



Western Library System Helping libraries serve our communities.

May/June 2017

From Western Library System Board President, Maryruth Reed

It's been just over a year since the System Board announced that we were going to be looking for a new Director for the Western Library System. I am very pleased to announce that Jan Jolliffe has accepted our offer, and will start June 26. Jan comes to us from the Dallas Texas Public school system.

The Board is excited to begin working with Jan. I hope as many of you as possible come to the annual meeting July 18 to meet her. I also want to ex-press a huge thank you to Pat Gross for acting as Interim Director for the past ten months. She has done a terrific job, especially with "Pat's Publish-ing" producing the last three Western Sun newsletters. Thanks Pat, and Welcome Jan!

"See you later"

by Pat Gross

Many of you know that my WLS service time is up, but I want to thank all of you for being a part of this learning experience. All Western Library System members have been very receptive to the services that this office provides. I thank you all for providing your communities or schools with friendly, knowledgeable service and programming in very inviting facilities.

Thanks to all the staff at the Library Commission for all your help and answers to my questions. Thanks to the Western Library System Board for your confidence and support to allow me to do this job. Thanks to Maryruth Reed, Board President, for helping me make decisions on many situations. Thanks to Jeri Clapper for assisting with office tasks and keeping things on schedule. Thanks to my colleagues in the other three systems, I will never forget your kind, friendly, and expert advise as you guided me to do this interim position.

We (all System Member librarians) have made tremendous progress through the last ten months, and with the new full-time system director, Jan Jolliffe, I foresee our system moving forward and continuing to improve. This leaving on my part is such sweet sorrow; I cannot wait to share with Jan how wonderful you all are.

My father would never say good-bye because he felt it was so final; he would always say, "See you later." I always visit libraries while traveling, I find they have the nicest people and cleanest restrooms. You might just see me drop by. Therefore, I say, "See you Later!"

Meet Jan Jolliffe on page 2

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on a set, I go into the other room and read a book."

Groucho Marx

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 * Pat Gross *
 * Interim Director *
 * wlsinterimdirector@gmail.com *

Meet Jan Jolliffe:

Jan Jolliffe grew up in the small town of Corsicana, Texas, home to the first Texas oil boom, the world-famous Collin Street Bakery, and the birthplace of the original Wolf Brand Chili.

Jan studied abroad in Great Britain and toured Europe during her first year of college, then returned to Dallas, Texas to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree at Southern Methodist University. She then earned her Master's Degree in Library Science while attending Texas Woman's University.

She has two sons and two grandchildren. Her husband Patrick, a native of Scottsbluff, Nebraska has two daughters.

Jan's library career includes Frito-Lay's Research Library, Frisco Texas' public library, campus librarian in various school districts within Dallas' metropolitan area, as well as in the state of Washington. She has most recently served as librarian for Dallas' Skyline High School, a large campus educating 4,500 students.

Her hobbies include reading history, historical fiction, and various memoirs, as well as learning about the newest creative maker spaces and all of the new technology and social media outlets available for library patrons. Jan enjoys travel, playing tennis and is currently learning to play golf. She is excited about her appointment as Nebraska Western Library System Director, where she will serve public, school, academic, and specialty libraries within the 21 counties that define her territory. She will begin her WLS duties on June 26th.

Jan has served consecutively as Vice-President, President and Executive Board Member of the Dallas Association of School Librarians. During her tenure, Jan served in various capacities, from planning library social activities, advocating for librarians and library services throughout the district, and presenting numerous workshops and professional development opportunities.



Jan, Welcome to Western Nebraska!

