



Western Library System Helping libraries serve our communities.

A very productive day!

By Pat Gross

In all my years being a librarian in western Nebraska I have observed many librarians in the system face challenges in order to attend any workshop, NLA/NSLA/NEMA or NETA conference, or training. Many events are held a considerable distance from our libraries and staffing numbers do not allow librarians; library staff to be gone for days. We just had an event that eliminates those obstacles and allows us access to presenters in our state and across our nation.

I hope all of you had a chance to participate by viewing some of the sessions during the Big Talk From Small Libraries Online Conference on February 24. Recently at the board meeting a few librarians said they attended the conference all day at their desks. Many librarians experienced another monumental 2017 snow event, and this form of presentation prevented any cancellation due to weather. We started out our morning at 7:30 am. and I bet many attended this conference in their casual attire, if not in their pajamas.

This conference was a free one-day online conference aimed at librarians from small libraries. All school, public, academic, and specialty libraries in our system can take advantage of all the topics that were featured during this online event. Many of the sessions offered topics ranging from technology, programming, to the new roles that librarians and libraries are transforming to meet the needs of their patrons.

Some of the innovative ideas presented that day featured some solutions to a few of the questions I have encountered during my travels throughout the system.

What My DIY Digitization Space Looks Like



photos to assist in the construction.

The DIY Digitization Chamber is perfect for smaller institutions with limited budgets that want to create digital content, institutions with rare or fragile materials that need to be digitized in-house, and institutions with collections of 2D and 3D objects that they want to convert to digital content.

A session called *Digitize It Yourself: A Method of In-House Digitization* by Amanda M. Shepp, might be of interest to those that are thinking of digitizing some of your fragile archival materials. Amanda featured a DIY digitization chamber with very detailed



THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.

~DR. SEUSS

In This Issue

- Big Talk From Small Libraries
- Mark Your Calendar NCompass Live Basic Skills
- E-rate Program for Beginners.
- Eclipse Resources Crisis in the Library
- NETA Conference
- NebraskaAccess
- Summer Reading Workshops
- School Librarians Day
- News Around The System
- Librarians Around the System
- Read Across America Day

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

Gold Nuggets: Mining Your Community for New and Exciting Programs by Jane Somerville is a session with very useable ideas. Jane Somerville is a librarian who serves a population of 252, but her ideas should not be limited to numbers. Every community regardless of size needs to utilize the talents of their local people and create partnerships within your community to provide excellent programs. Did I mention that these program ideas featured in this session are very inexpensive or free to stage in your community?



This was a very popular program and appreciated by the men in the community.



Cake at the Lake made me think of Morrill Public Library's program, they are just missing the lake part! *Social Media for a Small Library* is a session that might answer your questions if you are thinking about using social media to feature your services to your community. Are you interested in becoming the *Best Little Library in America* or would you like you patrons to *PROWL the Library* and learn about your library services?

Are you sorry you missed the *Big Talk from Small Libraries*? Don't despair!

You can catch all the sessions in their entirety! We had an announcement email from Christa Porter, the NLC facilitator of this massive project, on March 16th.

Recordings of all 2017 Big Talk From Small Libraries sessions are now available. You will find them through the [Previous Conferences](#) page.

Earn up to 8 hours of CE credit.

They are still waiting for a few of the PowerPoint files from the presenters - they will be added as soon as they receive them.

New Service: DVD Video Kits for Circulation

At a recent WLS Board Meeting the board approved a new service for all member libraries to utilize.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Clapper at: wlsasst@gmail.com

Check out the following Service Agreement.

Western Library System DVD Service Agreement

The Western Library System Rotating DVD Collection service is replaced with a new service that is now open to any WLS member library.

Currently we have 405 DVDs that were used in the rotations on our shelves. A list of the DVDs will be provided by requesting an emailed excel file from Jeri. You may check out 20 DVDs of your choosing to borrow for up to 90 days. We will mail the DVDs to your library and you will be responsible for the postage of mailing them back within 90 days. Any library has the option to stop by the office for pick up or drop off the DVDs.

The DVDs include:

- Family videos
- Adult/Popular videos
- Children videos
- Westerns/Classics videos
- Non-fiction/Documentary videos

Each video has a Western Library System label on the DVD and case.

