noticing her own differences and how they impact others. She's hearing, so she doesn't have to worry about communication and being left out of conversation. She's also white and doesn't have to worry about racism and violence like her Black friends and family do. Jilly's aunt and her cousins are more than people who are Black, and Derek is more than someone who is Black and Deaf. They're proud of their identities because each piece of them comes together to make who they are, but sometimes being who they are is unsafe. Jilly has a lot to learn, and even though she messes us up, she keeps trying. So when her sister is ready for the world, she will be too.

Library News

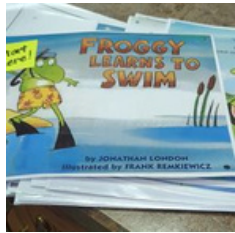
Howells Public Library's Story Stroll

by Mary Jo Kampschnieder



Howells Public Library recently sponsored a Story Stroll at our local swimming pool. We laminated pages from the book- Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London. It is a fun and colorful book about the character FROGGY and all the fun he has learning to swim.

We contacted the local public swimming pool and they were happy to provide a space - their chain-linked fence for us to attach all the pages. We hung them in the "toddler" pool area since it is a picture book. We punched a hole in each corner and used zip ties to attach it to the fence. We left the display up from the end of June through mid-August. We received several positive comments and plan on displaying another book near a local park that has a fence.



Keene Memorial Library 2.0

by Laura England-Biggs

You may be aware - or not - that the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont underwent something of a transformation last year. We closed in August of 2022 to pack up and move about half the collection to the City Auditorium as a temporary home during a renovation and expansion project. The remainder of the items went into storage. Our temporary space opened to the public on September 12, 2022, and the construction project broke ground on September 27.

While located in the City Auditorium, we dealt with lack of hardwired network connectivity for our circulation desks and computer lab, relying on WiFi. Our staff work areas were in two meeting rooms separated by the hallway down to the open auditorium space that came to be known as The Librarium. We lost our programming space in the temporary move, partnering with Metro Community College to host our regular storytimes in one of their vacant classrooms. Our weekly Lego club took place at another one of our partners, Gallery 92 West.

Sixteen months later, the newly renovated and expanded Keene Memorial Library opened its doors on January 15, 2024, and celebrated with a ribbon cutting on February 6. We added 12,500 square feet to our original footprint of 23,000 sf. We now have a dedicated computer lab with a separate computer classroom for up to 8 students. We expanded our meeting room offerings to include study rooms, a board room and a community meeting room that seats up to 125. Perhaps most significantly, our teens, children and adults each have separate spaces in the library to enjoy the collections and work collaboratively.

Almost nine months of the new library being open and it's still a thrill to come in to work every day. I can't believe I get to work in this gorgeous building. Sure, it's got its quirks, but Keene Memorial Library 2.0 was worth the wait.



Library News

Arlington Public Library's Tea Party

by Julie Jones



At the request of a library patron, the Arlington Public Library hosted its first tea party in September. "The Commit-TEA" consisted of the patron with the idea, a library board member, and me. We coordinated the event with mix-and-match China from our own collections, decor, different teas from which to choose, treats (finger sandwiches, canapes, cookies, chocolates, fruits, scones), and books with tidbits on tea, tea history, and tea culture. We also encouraged guests to bring a recipe to share!

Those who attended the 90 minute event said it was a wonderful tea and that we should do it again. Those who missed the event were disappointed and vow to attend the next.

Scholarship Experiences

Nebraska History Presentation Enjoyed at the Bellevue Public Library

by Laura Mischke

Jeff Barnes delivered his Humanities Nebraska presentation, "The Queen's Road: Nebraska's Bumpy Ride to Statehood", to a packed house at the Bellevue Public Library on August 15. Mr. Barnes covered a wide variety of topics in his discussion of the factors that influenced Nebraska as it transitioned from a territory into a state, as well as the ways in which events occurring in Nebraska influenced events throughout the nation. Nebraska's journey to statehood was deeply entangled with national issues such as slavery, Reconstruction, and sectional politics. Some of the interesting facts presented about the early days of Nebraska were:

- The original Nebraska Territory contributed land to five different states.
- Nebraska had the most Pony Express stations of any state.
- Nebraska was the birthplace of "Wild Bill" Hickock.
- The first homestead in the United States was in Nebraska.

The program was universally well-received, with attendees excitedly discussing different aspects of the talk as they left. Lifelong Nebraska residents and newcomers alike left with new knowledge and a greater appreciation of Nebraska and its history.

This presentation was made possible through generous funding provided by Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Three Rivers Library System.