Mark Your Calendar

The Summer Reading, NEST 529 Read to Win Contest will run **May 15, 2017 through August 23, 2017. The deadline to submit names is 11:59:59 p.m., CT, on August 25, 2017.** page 8

Learn MyHeritage Database
MyHeritage Library Edition Online Self-Paced Class - Online Starts June 1

One Book One Nebraska
Nominate a Book for 2018 One Book One Nebraska by June 15

WLS Annual Meeting
"The Most Unlikely Place"
Lewellen, NE
July 18, 2017 9:30 - 1:00
Board meeting after Lunch.
Earn CE credit

Eclipse of the Sun
August 21, 2017

Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund Short applications received on or before October 1, 2017 will be considered for the grant cycle awarded in March 2018.
[Fund Website](#)

NLA/NSLA Fall Conference
Oct 11-13 Kearney
"Providing Access to the Good Life. For All."
Younes Conference Center
[Information](#)

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events:

- May 24 - Ad Filters - The Case For and Against Installation on Public Computers
- May 31 - Two Mystics, One Book: Neihardt State Historic Site in 2017
- June 7 & 14 - To be determined
- June 21 - Feelings are Messy: Building Emotional Intelligence in Libraryland
- June 28 - The New NLA Intellectual Freedom Manual Comes to the Rescue

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2017 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
6/12 - 6/23	Reference	Christa Porter	5/8 - 6/1
7/17 - 7/28	Collection Management*	Denise Harders	6/12 - 7/6
7/31 - 8/11	Library Policy	Sharon Osenga	6/26 - 7/20
8/21 - 9/1	Programming & Outreach	Anneka Ramirez	7/24 - 8/10
9/11 - 9/22	The Community and the Library*	Sam Shaw	8/14 - 8/31
9/25 - 10/6	Management and Supervision	Scott Childers	8/28 - 9/14

(* Requisite class)

Register on the Nebraska Library Commission [Training and Events Calendar](#).

[Description of Basic Skills courses](#)

[Basic Skills Planner](#)--for program participants to keep track of their progress

For further information, contact [Holli Duggan](#), NLC Continuing Education Coordinator.

Visit the Nebraska Library Commission Website for News and Announcements.



Nebraska
Library
Commission

Are you getting your money's worth?

Did you know that if a library purchased all the databases offered through NebraskaAccess they would be spending over \$7,000?

Help your patrons and students take full advantage of these databases by using the free promotional materials in the [Librarian's Toolbox](#) to make business cards with passwords and handouts to educate all Nebraskans! Don't short change your patrons or students offer them NebraskaAccess programming on any one of the databases.

Opportunity for you to Learn MyHeritage

Register today for the MyHeritage Library Edition online self-paced class.



MyHeritage Library Edition is a genealogy database that contains more than five billion historical records from 48 countries including census and other government records, historical records, and photographs. MyHeritage is available to Nebraska residents at no cost through NebraskaAccess.



Have you wanted to explore this database, but have not made the time or did not know where to start? This class is designed to help you explore the resources available in MyHeritage at your own pace. The class consists of short lessons combined with quizzes that will require you to use MyHeritage to locate the answers.

This self-paced class is open to all Nebraska librarians and public library board members. It will be available online from June 1 through June 30. You may begin the class at any point during the month of June, and you will have until the end of the month to complete it. This means you can complete the class in a few days or spread the lessons out over the month.

Class participants who are enrolled in the Nebraska Public Librarian or Public Library Board Certification program and who successfully complete all class lessons and quizzes by June 30th will earn 2 CE credit hours.

Register for the class at:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=16259>

If you have any questions contact:

Allana Novotny, Technology & Access Services Librarian - Nebraska Library Commission

allana.novotny@nebraska.gov

800-307-2665 or 402-471-6681



Nebraska
Library
Commission



2018 One Book One Nebraska Book Nominations Sought

What book would you suggest that all Nebraskans read next year? Nebraska readers are invited to make recommendations for the 2018 One Book One Nebraska book selection. The Nebraska Center for the Book will consider books written by a Nebraska author (living or dead/with current or former residence in the state) or books that have a Nebraska theme or setting. Books should have a broad appeal to readers across Nebraska and lend well to group book discussion. Books may be fiction, non-fiction, biography, memoir, or poetry. They must be in print and readily available.

The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2017. Book recommendations can be sent via e-mail at nlc.ask@nebraska.gov or via the U.S. Postal Service to The Nebraska Center for the Book One Book One Nebraska, c/o Nebraska Library Commission Reference Services, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE, 68508-2023.

