



# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



Policy. A word that many want to avoid. Personally, I'm a writer so I like working with the written word and policy certainly can be involved.

There is something with the way you compose your policy that I would like to share with you that might just help your library, and perhaps yourself, in the future.

When reviewing your policies, or even creating new ones, you may want to include a brief statement on "why" you have that policy in the document itself. This policy philosophy statement explains the reason you are creating this rule for others to follow.

Why would you want to have such a statement? Many policies you look at now or maybe even work under don't have such things. As far as I can tell, this is relatively new thinking about policies. I certainly don't remember this being done when I started working in libraries.

What's going on is that we see that having the "why" a policy exists as part of the document makes it easier to relate the policy to patrons, to defend if necessary, and to know when it might be time to change it. Sure you, your staff, and board know why you made the

change today - but what happens 5 years from now? It doesn't have to be a huge statement, but enough to jog the memory or point in the right direction.

For example – if you are writing a policy about book selection and you are putting in rules about having a balanced collection of viewpoints, have a statement that says something along the lines of, "As the Anywhereville Public Library holds the ALA's Library Bill of Rights as an important statement on the necessity of having a collection that serves all members of the community and presenting all points of view, we set the following selection policies:"

I've been in policy meetings where a good chunk of the meeting is wasted as people try to decipher or remember why a policy was in place to begin with. This even includes ones that I was involved in writing in the first place and I had forgotten part of the rationale in our decisions.

So, a small bit of preparation can save you a lot of aggravation in the future. Or at least make your policy review meetings a lot shorter.

### In this Issue:

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# Calendar

August 12, Walter Dean Myer's Birthday

August 18, [CASTL, "Summer Reading Successes," Clay Center Public Library](#)

August 21, Total Solar Eclipse

August 22, Ray Bradbury's Birthday

August 29. SELS Friends Annual Meeting, p. 9

September 4, Labor Day, SELS OFFICE CLOSED

September 7-8, [23rd Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat](#), p. 11

September 8, International Literacy Day

September 11, O. Henry's Birthday

September 12, National Video Games Day

September 15, CASTL, "Civilian Response to Active Shooters," Central City Public Library

September 1-30, [Library Card Sign-up Month](#)

September 24-30, [Banned Books Week](#)

September 27, [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#)

October 11-13, [NLA/NSLA Conference in Kearney](#)



# Photos of the Month



Thanks to the work of SELS administrative assistant Maggie Kramer and the approval of the SELS Board, it has become easier to find the offices of Southeast Library System. There is now a sign on the exterior front of the First Lincoln Federal Credit Union (above left), a sign on the wall facing visitors (above right), as well as signage on the door and two exterior windows. You will know you are in the right place when you come to visit us!

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

August 18

Clay Center Public Library  
“Summer Reading  
Successes”

September 15

Central City Public Library  
“Civilian Response to Active  
Shooters”

October 27

Bruun Memorial Library  
Humboldt  
“Helpful Databases” (in addi-  
tion to NebraskaAccess)

November 16

Gilbert Public Library  
Friend  
“Genealogy Resources”

The July 21 CASTL at Wymore Public Library was on the topic of library exteriors. Discussion began with landscaping. Libraries have to handle this in different ways because they have different resources. Some libraries pay for all exterior landscaping work, including mowing. This can be an incentive to minimize the landscaping, unless a library has, for example, a paid (or reliable volunteer) gardener. Even weed control and tree clean up can be difficult for libraries that do not have a spot in their budget for these items, unless the city or village is willing to take over that responsibility.

Wahoo Public Library eliminated one messy corner of its landscaping by replacing it with a concrete game table with benches on top of a solid surface.

A couple of librarians shared that showing hospitality (cinnamon rolls, cold drinks, etc.) to workers helped to establish a positive relationship and ensured timely attention to maintenance items.