Scholarship Experiences

American Library Association Annual Conference

by Jeri Kay Hopkins

The American Library Association's Annual Conference in San Diego was in a beautiful setting and it was HUGE! The convention center was situated between the San Diego Bay and the Gaslamp Quarter. The Convention was the largest library event in the world. It extended over five days. This year, it had over 13,500 attendees with over 5,000 being vendors.

The opening event was an interview with Trevor Noah, comedian, author and former Daily Show host. He will be having a children's book coming out in October called, "Into the Uncut Grass." The conversation between Trevor and ALA Past President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada was funny and thoughtful.

The vendors were so numerous that it was impossible to visit them all. Prioritization was important. There was a makespace section. They had robots! One, in the shape of a person, stood about a yard tall and would look at you when you spoke to it. They also had a reference robot that could roam around the library. It only cost \$50,000. Way outside the purchasing ability of most Nebraska libraries!

The sessions were very informative. One called Play Imagine Experience or PIE was about creating a children's museum type room in your library. It was an interactive room like a barn with hay, stuffed animals and wooden stalls on the walls. They even created a sky on the ceiling. Their advice was to never have dirt and to always remember to keep the sprinkler system uncovered.

One session was about creating a Summer Fun School. They used their bookmobile, but it could be done in a car or van quite easily. They went to already established summer camps, apartment complexes, and even assisted living places. They prepared activity kits which included an activity, food, a book, a ticket for a drawing and a small surprise. The surprises were something practical like toothbrushes or cooking utensils. The grand prizes for the drawing were also practical like gas or grocery cards.

Another session was about including music and movement into story times. They had a statistic that said if movement is incorporated then a person will remember 76% of the material as opposed to 39% without it. (They did not attribute the source of the statistic.) They had many suggestions on how to incorporate music and movement into story time such as: dancing, asking how an animal moves, using spoons, plastic eggs with rice inside, or collaborating with area musicians to play their instruments or to sing. One really simple technique is to play instrumental music in the background while you are reading the story. For more ideas go to Dan Saks' music education podcast "Noodle Loaf."

The educational experience of attending my first ALA Annual Convention was invaluable. Thanks so much to the Three Rivers Library System for the opportunity to attend. It was a mind-blowing experience which I will be utilizing in our library. If we create a successful program out of it, I might even do a session at the Nebraska Library Association. Thank you again for all you do for our librarians and libraries!

Scholarship Experiences

Kaleidoscope of SKILLS Workshop

by Jean Hurst

Thank you to the Three River Library System and the La Vista Public Library for allowing me to attend this workshop.

On May 21, 2024, I attended the Kaleidoscope of Skills Workshop. I really enjoyed this type of workshop. Normally when you go to a workshop, there is a facilitator or speaker at the front talking and giving a presentation, and you get to ask questions at the end. Not the Kaleidoscope of Skills workshop. With this workshop, Tammi from The Three Rivers Library System puts a topic on the screen and then the participants share information. There were six topics and each one provided very good information about what other libraries are doing.

The topic of Summer Reading allowed participants to talk about what they are going to be doing this summer for their patrons. Many libraries have some of the same ways of getting prizes into the hands of their participants. Children read and can try to win one of the grand prizes, however they also are able to receive incentive prizes. All libraries have the same goal of getting their library patrons to read over the summer, enjoy crafts classes and listen to great speakers like Raptor Recovery.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a hot topic right now, I enjoyed seeing examples of how this works. We also discussed the ethical ramification for using these tools. An example would be using AI to help with writing a paper for school. Would this make the child's paper really his own? I am excited to learn more about this topic and see where it can help our library's patrons in writing things like resumes and cover letters in their own search for jobs.

Book Clubs/Golden Sower was a fun topic because I wanted to learn how other libraries are dealing with their book clubs, how many book clubs they have, who facilitates the book clubs, and if they are on or off site. How the library fits into working with these book clubs.

Other topics were Nebraska Overdrive/Libby, Breakout Box Challenges and Cataloging/Book Processing. Overall, I would say, if you are able to attend this workshop, take advantage of it. Networking with librarians from different sizes of public libraries is a really great opportunity.

Apply for TRAILS Scholarships Online

TWO SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS:

- Continuing Education Scholarship
 - To attend regional, state, or nationwide conferences.
 - Apply online at: <https://bit.ly/trlsScholarshipApp>
- Humanities Nebraska Scholarship
 - To bring a Humanities Nebraska Speaker to your library.
 - Apply online at: <https://bit.ly/HNScholarship>

Questions? Email us!
✉ Tammi.Thiem.TRLS@gmail.com

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS:

PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY

WITH SAM SHAW

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. Come early if you'd like to look around the library!

