

TRAILS

Reflecting on 2020, Looking Ahead to 2021

Article by Tammi Thiem

It is with mixed emotions that we look back upon the year 2020. The days flew by, yet they trudged along. People dealt with struggles they never could have imagined. Librarians spent the majority of the year looking for ways to serve their communities while also maintaining social distancing and keeping everyone as safe as possible. After spending years of laying the groundwork towards making libraries warm and welcoming, librarians had to discourage their patrons from gathering in the library. In-person programs ceased to exist for the most part, and take-out activities and virtual events became popular.

It will be challenging to make plans for 2021, as this new year will be even more uncertain than ever to determine what the future will bring. Will it be safe to open our library doors to welcome our patrons back? Will summer reading programs be active and vibrant as past years have been, or will it be necessary to do these virtually? Will our patrons continue to need libraries in 2021 and beyond? Absolutely they will.

Think about the year 2020. Have you offered some new services that may be retained in the future to make life easier for your patrons? For example, will you continue offering curbside service or delivery service? Will you offer more virtual programming? What about your library do you think people missed the most? Perhaps these are the things that should be the major focus for the future, as the year 2020 offered a

unique opportunity to discover what is truly important to library patrons and communities. After all, hindsight is 2020.

A fabulous idea for a New Year's resolution for 2021 would be to increase advocacy for your library. As librarians, we know the benefits of libraries, as we regularly see examples of the remarkable things that libraries do for the patrons who use them. It is crucial that we share this information with our community leaders and members. We know the importance of providing information for our patrons. We know how our regular patrons depend on the library. We know how meaningful it is to provide educational story times for the young members of the community. We know how valuable the services are that are offered every day. We recognize that libraries are essential, but do our communities realize this? Make extra efforts this year to demonstrate just what libraries do and are. Let your community members know that their library is a fundamental element of the community. This is also an excellent time to remind your library board members, foundation board members, and friends group members that they are important advocates for the library. Part of their position is to help share the amazing things that the library offer.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to contact me. My email address is Tammi.Thiem.TRLS@gmail.com. My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Dedicated Retirees
- Pandemic Projects
- Preschool STEAM
- Daycos4Good
- Books for Babies
- Holidays During the Pandemic

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Connect with Us!

Don't forget that your friendly neighborhood library system has a YouTube Channel! Check out our [video featuring a STEAM kit](#). We've also got videos about the [2021 Summer Reading Workshop Tails & Tales](#), and a [Public Library Survey Workshop with Sam Shaw](#).

We've also got our weekly video TRaiLS Communication Meeting, which is a great way to talk to other librarians in our region. These meetings are worth 1 CE credit, whether you watch them synchronously or asynchronously. All of the previous meetings are [privately listed](#) on our YouTube page, which you can get the links for by emailing Tammi at Tammi.Thiem.TRLS@gmail.com.

Did You Know:

The Nebraska Library Association's Advocacy Committee is looking for new members? Check out their website at https://nebraskalibraries.org/Advocacy_Committee to see if this is something you're interested in joining. Also, you can always chat with Tammi Thiem (tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com) or Deb Robertson (DRobertson@cityofyork.net)

Scholarships

TRaiLS continuing education scholarships are available to attend state, regional, and nationwide conferences and events. Any director, media specialist, staff member, or trustee at libraries in the TRaiLS service area may apply. Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee after the deadline to apply for each specific scholarship has passed. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to the event with money awarded after attendance of the event.

An application to apply can be found at <http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/calendar-2/scholarship-opportunities/>

Giveaway Items

At the office, we're parting with our professional development collection as well some titles from our book kits, so head on over to trails.libib.com/i/give-away and see if there's anything your library may need.

If there is, send Chelsea an e-mail at trls.assistant@gmail.com and she can help figure out a pickup or drop-off date.



LIBRARIES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: FOCUS ON SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

The American Library Association (ALA) announces the first 200 libraries to receive grants through Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries.

These public, academic, school, and tribal libraries represent 43 U.S. states. Below is just a sampling of the work they will undertake in 2021. See the full list [on their website](#).

