



# Southeast Signal

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

## From the Director



We've seen lots of staff turnover in the libraries in the SELS area recently, so I'm thinking it is time for a bit of a refresher on some of the library related organizations in

the state.

First is the NLC or the Nebraska Library Commission. This is the state agency on libraries. They get their funding through allotments from the state legislature and federal money through IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Studies) with occasional grants for special projects. These are the folks that put on the NCompass Live podcasts, collect the annual statistics, and run the public library accreditation program and certification programs for library staff and boards.

Next is the NLA or the Nebraska Library Association. This is an organization, geared to provide opportunities for networking and training for those in the library field. They do not decide policies for libraries, but on many occasions lobbied in the unicameral for library related issues. Most of their funding comes through membership fees and conference profits.

Also of note is the NSLA or the Nebraska School Librarians Association. This organization is geared specifically to school librarians. Their funding model is similar to the NLA's – mostly from membership fees and conference profits.

Of course I have to include SELS (Southeast Library System) in this list. We, like the other three regional library systems, are a non-profit entity that spun out of earlier Commission initiatives about 1982. We focus on consultation and providing training opportunities. Our funding is almost completely from a grant agreement with the NLC, however we do some fundraising with the SELS Friends. While we aren't a direct part of the Commission, we work very closely with them. When the four regional systems work together, we sometimes use the initials "NRLS" for Nebraska Regional Library Systems.

Of course, there are many other groups that I didn't have room to cover, like NETA, ALA, LoNM, and all the NLA sections & round tables. If there's one you would like me to spotlight in future issues, please let me know.

### In this Issue:

Page 1—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—CASTL Wrap-up

Pages 4-9—News Around the System

Pages 10-16—Additional News and Flyers

Page 17—System Spotlight

## Calendar

September 15, [CASTL, "Civilian Response to Active Shooters," Central City Public Library](#)

September 15, Agatha Christie's birthday

September 20, Upton Sinclair's birthday

September 21, Birthday of Stephen King, H.G. Wells, and Fannie Flagg

September 24, F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday

September 27, Stan Berenstain's birthday

September 24-30, [Banned Books Week](#)

September 27, [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#)

October 1-31, [National Bullying Prevention Month](#)

October 1-31, [National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)

October 9, Columbus Day, SELS OFFICE CLOSED

October 11-13, [NLA/NSLA Conference in Kearney](#)

October 8-14, [Teen Read Week](#), "Unleash Your Story"

October 15-21, [National Friends of Libraries Week](#)

October 27, CASTL, Humboldt, Bruun Memorial Library, "Helpful Databases"



## Photo of the Month



Eclipse photo taken by George Casper in Fairmont, Nebraska.

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

September 15  
Central City Public Library  
“Civilian Response to Active Shooters”

October 27  
Bruun Memorial Library  
Humboldt  
“Helpful Databases” (in addition to NebraskAccess)

November 16  
Gilbert Public Library  
Friend  
“Genealogy Resources”

December 7  
Ashland Public Library  
"Maker Space Fun"

For the August CASTL we were treated to morning refreshments and a delicious lunch in the Clay Center Public Library. The topic for discussion was “Summer Reading Successes.” Librarians shared not only successes, but also learning experiences and trends.

Some libraries experienced excellent attendance, and several mentioned that they really liked working with this year’s theme: “Build a Better World.” Librarians shared many of the programs they conducted, including building bat houses, a session with a deaf family (building better communication), a relay game using fuzzy balls, and Keith West’s high quality, professional level magic show.

Some librarians mentioned that they are dealing with an ongoing decline in attendance and circulation during the summer months. Attendance at story time activities is down from previous years, while attendance at big programs is good. In response, one library is conducting a survey to attempt to find out what people might want that is different from the current summer reading program. Another library is planning on conducting focus groups to generate ideas.

Several librarians noted that the lives of children are increasingly scheduled during the summer and that in many communities athletics takes priority over reading and library time. In addition, items like reading logs that used to work well may not be as appealing as they once were. In some situations, kids will attend programs but not check out books unless there is an incentive. It was noted that reaching out to daycares and schools often improves attendance.

Finally, in situations where people must sign up for a program due to limited capacity, it is discouraging when people who signed up don’t come, because then there are open slots that could have been used by someone else. It was noted that one method to help attendance is to send email and/or text reminders via a tool like [Remind.com](http://Remind.com).

