



# Southeast Signal

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

## Sex Offenders in the Community: The Facts You Should Know

When I search the Nebraska Sex Offender Registry, I find five men registered who live within a one mile radius of my home. Their offenses range from Computer Enticement of a Minor to 1st Degree Sexual Assault. Citizens everywhere regularly perform these searches and express fear of the offenders who live in their neighborhoods. What most do not know is that their children are much more likely to endure sexual abuse at the hands of someone known to them than they are to be the victim of an unknown registered sex offender.

Statistics show that approximately 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser. Approximately 30% of all children who are sexually abused are abused by family members, a number that increases to 50% for children under age six. An additional 60% of children who are sexually abused are abused by people the family trusts and as many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older or more powerful children.

These sobering indicators are important to understanding how to best protect your children and families. Rather than focus on the registered offenders, who are statistically unlikely to reoffend due to high levels of supervision and treatment, individuals are encouraged to become educated about steps to protecting children. The Darkness to Light training teaches these steps, which include 1) Learn the Facts, 2) Minimize Opportunity, 3) Talk about it, 4) Recognize the Signs and 5) React Responsibly. For more information on these steps and to learn how you can become involved in efforts to create a more aware and healthy future

generation, the website [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org) is an excellent resource.

### Sources:

- Finkelhor, D. (2012). Characteristics of crimes against juveniles. Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center.
- Whealin, J. (2007-05-22). "Child Sexual Abuse". National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Darkness to Light. Five Steps to Protecting Our Children, [http://www.d2l.org/atf/cf/%7B64af78c4-5eb8-45aa-bc28-f7ee2b581919%7D/5\\_STEPS\\_ALLGRAPHIC.PDF](http://www.d2l.org/atf/cf/%7B64af78c4-5eb8-45aa-bc28-f7ee2b581919%7D/5_STEPS_ALLGRAPHIC.PDF)

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## From the Director



So – welcome to 2016. In last January’s newsletter, I went out on a limb and made a couple of predictions on what 2015 would bring to libraries. I want to expand on the status of one of those statements this month. Last year a prediction was that mobile phone use will grow and smart phones will overtake all other phone use during 2015. I didn’t pull that out of thin air, but determined what other pundits were saying.

So: what is the result? We didn’t have to wait very long into 2015 to find out. A Pew report issued in April of 2015 said that 64% of American adults owned some sort of smartphone. Also of note in that report was that 7% of Americans state they had limited options for online access, possessed no broadband service at home, and depended heavily on their smartphone for internet access. There were all sorts of interesting statistics about usage by demographics (age, income level, ethnic background) Even in rural areas, usage is over 50% for American adults.

There is something I did want to point out. This study really does suggest that much more internet access is done “on the go” and at the time of need.

What does this mean for libraries? It means that there is still a need for internet access in libraries, but in the future it may mean that more emphasis is put on publically accessible Wi-Fi than having lots of computers. That won’t be a quick shift though, but as more companies look at “mobile first” philosophies when it comes to their websites, full desktop computers may not be as necessary.

Oh, and having lots of easily accessible outlets to charge cell phones might be something to look at if you are doing any renovation plans.

(A summary of the Pew report can be found here: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/01/6-facts-about-americans-and-their-smartphones/> )