18 October 2024	MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Register online at https://bit.ly/Biblio Training
2 CE Available	

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.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Topic: New Directors -- What They Need to Know

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 3 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

4 November 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Lied Pierce Public Library



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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY SYSTEM
PRESENTS:

Kaleidoscope of SKILLS Workshop

25 NOVEMBER 2024

SCHEDULE:

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	MEET & GREET
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Topic 1: Workplace Allies - <i>Learn how to build work relationships.</i>
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	BREAK
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Topic 2: Creative Displays - <i>Share some of your favorite displays!</i>
10:50 AM - 11:00 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Topic 3: Community Connect - <i>The importance of building partnerships.</i>
11:50 AM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM - 1:50 PM	Topic 4: Friendly Faces - <i>Share tips for dealing with patrons.</i>
1:50 PM - 2:00 PM	BREAK
2:00 PM - 2:50 PM	Topic 5: Explore AI - <i>How do you use AI in your library?</i>
2:50 PM - 3:00 PM	BREAK
3:00 PM - 3:50 PM	Topic 6: Policy Power - <i>Share your policy writing practices.</i>
3:50 PM - 4:00 PM	DOOR PRIZES & FAREWELLS

\$5 PER PERSON
6 CE AVAILABLE
LUNCH INCLUDED

Register Online:
<https://bit.ly/withTammiThiem>

KEENE MEMORIAL
LIBRARY (FREMONT)



INTRODUCING: A Digital Story-Game for Young Inventors



Project Goal: Create an engaging digital story-game designed to empower children (grades 2-4) with STEM knowledge, literacy, information literacy, creativity, and inventive thinking skills. Participants will tackle real-world community problems through interactive adventures.



Story-Game Focus: Join the Curious Kids Club, a diverse group of young inventors in Curiosity Creek. When their town faces an environmental crisis, they team up with community members to investigate and solve the problem. Players engage in the invention process across six interactive chapters, each featuring:

- A storyline focusing on a step in the invention process.
- Digital games that challenge players to earn badges and advance.



Digital Project Deliverables in Addition to the Story-Game:

1. **Printable Companion Journal:** Includes directions, note-taking pages, challenge puzzles, coloring pages, and a super badge challenge.
2. **Printable Digital Glossary:** Helps children understand key terms used in the story-game.
3. **Library-Based Unit Plans:** Developed for public and school librarians to enhance invention-related programs.
4. **Best Practices Guide:** Offers insights from our experience to aid librarians in implementing invention education programs.
5. **Get SET! Digital Resource:** Evaluation tool for young children, bundled with project deliverables (funded by the Lemelson Foundation in a previous grant).



Availability: All materials will be freely accessible to librarians, teachers, parents, and anyone interested in August 2024 at "The Innovation Destination" website: <https://theinnovationdestination.net>.

Project Team: Our diverse team includes instructional designers, programmers, artists, game consultants, inclusion scholars, librarians, STEM educators, and children (ages 7-10) nationwide.

Funding and Contact: Funded by a 2-year IMLS National Leadership grant to Dr. Marilyn P. Arnone and Dr. Ruth V. Small at Syracuse University's Center for Digital Literacy (CDL). For more information, contact:

Dr. Marilyn Arnone: mparnone@syr.edu

Dr. Ruth Small: drruth@syr.edu

Great Plains

BISON

DISCOVER THE GREAT PLAINS
Dan O'Brien



BOOK

GREAT PLAINS BISON BY DAN O'BRIEN

FILM

SEED WARRIORS BY REBEKKA SCHLICHTING

(Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)



Explore the themes of conservation, restoration and respect, inspired by Ken Burns's *The American Buffalo*.

Downloadable, print-at-home guide includes

- Discussion questions
- Additional reading suggestions and organizations to explore
- Two recipes from Chef Anthony Warrior

Watch *Seed Warriors*, download the discussion guide and explore more resources.



SCAN ME

NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub



<https://smokeybear.com/>

**October is Fire
Prevention Month!**



NEA Big Read
is Willa
Cather's
My Antonia

NLC Grants
are open!
Due 11/15

Submit a
proposal for
Big Talk from
Small
Libraries

Do regular
speedtests
on computers

Tammi's
Tidbits

Contact
sherm for
computer
update help

Reader Zone
is provided
by NLC for all
libraries!

Want to be a
Golden Sower
Reader?!?

ALA LTC
Grants are
open!
Due 12/11