Nominations can also be submitted online at:
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/obon-nomination.asp>



Christa Porter, Director of Library Development



On April 4th, Christa Burns Porter became the new Director of Library Development at the Nebraska Library Commission. Many of you already know Christa because you have seen her as the host of the Commission's weekly NCompass Live online programs. If you attended the Big Talk from Small Libraries Conference live or archived sessions you know that she has a big part in making that production happen. Christa also provides assistance to organizations in the state that want to hold virtual meetings with GoToWebinar. Those of you that do E-rate already know that Christa is a valuable consultant in that process. She will be a true hero everyday to all the librarians in Nebraska.

Congratulations Christa!

To read all about Christa, check out the link to: [NLC's blog](#).

Congratulations to: Denise Ketchens & Noelle Thompson

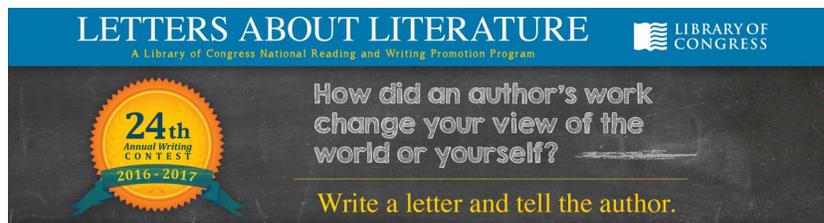
Teachers and librarians across Nebraska were recently awarded grants to host pilot Letter Writing Clinics for students in their area. The clinics will introduce students to the Letters About Literature contest and letter writing techniques. Students will get ideas for selecting books and learn how to craft letters that can be submitted to the Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing promotion program that annually engages nearly 50,000 adolescent and young readers in grades four through twelve. The competition encourages young people to read, be inspired, and write back to the author (living or dead) who had an impact on their lives.

The Letter Writing Clinic grants were sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Nebraska Library Commission. Two of Five winning applicants are:

Denise Ketchens, Oshkosh Public Library Director, Oshkosh

Noelle Thompson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Director, Scottsbluff Library Foundation, Scottsbluff

This annual writing competition is sponsored nationally by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, with funding from Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private



partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

For more information about *Letters About Literature*, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. To learn more about Letter Writing Clinics, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/LALwritingclinics>.

More award winners in our System! Congratulations!

\$27,000 in Internship Grants Awarded to Nebraska Public Libraries

Nebraskans will once again reap the benefits of the energy and creativity of Nebraska young people as they serve as interns in their local public libraries. The **Nebraska Library Commission** recently awarded **Nebraska Library Internship Grants** totaling \$27,000 to twenty-one Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns, who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

The following WLS public libraries were awarded internship grant funding:

Crawford Public Library
Hastings Memorial Public Library, Grant
Kimball Public Library

Read the complete press release on the NLC Blog:

[Internship Grants Awarded](#)

Funding for the project is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

It pays to read the listserv notices, emails, website, and newsletter to learn about opportunities available.

Meet our newly elected District E Board Member

Name: Robin Quinn

Library and Position: Hastings Memorial Library (Grant), Library Director

Hometown: Grant, NE (Yes, I did leave for awhile...)

Your Ideal Saturday: Staying in my pajamas for as long as possible with a fresh pot of coffee, a good book, a ball of yarn, and my DVR or Netflix.

Last Book You Read: *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware

Book You Are Looking Forward to Reading: *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders

Favorite Book of All Time: *The Great Gatsby* or the Harry Potter series

Favorite Book to Read Aloud: *The Monster at the End of this Book* by Jon Stone.

Favorite Genre to Read: Historical Fiction or History and Biography

If You could live in a book world, which would you choose: Hogwarts

What excites you most about your job: Helping kids develop literacy skills and a love of reading through books and programming.

Favorite hobby: (besides reading, obviously): knitting and gardening

If you could time travel, where would you go? Medieval/Renaissance England. Once a history major, always a history major.

Favorite Quotation About Books and Reading: "Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." -- Plato



Robin dressed as the cookie for Halloween from the book, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

Photo and information provided by Robin Quinn



WESTERN LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNUAL MEETING 2017

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

The Most Unlikely Place

206 Main Street Lewellen, NE 69147

Café

Art Gallery

WoodWorking

Come join your library colleagues for a unique experience!