**Reminder: Bibliostat statistics must be entered  
by February 19!**

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# Calendar



**January 15—SELS Strategic Planning Workshop, York, Kilgore Memorial Library, 1-4 pm.**

**January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, SELS Office Closed**

**January 21—Get to Know Your Customers Day**

**January 22—CASTL Meeting at Milford**

**(Topic: Grants)**

**January 28—Library Improvement Grant Applications due to Nebraska Library Commission**

**February 1—National Freedom Day (Emancipation)**

**February 3—National Carrot Cake Day**

**February 11—Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day**

**February 14—Valentine's Day**

**February 15—President's Day, SELS Office Closed**

**February 19—CASTL Meeting at Beatrice (Topic: NE Works)**

**March 17—SELS Policies for Results workshop, Seward Public Library, 10 am—3 pm**

**May 13—SELS Training Extravaganza, Seward Memorial Library, 10 am —3 pm**

# Photos of the Month



The Crete Public Library helped Crete Community Learning Center coordinate a student visit with residents at The Gardens, an assisted living facility in Crete. The outreach and children's librarians took holiday books for 26 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to read to 25 residents. After reading with the residents, students made door decorations for their reading partners. The students and residents had a wonderful time. —Provided by Laura Renker

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 22

Milford  
Webermeier Memorial  
Library  
“Grants”

February 19

Beatrice  
“NE Works”

March 24

Fairbury  
“SRP Plans”

April 22

Lincoln—Gere Branch  
“Collecting Local History”

May 26

Hruska Memorial Library  
David City  
“Favorite Books”

June 30

Morton-James Public  
Library, Nebraska City  
“Escape Room”

July 21

Geneva Public Library  
“Weeding”

The December 2015 CASTL meeting was hosted at Fairmont Public Library and was hosted by Wanda Marget.

Potential legislative issues were addressed. Proactivity now probably involves talking about positive working relationships between boards and cities to your Senator if you do have a good working relationship between your library board and city/village.

The Nebraska Press Association and NLC will be in discussion about digitalization; there is no foreseen legislation, rather a hearing.

We delved into circulation policy by discussing various types of cards and the confidentiality of patron records.

Many circulation policies give discretion to the library director, in order to leave flexibility. In policy making, many directors get staff input first and then bring the proposed policy or policy changes to the Board.

Charging fines versus not charging fines was discussed. Many libraries have a set

dollar ceiling over which a patron may not check out.

To establish an account, libraries may require photo and address verification, which can be handled in various ways (asking for items like utility bills and mailing the library card to the address given on the application form).

Many libraries have an automated system that allows the linking of family member accounts.

It was noted that local circulation policy governing the use of the NebrasKard is allowed.

It was suggested that SELS use an electronic platform to allow CASTL members to exchange items like account registration forms and circulation policies.

Libraries have different ages for adult cards, e.g. 14, 17, 18, or 19.

After lunch, Wanda Marget demonstrated arm knitting, and as we began the Round Robin discussion, we had several knitters continuing their work.

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. 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 Open</u>
Jan. 25—Feb. 5	Library Technology	December 18—January 15
Feb. 8—Feb. 19	Customer Service	December 30—January 29
Feb. 29—March 11	Library Governance	January 19—February 24
March 21—April 15	Organization of Materials	February 12—March 11

# Meeting Room Policy

By Todd Schlechte

If a publicly funded library has a meeting room, exhibit space, or display space, then it needs a policy that addresses the use of that space. If it limits meeting rooms to library programs (for example, because the library holds a very large number of events in the room) and exhibits only staff-selected displays, then the policy may be very short but should still exist.

So what sorts of items does a publicly funded library which has decided to open a meeting room to outside groups need to consider? It should formulate a policy which first explains how the use of the meeting room fits with the library's mission. The purpose of the room also needs to be clearly stated. The policy should further describe the meeting room in detail and define who is eligible to use the meeting room.

A publicly funded library may never restrict use of its meeting room based on content. Although some have argued that religious services should be excluded on the basis of the establishment clause of the first amendment, this is actually a content-based restriction, and libraries that have defended meeting room restrictions on religious worship in court have consistently lost. Not only must rules be content-neutral, they must be applied equally to all groups who apply for use, and be narrowly defined in regard to time, place, or manner of use.

Examples of reasonable restrictions are the number of people allowed in the room (fire code), maintaining noise at a level such that it is not heard in the main part of the library (if the meeting room is not sound-proofed), limits on the number of times per month that a group may use a room, and the prohibition of the collection of money. It is also acceptable to state that library programs preempt all other activities, and that to seek the use of a meeting room, the representative of the group must be a library cardholder, or that only non-profits may use the room (e.g. based on heavy use). Commercial groups may be charged a fee.