- **Stair District Library (Morenci, Michigan)** will talk with residents about the recent loss of the community's 150-year-old newspaper in a discussion series called *Extra! Extra! Read All About It! ... But Where?.*
- **Neligh Public Library (Neligh, Nebraska)** will host online discussions about race for their predominantly white community. The series will kick off with a reading of a historical fiction title set in nearby Omaha after the 1919 lynching of African American resident, Will Brown.

- **Olive G. Pettis Memorial Library (Goshen, New Hampshire)** will host nonfiction book discussions about nature. The library will also install permanent plaques throughout the region identifying local flora and fauna with QR codes that residents can scan for more information.
- **Duncan Public Library (Duncan, Arizona)** will explore mental health through book and film talks and create an ongoing community support group called the Brain Support Brigade. This work follows a surge in suicides in their agricultural and mining town.

ALA will distribute 450 more LTC: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grants in 2021. [Apply now!](#)

UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS COURSE AND REGISTRATION DATES

Class Dates:	Class Title:	Registration Dates:
1/1 - 1/30	Communication*	12/3 - 12/29/20
2/8 - 2/19	Customer Service*	1/4 - 1/29
3/8 - 3/19	Library Governance	2/1 - 3/1
3/22 - 4/2	Library Technology	2/15 - 3/12
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*	2/22 - 3/19

* Required class

Calendar of Events

[Tiny Tuesdays](#)

Online
19 January 2021
10:00am-11:00am

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
21 January 2021
1:00pm—2:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
26 January 2021
2:00pm—3:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
2 February 2021
10:00am-11:00am

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
10 February 2021
11:00am-12:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
18 February 2021
1:00pm—2:00pm

[TRLS Communication Meeting](#)

Online
23 February 2021
2:00pm—3:00pm

[Big Talk From Small Libraries 2021](#)

Online
26 February 2021
8:45am-5:00pm

[Libraries Transforming Communities Grant Deadline](#)

4 March 2021

Dr. Becky Pasco is Retiring!

Article by Erica Rose

After 23 years as the Director of the University of Nebraska Omaha's Library Science Education programs, Dr. Becky Pasco is retired on December 18, 2020. She is heading off to new adventures.

At UNO, Dr. Pasco is affectionately and accurately referred to as "The Library Goddess". For those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her, even this grand term falls short. As head of UNO's Library Science programs, she was a visionary leader, planner, and executer of major initiatives. She was also a shining example of "boots on the ground", driving hundreds of thousands of miles across our state to meet, encourage, and support Nebraska librarians. Her work has ensured accessible, quality library science education for the betterment of libraries across our profession.

Dr. Sara Churchill is taking over as the Director of the Graduate School Library Education program at UNO. Erica Rose will continue as the Coordinator for the Undergraduate Library Science Education programs at UNO. Inquiries for information regarding the UNO Library Science Education programs should be directed as follows:

Dr. Sara Churchill schurchill@unomaha.edu Graduate School Library program

Erica Rose ecrose@unomaha.edu Undergraduate Library Science programs

Ponca Carnegie Library's Pandemic Project

Article by Patti Goodier

Ever wonder what to do with all those old books that are still in decent shape, but the information is outdated? How about the books that have been in circulation for decades though they haven't been checked out in years? Maybe you have a lot of patrons calling about donating their twenty-year-old encyclopedias.

This is where we found ourselves in the summer of 2020. After completing an extensive weeding of our collection and receiving several large donations of outdated books, we were at a loss as to what to do with them all. After donating what we could to local shelters, nursing homes, and clinics we were left with quite a few large textbooks, nonfiction hardcovers and, of course, the dreaded encyclopedias. Since we did not want to just throw them in the trash, Director Melissa Kebaili set out to find a way to make use of them. We opted to try and make something functional, practical, and that met a need for the library.

Melissa settled on making book stools as they are functional and provide extra seating, which is something the library needs. We decided to use encyclopedias for our first attempt because they are all the same basic size with a few differences in thickness. This made assembly a bit easier. Tammi Thiem, Director of the Three Rivers Library System, brought us several sets of encyclopedias from surrounding libraries.