Registration: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting - 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting after lunch starting around 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$18.00 (registration includes a variety of rolls, muffins, coffee, and lunch)

Registration form available online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/vCmRcaw6DB5URA062>

Librarians, want to help your Summer Reading Program patrons win money for college?

On May 10, 2017 the First National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg, and the Nebraska Library Commission announced the Read to Win \$529! Drawing, which will award 15 Nebraska children and teenagers each with a \$529 contribution to a NEST 529 College Savings account. Each winner's respective library branch will receive \$250. Read the complete NEST [Announcement](#) from the Nebraska Library Commission.



NEST College Savings Plan Scholarship Drawing

HELP your Summer Reading Program patrons win money for college? The parents will love you, too.

After they have completed your library's [Summer Reading Program](#) they will be eligible to win one of fifteen \$529 NEST College Savings Scholarships (see announcements below). Five will be awarded in each of Nebraska's three congressional districts. In addition the library of each winner will also win \$250!

Put up the poster (below) below to let your summer readers know about this investment.

The Summer Reading, NEST 529 Read to Win Contest will run **May 15, 2017 through August 23, 2017.**

Here is your file for submitting children and teen names for the scholarship drawing, click: [Excel](#) and save the file to your hard drive. Please note there are 2 tabs in the file, one is instructions, and the other is where you can type the contestants' names. When you have accumulated the names from your SRP please send an electronic version of the file back to Sally Snyder, sally.snyder@nebraska.gov. **The deadline is 11:59:59 p.m., CT, on August 25, 2017.**

If you are unable to use the Excel file, you may list the children's and teens' names, with their phone numbers or parents' email addresses, in the body of an email and send it to Sally Snyder.

NEST College Savings Plan Scholarship [Official Rules](#)

NEST [Poster](#)

If you have any problems printing the poster, please save it locally, and use Adobe Reader to view and print.

Nebraska's 529 Direct College Savings Plan website: <https://www.nest529direct.com/>

Treasurer's Office [Nest](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Information provided by:



Nebraska
Library
Commission



News Around The System

WLS Mini-Grant: Mitchell Public Library

Over 200 people enjoyed “Music Around the World with Todd Green” on March 23 in Mitchell. Todd is multitalented, playing over 50 musical instruments, and through technology is able to perform on several at once. As one concert attendee said “Todd gives a whole new meaning to the concept of a “one-man band.”

Todd also conducted two assemblies on March 21, which were attended by about 575 students and 31 adults. Mitchell Care Center brought residents to both the morning and afternoon sessions. All of the events were made possible by grants from Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Western Library System. Our thanks to the Western Library System for helping to cover the 'gap' left in funding when the state grants were given for less than the amount requested.

Article by: Maryruth Reed, Library Director

Photos by: Karin Law



Kimball Public Library Celebrated 50 years

The celebration of 50 years of the Kimball Public Library in the current building was held on April 2, 2017. The current building was dedicated in April of 1965. Several people attended and enjoyed the memories. Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission, came from Lincoln and spoke a few words about the Commission's purpose and activities.

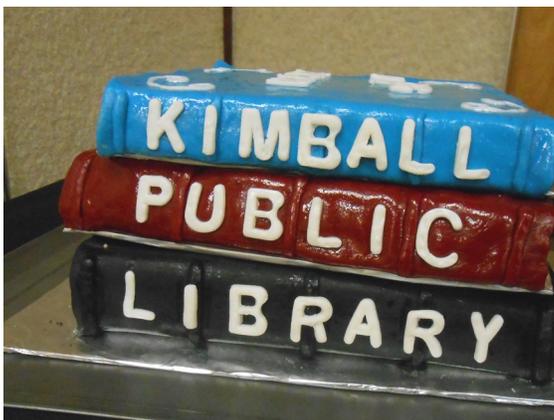


Jan Sears, director, presented a power point show on the history of the library since 1886 through 1978. These years covered well know directors such as Elsie Mairs (librarian for 40 years) and Jean Long. Librarians Diane Downer of Gering Public Library and Carol Kyser, formally of Oshkosh Public Library attended the event. Carolyn Brown, past Kimball Public librarian, graced us with her presence and brought a scrapbook of the photos she had taken through the years.