Library signs present their own challenges. It is important to research village or city rules governing signs; some locales are strict about sign placement. Permanent lettering may not be a good idea, especially for items such as hours. Parts should be replaceable, and it should be easy to get to any light bulbs.

It is sometimes difficult for libraries to find sufficient parking for their patrons. One librarian shared that on a city owned street, parking spaces are available to anyone (they are city spaces) and may not be marked as “library parking only.” However, a solution such as limiting parking to two hours in the spaces around the library may be helpful.

Some libraries have a problem with the littering of cigarette butts and some don’t. One solution employed by several libraries is not to allow smoking on any part of the library grounds.

Finally, knowing when to lower the flag to half-mast was addressed by the sharing of sites such as [flagsexpress.com](http://flagsexpress.com), which will send email alerts both for presidential proclamations and Nebraska-specific occasions.

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
September 11—September 22	The Community and the Library	August 14—August 31
September 25 —October 6	Management and Supervision	August 28 —September 14
October 16—October 27	Leadership	September 18—October 5

# News Around the System

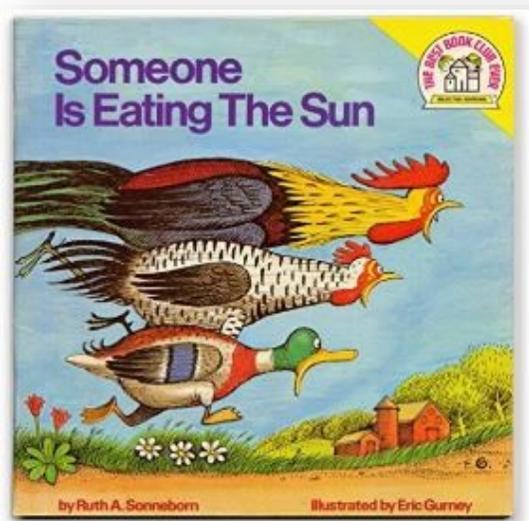
## Who is Eating the Sun?

*By Terry Olson*

On August 3 a delightful group of children joined us for our "Who Is Eating the Sun?" program. The children were captivated by the retelling of some of the myths and legends regarding solar eclipses from around the world.

"Someone Is Eating the Sun" by Ruth A. Sonneborn served as the spotlighted book for the program. This action packed story provided fun and laughter for all.

Kay Mussman, with the Thayer County Extension Office, was our guest program specialist. Kaye devised a clever craft project that walked the children through the eclipse process. The program was enjoyed by parents and children alike.



## Children Make Quilt in DeWitt

*Story and Photo by Liz Poessnecker*

Children at the Burkley Library and Resource Center in De Witt created quilt blocks from fabric and a special fusible interfacing. The blocks were then glued to cardstock and displayed as a quilt in the window of the library. Children were given choices of pre-cut fabric which they arranged in a way that was pleasing to them.

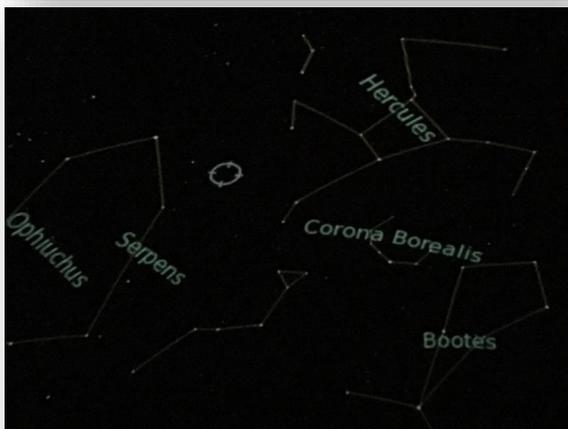


# News Around the System

## Planetarium at Fairbury Public Library

*Story and photos by Debbie Aden*

For our final summer reading program, and kickoff for the eclipse, the Edgerton Exploit Center set up their portable planetarium in one section of our children's area. We had to move one set of bookshelves out, and it was a tight fit, but it worked! He presented four programs, all of which were filled to capacity, and talked about star constellations, planets, and most important, the eclipse! Following the program, everyone received a free pair of eclipse viewing glasses so they would be ready for August 21!



