



# Southeast Signal

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

## From the Director



Happy New Year!

The New Year brings about New Year's Resolutions. The start of the calendar year is a frequent starting point for people's efforts to improve

things and to set new goals. And when we talk about goals, we should talk about being careful not to sabotage your own goals, especially those that you set for your library.

I've talked about some ways that goals can be sabotaged in the past. This time I want to talk about why you should examine if your library's policies will prevent you reaching your goals.

Let's take for example a library that has a goal to increase circulation. Great! So are their circulation policies geared to make that happen? Is their checkout limit super restrictive? Is it fairly easy to get a library card, or does the prospective patron need to go through some super complicated and arbitrary process? Are the potential overdue fines scaring away possible customers? How about their collection itself – does it contain materials their community will check out?

In this example, they have a goal, but the policies they have enacted and enforce could prevent them from getting there, or at least make it an uphill climb. At this point – what is more important, the goal or the policy? Perhaps this library has a reason for those circulation policies. In that case, the goal they chose might not be realistically attainable and they should rethink that. If the goal is more important – then some of those policies probably need to be altered.

When setting goals for your organization, please make sure you take the time to examine what other things internally need to happen to make that goal achievable. Sometimes the worst barriers to reaching goals are the ones we can actually control, but don't think about.

Have a great 2018!

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# Calendar

- January 13, National Sticker Day
- January 16, Appreciate a Dragon Day
- January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, SELS Office Closed
- January 19, [CASTL, Syracuse Public Library, "Emergency Planning"](#)
- January 19, Edgar Allan Poe's Birthday
- January 26, [Community Needs Response Plan \(aka Strategic Plan\) Workshop](#)
- January 27, Lewis Carroll's Birthday
- January 28, Data Privacy Day
- February 1-28, National Book Lovers Month and Black History Month
- February 3, Take Your Child to the Library Day
- February 7, Laura Ingalls Wilder's Birthday
- February 6, Safer Internet Day
- February 12, [ALA Youth Media Awards](#)
- February 19, Presidents' Day, SELS Office Closed
- February 22, [SELS 2 in 1 Workshop, 9:45-3:00, Seward Memorial Library, p. 10](#)
- March 22, [Pay it Forward: Looking at Succession Planning, Ashland Public Library, 9:45-3:00, p. 11](#)



# Photo of the Month



*Our December CASTL at Ashland was on the topic of the new Library Innovation Studios and the various components of these traveling Makerspaces. There will also be a panel on the topic of Experiences with Makerspaces at this year's SELS Training Extravaganza.*

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 19

Syracuse Public Library  
“Emergency Planning”

February 15

Virgil Biegert Public Library  
Shickley  
“Privacy Issues”

March 9

Walt Branch Library  
Lincoln  
“Disasters and Materials”

April 13

Webermeier Memorial  
Library  
Milford

May 17

Morton-James Public  
Library  
Nebraska City

June 29

Sutton Memorial Library  
Sutton

Our December holiday CASTL was held at Ashland Public Library in a meeting room that has been converted into a Makerspace and will remain so for several months. This is part of the Library Innovation Studios project which is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission along with partners University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and the Regional Library Systems.

The goal was to become acquainted with the various equipment, to observe demonstrations, and to see some of the items that have been created, as well as to learn from those who already have these projects installed.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the waiver of liability should mention the city, not the library or at least not just the library, since the library is funded by the city or village.

One library is sponsoring a very large number of training classes to meet patron demand. It is a requirement of the project that users first undergo training for much of the equipment before they are allowed to use it. Also, there are recommended age ranges for many of the items.

Troubleshooting was discussed, including the use of online sources and knowledgeable people to call. In connection with Lego Mindstorms, it was mentioned that the directions that Lego includes are rather brief. It has proven helpful to actually order a book such as *The LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Discovery Book: A Beginner's Guide to Building and Programming Robots*.

As far as advertising, it really helps once the equipment has been installed. People see it and become curious. It is additionally helpful to create a display of items produced using the Makerspace equipment—this is perhaps the most effective advertising tool of all and really ramps up interest.

For more, see the pictures on the next page.

