



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



I think many of us have heard that part of our profession is to be “gatekeepers” of information. This is meant to be a statement that libraries are the entrance way to information of a

larger world, and those who work in libraries are at the gate to make sure it stays open to everyone.

A nice metaphor, right? But is it still accurate to use the term gatekeeper? I’ll mention two reasons to think about changing this.

The first is the creation of the internet. Instead of needing some set places to get information, many people now have that gateway on a device they carry around with them all the time. If the outside world was behind a fence that needed a gate to get through before – that fence doesn’t exist anymore for many of our patrons. The opposite seems to be more accurate – we are surrounded by messages containing information about the world, both true and false.

The second seems more semantic than anything, but worth noting as it indicates a change in perspective. In some circles, the term “gatekeeper” now has negative connotations. For

many a gatekeeper isn’t the person letting people in, the gatekeeper is now the person keeping new people out. The librarian might be enforcing the status quo, and only letting a certain group of people use the library, if they are the “gatekeeper.”

We’ve already seen some steps on changing and evolving in response to my first point. Referring to libraries as a trusted source, as a place to see all sides of an issue, and a place to help learn about information literacy has helped immensely.

But what about my second point? What messages are you saying to potential users of the library with how your policies are laid out and enforced? What kind of programming is being promoted? Are they seeing the library as a place for everyone, or just for a select few?

In short, I think we may want to consider dropping the “gatekeeper” symbolism and find something different. What that different metaphor is – that’s a topic for another time, but I would love to hear your take on it .

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Calendar



August 15, Stieg Larrson’s birthday

August 21, National Senior Citizen’s Day

August 22, National Tooth Fairy Day

August 26, National Dog Day

August 29, Karen Hesse’s birthday

August 23, [CASTL, Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber, “Free Programs: Game and Parks and More”](#)

August 29-30, [Joint Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling](#)

September, Library Card Sign-up Month

September 2, Labor Day, SELS Office Closed

September 4, National Wildlife Day

September 7, National Salami Day

September 8, Jon Scieszka ‘s birthday

September 9, National Teddy Bear Day

September 13, [Building and Maintaining a Library Website with Wordpress](#) (afternoon class filled, openings still available in morning class)

October 18, [Beyond an Apple a Day: Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library](#)

Photo of the Month



Lute player Kenneth Be at Beatrice Public Library. More on p. 4.

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

August 23

Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber
 “Free Programs: Game and Parks and more”

September 20

Yutan Public Library, Mead Public Library
 “Summer Reading Successes”

October 25

Wymore Public Library
 “Board Meeting Minutes”

November 15

Geneva Public Library
 “Hoopla”

Our July 26th CASTL in Superior was hosted by Vicki Perrie. The themed discussion was on "Book Bugs and other Pests," but we also spent time on the subject of patron cleanliness and body odor.

We talked about the fact that even when we have policies that enable us to remove people from the library who have body odor or bugs on their clothing and/or belongings, it can be very hard to make that request, especially when they have come to the library seeking warmth or shelter. Many of our libraries do not have a place in town where there are showers or a place to sleep for the homeless, although there are exceptions. A church with a shower was mentioned, as well as one that permits overnight stays. In some communities a pastor administers funds designated for the homeless or emergencies.

We decided that book damage is really a separate issue. When we encounter an item that is damaged, most of our libraries have a policy of discarding that item. Sealing a book or DVD first with a plastic bag is common if there is any type of bug presence. If librarians know that the book was checked out undamaged, then the patron is usually charged for the book.