## Eclipse Program at Fairmont Public Library

*By Wanda Marget*

The Fairmont Public Library is hosting an ECLIPSE program Wednesday, August 16th at 7 pm at the Fairmont American Legion Club. Edward Schmidt Professor Emeritus, Department of Physics and Astronomy at UNL will be the guest speaker.

Glasses will be handed out that evening!



# News Around the System

## Highlights from the Palmyra Memorial Library Summer Program

*By Glenda Willnerd*

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted the 2017 summer reading program, “Build a Better World” in July. Highlights included sessions on building a better world through recycling, saving the bee population, and practicing random acts of kindness.

A special thanks to the Palmyra Pub, Palmyra Farmers and Merchants Bank and Casey’s General Store for sponsoring these events.

Photo 1 – Linda Behrns, Director of the Keep Cass County Beautiful program, shared a story, video and information on recycling.

Photos 2 & 3 – Beekeeper, Bruce Sprague told children about the importance of bees and plant specialist, Mike McDonald explained the role plants play in saving the bee population.

Photo 4 – Diana Poschikil accepted donations of decorated cans of food from Owen Ramaeker and Alysa Myers as the children displayed random acts of kindness through their donations.



# News Around the System

## Eclipse Theme in Display and Bookmarks

*By Emmy Fiala*

The pictures here show Emmy Fiala’s beginning of the year library display and bookmarks at the Aurora Middle/High School Media Center. She says she is “so excited to be incorporating the eclipse into my library theme this year! “



## Morton-James Hosted WWI Exhibit in Kimmell Gallery

*Photos from the Museum of Nebraska Art*



**Alice Cleaver Aunt Nettie**  
oil on linen, n.d.



**John Falter Threshing Crew** oil on canvas, 1980



**Elizabeth Honor Dolan David Clark Hilton**  
oil on canvas, 1918

Morton-James Public Library recently hosted an exhibition entitled “WWI: Images from the Home Front” from the Museum of Nebraska Art.

The Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) collects, preserves, researches, exhibits, and interprets the work of artists who were born, lived, trained, or worked in Nebraska or who created artworks that reflect the culture of Nebraska.

This exhibition consisted of works designed to answer the questions: Who were the men who fought for our freedom in the first World War? What kind of impact did the war have on the families at home? What were the sacrifices made on the home front for the war effort?

# News Around the System

## Making Your Own Bacon

*By Monica Tidyman, Photos by Dorinda Brown*

On August 8, Stromsburg Public Library hosted a class on how to smoke and cure your own bacon. Taught by local resident, Tracey Nyberg, attendees learned about optimal cuts of meat, brining and learned the difference between curing and smoking. Free samples were enjoyed!



## One Book for Nebraska Kids and Teens 2017: Book Reviews

*By Aimee Owen, Nebraska Library Commission*

### Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians

Alcatraz Smedry kicks off his thirteenth birthday by burning down his foster mother's kitchen... and it's all downhill from there. The arrival of a small bag of sand and a strange old man claiming to be his grandfather pulls Alcatraz into the adventure of a lifetime, full of magic, mayhem, and...a cult of evil librarians? While he's not a "nice person" by nature, Alcatraz also doesn't like to be shot at, so he goes along to help Grandpa Smedry and his band of Freelanders save the world from the librarians. Along the way, he discovers that the world as he knows it is a lie perpetrated by the librarians and that his tendency to be clumsy and break things (or set them on fire) is actually a superpower. What else will Alcatraz discover about the world and himself?

Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians, the first in the fantasy series by Nebraska-born author Brandon Sanderson, is the 2017 selection for One Books for Nebraska Kids, aimed at grades 4-6. The Nebraska Library Commission has copies of this book in print and audio versions in our Book Club Kit collection, available for loan to school and public librarians, as well as puzzles and activities for readers to continue the fun after the book is read. Please visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK/> for more information.