A public library may require groups to allow anyone to attend as long as those persons are not disruptive, as this is consistent with the library's mission to serve the entire community.

Non-public libraries have more discretion, but they should still try to open up access as much as possible if they allow groups to meet in their spaces. This is in accordance with the *Library Bill of Rights*.

A good question to ask yourself is "How would I defend myself if sued?" Consistently basing meeting room decisions on a clearly stated policy that contains narrow restrictions will provide a solid foundation. If ever faced with a lawsuit because an application was denied, the court will examine not only the policy, but the consistency with which the policy has been applied.

Finally, it is also wise to provide for an appeals process for those who have had applications denied.

In formulating your policy, it may be helpful to examine the ALA's [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#), which has a section on meeting room policy, and is published both in print and eBook format, as well being available to borrow from the Nebraska Library Commission.

Actually looking at some policies that have been thoroughly vetted may also help. Seward Memorial Library incorporates its [Meeting Room Policy](#) as part of a facilities policy. Omaha Public Library posts a [Meeting Room Policy](#), a [Display of Materials Policy](#), and an [Exhibit and Display Policy](#). While these latter policies may be more comprehensive than what most libraries need, because Omaha possesses the biggest library system in Nebraska, it has had the resources and legal counsel to formulate policies which cover the items described above. It is much easier to shorten or adapt a good policy than to create one from scratch!

# News Around the System

## Star Wars!

*By Judy Marco*

The Central City Public Library hosted a Star Wars Party for children K-6 on December 30. Children were encouraged to come dressed in Star Wars costumes and to bring a clear jar and lid.

There were about 30 children who spent the afternoon doing all kinds of Star Wars related activities. They could play a Star Wars Characters Memory Game, fold some really cool paper starship planes, or learn how to cut out a “snowflake” Chewbacca. Kids also used a light box and traced a

Star Wars character and then colored it, or made Thumb Doodle Yodas and Darth Vaders. The jars and lids



were used to make Nebula Jars with cotton balls, glitter, and paint, teaching the concept of nebulae in outer space.



One of their favorite activities was to have their pictures taken in front of the green screen, and with the help of one of the staff, put their images into a Star Wars background. Based on the comments from both participants and parents, the afternoon was a huge success!

Top right photo by Judy Marco; middle left and bottom right photos by Jamie Wright.



# News Around the System

## NOON Year's Eve 2015

By Charlotte Baldinger



In another area photos with special party props were taken and later emailed to the patrons. Children also filled out Time Capsule sheets to preserve their 2015 interests for future years. In the center of the library children created noise makers from clear plastic water bottles they decorated and then filled with confetti and dry beans. Party hats were designed at another station, and games were played in another area.

As noon approached everyone gathered in the lower level for the countdown. More noise makers were distributed as well as bubble wrap for popping and treats were passed out as well. The big screen flashed the countdown as the excited crowd ended their special morning with an avalanche of balloons – some with lights inside, as they greeted NOON.

The library staff received many compliments and there were suggestions that we make this a tradition. That is the reward for successful programming!

**10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 Happy Noon Year!** There was cheering and laughter in Seward Memorial Library at noon on December 31 as many balloons descended from the ceiling on over 100 unsuspecting young party goers in the dimly lit conference room. The library's first Noon Year's Eve party was a big success. Staff welcomed families as they arrived at 11 a.m. and gathered for the special celebration.

The participants were divided into groups that rotated to staffed stations set up around the building. In the Children's Room party goers listened to a story.



# News Around the System

## 45 Stuffed Animals in Residence at Polk Public Library

*By Ann Garey*

The Polk Library sponsors a donation drive during the Christmas holiday. Each year different items are chosen to be given throughout the county. This year the library asked for new stuffed animals for the rescue units, hospital, and care centers.