Each library may select its own loan period and circulation procedures. Do not place library labels, or any permanent sticker, on the cases or DVDs, these are still **WLS's property**. The participating library is responsible for keeping track of the whereabouts of the borrowed DVDs.

The participating library is responsible for the replacement of any lost, stolen, or non-repairable DVDs. The library will be invoiced for any DVDs that are damaged or not returned. Replacement cost plus a processing fee of \$2.50 will be accessed for each lost or damaged DVD.

This Agreement is made this _____ day of _____, 2017

between and among _____ (name of library),

and **The Western Library System**. Please sign and make a copy for yourself, then send this form back to:
Western Library System, 115 Railway Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Library Director

WLS Representative

A one-time signed service agreement must be faxed or mailed to the WLS office before requesting DVDs.

How to get started:

Choose 25 DVDs (20 first pick, plus 5 more alternate DVDs in case some are already checked out)
Contact the Western Library System office with your choices. We will mail you the DVDs to keep for 90 days.

Mark Your Calendar

Letters about Literature Writing Clinic grant due March 30.

National Poetry & School Library Month -- April

National School Librarians Day
April 4

National Library Week
April 9 -15

National Library Worker's Day
April 11

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship
Application deadline April 15

Nebraska Makerspace Workshop - Hosted by Nebraska Innovation Studio
For [Information click here](#)
April 17 - 18

2017 NETA Conference
CenturyLink Center - Omaha
April 19 - 21
For [Information click here](#)

**School Librarians Day
Scottsbluff – WNCC**
Harms Advanced Technology Center 10:00 am.–3:00 pm. (MST)
May 5, 2017, Friday

WLS Board Meeting
Railway Office Plaza, Conf. Room
10:00 a.m. May 10

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

NLA/NSLA Fall Conference
Oct 11-13 Kearney

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events:

- April 5 – Making Space: Administrative Weeding
- April 12 - Building a Digital Image Collection With Flickr: A low (or no) cost way to share your digital assets
- April 19 - LMNOP: The Evolution of Engagement
- April 26 - Collecting Library User Feedback: Free! high tech and low tech options that will meet your needs

NCompass Live is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am Mountain Time.

For more information, to register for NCompass Live, or to listen to re-

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2017 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
4/10 - 4/21	Readers' Advisory	Sharon Osenga	3/13 - 3/30
4/24 - 5/5	Intellectual Freedom and the Core Values of Librarianship*	Sally Snyder	3/27 - 4/13
5/8 - 5/19	Library Finance	Francine Canfield	4/10 - 4/27
6/12 - 6/23	Reference	Christa Burns	5/8 - 6/1
7/17 - 7/28	Collection Management*	Denise Harders	6/12 - 7/6

(* 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.





— SPECIAL EDITION —

March 22, 2017

Webinars: E-rate Program Overview for Beginners

E-rate Program applicants are invited to participate in a webinar on the E-rate program and the application process for Funding Year 2017. These webinars are tailored for new E-rate applicants or anyone who needs a refresher on basic program information. During each webinar, the audience will have the opportunity to participate in a live question and answer session with members of the Schools and Libraries team.

Registration for these events is now open and available in the "Upcoming Events" section of the Schools and Libraries [Trainings & Outreach](#) page. Register for one or both webinars based on your training needs.

E-rate 101: Introduction to the E-rate Program

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This webinar provides an overview of E-rate Program fundamentals, including key terms, timelines, processes, and the roles of USAC and the FCC. Learn who can apply for funding and what types of services are eligible as well as how to calculate your discounts and Category Two budgets. The presentation is a great option for first-time applicants and anyone who needs a refresher on the basics of the E-rate Program. [Register Now!](#)

E-rate Program Application Process

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This webinar provides a detailed overview of the E-rate Program Application Process. We will explain the purpose and process of filing each program form, including your options for invoicing. We will also provide guidance on the requirements for choosing a vendor and what to expect during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review. Last, we'll cover the rules and importance of document retention. The presentation is intended for first-time applicants and anyone who needs a refresher on the basics of the E-rate Program Application Process.

[Register Now!](#)

If you can't attend the live presentations, register for the webinars and we'll send you a link to the recording. The recordings will also be posted in the [Online Learning Library](#).

Equipment and Set-Up

To participate, you'll need:

- Minimum system requirements:
- Click the "FAQs and System Test" button on the event's registration page.
- A computer or mobile device with an Internet connection.
- Computer speakers or headset.