Sanderson, Brandon. Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians. Scholastic Press: New York, NY, 2007.

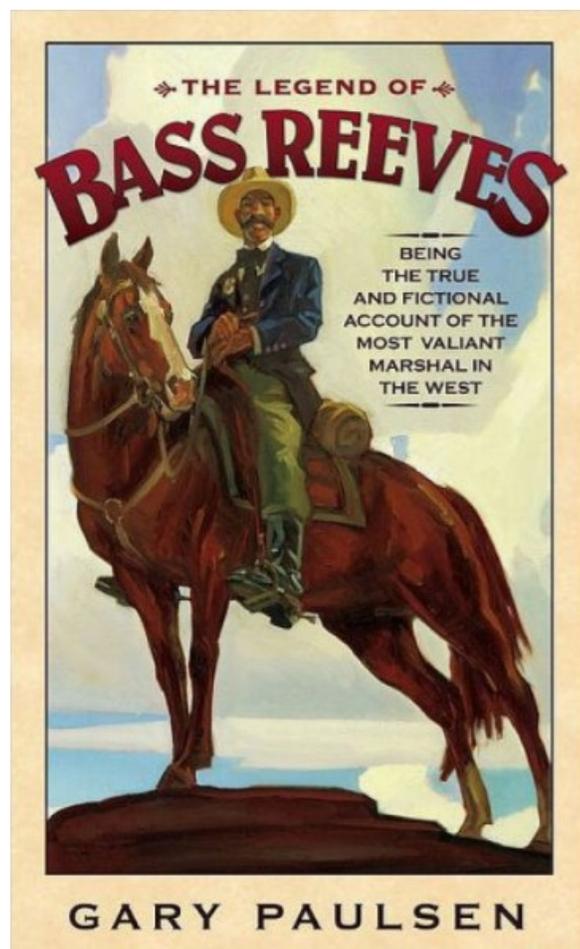
*(Continued on page 9)*

*(continued from page 8)***The Legend of Bass Reeves**

Bass Reeves is the greatest western lawman you've never heard of. While many people idolize Butch Cassidy, Wyatt Earp, and Billy the Kid, very little has been said about the former escaped slave who became the most successful U.S. marshal of his time. Born a slave on the western prairie, where he lived with his mother and helped wrangle wild cattle, Bass becomes a fugitive and escapes into Indian Territory after a dispute with his master. Bass lives with a tribe of Creeks for over 2 decades, until slavery is abolished, and is then recruited to help capture dangerous outlaws. Gary Paulsen does a masterful job filling in the unknown details of Bass's life on the run and his later years as one of the first African American federal marshals in this fictionalized biography.

The Legend of Bass Reeves, by Gary Paulsen, is the 2017 selection for One Book for Nebraska Teens, geared towards middle school and high school readers. The Nebraska Library Commission has copies of this book in print and audio versions in our Book Club Kit collection, available for loan to school and public librarians, as well as puzzles and activities for readers to continue the fun after the book is read. Please visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK/> for more information.

Paulsen, Gary. The Legend of Bass Reeves. Wendy Lamb Books: New York, NY, 2006.



## SELS FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

*REFRESHMENTS FOR CURRENT SELS FRIENDS MEMBERS WILL BE PAID FOR IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING REGARDLESS OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP STATUS. FORMER OR NON-MEMBERS MAY JOIN AT THE MEETING AND STILL RECEIVE A FREE TREAT.*

**Tuesday, August 29  
5:00 p.m.  
C & L Dairy Sweet  
2101 W Van Dorn St, Lincoln, NE**

## Consumer Health Information Resource Service

Have you or your patrons ever felt overwhelmed while trying to find information to understand a new diagnosis, manage a chronic illness, or compare treatment options? The Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS) is here to help you! CHIRS is provided for free to Nebraska residents and Nebraska Medicine patients and families. Medical librarians are available to research health and wellness topics, and prepare a personalized packet of information to be delivered by mail or email. To submit requests, visit our webpage: <https://www.unmc.edu/library/consumer/index.html>.

