

T R a i L S



Communication

by Tammi Thiem

I had the honor of teaching an introductory class at the University of Nebraska at Omaha this past semester, and it seemed that one word kept coming up in every interaction: communication. Prior to the class, I reviewed the syllabus carefully along with all the content for each assignment, as I wanted the written communication to be as clear as possible. In my initial class announcement, I made sure everyone knew that I would welcome questions and encourage communication. In the first virtual class, I preached the importance of communication in librarianship. I discussed how many relationships there are for librarians: patrons, staff, board members, administrators, city leaders, community members. I stressed how much easier these relationships can be if there is strong communication. I reminded the students that I would always be available to help, but only if this need is communicated.

This made me give conscious thought to the libraries in the Three Rivers Library System. I have gotten several calls or emails over the years to discuss conflicts. There are varying participants in these challenges, but they are all frustrating. After all, libraries are wonderful places for everyone, and everyone should want all the best for the libraries and all they have to offer communities. However, in the real world, there are people involved, and people often do not see eye to eye. Sometimes there are unfortunate power struggles; sometimes there is micromanagement; sometimes there is apathy; and sometimes there are simply misunderstandings.

Communication can't always solve these problems, but it can certainly help all the involved parties have a clear understanding of expectations and goals. Level heads and professional attitudes can also help, even though this can sometimes be hard to manage. Librarians are passionate about their libraries, so it can be tricky to keep emotions in check when challenged. When challenged, do your best to keep calm, keep perspective, and stand firmly by your ethics. Do try your best to understand the position of the other person or persons. Perhaps a compromise can lead to a reasonable solution.

The lesson I wanted to share with the UNO students is to build strong relationships with open and honest communication. Making efforts to start these relationships correctly is the best way to build solid foundations and prevent future conflicts from occurring. Of course, this is not a sure-fire way to prevent future conflicts, but it can certainly help pave the way for mutual understanding. Lives are much easier when everyone can just get along and have parallel goals.

I have recommended a couple of NCompass Live sessions many times recently, as I think they contain valuable information. Scott Childers from the Southeast Library System joined Christa Porter from the Nebraska Library Commission to share information about the [Open Meetings Act](#) and [Nebraska State Statutes](#). It is wise to know this information, and these are great resources for library board members, as well. These are worth continuing education credits, and I cannot stress enough how important this information is.

As always, I am available to help in whatever way that I can. Just give me a call or send me a text or an email.



At the TRails Office

Please complete the cryptogram and send the answer to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com by December 20th to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

You are welcome to share this puzzle with your patrons (minus the prize drawing).

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Basic Skills

(* Required Class)

[Library Services to Children & Teens with Sally Snyder](#)

Registration Dates: 24 October 2023 - 18 November 2023

Class Dates: 27 November 2023 - 8 December 2023

Upcoming NCompass Live

[Using Creativity to Grow & Develop](#)

Date: 6 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Canvaholic](#)

Date: 13 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Summer Reading Program 2024: Adventure Begins at Your Library](#)

Date: 20 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Pretty Sweet Tech](#)

Date: 27 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Calendar of Events

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Plattsmouth Public Library

7 December 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom

19 December 2023

10:00 am - 11:00 am

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Plattsmouth Public Library

9 January 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom

30 January 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom

27 February 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am

NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:

[Tales of Burning Love](#)

Mackenzie Marrow is the librarian in charge of book clubs at the Nebraska Library Commission and wants to share with everyone the hidden gems in the [NLC's Book Club Collection](#). Below is an excerpt, but to read the full details go to [Mackenzie's blog post](#).

*Today's Book Club Spotlight is a title from prolific Ojibwe (Chippewa)/ German-American author Louise Erdrich! And I can't think of a better author to start off [Native American Heritage Month](#) with. A Pulitzer Prize Winner, Erdrich was one of the first women admitted to Dartmouth College, later becoming the writer in residence for their Native American Studies Program. Today's title, *Tales of Burning Love*, is the 5th in her series *Love Medicine*, following a community in and around a fictional Ojibwe reservation.*

We are introduced to Jack Mauser on the day he met, married, and lost his first wife. Now, years later, his four other ex-wives gather together after tragedy and find themselves retracing the steps of their predecessor. Dot, the last wife; Candice, the young mother; Marlis, the dentist; and Eleanor, the only one who still loves him. All four women, unable to cut themselves entirely from Mauser, were taken in at one point or another by his earnest but selfish ways. Stuck in Jack's car during a blizzard, they recall their relationships with the man as wild and passionate as the storm outside.

Tales of Burning Love is about more than just blind, passionate love. It follows the trauma of loss, ruinous devotion, and religious ecstasy. The stories the wives tell intermingle and blow with the raging storm outside. While Jack Mauser may be at the center of each story, his involvement, and true nature shape and lead the women far beyond his reach. Their hopes and aspirations start or end at his feet. For Adult Book Club Groups looking for stories to curl up with as the weather gets colder, Erdrich's prose and darkly humorous storytelling are enough to keep you burning through any storm.