Need Help?

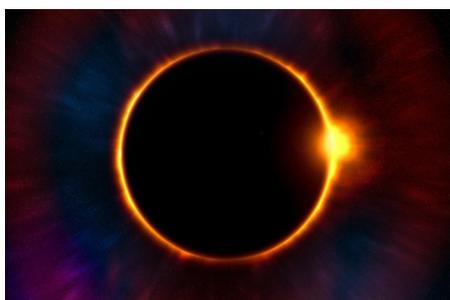
If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact USAC Outreach at outreach@usac.org.

Audience members may submit questions anytime during the live event. If the presenters are unable to answer your questions, please call the Client Service Bureau at (888) 203-8100 or open a customer service case in [EPC](#).

For any libraries interested in E-rate, I strongly recommend that you attend these webinars to learn more about the program. These sessions will be useful to libraries who are new to E-rate and current E-rate libraries who just want a refresher on what E-rate is all about. If you have any questions contact Christa Porter at the NLC

Please Note New Email Address: christa.porter@nebraska.gov

Eclipse Resources for August 21, 2017



Glasses and Eclipse Education Kit

On August 21, 2017, a spectacular total eclipse of the Sun will be visible across the width of the continental U.S. for the first time since 1918. Every state will have at least 60% of the Sun covered by the Moon, and lucky people on a narrow path from Oregon to South Carolina will see the stunning beauty of totality. *STAR_Net's NASA@ My Library* initiative with support from NASA, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Research Corporation, and Google, is distributing over 2 million solar viewing glasses and an Eclipse Education Kit to public libraries.

[Apply for Eclipse Glasses & Education Kit](#)

FYI - WEBINAR Available:

Crisis in the Library: Are You Prepared?

Friday, April 14, 2017, 1 pm MT/ 2 pm CT

There is no cost for the webinar but you do need to register in advance.

This webinar is for the library workforce with ten simple steps to take to be aware of potential hazards and serve as a guide to actions needed to be ready for any disaster affecting the library! The session is based on the 10-Step Approach to Service Continuity Planning developed by Dan Wilson at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia Health System. Participants will be shown the tools to assess risk, identify core services and resources at the library and what can be included in a one page disaster plan. Although the webinar is a good overview for those in health sciences libraries, all kinds of libraries can benefit from and adapt the information to their needs. For more information and to register: <https://nml.gov/class/crisis-library-are-you-prepared/7226>

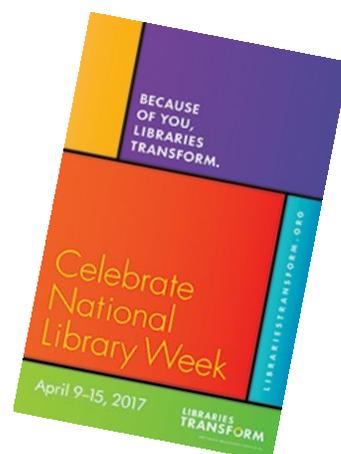
Links FYI:

Celebrate National Library Week April 9 -15

<http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

April is School Library Month:

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm>



Do you have scratched CDs, DVDs, Books on Disc, Blu-ray, and even the latest game discs in your library collection?

HELP IS ON THE WAY!



The Western Library System Office has the ECO-SMART Disc Repair System. It is not just a buffer, but a full service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't work. As long as they are not cracked, we can probably fix them.

- From July 1st thru June 30th of each fiscal year, each WLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings.
- If you have more than 10 discs that need fixing, you may send them to us and we will repair them and send them back with an invoice for 50 cents per disc plus return postage. This will go toward the cost of replacing disc cleaning supplies and polishing pads.
- If you come to the WLS Office in Scottsbluff and pick up the repaired discs, the charge is 50 cents per disc. A similar service elsewhere would cost between \$3.00-\$5.00 per disc!
- The discs and/or container must have a library identification sticker so we know which library they belong to.
- An invoice for the disc cleaning/return postage charge will be included with the returned discs. Please submit payment within 30 days.



If you want to provide skip-free audio books and movies to your patrons, send us your discs! If you need more information, contact the WLS office at 308-632-1350.