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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</u>
September 25 —October 6	Management and Supervision	August 28 —September 14
October 16—October 27	Leadership	September 18—October 5
November 6 —November 17	Library Service to Children and Youth	October 2—October26

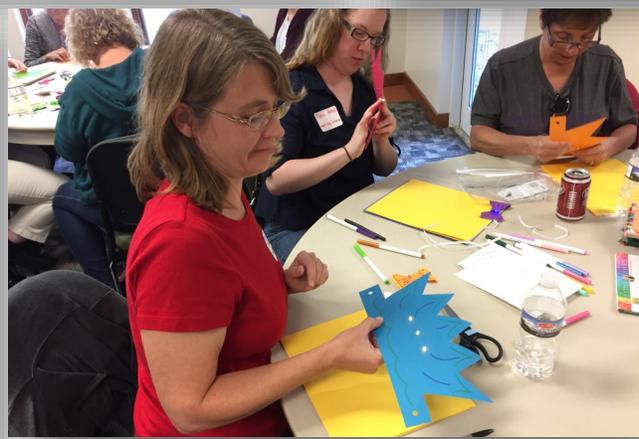
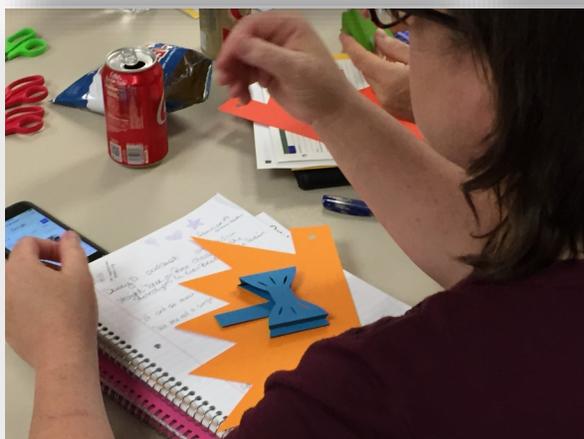
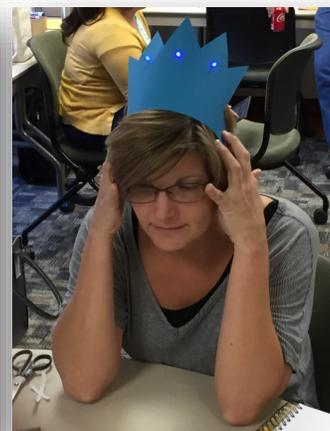
# News Around the System

## Youth Services Retreat “Awesome”!

*Story and photos by Todd Schlechte*

When veterans of the youth services retreat tell you that this year’s event was really good, and we get “awesome” as feedback, it makes the work that goes into the planning and logistics more than worth it.

This year there was an author talk with Andrea Warren, a presentation by Iowa City youth services librarian Morgan Reeves about Tween programming, Melissa Cast-Brede’s encouragement to use fiction to inspire girl’s interest in STEM, a time where participants shared resources, Deborah Wisneski’s workshop about creating a culture of play, book talks (Sally Snyder on tween and teen literature and Amy Wenzl on children’s books), the engaging topic of diverse literature in youth services presented by Erica Rose, and a fun time of creating two items out of paper, copper tape, LED lights, and a lithium battery, led by Megan Boggs from Seward and Joseph Chapman from Geneva. Included here are some pictures from their workshop.



# News Around the System

## Eclipse Party in Wahoo

*By Carrie Trutna, Photos by Denise Lawver and Carrie Trutna*

Wahoo Public Library held an eclipse party together with the Region V Hub. The eclipse photo is with Carrie's camera (not cell phone) with one of the viewing glasses attached to it. The one of the paper is an experiment we tried with a colander. If you look closely enough you can see the half moon shapes.



Wahoo Public Library had 15 people attend including two guys and a kid from Omaha who were trying to get to Seward but decided Wahoo was as far as they were going to get. We had mock moon pies, Sunny Delight, pudding, and leftover fair candy. Thanks to Marge Woehrer, we were able to do a little experimentation with the colander, a pinhole projector and a box projector. Everyone had a blast!



## Former Christmas Tree Continues On

*Provided by Sharon Steenbarger*

Harvard Public Library's tree for all seasons has gone through yet another transformation. Patrons seem to enjoy it.