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of 2018 classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
January 22-- February 2	Communication	December 11—January 12
February 12—February 23	Customer Service	January 8—February 2
March 5—March 16	Library Governance	February 5—February 23

# News Around the System

## More Photos from CASTL



# News Around the System

## January “Snow many books” Displays

By Emily Fiala

The January book displays at the Aurora Media Center are themed “Snow many books, snow little time.”



## Central City Public Library is Named a Library Journal Star Library

Central City Public Library has been named a *Library Journal* Star Library for the 10th consecutive year! The Library received a coveted 4 Star rating in *Library Journal's* 2017 national rating of public libraries, recognizing it as one of the top libraries in the nation.



# News Around the System

## Hebron Secret celebrates with Santa

*Provided by Chuck Reichwein*

It was Santa Time at Hebron Secret Library on December 9th!



### Events to Mark on Your Calendar

February 22—2 in 1 Workshop (page 10), Seward Memorial Library

February 23—Big Talk from Small Libraries

February 24—NSLA School Librarians Workshop, Omaha & Kearney

March 22—Pay It Forward: Looking at Succession Planning (page 11), Ashland Public Library

April —NLA Section and Round Table Meetings TBA

May 11—SELS Training Extravaganza, Seward Memorial Library

May 25—Golden Sower Reading Day, Seward

# News Around the System

## SELS Scholarships Available!

### SELS Scholarship Guidelines

The Southeast Library System provides scholarships to pay for registration or travel costs for continuing education events and/or course work in library science.

#### Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be residents of the area served by the Southeast Library System or work in a library within the System.
- Preference is given to those who have not ever received a scholarship from SELS in the past, and to first-time attendees at the event requested.



#### Eligible events

- First priority is given to applications for in-state events, including the NLA/NSLA annual conference or System sponsored events (SELS must at least be one of the sponsors). Examples include the Training Extravaganza, the Youth Retreat, the Summer Reading program, etc.
- Second priority is given to regional or national conferences, such as ALA or MPLA.
- Third priority is given to academic courses that have a direct impact on the applicant's job.

#### Scholarship Information

- The maximum amount to be awarded to an individual is \$200 per application.
- The money is to be used for registration and/or travel fees.
- Recipients are expected to report back on their experience and possibly write a short blurb for the system newsletter about the event (if applicable).

#### Application Process

1. Print out and complete the scholarship form [[SELS Scholarship Form](#)]
2. Write a brief (one or two paragraphs) on the benefit you or your library will gain from your attendance at the event or course
3. Send both to the SELS office

**Priority Deadline for Applications: January 19**





UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
STATE MUSEUM

University of Nebraska State Museum (Morrill Hall) Summer Reading Program VFT!

“Library’s Rock!” just got a new building block! The University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History has created a *virtual field trip* just for your summer reading program!

**“Steady As A Rock?”** Did you know rocks change?? Your library audience will learn fun facts about the science of geology with hands-on activities and lots of movement. By the end of 30-minutes your library full of “geologists” will know how a rock forms, changes, and gets classified. A rock is not just a rock! The program also includes several rock-oriented science experiences you can do in your library before or after the VFT. We also suggest you encourage you to read The Magic School Bus – Inside the Earth as part of this program.

This virtual field trip (VFT) is a live, interactive video conference with your library audience and a UNSM Educator based in Lincoln. To connect to the museum for your VFT all you need is an internet connection, a computer with video conferencing software (we suggest the free app Zoom) and a webcam/microphone. We are happy to help you figure out the simple logistics.

The programs costs \$80.

To register or for more information please contact [elephant@unl.edu](mailto:elephant@unl.edu).





**COMING SOON!**

## 2018 4-H STEM Reading Connections

In Partnership with the Collaborative Summer Reading Program:  
**Libraries Rock!**

<p><b>Acoustics Rock!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you ever wondered why some rooms are louder than others? Architectural acoustics is the science and engineering of achieving a good sound within a building. What goes into making a room so you can hear someone whisper from across the room? In this lesson, you will learn how architects design rooms and buildings specific to how they want the sound to move.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Rockin' Sound Waves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did you know that sound is a type of energy made by vibrations? There is a relationship between a sound's wavelength and its pitch. In this lesson, we will explore sound waves using our five senses.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Listen Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you ever wondered how sound reaches your brain? We depend upon our hearing for safety, entertainment and to communicate with our loved ones. In this lesson, we will explore the anatomy of our ears to learn how sounds travel to our brain for interpretation.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Rock 'n Roll</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did you know everything we use, wear, or play with is engineered? Even musical instruments! By manipulating different parts of the design process you can explore the science of sound vibrations. In this lesson you will have the opportunity to let your community know just how much their "Library Rocks" by designing a working musical instrument and coming up with your own creative jingle.</li> </ul> 
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4-H STEM Reading Connections Resources will be available February 1, 2018.