2017 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 19 - 21, 2017 | CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE



CONFERENCE INFORMATION



ATTENDEE SATISFACTION RATE



OVER 100 CORPORATE SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS supporting NETA's Purpose and Vision



Attendance was over 2,500 Educators at 2016 Spring Conference



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
Keynote/Featured Speakers

OVER 375

SCHOOL DISTRICT and ESU TECHNOLOGY "Decision-makers" attend the conference, and many more "influencers"



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



10% AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE Over the last 8 years
37% this PAST YEAR

MEMBERS from the FOLLOWING:

- ◆ Beijing
- ◆ Illinois
- ◆ Louisiana
- ◆ Minnesota
- ◆ Nebraska
- ◆ North Carolina
- ◆ Rhode Island
- ◆ Wisconsin
- ◆ California
- ◆ Iowa
- ◆ Massachusetts
- ◆ Missouri
- ◆ Nevada
- ◆ Ohio
- ◆ South Dakota
- ◆ Colorado
- ◆ Kansas
- ◆ Michigan
- ◆ Montana
- ◆ New York
- ◆ Pennsylvania
- ◆ Texas

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that provides leadership and promotes the application of technology to the educational process.

VISION

The Nebraska educational process will promote utilization of appropriate technology to support quality teaching and learning.

STAY IN TOUCH



@yourNETA



www.netasite.org

April 19-21, 2017 at CenturyLink Center Omaha, Nebraska's Premier Conference Space!

- Over 200+ featured, breakout, and interactive educational technology sessions from which to choose on Thursday and Friday
- Numerous hands-on workshops designed to give you a more in-depth experience on Wednesday
- Nationally recognized Speakers
- Admittance to a Maker Fair
- Playgrounds where YOU can personally experience the Newest Technologies
- Opportunity to meet and interact with Over 100 Exhibitors

For more [Conference 2017 Information click here](#)

To Register: <https://center.uoregon.edu/NETA/2017/registration/>

NebraskAccess - It is New Password Time!



To maintain security, NebraskAccess passwords are changed twice a year on April 1 and October 1. Your library's new password, officially goes into effect on April 1, 2017. This new password will remain in effect through September 30, 2017.

Don't forget that you can distribute the library's NebraskAccess password to your patrons and students so they can use the NebraskAccess resources from home or other locations. For an easy way to distribute the new passwords, try the customizable business cards:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/nebraskaccess/businesscard.aspx>

If you have questions about NebraskAccess please contact:

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

allana.novotny@nebraska.gov

[800-307-2665](tel:800-307-2665) or [402-471-6681](tel:402-471-6681)



With its rich agricultural and rural heritage, Nebraska is a place where being self-reliant and finding creative solutions to everyday problems is a way of life. We believe Nebraskans' special talent in making positions our state to lead in the maker movement.

April 17-18 the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska Innovation Studio are hosting a workshop to develop a concept for a network of Nebraska makerspaces. The goal: to link communities and foster the state's culture of making.

This workshop, held at Nebraska Innovation Campus and Nebraska Innovation Studio, is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in making in Nebraska - including educational institutions, libraries, community makerspaces and economic development offices - is encouraged to participate. Limited spots are available and advance registration is required.

Workshop objectives include:

- Discussing the 'state of making' and makerspaces in Nebraska;
- Learning about the concept of makerspace networks and how they can become engines for informal STEM learning, innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development; and
- Identifying technological, economic and geographic barriers to developing a makerspace network and how to overcome those challenges.

April 17 will feature speakers and breakout discussions on the state of making in Nebraska and the potential for a makerspace network. April 18 is optional, offering training in establishing a makerspace and using equipment commonly found in makerspaces, including 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC routers and woodworking tools.

[View the preliminary schedule here.](#)

SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS



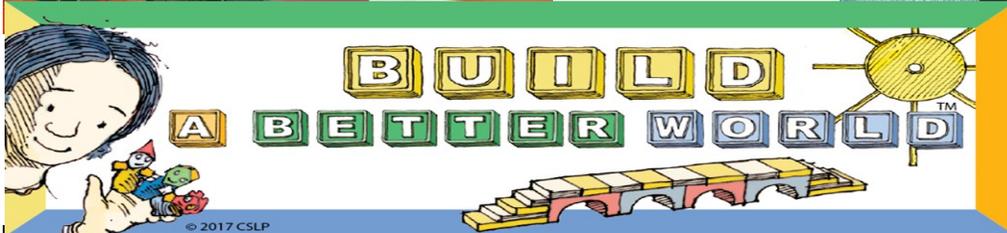
31 Western Library System librarians spent two very informative days gearing up for the 2017 Summer Reading Programs that will be featured in our communities in WLS service area. Presenters for the day included Sally Snyder, NLC Coordinator Children & YA Library Services, with her latest book reviews the will help our librarians with collection development in their libraries. Sandra Wallick, Lincoln City Library, Gere Branch outdid herself sharing many new activities and crafts that can be adapted to every kind of programming and featured many that will *Build a Better World*™. Kelley Rice, UNL Extension Educator gave a presentation on the 4H STEM Reading Connections - Build a Better World. Kelley's program included 3 hands on stations to give the librarians practice in problem solving and cooperative learning. One of the highlights of the day is the sharing time.