# News Around the System

## A Great Day in Fairmont

*By Wanda Marget*

WOW is all I can say about the Total Eclipse. We had many non-believers that we would have so many visitors. Our estimate was 7,000 in Fairmont, on surrounding roads, and at the airbase. It was a great crowd who were very polite and appreciative and left no trash. We also sold over 200 t-shirts to visitors that day. We had just a few to sell and were overwhelmed when everyone wanted to purchase one, two, or more; they wanted a souvenir!

Some thank-yous we received were: "The village of Fairmont NE is a class act." —Fred Patterson.

"This little village in Nebraska is so chill. They had hundreds of people come. They were ready with porta potties and dumpsters, food at reasonable prices, and freshly mowed fields for all to spread out, for free. They may have a police force, but I never saw one. No one was watching us to make sure we all behaved, but we all did. They do have fire and rescue though; that's who served the hamburgers." —Anna Flatt



## Special Programs at Central City Public Library

*Story and photos by Sara Lee*

The library had the privilege of hosting a very special WWI-focused programming event on Saturday, August 12th. Central City's own Nancy Johnson did a wonderful job of presenting the audience with some very interesting and informative information about how WWI affected life on the home front in numerous ways. Areas affected included things like music and songs, curriculum being taught in schools, social activities, etc. Susan Hultman and her fabulous team put in many hours of work preparing for the afternoon's tea and also serving at the tea. The delicious items served included: Cucumber Nasturtium with Dill Cream Cheese Sandwiches, Salmon Rollups on Rye, Blueberry Scones, Coconut Almond Scones, Almond Butter Tea Cookies, and a very special treat of beautiful (and yummy) teacups and spoons, hand-made out of chocolate. Participants were able to choose from a variety of hats and were able to have their photos taken in front of the green screen. This event was made possible by a WWI and America Grant.



*(continued on page 7)*

# News Around the System

*(continued from page 6)*

The afternoon of August 21st, the library hosted one of its most unique events ever, in the form of a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party! We had people in attendance from all over: Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Massachusetts, and Texas (to name a few of the states). Everyone enjoyed visiting with one another, both before and after the total eclipse. It was definitely a day that everyone will remember! There was even a marriage proposal (she said yes) by an Iowa couple that took place during eclipse totality.



## Palmyra Memorial Library Distributes 1,000 Solar Eclipse Glasses

*Story and photos by Glenda Willnerd*

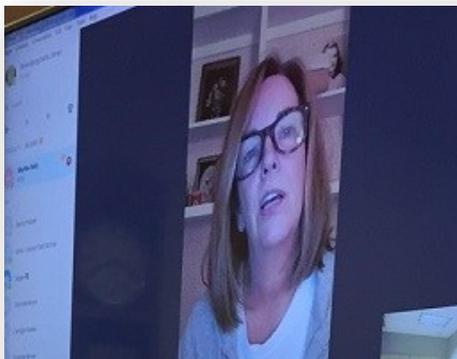
Palmyra Memorial Library distributed 1,000 solar eclipse glasses to the Palmyra and Bennet Schools and members of the community. Pictured are students at Bennet Elementary School viewing the eclipse. First graders viewed the eclipse from inside the school and sixth graders watched from outside.



## Video Chat with Author Martha Hall Kelly

*Story and photos by Monica Tidyman*

On August 15 the Stromsburg Public Library Book Club had a very interesting video chat with Martha Hall Kelly, author of "Lilac Girls." This is a book we've owned for over a year and it doesn't spend much time on the shelves. After the video chat and the publicity, it has a holds list again! Many of the Book Club members were skeptical about the size of the book and about doing a video chat, but everyone enjoyed the evening and they are now recommending who we could try Skyping with next. One of the book club members also opened up about what it was like to grow up in Germany as Adolf Hitler came into power.



# News Around the System

## Geneva Hosts Team from the Nicolaus Copernicus Foundation

*By Sarah Johnson*

The Geneva Public Library learned on August 11, that they would be the fortunate site chosen by the Nicolaus Copernicus Foundation team from Poland, to live stream and record the August 21, 2017 solar eclipse. Several hundred Fillmore County residents and tourists from around the world took advantage of the telescopes and cameras, and the astronomy knowledge, provided by this group of four professional astronomers and seven astronomy enthusiasts on the library lawn between August 18 and 21. This group calls a small observatory in Truszczyny, Poland, their home base, which is part of the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences. A grant from the Polish Ministry of Science and Education made their trip possible. In addition to being astronomers, the team included a physicist, a graphic artist, two university professors, a popular Polish television personality, an employee at an energy plant, a TV reporter/journalist, a computer scientist/accountant, and a farmer. The library staff had a wonderful time hosting the group!