 Please fill out the Google Form at <https://goo.gl/forms/ugmSGjaJqO2uT8mT2> to be automatically emailed the Box link to the resources when they become available.

 Partnerships look different in every county. Contact your local Extension Office by March 1<sup>st</sup> to see what your STEM Reading Connections partnership might look like.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United State Department of Agriculture. ©2016



# 2 in 1 Workshop

## Reader's Advisory, 10-12

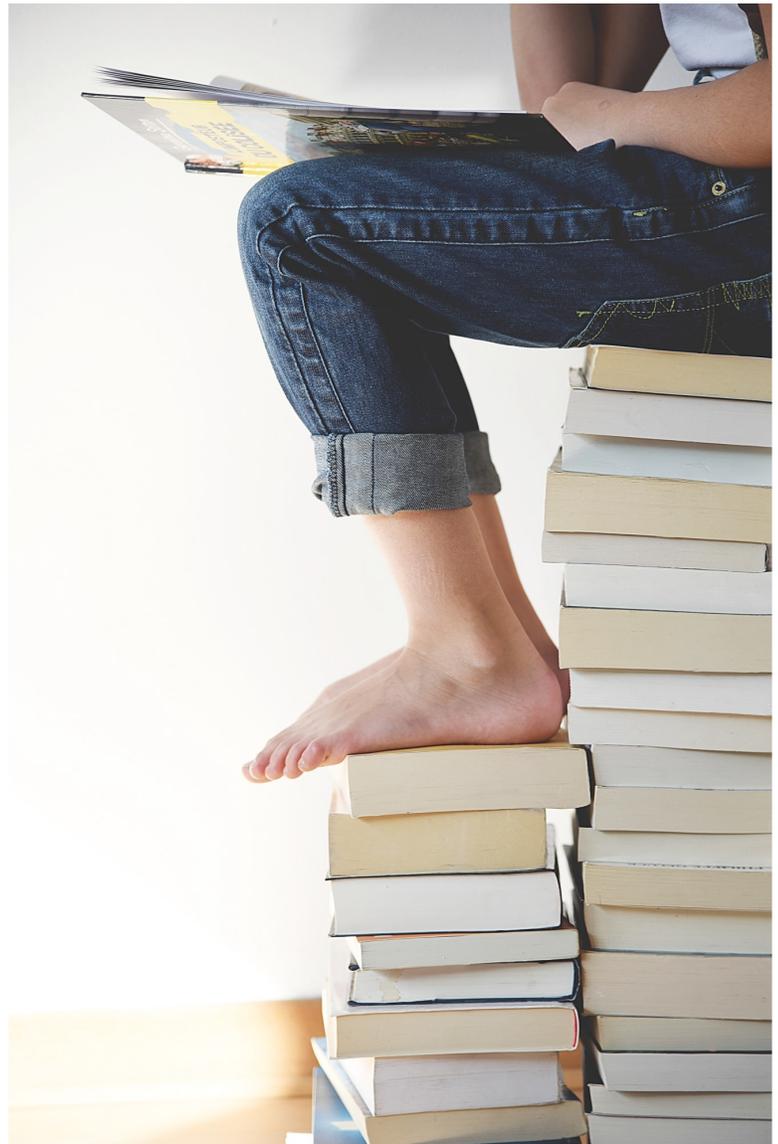
*How do you best go about recommending books to library patrons? Becky will go over the Reader's Advisory interview, talk about advance preparation, and cover "elements of appeal."*

*Activities and scenarios will be part of this interactive workshop, including a discussion of resources that are free and easily available to help with the process of Reader's Advisory.*

## Free Lunch for those attending both workshops, 12-1

## Weeding, 1-3

*Do you find it hard to make time for weeding? Becky will make it clear just how important weeding is, and the workshop will include a skit and some great discussion questions to keep you from nodding off in the afternoon.*



Seward Memorial Library, February 22

Presenter: Becky Heil (Iowa State Library)

On the registration form you can choose both workshops, or you can select one of the two. Going to both means you also get free lunch!