Each stool is constructed out of 4 three-inch swivel casters (two with locks) secured to the base with screws, 1 piece of quarter-inch plywood topped with foam padding and covered with vinyl fabric for the cushion. We used a construction adhesive to secure all the books, the plywood base and cushion together. We chose vinyl fabric because it is easy to wipe down with disinfectant and will hold up to regular use for several years. We made two stools with a seat height for children and another two with a seat height for youth-adults.



Mary Gubbels is Retiring!

Article by Lacey Partlow



Mary Gubbels, our Public Services Librarian is retiring at the end of the year after 20 years of dedicated service to the library.

Mary has made countless contributions to the library as a whole over the course of her tenure. From designing adult programming to creating a more user-friendly space for library goers to making sure that patrons are served and satisfied with their experience overall at the library, she has done it all.

Be sure to stop in and wish Mary well on her new endeavors. Congratulations Mary!

Bennington Public Library's Preschool STEAM during COVID

Article by Joanne Mancuso

With the closure of our library back in March, we struggled to bring our programs to our patrons in new ways. The Preschool STEAM program at the Bennington Public Library was well-attended by families before the pandemic closure. The in-house program consists of a story and 6-7 stations of activities dealing with the very basic foundations of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Our real challenge was to figure out how we could bring a version of that program to our patrons online. Knowing we couldn't provide hands-on learning, we decided to bring one part of STEAM to Facebook LIVE for Preschool Science.

Families picked up prepackaged kits which were filled with most of the items they would need for four weeks of experiments. The rest of the items could be found in their pantries. Our current session is Winter Science and will last seven weeks. A few examples of our session are: Snow Storm in a Jar (we provided Alka Seltzer tablets and Glitter Glue), Exploding Snowballs (we provided baking soda) and How Do Penguins Stay Dry (we provided a printout of a penguin and a white crayon).

In the past, we have tackled How Do Sharks Float in Water (we provided a paper shark, 3 pennies, and a toilet paper roll), Dancing Frankenworms (we provided 3 gummy worms) and blowing up balloons with Coke (we provide 2 balloons, Pop Rocks, and Nerds candy). We go LIVE on Mondays at 10:30am but our patrons have the option of tuning in later to watch and perform the experiment. Sometimes our experiments work and sometimes they do not, just like science in real life. This will be our third session of Preschool STEAM Science and we continue to add more kits with the success of the program.



LIBRARY NEWS

Hartington Public Library's "Books for Babies"

Article by Tami Anderson

The Hartington Public Library recently received a "Books for Babies" Youth Services Grant from the Nebraska State Library Commission. We are excited to acquaint parents of newborns with the important role they play in the brain development of their child and the library would like to be the first to welcome their baby to the world of reading. With this grant, area parents will be gifted a free board book for their baby, a library card brochure, early literacy information, and "1000 Books" before Kindergarten, as well as details on the library's StoryTime and Music Monday schedule.



Stanton Public Library's "Daycos4Good!"

Article by Tami Barth

Stanton Public Librarians were truly amazed when an unexpected visitor knocked on the front door. Tami Barth hopped down the stairs, opening the door to be greeted by a young woman with a gift for the library.

Linda Matthies introduced herself and explained a challenge that the Daycos Company presented to each of their employees for December 2020.

Linda was delivering a gift of \$50 directly from Daycos. She selected to pay it forward to the Stanton Public Library.

Not only did Linda choose us as the community organization to receive her own gift, but she delivered the gifts of three of her other co-workers (Rob Wolf,

Andrea Miller, and Steve Groetken) who chose to send their donations our way.

This unexpected gift of \$200 will be used to order a set of upbeat books for our patrons.

To the Daycos Company and these employees, we are grateful. They are succeeding in strengthening their community by giving. Their generous giving spirit has helped to reveal the true meaning of Christmas.

LIBRARY NEWS

Stanton Public Library's Christmas Challenge

Article by Tami Barth and Dorothy Fuller

Rocky, the Northern Saw-Whet Owl who was found in the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, led our Christmas Challenge at the Stanton Public Library to a hOWLing success!

Rocky recommended books she enjoyed on our Facebook page, filing them in special sections in the library. An ornament was added to the tree painted on the front door, each time one of Rocky's Recommendations was checked out. Thanks to our avid readers, the tree is crowded with ornaments!