CHIRS has been serving Nebraska for over 30 years, and started as a cooperative between McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Library Commission, and public libraries across the state. McGoogan Library continues to seek opportunities to support and collaborate with public librarians in providing health information to their communities. We have just launched a new Public Library Toolkit (<http://unmc.libguides.com/publiclibrarytoolkit>) to provide librarians with a starting point for consumer resources on health conditions, drugs and supplements, health services, training opportunities, and more.

McGoogan Library will also be exhibiting at the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. Please stop by our booth to learn more about CHIRS, and to pick up some flyers to take back to your library. We would also love to hear from you about the consumer health services you are providing at your library.

If you have questions or feedback about CHIRS, please contact Christian Minter, Community Engagement & Health Literacy Librarian at [christian.minter@unmc.edu](mailto:christian.minter@unmc.edu) or 402-559- 7226.

## Save the Date for the Summer Reading Workshop



# 23rd Annual Youth Services Retreat

## Presentations include:

- ◆ Author Talk: Andrea Warren
- ◆ Great Books for Tweens and Teens
- ◆ Why Diverse Literature Matters for Youth Services
- ◆ Crowdsharing: “Booktalk” your favorite websites and resources
- ◆ Great Books for Children
- ◆ Technology and Textiles Meet at Your Library
- ◆ Using YA Literature to Inspire Teen Girls’ Interests in STEM
- ◆ Betwixt and Between (Tween Programming)
- ◆ Answer Time (A time to share challenges and solutions)
- ◆ Creating a Culture of Play

11 CE

## September 7-8

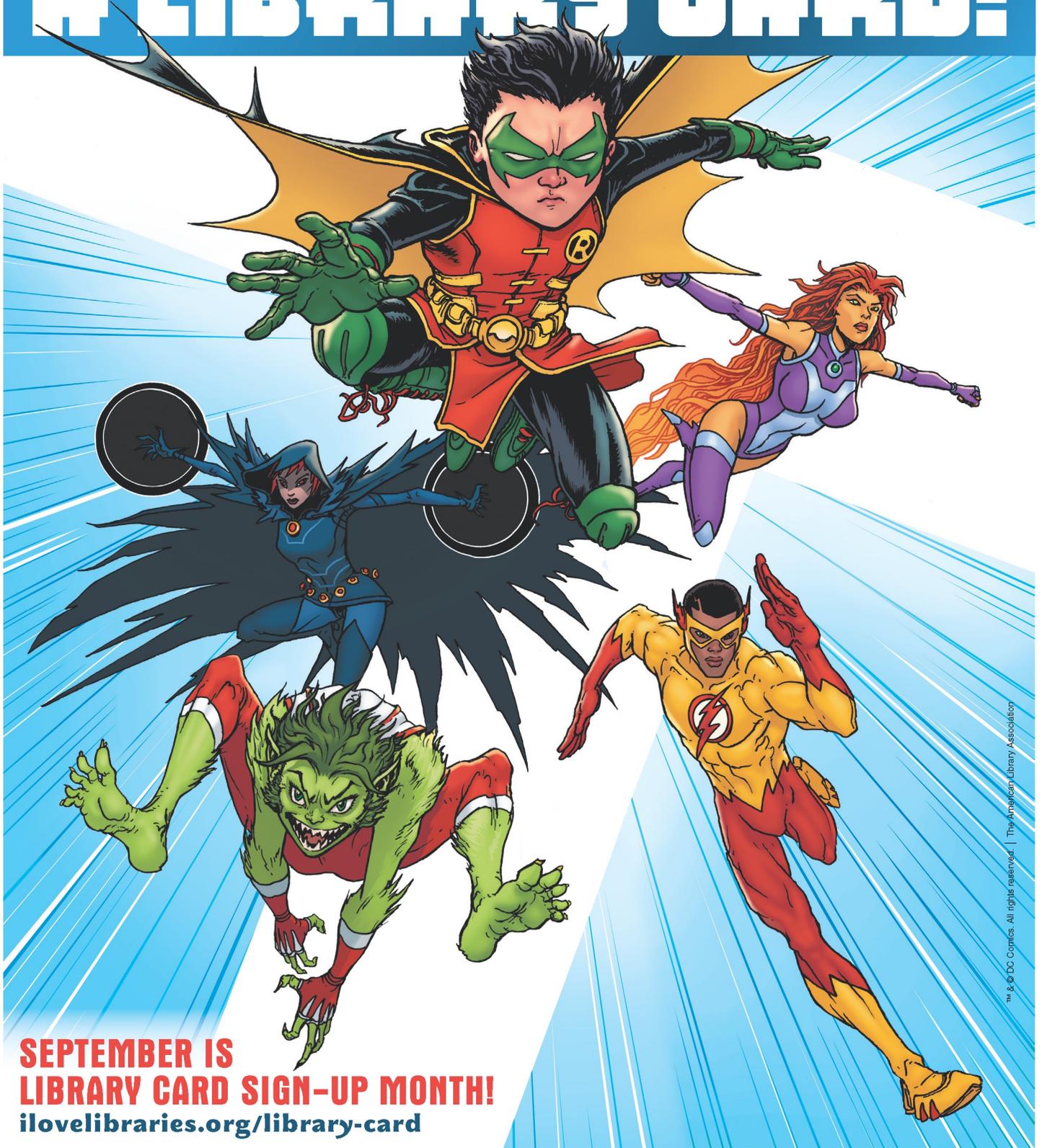
Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center, Ashland