Thanks to Bridgeport librarians, Tammy Howitt-Covalt, Lori Leonard and Cheryl Hamilton for sharing your ideas, love the "human" large Lego display. Thanks to Deb Carlson and Ginnie Perez from the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library for all the handouts with valuable ideas. Thanks to Roselle Tesch, Chadron Public Library for her inspiring musical idea that got everyone in the room engaged in her shared idea.

Many Librarians stated in their evaluations that they appreciated learning about Virtual Field Trips and the demonstration of how it all works in real time. Our thanks to Annie Mumgaard, Virtual Learning Educator/Coordinator, University of Nebraska State Museum for teaching us about VFT's and how we can bring the Elephants in Nebraska to our children and patrons in the community. Several librarians appreciated new display ideas that are 3D stand outs from shelves that float on your bulletin boards to cardboard tricks to light up you messages.



Check out the Tool inspired SPR bulletin board idea on the last page of this Newsletter. If you want to try this, I have some used saw blades for free. Contact me at the office.



SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS

Our Thanks to Chadron and Scottsbluff for hosting!



Don't miss this opportunity to attend this event in Western Nebraska.

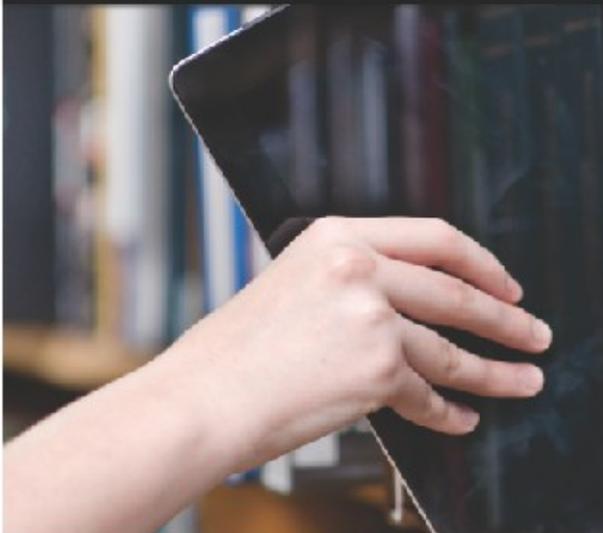
WESTERN NEBRASKA

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017

Scottsbluff – WNCC
Harms Advanced Technology Center
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (MT)

NEBRASKA SCHOOL LIBRARIANS DAY

Save the Date (more details coming soon!)



**TOPICS INCLUDE LITERATURE,
LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY**

FREE to NSLA Members

Price of Membership for Non-Members

\$30 individual | \$15 student | \$10 retired

Questions? Angie Richeson (richesonac@unk.edu)

Sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA), UNO & UNK
with support from the Nebraska Library Commission and the State Regional Library Systems

You have asked for trainings and workshops to be brought to our part of the state. WELL, here is your opportunity to attend one in the WLS area!

Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) and other partners have developed a School Librarians Day held in Western Nebraska May 5, 2017. If you cannot attend a state conference, I recommend you try to make this event that has been scheduled in our area.

Online Registration will be available after April 3 on the NSLA website.

Check with Angie Richeson if you have any questions: richesonac@unk.edu
or Carol Mathews carole.matthews@hshawks.com

Watch for more information sent to you through the WLS listserv.

Make sure you have subscribed to the WLS listserv on the NLC website. The listserv is the main form of communication that this office uses to keep you informed of current timely information from the Western Library System and the Nebraska Library Commission.

If you have any questions as to how to sign up for a listserve account, Please call the office and Jeri or I would be happy to assist you.