The animals are displayed in one of the windows upon receiving them. So far the library has received 45 stuffed animals.



## An Idea for Next Year?

*Shared by Gerry Powers*

The “Ladder “ Christmas Tree to the right was shared with us by Gerry Powers of Burkley Library in DeWitt.

The concept is really simple. Obtain a four or six foot ladder (they used a four foot ladder at Burkely library). Cut boards to fit the steps and saw them to create different lengths. Then simply assemble and decorate however you choose.

The tree created a lot of conversation at the library’s Christmas open house.



## Public Library Users can now Access Court Decisions Online



Free online access to the official published judicial opinions of the Nebraska Supreme Court and Nebraska Court of Appeals are now available from the Nebraska Appellate Courts Online Library at [ne.gov/go/opinions](http://ne.gov/go/opinions).

Public libraries serve as a valuable resource for self-represented litigants in the court system by providing access to computers, the Internet, printers, and other basic information about the law. Access via the online library allows the courts to make their judicial opinions more easily available to the public.



presents a special workshop for  
librarians and trustees:

# POLICIES FOR RESULTS

## Bonnie McKewon, Iowa State Library

4 hours of Continuing Education



Photo by [Nic McPhee](#), [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Register by March 13 at  
<http://bit.ly/policiesforresults>

**March 17**

**10:00 – 3:00**

**Seward Memorial Library**

233 S 5th St. Seward, NE 68434

\$20 including lunch

Policies for Results is the encouragement to look at writing policies in four parts: Philosophy, Regulations, Procedures, Guidelines. Participants will learn how to develop a policy and practice writing a policy in a small group.

# MASTERPIECE®

## MASTERPIECE on PBS To Launch the MASTERPIECE Book Club Julian Fellowes, Mark Gatiss and others Discuss Books that Inspired their Work

BOSTON, MA; December 28, 2015 – MASTERPIECE, the top-rated primetime show on PBS, today announced plans to launch The MASTERPIECE Book Club. The club will serve as the destination for book-loving MASTERPIECE fans. The Book Club launches Thursday, December 31st.

The MASTERPIECE Book Club will host exciting features for popular programs such as *Downton Abbey* and *Sherlock*. Features will include recommended reading related to current MASTERPIECE shows, insights into what cast and crew are reading, related recipes perfect for a book club meeting, British book news, and much more.

In one feature, *Downton Abbey* creator, writer, and executive producer Julian Fellowes selects books that *Downton Abbey* aficionados will enjoy. Other *Downton Abbey*-related highlights include a literary look back at the different eras of *Downton Abbey*, a round-up of the official companion titles, and recommendations from several celebrity fans. *Downton Abbey* is a Carnival Films/MASTERPIECE Co-Production.

*Sherlock* enthusiasts will get reading inspiration from *Sherlock* co-creator and actor Mark Gatiss, who reveals his favorite Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories and the mystery authors he reads most. *Sherlock* book club features also include a list of titles to make anyone a Sherlock Holmes expert and cookbooks from bestselling mystery authors. *Sherlock* is produced by Hartswood Films for BBC One and co-produced by MASTERPIECE.

MASTERPIECE Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton noted, “As a life-long bookworm and drama lover, It is such a pleasure to launch The MASTERPIECE Book Club. Great books and storytelling are at the very heart of MASTERPIECE, and the book club will be a fantastic new way for our viewers to immerse themselves in the worlds our programs create.”

Viewers will find The MASTERPIECE Book Club at [pbs.org/masterpiece](http://pbs.org/masterpiece) under the Podcast/Book Club tab.

### About MASTERPIECE

The top-rated primetime show on PBS, MASTERPIECE is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Rebecca Eaton is Executive Producer. Funding for the series is provided by Viking River Cruises and Audible with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. MASTERPIECE is known for presenting iconic shows such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga*, *Poldark*, *Sherlock* and *Downton Abbey*.