The second part of the Christmas Challenge resulted in a blizzard of 117

Stanton Bucks given to 56 people who participated. People received 1 Stanton Buck for every 10 picture books, easy reader books, and DVDs they checked out. All other materials received 1 Stanton Buck for every 4 items. Christmas materials counted double! Top winners received a gingerbread house decorating kit. Rocky has returned to her natural home after a busy, exciting Christmas season at the Stanton Public Library. We would like to thank our Friends of the Library group for providing the prizes and to LaLene Bates for painting the tree on the door! Rocky appreciates our fantastic readers during this busy season.



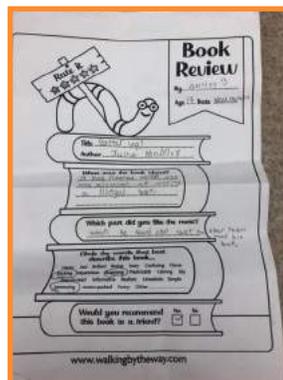
Lied Randolph Public Library's Holiday Spirit

Article by Peggy Leiting

Christmas at the Lied Randolph Public Library was a little different this year but we did our best to keep the holiday spirit alive. Our How to Catch and Elf contest brought in several imaginative creations. It is always fun to see what they come up with from our leftover craft supplies. Randolph Bucks were given to an individual entry and a family entry. The children had a great time telling us about their traps.

Our Elf on the Shelf, Zeke, made his appearance at the library. This mischievous little guy could be found hiding all over and the children came in every day to find out what he was up to. Once they found him, they entered their name in a drawing for various prizes when he headed back to the North Pole.

We encouraged our elementary children to read and write reviews throughout November and December. They were able to submit their reviews and had the chance to win a Lego set and other prizes. It was great to see them trying new books and giving their opinions.



INFORMATION STATION

NNLM Classes for January and February

Article by Kiara Comfort

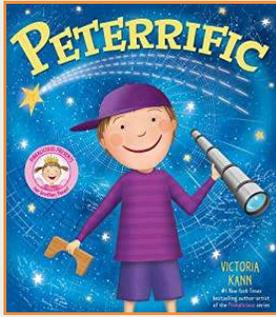
- Trauma Informed Approach in Libraries (January 21) <https://nnlm.gov/class/trauma-informed-approach-libraries/28178>
- Self-Care During Stressful Times (Feb. 3) <https://nnlm.gov/class/self-care-during-stressful-times/29024>
- Stand Up for Health: Health and Wellness Services for Your Community for Public Libraries (Feb. 8- March 7) <https://nnlm.gov/class/stand-health-health-and-wellness-services-your-community-public-libraries/28085>
- Health and Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Resources (Feb. 8- March 5) <https://nnlm.gov/class/health-and-wellness-library-essentials-providing-consumer-health-services/21735>
- Effective Health Communication and Health Literacy: Understanding the Connection (Feb. 16) <https://nnlm.gov/class/effective-health-communication-and-health-literacy-understanding-connection/29149>
- PNR Rendezvous: Serving Library Users with Mental Illness: A Crash Course in Controlling Clashes (Feb. 17) <https://nnlm.gov/class/pnr-rendezvous-serving-library-users-mental-illness-crash-course-controlling-clashes/27264>
- Activate, Collaborate, and Educate: Health Outreach and Programming in Your Community (Feb. 23) <https://nnlm.gov/class/activate-collaborate-and-educate-health-outreach-and-programming-your-community/27009>

2021 Midwinter Virtual Conference

American Library Association's [2021 Midwinter Virtual Conference](#) will be held on January 22nd–26th. There will be tons of speakers discussing topics such as:

- Diversity in the Publishing
- Graphic Novels/ Gaming
- Anti-racism Work and Women in Librarianship
- Technology Trends
- Libraries and Communities Response to COVID-19
- Navigating Advocacy in a Virtual World
- Practical Answers for Evolving Issues
- School Librarians as Leaders of Change
- The Future of Data
- 2021 Outstanding International Books

REVIEW CORNER



Peterrific

By Victoria Kann

Recommended for preschoolers.