Register at <http://bit.ly/TwoInOne> for this free workshop!

*This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*



# MARCH 22

## PAY IT FORWARD: LOOKING AT SUCCESSION PLANNING

### What this FREE workshop is about....

Like any other organization, libraries need to plan for staffing transitions. Pay It Forward suggests practical approaches that help pave the way for new personnel. Attendees will discuss succession planning questions like: What are the library's annual routines? What guidance do we have on budget prep...policy review...job evaluations...and where are those documents found? What vendors does the library use for print purchases? For digital subscriptions? Is there an instruction manual for the ILS system...for the public computers? Answering these questions helps light the path for incoming staff.

Staffing changes can be expected or surprising—workshop participants are sure to have “new hire” stories to share. Plus, library boards should work on their own brand of succession planning—Pay It Forward talks about that, too!

*This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

Presenter: Bonnie  
McKewon

Learn how to help  
ensure successful  
transitions

Protect your library  
from the  
unexpected  
(including sudden  
departure of a staff  
member)

Worth 4 CE

9:45 am – 3 pm

**ASHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1324 Silver St  
Ashland, NE 68003-1816

**Register at**

<http://bit.ly/Pay4ward1>

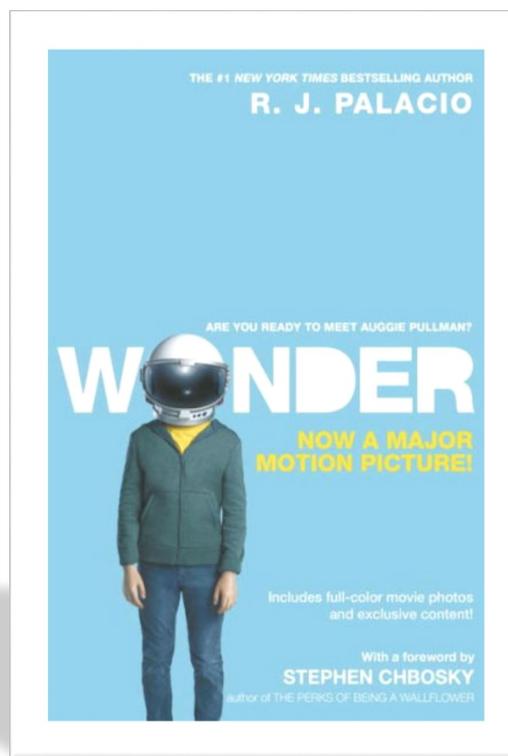
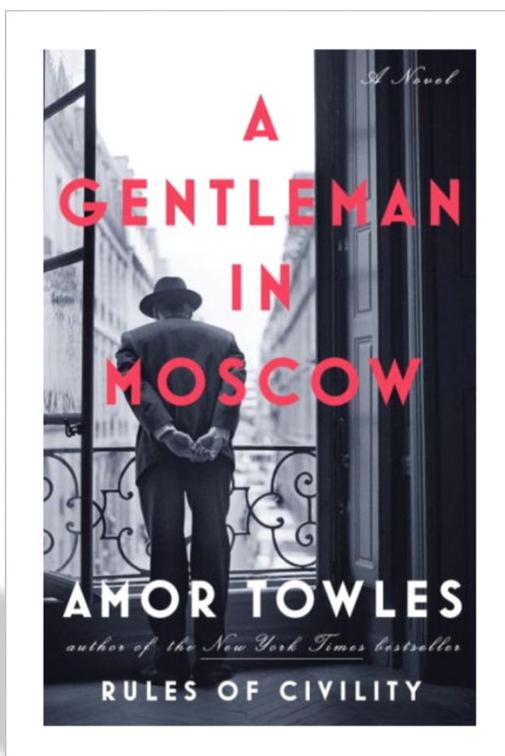


## System Spotlight

# Two New Book Kits!

We have recently added two new book kits to our collection. One is *A Gentleman in Moscow* and the other is *Wonder*:

For more information on these and many other book kit titles, [please visit our website](#), where we have a long list of book kits, including cover art and book descriptions courtesy of Goodreads.



## 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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