## Milligan Public Library Uses Prize Money for Seniors

*Story and photo by Shirley Brunkow*

The Milligan Public Library board voted to use the Milligan Mulla money the library received for second place in the June Jubilee parade to make a meal for the senior citizens on Thursday, August 17, 2017. A meal of Poor Man's Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, Jell-O salad, and ice cream and cake was made and served by Dorothy Novak, Kathy Rischling, Donna Krupicka and Shirley Brunkow, library board members. The meal was served in the Brunkow Downtown Building with twelve senior citizens in attendance.



# News Around the System

## Let's Party in the Library

*By Charlotte Baldinger, photos by library staff*

Two significant community events took place in the library during the past month. On August 21 the library was in the path of totality for the eclipse. The library hosted an Eclipse Viewing Party. The staff wore their specially designed eclipse shirts and the Friends of Seward Library supplied a free eclipse lunch, serving “hot as the sun” dogs, Sun chips, Sunny Delight and eclipse sundaes. There was a selfie station and music trivia games for adults while the children participated in a variety of eclipse craft projects. The library closed at 12:45 p.m. so the staff could join the crowd of over 200 patrons waiting in the parking lot. There were oohs and aahs as the community witnessed the stages leading to totality!



Seward Memorial Library continued the festive spirit by hosting a Tailgate Party on Saturday, September 9. Live music provided by the Firehouse Five and the Seward High School Drumline broke the quiet atmosphere of the library. Football-related activity stations were set up throughout the building. Carrying BINGO cards families traveled among the book stacks to participate in games such as finger flick football, penalty flag toss, quarterback pass practice, flagger Jack and more to earn prizes for completing a blackout. Cheerleaders added their enthusiasm, encouraging a winning spirit during the morning and they also helped add sports tattoos to little faces. The Friends of Seward Library provided a free lunch and served the fans. The patrons left with sports theme prizes and prepared to watch their favorite football team in action later that day. The staff feels qualified to add experienced events coordinators to their library resume!



## Library Innovation Studios at Conference

To introduce Nebraska library staff to the Library Innovation Studios project, the Nebraska Library Commission will have lots of fun learning experiences available at the upcoming NLS/NSLA conference in Kearney.

Thursday (October 12) and Friday morning (October 13), plan to stop by our Library Innovation Studios area in the Exhibit Hall. Watch the equipment in action and work with us to make things in the studio area. Make a button, a laser-cut coaster or name tag, a laminated bookmark, a t-shirt, an embroidered hot pad, or other things that we'll be demonstrating or helping you make. (Supplies will be limited.) Bring a photo of your library, cat/dog, or kids to make a picture-backed mirror or a picture button for your refrigerator (the finished product to be 2.25" in diameter). Or bring your library logo, favorite photos, or artwork on a memory stick to work into a design.

Thursday (October 12) at 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: **Learn, Play, Make @ Library Innovation Studios.** Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Innovation Studio staff will lead this interactive workshop in the Exhibit Hall to demonstrate how to use several of the components that will be featured at the *Nebraska Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities* local library studios. For a look at components you can expect to see in action, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios/Components/>.

Thursday (October 12) at 3:00-4:00 p.m.: **Library Innovation Studios: How to Garner Community Support for a Makerspace.** Presenters from the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Extension will share information about the Library Innovation Studios rotating makerspaces. The community engagement process that is key to the library's ability to support a makerspace in the long term will be featured in this presentation.

If you have questions please contact JoAnn McManus, NLC Library Innovation Studios Project Manager, 402-471-4870 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov](mailto:joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov). We look forward to seeing you in Kearney.



# Book Review

*The Untold Story of the Talking Book*, by Mathew Rubery, 2016, Harvard University Press, 978-0-674-54544-1, List price \$29.95. In the Nebraska Library Commission collection, Z5347 .R83 2016; to request please contact [nlc.ask@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.ask@nebraska.gov). Reviewed by Cathy Hatterman.