It was interesting to discover and acknowledge how dedicated the early settlers were in establishing a library. A real board was appointed by the city council in the early 1900's and members of the board took turns keeping the library open. Before that it was strictly by volunteers. The library moved several times due to floods, and cold and drafty buildings. In later years, several dedicated citizens worked hard to get a permanent, separate building for the growing number of books and other needed services. The bookmobile which visited many schools and homesteads was operated out of this building for many years. There is a lot more history and I am sure it is similar to many other libraries in the area. If you haven't compiled a history, I encourage you to do so. It is another way to show the importance of a library to the citizens and the community. The Kimball Public Library has lost some history because there were periods of time when nothing was printing in the paper and I could not find any minutes of the board before 1956. Even the notes from various librarians had conflicting information that needed reviewed and verified. It was a time consuming process, but very worthwhile.



Jamie Carpenter, President of the Friends of the Kimball Library, and her sister Jessica Rocha, provided the decorations and made a book cake and many cupcakes for the attendees to enjoy.



Photos and article submitted by Jan Sears, director of Kimball Public Library.

Gering Public Library did LEAP into Learning!

INTRODUCING LEAP

Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play



A free early literacy, math, and school readiness program for children ages 2-5

LEAP was developed by Christie Clarke, Youth Services Librarian at Gering Public Library and funded by a Youth Grant for Excellence through the Nebraska Library Commission. Check out the full article about the program in the [March/April Western Sun newsletter](#). Page 13

Photos from Gering's LEAP program on April 11, 2017.



Gering Public Library also held a book sale during National Library Week.



Jakoby Jackson carefully selected his books and patiently waited for family to finish shopping.

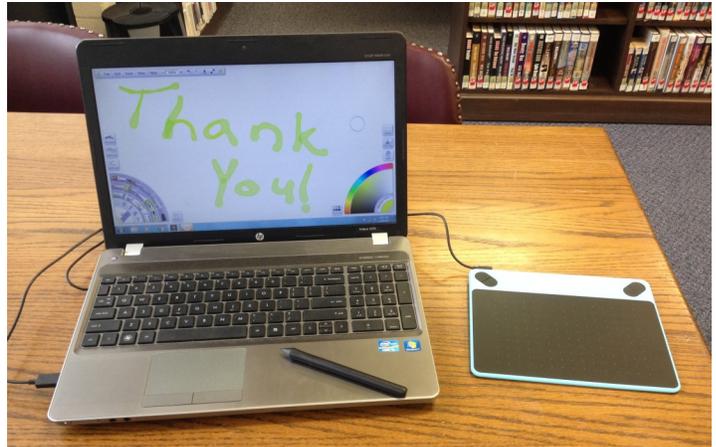
Many Gering patrons took advantage of many tables full of good reads for little cost.



Photos by Pat Gross

WLS Mini-Grant: Sidney Public Library

Sidney Public Library purchased two Wacom Intuos digital drawing and graphics tablets. We will use these with their two laptops as part of our Sidney **Create!** makerspace this summer. These digital drawing and graphic tablets can be used for doing digital art and photo editing. With the included software, these tablets are an incredible value and will let them introduce their customers to creating art digitally.



Sidney Create! is a group that Connie Hancock with the UNL Extension lead the formation of with the Sidney Public Library, ESU #13, WNCC, and Sidney Public Schools as members. The goal is to get a well equipped makerspace up in running in a suitable location in Sidney. Right now, they are using the Library as a host location for "maker" programs and events as none of our facilities have the size and features we would like to have for a permanent space.

You can view these digital drawing tablets at: <https://www.amazon.com/Wacom-Intuos-digital-drawing-graphics/dp/B010LHRFWW> Check out the video available.

Spring Planting Time at Sidney Public Library

Sidney Public Library is just wrapping up a spring planting program using a grow-light setup WNCC lent us. We had kids who attended our Storytimes plant marigolds and tomato plants. As they visit the library, they have been able to watch the plants grow. The tomato plants will go home with the kids who planted them and the marigolds will be planted in the Library's planters at the end of May.



Marigold seedlings TO mature plants



Tomato plants ready to go home.