Library News

Clarkson Public Library's Kid Corner

by Debra Nadrchal

This is our revamped kid's corner and they love it! There are vehicles to drive on the rug and a Lego table too. They seem to have so much fun. That is the first place they go after coming through the door. The only thing we need are small Legos. We have bigger ones but with this table the little ones would be great.



Oakland Public Library's Blast From the Past

by Rosa Schmidt

After hosting a recent TRaiLS Director meeting, I went looking for this photo taken almost 14 years ago at another director meeting I had hosted at the Oakland Public Library. How many of these wonderful librarians can you name?

(hint: the cities/libraries represented are -- Front (L-R) Fremont, Wisner, Beemer, Springfield, Valley, La Vista. Back (L-R) Kathy Tooker ELS, Ralston, Papillion, Hooper, Bennington, Tekamah, West Point, and Wahoo.



Clarkson Public Library's Sweater Pumpkins

by Debra Nadrchal



Board member Polly Bahns led a group of crafters in the art of making Sweater Pumpkins. Ended up with some very interesting l'art du jour! Fun day at the library!

Scholarship Experiences

ARSL Conference

by Sheila Hoelsing

The recent Association for Rural Libraries conference held in Wichita, Kansas, proved to be a groundbreaking event for myself and librarians across the nation. One of the standout sessions I attended at the conference delved into the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence programs and their applications in rural libraries. The session: "AI: The Time-Saving Superhero for Libraries Everywhere", was amazing. I was captivated by discussions on how AI can enhance library services, such as helping with grant writing, or just to shorten the time by generating quick articles for your local newspaper. The session provided valuable insights into the potential of AI to streamline operations offering a glimpse into the future of library and time saving technology.

Another highlight of the conference was the BreakoutEDU school usage ideas session titled, "Escape This! How to Make Fun Escape Rooms for Your Patrons". In a time when education is undergoing significant changes, this session brought together educators and librarians to explore innovative ways of integrating BreakoutEDU, an immersive learning platform, into rural school libraries. It was entertaining to learn how different libraries create such fun literary experiences for such large groups in their communities.

I think the most important information that I took away from the conference this year was how the conference addressed one of the perennial challenges faced by rural librarians. In the session, "Is this the End of Social Media?" I learned how to effectively promote our libraries and engage with our communities. The session illustrated the best ways to promote libraries and learn about successful outreach strategies, community partnerships, and digital marketing techniques. All of the sessions and librarians who attended helped me garner insights that will provide me with valuable tools to bolster my library's visibility and impact, ensuring that our vital community hubs continue to flourish. In sum, the Association for Rural Libraries conference in Wichita, Kansas, was a resounding success, fostering innovation, collaboration, and empowerment among rural librarians as we continue to serve as invaluable resources to our communities.

I want to thank the Three River Library Association and Tammi Thiem for their kindness and hard work in organizing the travel and funding for librarians such as myself who would not have been able to attend without their time, effort and generosity. Because of both, I will be able to use the tools I have gained from this conference to better my library and well as my community.

Humanities Nebraska: Charlotte Endorf

by Lisa Macke

I received a Humanities Grant to host Charlotte Endorf on October 1st to present the program "No Time on My Hands: The Grace Snyder Story." Our speaker was gracious enough to offer to present on a Sunday afternoon. We had 9 people in attendance for the program along with several people watching via the Facebook Livestream.

Each and every time we have a speaker, it always amazes me the time and dedication that they have put into the research of the program. The Endorfs have traveled and got to know the Grace Snyder family. They had stories from grandchildren about their grandmother. In regards to Grace Snyder, the detail she put into her quilts was amazing. I can't imagine all the time that she spent on each one and then to have them on display in the International Quilt Museum. Thank you in part to TRLS for helping sponsor this program in our library.



Information Station

Philanthropy for All

by Tammy Day

A great big THANK YOU to Tammi Thiem for sharing this opportunity with all of you to receive a free, community-oriented book for your libraries called *Philanthropy for All: A Practical Guide to Doing Good* (written by me, Tammy Day). This book is about redefining what philanthropy is and does to make giving back more accessible for everyone. The easy-to-read and understand strategies it contains help people, businesses, organizations, and communities find ways to do philanthropy differently and increase their impact.

So, in the spirit of the book and its theme of doing more good, **I'm donating one copy of the book to a public library for every ten books sold.** As you all know so well, books have the power to inspire, motivate, educate, and change the world. And as a lifelong Nebraskan, I hope to help foster that change-the-world mentality right here at home.

If you want to give your patrons this new community-building tool, please email me at tammy@daycos.com or go to my website tammy-day.com to sign up, and I will add you to my Library Giveback list, ensuring *Philanthropy for All* will be on its way to your library soon.