We also talked about sources for further information. Some of these can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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

| <u>Dates of Class</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Registration</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sept. 9—Sept. 20 | Programming and Outreach | August 12—August 30 |
| Oct.7—Oct. 18 | Community and Library | September 9—September 27 |
| Oct. 21—Nov. 1 | Management and Supervision | September 23—October 11 |

News Around the System

Beatrice Public Library Hosts Kenneth Be

Provided by Joanne Neemann

(continued from p. 2)

The Beatrice Public Library's Vette Cultural Arts Center hosted Kenneth Be, Lutist, on Sunday, August 4. Kenneth has been playing the lute since 1974. His repertoire spans works from the earliest known tablatures of the 15th century through the twilight of the lute's popularity in the late 18th century. He has recently founded the Great Plains Lute Ensemble with other performers from Iowa and Missouri. Mr. Be is originally from the Hudson Valley region in New York and has worked as a painting conservator at the Ford Conservation Center in Omaha since 2008.

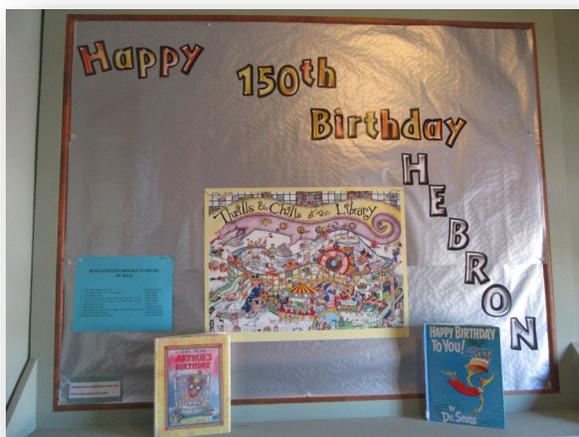


Hebron Secrest Library Closes out its Summer Reading with a Bang

Provided by Judy Kassenbaum

Hebron Secrest Library closed out the summer reading program with the Omaha Zoo visiting the library Wednesday, July 10th. Various animals and exhibits were shown and tied into the "Universe of Stories" reading theme. The library had 114 people in attendance which included many children and adults of all ages. It was a fun and informative program.

Plus, Hebron is celebrating 150 years, so the library has a special bulletin board for that!



News Around the System

Plymouth Library Holds Author Event

Story and photo by Ellen Vorderstrasse

Ashli Brehm, Wilber, Nebraska native and author of the book “Wear the Damn Swimsuit” presented a book signing and discussed her journey through cancer and life, on August 1st. The event featured a taco meal provided by Plymouth Library board members and staff. All proceeds from the event benefit local breast cancer centers.



Maker Camps Follow Summer Reading at Geneva Public Library

Provided by Sarah Johnson

The Geneva Public Library hosted their annual summer reading finale picnic on July 26 with hot dogs, root beer floats, and prize drawings. Library staff hosted nine weeks of summer reading activities this year and was happy to see more youth attending activities after changing program times to mornings. Not wanting to sit idle for long, the weekly Maker Camp sessions started August 1 and will run for five weeks. We utilized the Library Innovation Studio laser cutter, while it resided in Geneva earlier this year, to cut out three different types of model rocket kits. This was a nice continuation of the summer reading theme yet provided a challenging and fun activity for those attending Maker Camp. To the right, Aliivia shows off two of her rockets and Aiyana and Maverick work on identifying pieces for the most difficult rocket.



News Around the System

Crete Public Library Holds Author Event

By Laura Renker, photo by library staff member

In July participants of “Reading with Friends” read with their mentors on Tuesday of each week. More than 24 volunteers from the community came to the library to read with them. Some of the volunteers were participants when they were young!

On Thursday children would attend a story time featuring the books they received earlier in the week. Sisters, brothers and mothers could all participate in the activities during story time. Some of the crafts they made were: Mexican folk art tiles, name banners, mini pinatas and decorated picture frames. This program’s goal is to help the children maintain their reading skills through the summer.



Clarks Summer Reading Water Fight

Provided by Barbee Sweet

Clarks Public Library hosted their third annual water fight sponsored by the Clarks Volunteer Fire Department. The kids enjoyed pop-sicles and running the fire hose on the afternoon of July 24th. It was the perfect way to end the eight week program on such a hot day.