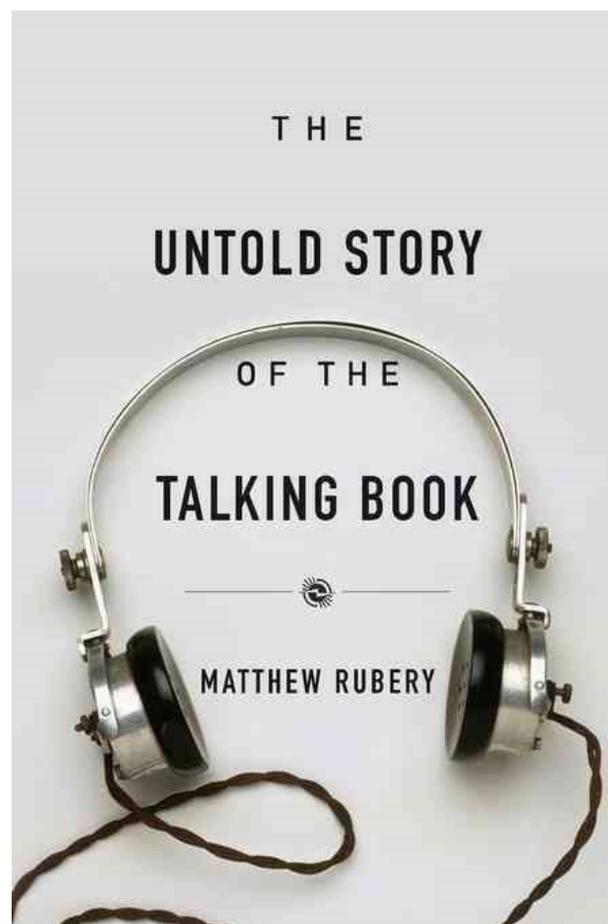
Audiobooks are a recently conceived idea? No. Audiobooks were originally enjoyed only by the blind. No. Audiobooks were only played in cars? Well, the ones from the company called Books on Tape were on cassettes and first marketed to be played in the car while commuting. The first Talking Books were recorded on the first phonograph records, not cassette tapes. And why did Willa Cather and Rudyard Kipling not want their books recorded? Learn all this and much more in *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* by Matthew Rubery.

Actually, the beginning of the idea of books recoded on media begins with the first recording machine by Edison. His first audiences in 1878 already theorized about books being read on the cylinders first used. But the first media held 10 minutes of sound. The reality of Talking Books for the blind came about in 1930, on both sides of the Atlantic. Phonographs to play the records had to be provided as well, since they were expensive for many years.

The author follows the growth of the Talking Book for the Blind in the United States, the Talking Book for the Blind in the United Kingdom, and the rise of the commercial Talking Book, (Caedmon Records, Books on Tape, Audiobooks). Various themes run through all of the chapters. How poetry was usually popular recorded. How even the sighted families of the blind enjoyed Talking Books. Even some of the complaints—common for Talking Book for the Blind on both sides of the Atlantic was the complaint about accents! Such as having Dickens read in a southern accent. Or in the UK, a particularly thick country accent for the latest novel. Both countries solved the problems, but not exactly the same way.

I also include “The Library of Congress, Books for the Blind, Bowen Co., and technology...”, a blogpost from the Lux Mentis Booksellers, linked to in *American Libraries Direct*, 7/18/17 (the email newsletter from ALA), which contains photographs of Talking Book disks, and phonographs....

<http://www.asideofbooks.com/2017/07/18/the-library-of-congress-books-for-the-blind-bowen-co-and-technology/>



## SELS Friends to Host Hospitality Room

The SELS Friends group is once again hosting a Hospitality Room at the NLA/NSLA conference in Kearney, and we are looking for donations (food, drinks, napkins, cups, or cash) to help make it a wonderful experience!

If you are interested in donating to this social event, please contact us at [info@selsfriends.org](mailto:info@selsfriends.org) and arrangements will be made.

If you are planning to attend conference, stop by the SELS Friends exhibit table so the hospitality room information can be shared with you. At that same time, for only a small cost you may enter one of our exciting raffles!



**MOSAIC 2017**

Join us in celebrating the brightest and best titles in multicultural literature with our interactive display.