Philanthropy for All

A Practical Guide to Doing More Good

by TAMMY DAY | published October 2023

Summary

Philanthropy isn't just about billionaires, giving pledges, and black-tie fundraising galas. This book demonstrates how every single person can make their community a better place—large novelty checks and tuxedos not required!

In *Philanthropy for All*, Tammy Day demonstrates that philanthropy really is for everyone, not just the wealthy. She redefines philanthropy in a way that makes it accessible for everybody and challenges the perception that philanthropy and giving back is just about money. *Philanthropy for All* provides a call to action for all people to get involved in giving back and outlines practical strategies that make impactful giving back achievable for anyone. This book expands your understanding of philanthropy and helps you discover how to use give-back strategies—like building relationships, engaging youth, and creating a culture of giving—to foster change and create a brighter, more hopeful future. In a time when our communities, our country, and the world face challenges that leave many people feeling helpless and uncertain, this book helps you expand your toolset and take action to make things better. *Philanthropy for All* broadens our understanding of what philanthropy can do and provides concrete stories and concepts to help you share your gifts.

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About Tammy Day

For the past twenty years, Tammy Day has helped businesses, organizations, and individuals do more good by connecting people, ideas, and community assets. As an owner of Daycos, Inc., one of a handful of Nebraska B Corps, she knows how to balance profit with purpose and use business as a force for good. A published author in *Reclaiming WE: Twenty Everyday Acts to Strengthen the Common Good and Defend Democracy* (April 2021) and other publications across the Midwest, Tammy continues to share her expertise as a mentor, speaker, writer, and trainer. She lives and works in Johnny Carson's hometown of Norfolk (pronounced Nor-fork), Nebraska, with her husband Brandon.



Print & Ebook Edition Details

PRINT FORMAT: perfect bound glossy paperback, black-and-white interior
SIZE: 5" x 8", 277 pages
PUBLISHER: IngramSpark, Amazon print edition
PRINT ISBN: 979-8-9885638-0-8
PRINT RETAIL PRICE: \$12.99 USD
EBOOK ISBN: 979-8-9885638-2-2
EBOOK RETAIL PRICE: \$5.99 USD
Available on Kindle, Apple, and much more!

Element Stories

by Derrick A. Nero, Ed.D.

Nikae Perkinson, UNO Chemistry Instructor, has edited an amazing book with her students: <https://pressbooks.nebraska.edu/elementstory/>

She would like guidance/support on how to disseminate and how to make K-12 educators aware of this resource. Eventually, she'd love to see K-12 students contributing or creating something similar to this.

If you can assist in any way, please feel free to contact [Nikae](#) directly!

Library and Information Services

Spring 2024 Online Course Offerings

January 16, 2024 – May 9, 2024

Enrollment for Spring Semester 2024 opens

Monday, Nov. 20, 2023



LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

- Professional competencies including legal and ethical responsibilities
- Reference interview process
- The Reference collection
- Evaluation and use of digital resources, including databases, and websites

LIBR 2150 Develop and Organize Collections

Patty Birch, Instructor

- Basics of collection management including terminology and models
- Community and collection analysis
- Selection, Acquisition, Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom and Copyright
- Cataloging instruction including classification systems, subject headings, MARC records, and RDA

<i>Spring 2024</i>	<i>Fall 2024</i>
Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services	Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services
Libr 2150 Develop and Organize Collections	Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies
	Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum



For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see: <https://www.cccneb.edu/lis/>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact: Dee Johnson djohnson@cccneb.edu, 402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



This Quarter's Topic: Weeding

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 3 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

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

7 December 2023 from 9:00 am -12:00 pm at Plattsmouth Public Library

9 January 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Wayne Public Library



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together virtually with librarians to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 1 Continuing Education Credits each.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. To attend, please use [this Zoom Link](#).

19 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

30 January 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

27 February 2024 from 10:00 am -11:00 am

26 March 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

30 April 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



Looking for program ideas for 2023 Summer Reading?



Remember that the Three Rivers Library System offers scholarships to pay for Humanities Nebraska programs!



Fill out an easy application at <http://bit.ly/HNScholarship>



Explore <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/> for an interesting speaker



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Great Plains BISON

DISCOVER THE GREAT PLAINS
Dan O'Brien



BOOK

GREAT PLAINS BISON BY DAN O'BRIEN

FILM

SEED WARRIORS BY REBEKKA SCHLICHTING

(Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)



Explore the themes of conservation, restoration and respect, inspired by Ken Burns's *The American Buffalo*.

Downloadable, print-at-home guide includes

- Discussion questions
- Additional reading suggestions and organizations to explore
- Two recipes from Chef Anthony Warrior

Watch *Seed Warriors*, download the discussion guide and explore more resources.



SCAN ME

NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub

TRAILS has 10 copies of this kit to lend. Check it out at: www.libib.com/u/trails