Article by MeMe Smith

Blocks, blocks, and more blocks are needed by Peter to build his GIANT tower to the sky. He has aspirations of getting a star from the sky and asks Pinkalicious to help him gather blocks as he adds more building materials to his structure. He builds, builds, and wonders if he can make it all the way to the moon. After pulling up his last load of blocks, he finds himself to be so high that he could not hear Mommy and Daddy anymore, he did not have to share his toys, and he did not have chores to complete. His tower was perfect

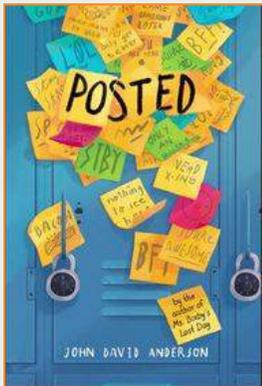
but he found out he was lonely. At that point, he had to decide what to do next.

To be read to preschoolers and to read with assistance by early elementary youth. The artist used mixed media to create the digital illustration for this book.

This is a great companion to the “Pinkalicious” series of books, sure to be enjoyed by youngsters looking for fun and adventure. This is the perfect book for a quick afternoon or bedtime read with youngsters. It is also a wonderful introduction to a discussion about aspirations, responsibilities, and/or resourcefulness.

Submit news, articles, pictures, or resources for the newsletter to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com.

Please feel free to email or call with suggestions and comments for the newsletter or system.



Posted

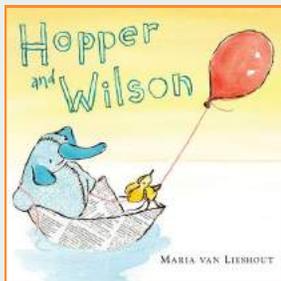
By John David Anderson

Recommended for 4th–7th grade students.

Review by Diane Limoges

When phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends find a new way to communicate, Post-It-Notes. It does not take long for it to take hold and soon everyone is using the Post-It's the way they used to use their phones.

Soon the bullying is running rampant and no one is safe. Will it be allowed to continue or will the notes go by the way of the phones. The bullying in school is addressed, as well as how such different lives can intertwine.



Hopper and Wilson

By Maria Van Lieshout

Recommended for 3rd–5th.

Review by Carol Tramp

Lemonade is loaded, the plane is ready to go. Hopper and Wilson are going to find their own star to use as a nightlight. First problem, the stars are too heavy, second, they are too bright.

Because they are so tired they take a nap on the moon. Sadly, Wilson wanders off on the dark side of the moon and gets lost. Hopper finds him and they find the special star and head for home.

What an adventure!

What to do?

What to do!



TINY AND MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
SPONSORED BY THE
NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

What a great place to share ideas
for small & rural libraries!

TINY TUESDAY

January 19, 2021
10:00 am

email rebecca@hafuboti.com to join!
(NLA membership is not required)

Snow Many Great Books!



2021 Winter Reading Program

December 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission want citizens of Nebraska to stay warm this winter and enjoy the terrific library books available in public libraries across the state. To participate, go to ReaderZone.com or download the Reader Zone app on your smart device. Register for the ***Snow Many Great Books!*** program with this 5-digit code **93723**. Complete at least eight of the twenty challenges by February 28th to be eligible for a Grand Prize Drawing for one of three \$50 Visa Gift Cards. Please choose books you've never read from your home library. Books can be fiction or nonfiction, and J, YA, or Adult. Contest is open to all Nebraskans ages 10 and older. Drawing will be held March 15, 2021.

1. Read a book with "snow" in the title.
2. Read a book set in a place where it typically snows.
3. Read a book in bed, under a blanket.
4. Read a book with a recipe in it.
5. Read any large print book.
6. Read a nonfiction book about a winter sport.
7. Read a book with a picture of a penguin or a polar bear on the cover.
8. Read with a scarf and gloves on.
9. Read a book about traditions.
10. Read a favorite book from your own childhood.
11. Read a book that became a movie.
12. Read to someone younger than you.
13. Read a book on a cold and snowy day.
14. Read a book with "blue" in the title.
15. Listen to any audiobook.
16. Read in your pajamas.
17. Read a book where winter plays a part in the story.
18. Read a book with a one-word title.
19. Read a classic you've been meaning to read.
20. Read a book recommended by your librarian.