For full program and

registration: <http://bit.ly/2017YSRetreat>

THE ONLY THING MORE POWERFUL THAN A TEEN TITAN?

# A LIBRARY CARD!



**SEPTEMBER IS  
LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH!**  
[ilovelibraries.org/library-card](http://ilovelibraries.org/library-card)

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## Library and Information Services

Online Course Offerings

<http://www.cccneb.edu/library/>

Enrollment for Fall is Open

Fall Term 2017: Aug. 22, 2017 – Dec. 15, 2017

### Fall 2017

#### **LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services**

*Marty Magee, Instructor*

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundation Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

#### **LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies**

*Michael Straatmann, Instructor*

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies

#### **LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum**

*Erica Rose, Instructor*

This capstone course is the last course in the Library & Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principle pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- *Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250*

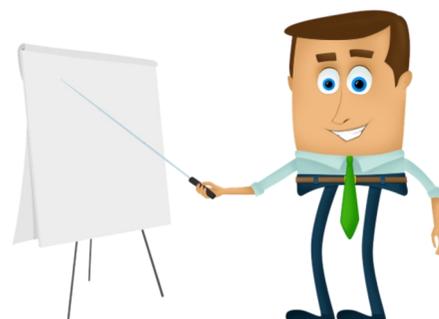
<b>Library and Information Services Online Course Offerings 2017-2018</b>		
<b>Fall 2017</b>	<b>Spring 2018</b>	<b>Summer 2018</b>
Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services	Libr 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies	Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services
Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	Libr 2210 Cataloging and Classification	
Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	

**For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact: Dee Johnson**  
[djohnson@cccneb.edu](mailto:djohnson@cccneb.edu), 402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

## System Spotlight

# Training at Your Library Board Meetings

Did you know we are willing to come out and help you meet the educational needs you have at the Library Board level? We can provide a presentation or workshop that not only will address your board's needs, but count towards Board CE credit! Scott can talk about Nebraska law in regard to library boards, the role of library director and library board, and other items. Contact us for more information!



## Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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