September 11-28  
Lincoln Public Schools  
District Office Lobby



# RAFFLE!

at the 2017 NLA/NSLA Conference in Kearney!

Raffle Tickets

**\$1 each**

**\$2 for 3**



nook Tablet® 7"

plus cover  
& micro SD card!



String Beans CDs & shirts  
will also be raffled!  
Stop by the  
SELS Friends booth!

# Teen Read Week



## Friends of the Library Week PSA

[National Friends of Libraries Week](http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek/materials) is October 15-21. You can find promotional and marketing materials at [http://www.ala.org/united/events\\_conferences/folweek/materials](http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek/materials). An example is the following PSA, also available in a 15 second version. Click anywhere on the image to play!





SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 | WWW.ALA.ORG/AASL/BWAD

# BANNED WEBSITES AWARENESS DAY



46  
CHALLENGED  
TITLES  
are listed in the  
Field Report  
2016

**PUBLIC CHALLENGES**  
Verified by a third party

323  
CHALLENGES  
were reported to the  
American Library  
Association  
in 2016

**REPORTED CHALLENGES**

Includes non-books: databases, filtering, disinvited speakers, programs and social media

Some are confidential because librarians fear losing their jobs.

The Top Ten list is calculated from Reported Challenges.

There may be as many as 10,766 challenges every year

[ala.org/challengereporting](http://ala.org/challengereporting)

**SILENT CHALLENGES**

82-97% of challenges remain unreported

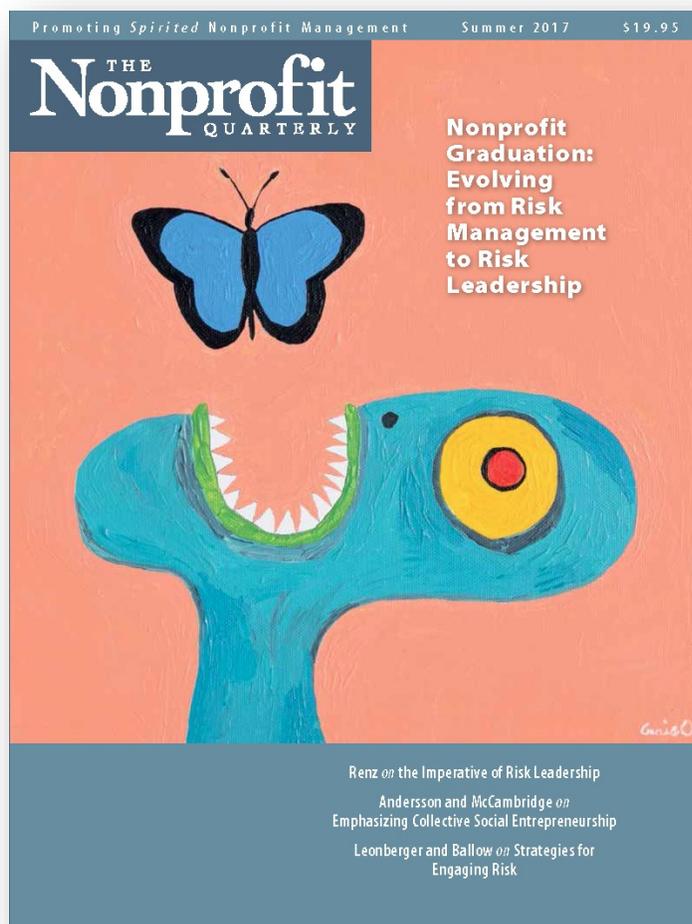


# System Spotlight

## *The Nonprofit Quarterly*

### Added to Journal Article Request Service

This journal is now a part of our journal article request service. If you are interested in receiving articles from this journal, please email the SELS office at [selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com). For more information, see the [journal article request service](#) page on our website.



## 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

#### Staff:

Executive Director—Scott Childers  
[scott.childers.sels@gmail.com](mailto:scott.childers.sels@gmail.com)

Assistant Director—Todd Schlechte  
[todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com](mailto:todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant—Maggie Kramer  
[maggie.kramer.sels@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.kramer.sels@gmail.com)

#### Contact Us:

Local Phone: 402-467-6188  
 Toll Free Phone: 800-288-6063  
 Fax: 844-270-7004  
[selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com)

5730 R St. Suite C-1  
 Lincoln, NE 68505