Photos and article information provided by Andrew (Sherm) Sherman, Director, Sidney Public Library

WLS Mini-Grant: Chadron Middle School Library

Chadron Middle School Library was able to begin building a technology driven makerspace with the help of a \$500 WLS grant. The goal of the makerspace is to create an environment for “collaboration and knowledge co-construction”. The grant funds were used to purchase Ozobot Robots, littleBits electronic building blocks, and a document camera. Each of these pieces can be built upon in the future. The idea was to encourage exploration, creation, and collaboration between students.



The students were introduced to the Ozobot Robots first. These fun robots require the students to program the robots using markers and paper. Challenges were created in which students needed certain components within their codes. In addition, these robots also have a platform for use on iPads.

Next, the littleBits were introduced. LittleBits are easy to use electronic building blocks that snap together magnetically. The possibilities for students to learn about electronics are endless. While students started by using the included manuals, they quickly began developing their own creations. They also began to apply what they learned to real-world situations.



The final piece to our initial makerspace was a document camera. The document camera has many applications. It can be used as a stand-alone opportunity or as a way to document other projects. It can also be used to collaborate with others through a video chat. Our students chose to use it as a way to produce stop motion animated movies using Lego minifigures. It did not take them long to successfully create short animations.

Our makerspace has brought together the best of the physical and digital worlds to create a learning commons environment that promotes the application of knowledge. The excitement that the makerspace generates keeps students returning to the library. The skills they are gaining through problem solving is truly inspiring. Their projects are becoming more complicated and connected to the real-world. I can not wait to see what the students create next!

Photos and article provided by Cathy Kaus

Morrill Public Library

Every Friday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. the Morrill Public Library has an Adult Program where they do different activities each Friday. On April 21st they hosted a tea party for the second time and they are sure “it won’t be our last!” The tea party included great company from the ladies that attended as well as finger food such as cucumber sandwiches, lemon tarts, and a raspberry dessert.



On May 12th Morrill lion cubs (second graders) visited the library and received their very own library card. This event happens every year at the end of the school year and is like a rite of passage for second graders as they learn the responsibility of having their own library card.

Photos by Sarah Alfred



WLS Mini-Grant: Summit Christian College



“A quite place for studying”

We were amazed to find out we were one of the recipients of the mini-grant! We would like to express our thanks to the Western Library System Board for allowing us to apply and then awarding us the grant. When we received the grant check for \$500 we were so excited, we got the Dean (Scott Gribble) and the Professors involved in ordering new books and we begin looking



for a book press and items needed for mending.

We were able to purchase 12 new titles, some cost more than we had planned on, but a good addition to the school’s curriculum. The books we were able to purchase will be a nice asset for the professors and the students.

We also used some of the grant money to purchase a book press that will work for our needs. Some of the books are quite old and still used by the students but were in dire need of repair. We just finished weeding and now we can start repairing those that we kept.

We were also able to purchase moveable labels for the reference shelving and eliminate having to “scrape off” the labels and tape each time we shifted. We are sprucing up the library and are thrilled with this movable signage in the reference area.



“Student cramming for finals”

Photos and article provided by LaVern Allbaugh, Library Coordinator, Summit Christian College

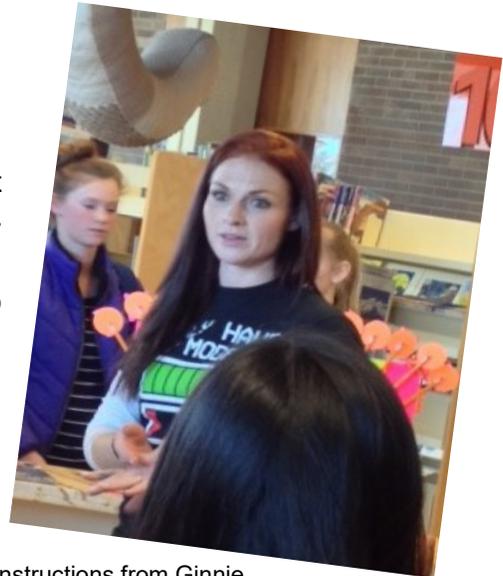
May 24th, is National Scavenger Hunt Day

Scavenger Hunt Idea from Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Ginnie Perez, teen librarian, at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library recently offered their six through twelve grade patrons the opportunity to participate in a library scavenger hunt. Using smart electronic devices to read QR codes hidden throughout the library the young adults were able to learn more about the services offered in their library. Once they found each code they were required to answer questions from a challenge sheet about the featured service. This scavenger hunt allowed the young patrons to experience many of the online and in library resources that are available. All participants entered the drawing for a chance to win an iTunes gift card and a \$25 gift card donated by GameStop.