News Around The System

Kimball Public Library had a “Preschool Stuffed Animal Sleepover” in their library. Children brought their favorite stuffed animal to a story time held by Leta Liesch, Children’s Librarian. Leta read the book, “I Don’t Want to Go to Bed” by Julie Sykes. The children and stuffed animals did crafts together and after story time the pets stayed and the children went home. The stuffed animals had a pizza party for lunch, did activities to get acquainted, and made new animal friends. All stuffed animals went to sleep when the library closed.

Leta had the mothers fill out name tags with the stuffed animal’s name, child’s name, and favorite book. She took pictures of the pets reading the favorite books. The tags were tied around the pet’s neck when they closed that night. Leta also took pictures of the child and stuffed pet in order to keep track of who owned the stuffed pet. The animals were picked up the next day when the library opened.

The library made a Shutterfly picture album of the day that is kept at the library for everyone to enjoy.



Check out Kimball Public Library’s Face Book page for additional pictures of the “Preschool Stuffed Animal Sleepover” You can contact Kimball Public Library if you want more information about this project.

Phone:
308-235-4523

kpilib@megavisison.com



Photos by Leta Liesch

News Around The System

Gering Public Library will soon LEAP into Learning!

INTRODUCING LEAP

Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play



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

Tuesday evenings from 6-7
At the Gering Public Library

Registration is required.
Call 436-7433
Begins April 4

LEAP (Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play) is an early literacy, math, and school readiness program for children ages 2-5 years. 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. The pilot program for LEAP will start April 4 and run every Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 until May 23 with plans to continue in the fall through the school year.

"I wanted to provide an early childhood evening program to reach families who couldn't come to storytime during the day," said Clarke. "LEAP will fill in the gap for kids who are not old enough to start school but it will also be appropriate for younger children as well. It is designed to meet children at their level, including English language learners."

LEAP is designed to prepare children for school through an understanding of print and letter sounds as well as a sense of numbers along with hands-on opportunities to explore and learn through a variety of methods such as puppets, clay, paint,

sand and blocks while practicing fine motor skills as well as social and emotional skills.

"We encourage regular attendance so the child can get the most out of the program," said Clarke.

Registration is required due to limited space. Parents will stay with their child, either interacting with them or simply observing them during activities. QUESTIONS? Contact the Gering Public Library at (308)436-7433 or

cclarke@geringlibrary.org.

Article and flyer provided by Christie Clark

Leyton Elementary has a Wax Museum

The Leyton 5th grade recently had their Wax Museum. Each of the 20 students chose a person that inspired them. Some of the people chosen were from history and some were present day. Michael Phelps, Donald Trump and Mike Pence were examples of current figures, while Daniel Boone, Christopher Columbus, and Harriet Tubman were a few figures of the past. Each student prepared a 60-90 second speech in which the figure came to life, just like in a real wax museum, after the "buttons" were pushed. The 5th graders incorporated many skills into this project such as research, biographies, public speaking, and geography. The library hosted Wax Museum was buzzing with over 150 visitors from our staff, students, and community. These 5th graders made Leyton proud. This project was a collaboration of Jill Bartling-5th grade teacher and Dana Morgan-Media Specialist at Leyton Public Schools.



News Around The System

Creative March Displays

Christine Egger, Director of Dundy County Library in Benkelman, shares three of her creative March displays. The St. Patrick's display features books and movies with Irish connections. Because March is National Women's History Month a collage of famous women stands out on the wall. Displaying books and movies about basketball catches everyone attention during the NCAA March Madness.



Photos by Christine Egger



Chadron Public Library has a Rainbow over the Children's Circulation Desk. Constructed with pool noodles fastened end to end, arched, and suspended from the ceiling. Colored die cut shamrocks taped together and attached to the long pool noodles makes a striking display that Elizabeth Dahl, Youth Services librarian, says the children have been enjoying their rainbow.



Chadron Photos by Pat Gross



Mitchell Public Library's Assistant Librarian, Priscilla Plasencio, has used pool noodles wrapped with black tape and added large tissue paper pom poms to construct Dr. Seuss Truffula trees. Mitchell also has fun pillows to offer a comfy spot for their young readers.



Photos by Priscilla Plasencio

[Morrill Public Library](#) has a very large bulletin board in their community room. This March display was done by Jan Andrew, library assistant. Photo provided by Sarah Alfred, Director of Morrill Public Library.