### About WGBH

WGBH Boston is America’s preeminent public broadcaster and the largest producer of PBS content for TV and the Web, including *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Arthur*, *Curious George* and more than a dozen other prime-time, lifestyle, and children’s series. WGBH also is a major supplier of programming for public radio, and oversees Public Radio International (PRI). As a leader in educational multimedia for the classroom, WGBH supplies content to PBS LearningMedia, a national broadband service for teachers and students. WGBH also is a pioneer in technologies and services that make media accessible to those with hearing or visual impairments. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors. More info at [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

[pbs.org/masterpiece](http://pbs.org/masterpiece)

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# MASTERPIECE®



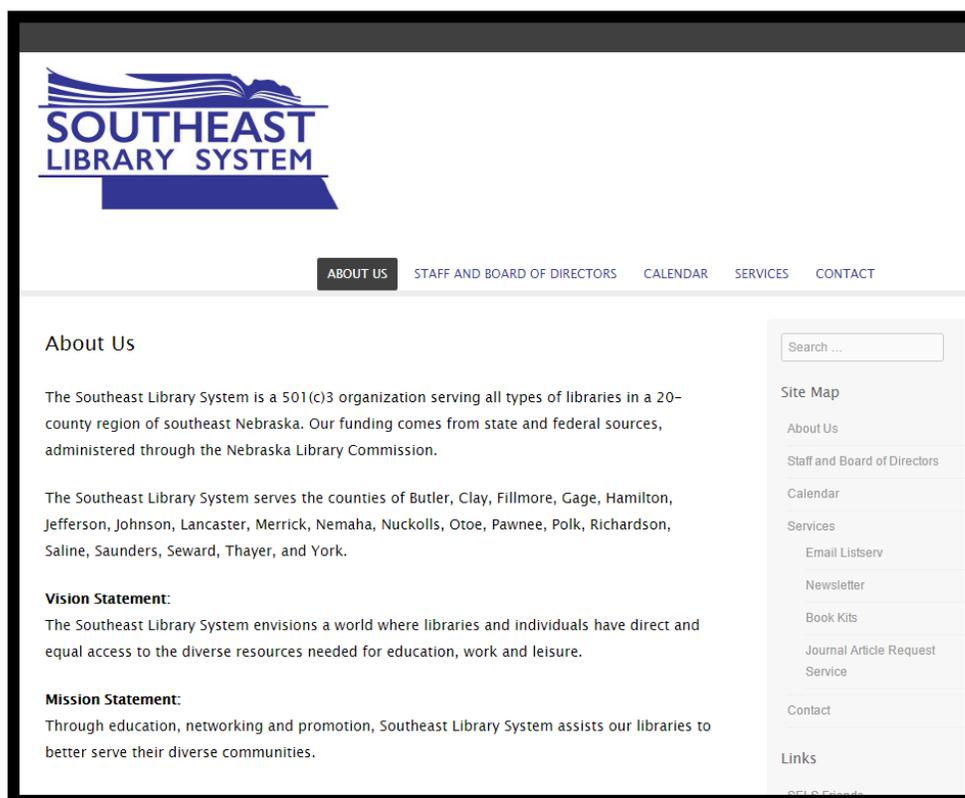
Funding for MASTERPIECE provided by



# System Spotlight

## SELS Has a New Website

Our new website is <http://libraries.ne.gov/sels> Don't worry too much about remembering the url, because there will be a redirect link at the old selsne.org site. What does this mean for you in practice? Because this is a WordPress installation hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission (yes, the same as many of our member libraries), we will be able to keep content up to date because all SELS staff will be able to access the site and add or delete content. Also, for those with WordPress sites hosted by the NLC, we will be able to give better support, because we will have hands-on experience!



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<http://www.selsne.org/>

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