Promotional handout weeks before the hunt



Instructions from Ginnie Perez before the hunt.



Girls investigate the online catalog to find resources in the Library



Hidden QR Code teaches young patrons how to use the self-checkout system

Ginnie loaned electronic devices to participants that did not bring one to the scavenger hunt.

Photos by Pat Gross

GRANT COUNTY LIBRARY is sponsoring a Portable Planetarium Show from the Edgerton Explorit Center of Aurora, NE on Monday, June 5th at the Hyannis High School. Four thirty minute sessions are scheduled at: 12:00 (noon); 12:45 pm; 1:30 pm; and 2:15 pm. **MUST MAKE A RESERVATION - SEATS ARE LIMITED - CALL 458-2218.** Program is FREE and suitable for all ages. Participants will receive special solar-viewing (eclipse) glasses free. This program is funded by the Aeola H. Brennemann Library Foundation. This event kicks off the Grant County Library Summer Reading program.



Call Library for details. 308-458-2218

For more information about the Portable Planetarium visit: <http://edgerton.org/events-programs/portable-planetarium/>

Article and photo submitted by: Vickie Retzlaff, director, Grant County Library

WLS Board of Directors

The Western Library System Board meets bi-monthly in the Railway Plaza Conference Room. Meetings start at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise scheduled. Refer to the WLS website calendar for scheduled dates and times.

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

The member librarians, library board members, staff, and general public are all welcome to attend board meetings. Elections were held recently and all second term board nominees were reelected to their represented category as follows:

Maryruth Reed, Public Library Representative
 Kathy Terrell, At Large Representative
 Ruth Walker, District B Representative
 Stephanie Mika, District C Representative
 Robin Quinn, District E Representative (1st term)



The Western Library System Board at their May 9th meeting were working diligently on reviewing and revising the current Board Policies and Procedures.

**Congratulations & Thank You
 for serving on the Board!**

Our thanks to all of you that took the time to nominate and vote for your board members.
 Think about serving on your board next year.



“Libraries are for Everyone” image series created by Rebecca McCorkindale of Gretna Public Library

Article and photos submitted by Noelle Thompson, Director, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

The mission of Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is to deliver high quality public education for all ages, but I'd like to add all interests, all backgrounds, and all abilities. We consider our mission in our material selection, our program design, and our choice of services, and this year we are placing a particularly strong emphasis on making our children's library more inclusive. Many of you are familiar with our lite-bright board, foam blocks, and Duplo building table, all very popular with our youngest patrons, and we wanted to supplement those items with interactive toys appealing to a broad audience. Thanks to donations from Scottsbluff-Gering Lions Club, Scottsbluff Public Schools' Sixpence Program, and the Friends of the Library, we are able to add over \$1,100 in interactive, sensory-stimulating toys suitable for children of all ages, abilities, and needs.



Rainbow Sound Blocks

Many of the items were produced for children with special needs, such as the Rainbow Sound Blocks which were designed to stimulate auditory and visual senses and enhance special awareness and fine motor skills. The Braille and American Sign Language (ASL) blocks will not only benefit visually and hearing impaired patrons but will also introduce sighted and hearing children to new languages and encourage interactive play between children of varying abilities. The ball tube, called a "Loopie," was created by designer Mike Ayres who specializes in equipment for people with special and additional needs. The Loopie encourages grasp and release movements, teaches object permanence and visual tracking, and encourages cooperative play between patrons and families.