Makerspaces in the Lincoln Heights Elementary Library

Lincoln Heights Elementary School Library was fortunate to receive a \$500 grant from WLS in order to buy makerspace supplies for our students. We officially have our makerspaces up and running and it has been an adventure! Our grant money was used to purchase everything from circuits to paper plates in order support the exploration and self-guided learning of our students. The grant allowed our students to join the maker movement and they have had tons of fun doing it!



To start our makerspaces, the students have needed a little guidance. I give the students a bucket of supplies and a challenge they need to solve. My students are so excited to come into the library since the implementation of makerspaces. They can hardly wait until it is time to do them!



Our makerspaces range from low to high tech. My students have created everything from parachutes and towers to robotic cars! It is amazing to see what students are able to do as they work together to create and build. They are truly becoming a community of makers! We are in the beginning stages of implementing our makerspaces and I hope to see them grow and change to suit the needs of our learners, but we are off to a great start!

Photos and article provided by Maggie Feltgen

News Around The System

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library features a STEM Club



STEM Club, recently debuted at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. They had forty kids and twenty-two adults attend. The club was actually prepared and led by Jamie Chen, Miss Metro's Outstanding Teen 2017, whose pageant platform is Grow: Girls in STEM. She encourages students to get involved in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.) Each monthly club meeting, which is targeted to kids in grades K-5, will focus on a different activity. Jamie introduced the group to mechanical kits donated by Mechanical Kits Ltd which were used to build Up-and-Over machines. Jamie briefly explained the physics behind the project as well.



LSPL Photos and article provided by Noelle Thompson, Director

WLS Mini-Grant: Hemingford Public Schools

With help from a mini-grant from the Western Library System, the libraries at Hemingford Public Schools were able to obtain two new RCA Viking tablets, tablet cases, and screen protectors. These tablets will replace the aging mini-laptops that have been used in the past to monitor inventory. This particular tablet model is especially useful because it offers a USB port, which is necessary to connect the bar code scanners that the libraries currently use, but also allow the use of wireless barcode scanners should those be purchased in the future.

Librarian Jill Hurtt and Library Aide Brenda Davies are also excited to use the tablets to help demonstrate the use of various apps that library patrons can utilize to access a variety of online resources for research and for general reading. Many free apps are available which offer full-text fiction and nonfiction books to readers at no cost, and they believe that students would enjoy using these apps to access books even when they cannot get to the school library, particularly in the summer. The library also offers access to various online resources that students can use for research, such as Encyclopedia Britannica Online and the NebraskaAccess portal, which includes full-text articles from a wide variety of magazines and scholarly journals that students may find particularly useful for schoolwork. As students increasingly access content via tablets and smartphones, it is important to ensure that they can use mobile devices to access useful information in addition to the games and social media apps with which they are already familiar.



Mrs. Hurtt and Mrs. Davies wish to express their gratitude for the generous grant from the WLS. They believe that the grant will allow them to expand the education experiences that the libraries offer well into the future.

WLS Mini-Grant: Gering Public Library

Gering Public Library received a WLS Mini Grant for our after school activities. Our library strives to provide constructive activities for the after-school crowd, including a Lego Club and a Craft Club as well as occasional Gaming Days and other unscheduled activities like trivia or building with marshmallows and toothpicks.

Art is very important in our lives yet many schools offer only token art programs if they offer one at all. The Gering Library is trying to fill this void with our twice-monthly after-school Craft Club. Our projects include multi-cultural themes such as Teepee Sand Art, and Kente Cloth Paper as well as holiday themes like Foil Christmas Tree Ornaments and Clay Play Hearts and other fun projects like Waterless Snow Globes and Glitter Slime Monsters.

We used monies from this grant to purchase supplies for craft projects and for some individual board games; Laser Maze and Circuit Maze by Thinkfun that provide great learning opportunities.



We like to provide open ended activities for kids waiting after school and Laser Maze and Circuit Maze have been a fun challenge for the kids. These games can be played either alone or jointly and the kids enjoy the opportunity to use their hands and minds to solve the problems while learning about how electrical circuits work. These games are generally kept back for certain game days and are not available for use all the time.

Numbers of children using the games since the end of November

- 12 Laser Maze
- 11 Circuit Maze
- 6 Chess
- 4 Pictionary

Craft Club attendance averages 18-20 kids every two weeks.