News Around the System

Wahoo Public Library hosts Pizza and Planets Star Party

Story and photos by Carrie Trutna

Wahoo Public Library held their most epic light saber battle and viewed the sun during the daylight portion of their Pizza and Planets Star Party with Michael Sibbersen from the Branched Oak Observatory.



You're Invited



MOSAIC
MULTICULTURAL BOOK DISPLAY
Lincoln Public Schools

Please join us in celebrating the brightest
and the best titles in multicultural literature.

September 30 – October 11, 2019
Lincoln Public Schools District Office Lobby
5905 D Street



View the Mosaic collection online at <https://bit.ly/2mJKycY>

News From ALA

ALA Offers Free Tools to Help Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide join together to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Disney and Pixar's "Toy Story 4" characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Bo Peep and friends are joining ALA on an adventure to promote the value of a library card. They'll be reminding the public that signing up for a library card opens a world of infinite possibilities: libraries offer resources and services that help people pursue their passions and give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond.

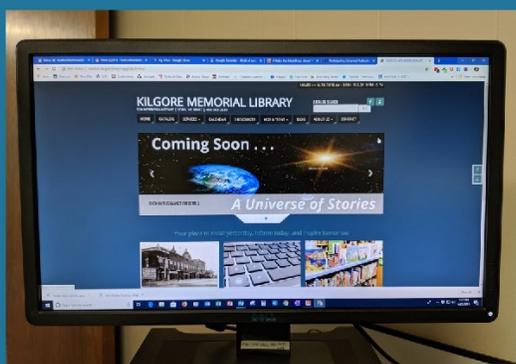
The tools are available at <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/library-card-sign-up-month-toolkit>. Accessing them requires the use of a free "Libraries Transform" account.

The free tools include

- A webinar
- PSA scripts
- A sample press release
- Sample social media posts
- Broadcast quality audio PSAs
- Digital graphics



Building and Maintaining your Library Website with



Since the afternoon session filled up, we are offering a morning session of this workshop. The workshop will be a mixture of instruction and hands-on practice. For those who do not already have WordPress accounts, dummy accounts will be provided. Those looking for a refresher are welcome as well. Register at <http://bit.ly/LibraryWP>

Seward Memorial Library

Computer Lab

September 13, 9 am—12 pm

Instructor: Amanda Sweet

Beyond an Apple a Day: Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library



Seward Memorial Library Computer Lab

Oct. 18, 10 am—3 pm

Lunch included, 4 CE!

This hands-on class will cover the role of the librarian in providing health information to the public. Participants will leave equipped with knowledge of top consumer health sites. We will discuss creative ideas for health information outreach and will wrap-up with an opportunity to explore effective marketing approaches.

Register at <http://bit.ly/BApple>

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.



University of Missouri–Columbia
School of Information Science and
Learning Technologies (SISLT)

Nebraska & Iowa
Virtual Open House

**Saturday August 24, 2019
10-11:30 am**

Zoom (<https://mizzou.zoom.us/j/783485746>)

Join us for an open house and learn about the opportunity
to earn your MLS from Missouri!

- In-state tuition
- Rolling admissions
- Most classes online, fits your schedule

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System Spotlight

Sharing Craft Ideas on Pinterest



As a result of an idea from CASTL, we have created an experimental collaborative SELS Pinterest Board that allows for the sharing of craft ideas between libraries.

In order to contribute to the board, you must be given access to it. Then you can pin or place ideas in it (usually pictures with links). This SELS board would likely appear in your Pinterest account as the last of your boards.

We would like to test this out a bit further, and we need a group of volunteers to do so. If you want to take part in the test, please send Todd (at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com) the name or email address associated with the Pinterest account you use for programming or craft ideas. To see what our board looks like (just a few pins right now!), go to <https://www.pinterest.com/selsne/>

Southeast Library System

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

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Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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