ASL and Braille Blocks



All of the new sensory-stimulating toys on display, clockwise from top center: Double-Helix Loopie, Soft Big Blocks, Emido Building Toys, Braille Blocks, ASL Blocks, Rainbow Sound Blocks, and Multi-Notched Builders

To incorporate our Summer Reading Program theme, "Build a Better World," we are also adding building, construction, and engineering materials to our children's library, again with the intent of serving patrons of all needs and abilities. The rainbow foam blocks, the multi-notched builders, and the Emido building toys will be available this summer for creative play that is safe and fun for children of all ages.

Thank you to Lion's Club, Sixpence, and our Friends for your contribution to the children's library and to the Summer Reading Program. Without your support we could not fulfill our mission of providing educational services to ALL patrons. Stop by this summer and see patrons use your contributions to build a better world.

Librarians Around The System

Big Springs Libraries

Marilyn Holdorf and Janie Jimenez are Co-Directors of the Big Springs Public Library.



Alley, the cat, has the important job of being the Big Springs Public Library greeter. Alley was rescued outside the library running across the street numerous time dodging trucks when she was a kitten.



Laura DeVries is the K-12 Media Specialist at the South Platte Public Schools



Hemingford Public Schools



Hemingford Elementary School Library

Jill Hurtt, K-12 School Librarian, at Hemingford Public Schools.



Hemingford Jr./Sr. High School Library



Jill also serves on the Western Library System Board as Secretary of the Board.

Photos by Pat Gross

Librarians Around The System

Hemingford Public Library

Deb Finley, director at Hemingford Public Library has utilized every square inch of the library for very attractive displays and interesting collections.



Hemingford patrons utilize the genealogy room.



Patrons have the opportunity to attend a library book sale every day. A perpetual book sale corner helps generate revenue and solves the problem of storing books for a sale.



Parents bring their children to the kids area complete with maker space kits to check out while in the library.



The cake pans are still popular and come with copy of the decorator directions for each one plus a set of decorator tips (patron keeps the tips for .50)



Librarians Around The System

Paxton Consolidated Schools

The Paxton School District's Media Center school librarian is Jodi Storer. Her media center houses all of the K-12 resource collections in one large room conveniently located for all the Elementary and Jr./Sr.High School students. Jodi also splits her time being a reading teacher, the teacher's reading coach, and class sponsor. She does all this while finishing up her library degree at UNK. Jodi is fortunate to have some help from her library para-professional, Phyllis Peak.



Jodi, checking out the NLC and WLS websites.



Elementary area of the Media Center



Jr./Sr. High reference area of the Media Center

Information for your benefit:

- IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) **awarded the Nebraska Library Commission a \$530,732 grant** for the Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities Project. Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will receive \$530,732 to advance economic development in 30 rural communities by developing Innovation Studios with tools to enable residents to explore, collaborate, create, learn, and invent. The project will demonstrate the critical role of public libraries as catalysts for economic and community development in rural communities. (rural is defined population of 25,000 or less) **Watch for information sent via listserve from NLC outlining how to apply to be one of the 30 rural accredited libraries.**
- This fall watch for an opportunity to apply for a grant from the **Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund** Read the Omaha World Heard May 21, 2017 article "Students in Kimball explore new dimensions thanks to local library and visionary patron" at the following link: [Omaha World Heard Kimball Public Library](#).
- Because I have answered several questions these last ten months about weeding (deselecting) of materials in the library. Here is a link to the **CREW: A Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries** online that guides you through the process and why it is so important.

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/sites/default/files/public/tslac/ld/pubs/crew/crewmethod08.pdf>

WLS Board of Directors:

- Maryruth Reed, President
- Kathy Terrell, Vice President
- Jill Hurtt, Secretary
- Tammy Howitt-Covalt
- Carole Matthews
- Stephanie Mika
- Allison Reisig
- Vickie Retzlaff
- Allison Roberts
- Ruth Walker
- Robin Quinn
(starting her term 7/18/17)

Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Hooker, McPherson, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, and Hitchcock



Bulletin Board SRP Tool Display created by Pat Gross

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Board of Directors bi-monthly meeting minutes are available on the Western Library System website:

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

**You Can
Build A Better World™**

**By
Joining us at the
WLS Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Information on page 6
Register at:

<http://goo.gl/Q1udME>

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