Photos and article provided by Sherry Preston, librarian, Gering Public Library



BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

WLS current librarians, retired librarians, and library colleagues honored Richard Miller with a Surprise Thank You Dinner and Reception when he was in the area February 22, 2017 presenting one last workshop on Strategic Planning.



Back Row L to R. Diane Downer, Wally Sieler, Sandy White, Richard Miller, Nancy Eddy, Doris Jensen, Deb Carlson. Front Row L to R: Pat Gross, Kathy Terrell, Shirley Flack, Maryruth Reed. Above Photo provided by Wally Sieler

Thanks for all your help through the years! WLS will miss you!



Librarians Around The System



Ruth Radke, Director of Lewellen Public Library, also serves as the towns city clerk. The village office is connected to the library.



Lana Swafford, School Librarian at Garden County Schools in Oshkosh had created a very welcoming setting for her school patrons.

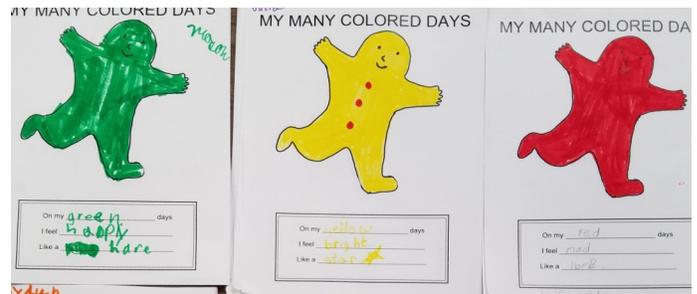
Lana has found a very practical use for all those old magazine file boxes. She repurposed the boxes as shelf guides that are easy to spot from a distance.



Read Across America Day

Celebrated - Hay Springs Public Schools

Hay Springs Public Schools celebrated Read Across America on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. The National Honor Society students came to the elementary building to read and help with the activities. The kindergarten through fifth grade were split into four mixed age groups and rotated to the different readers. They listened to *The Lorax*, then made Lorax puppets to take home. After listening to *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* students make origami or "plate" fish to put in the "ocean." *My Many Colored Days* told about how the character felt on different days. The students then colored a person and about their colored day. *Oh, the Places You Go* was the fourth book. The students filled out a slip of paper that told where they would go and what they would see. Some places

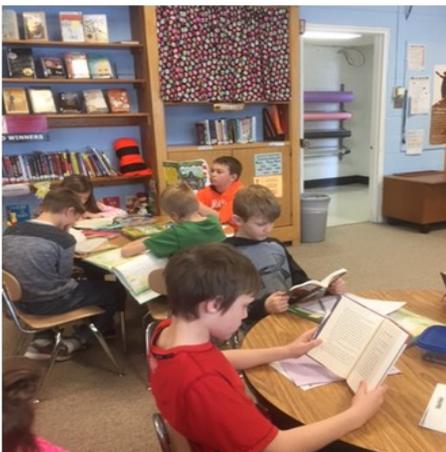


Photos and article by Carole Matthews, School Librarian

Celebrated - Mitchell Public Schools

The grant that Mitchell Public Schools received from Western Library System was used to buy books for Read Across America Day. The library was able to buy thirteen Dr. Seuss books with the grant. It was a great pleasure to provide new books for everyone to read rather than the very well worn ones that have been available in past years.

During the same week, the school celebrated Nebraska's birthday and were able to read books that were about Nebraska that were also purchased with the grant. The students in the library classes are currently writing about different places that they read about in the Nebraska fiction books. For Nebraska's birthday, we were able to purchase *C is For Cornhusker*. It has been a big hit with the students! For the older students, we purchased *Standing Bear of the Ponca*. It was on the list of books that was posted to read for the 150th birthday.



Several teachers have been anxious to share the book: *Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White*. It is a wonderful addition to the collection. The biography will help the students understand the background for the classic stories that E. B. White wrote. The third grade classes read *The Trumpet of the*

Swan. *Charlotte's Web* is loved by many students.

The library also purchased books that will be on the Golden Sower list. This will allow more students to be able to have access to read these books and vote for their favorite book and author.



Photos and article by Ruth Walker, School Librarian

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and Hitchcock

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

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



Bulletin Board SRP Tool Display created by Pat Gross



Happy Spring

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