

## World of Possibilities—2025

In a recent Niche Academy Newsletter, Julie Edwards, Librarian and Instruction Designer wrote about her 18.5 mile hikes to the summit of a local mountain. There was great excitement for the achievement and the spectacular 360-degree view. She reflected on the achievement and the steps it required to arrive to the destination. As we look at the world or possibilities, we can appreciate and embrace as we take each step along the way. In Julie’s case, it required training, appropriate clothes and shoes, nutritional support and a positive mindset. Julie recognized the little steps required to successfully reach the summit.



The synopsis for the One Nebraska One Book for teens says the main character is learning that, as an adult, she needs to be open to the world of possibilities. Page 19. In 2025, entertain all the possibilities and celebrate all the little steps required to make them a reality.

**It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen:** John Wooden.



## *Watch your language*

In this issue of CR&L Libraries, published by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a fascinating article presented library user’s experience and library terminology. “Library Terms that Users (Don’t) Understand: A Review of the Literature from 2012-2021 by Courtney McDonald and Nicole Trujillo

“This paper compares website usability—specifically library users’ understanding of library terms—for fifty-one original research studies between 2012-2021, with the findings of John Kupersmith’s 2011 white paper “Library Terms That Users Understand.” Studies reported approximately twice as many terms that users didn’t understand the terms users did understand. Large public libraries or their consulting firms have prepared User experience (UX) studies to analyze library operations and our patrons’ understanding. This paper analyzes library terms. While this lengthy study covers academic libraries, the findings for this article focuses on public library terms.

Naismith and Stein’s 1989 study, testing student comprehension of library terms, advised “Although each profession has its share of jargon, librarianship is such a heavily user-oriented field that any indication of a lack of communication should be given serious attention. Clearly that there is a communications problem between librarians and patrons. Librarians cannot rely on the patrons to decipher a meaning from the context.”

**Review the list on page 5 to see if your library uses some of the terms. What other terms can be substituted so your patrons will clearly understand. *Now is a good time to review your acronyms, too!***

## Mark Your Calendar

**January 1:** Public Domain Day, Copyrighted cultural works will enter the public domain. (Page 14 for a partial list)

**January 14:** Library System Board Meeting; 10:00 Riverside Business Plaza and Zoom

**January 24-27:** American Library Association, LibLearnX. Phoenix Convention Center. Page 16.

**February 19:** Color our World Summer Reading Workshop, Alliance Public Library, 9:30-2:00. Page 12.

**February 20:** Color our World Summer Reading Workshop, Kathleen Lute Public Library, Ogallala, 9:30-2:00. Page 12.

**March 11:** Library System Board Meeting; 10:00 Riverside Business Plaza and Zoom

**March 17:** Advocacy Day, Nebraska Library Association Advocacy Committee sponsored. Lincoln State Capital and downtown Lincoln. Page 16

**2025:** Significant Anniversary Dates for the year, (Page 13 for a partial list)

For more Mark Your Calendars dates and details read the 2025 special section.



The world of possibilities with Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be the focus of upcoming Western Suns. The column will begin with a glossary of terms. AI is a service that utilizes AI technology to perform specific tasks, like analysis, prediction, or automation, It uses technology to run tedious work and business processes to focus on task efficiency and reducing errors in manual work. We have been using AI for years without realizing it was artificial intelligence working for us. Examples include: Online Shopping; Google mapping; Alexa and Siri; spell check; E-mail filters; Spotify, etc.

Among many first-rate resources to help you learn and understand AI better, [Amazon Web Services](#) offers free introductory courses and certification classes available for purchase.

### Artificial Intelligence Glossary

The following glossary was prepared by [ClickUp](#) and edited for the Western Sun publication to include the commonly used or significant terms to be aware. ClickUp's all-encompassing glossary is available on their website.

#### Algorithm

An AI algorithm refers to specific programming that tells a machine how to function independently. It includes step-by-step instructions or rules that enable AI systems to process raw data, make decisions, and learn from it. Are you impressed by AI's ability to understand language, recognize faces, play chess, or even drive a car? Well, the algorithm's the brain!

#### AI safety

AI safety is a wide-scope field covering various concepts about ensuring that our brilliant artificial intelligence systems are not just smart but well-behaved and good-natured, even in unfamiliar settings. It refers to principles, practices, and research efforts dedicated to studying an AI system's design, build, and deployment. The goal is to minimize risks like unreliable output, unintended consequences, and potential harm to humanity.

#### Artificial intelligence

The digital evolution of human intelligence is analogous to artificial intelligence. AI covers the field of computer science, including computer vision, that makes it possible for **systems to think, learn, and carry out operations** that normally call for human intelligence at a fast scale and speed.

#### ChatGPT

ChatGPT is an **AI-powered conversational companion** designed to engage in natural and informative conversations on various topics. It responds by answering questions, providing explanations, and offering insights. ChatGPT was trained using supervised learning and Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback or RLHF, which makes it a versatile AI tool capable of human-like interaction.

#### Chatbot

A clever computer program that's always up for a chat, ready to answer queries and lend a hand with specific tasks—that's chatbot. It's the unsung hero of customer support and information finding, as its main purpose is to engage with human language. So, next time you enjoy a recommendation text from your streaming service or e-commerce website, you're probably witnessing the magic of an AI-powered bot!

## **Conversational AI**

Conversational AI refers to the technology that empowers machines, like chatbots, virtual assistants, and similar speech-based apps, to hold human-like conversations. This AI uses natural language processing or NLP and high computing power over various contexts and languages to perform versatile functions, like recognizing a piece of music or ordering a sandwich for you.

## **Ethical AI**

Ethical AI is a branch encompassing issues related to the moral compass of AI. It involves designing and using AI systems in ways that prioritize fairness, transparency, accountability, and respect for human values and rights without causing harm or discrimination.

## **Generative AI**

Generative AI or GenAI refers to AI models that craft fresh content—like photos or texts—reflecting styles and patterns derived from its training data. From imaginative art to informative articles, GenAI tools can produce a wide variety of output without code, which is why they serve as productivity sidekicks for many professionals.

## **GPT-3**

GPTs—or Generative Pre-trained Transformers—form an assortment of neural network-based language models developed by Open AI.

GPT-3 has been ranked among the most advanced models of its time. With a vocabulary size of 175 billion words, its prowess lies in deciphering and producing human-like text, rendering it a versatile asset for various natural language tasks, from chatbots and content creation to language translation and beyond.

## **GPT-4**

GPT-4 is an even more sophisticated and trained multimodal model than its predecessor. It can work with both text and image inputs and is capable enough to support complex creative collaboration—think teaming up with it to compose music, craft screenplays, or even emulate your distinctive writing style.

## ***Hallucination (important to know)***

In the context of AI, hallucinations happen when the system generates inaccurate, incoherent, or nonsensical information, typically due to errors or limitations in its training, understanding, or processing capabilities. It's a hiccup that can make an AI system unreliable.

## **Internet of Things—IoT**

The Internet of Things, or IoT, acts as a web of digital objects embedded in our physical world. It's a network of smart devices, from everyday objects like thermostats and smartwatches to industrial machines, that can collect, exchange, and act on data. When combined with AI, IoT machines display better predictive maintenance capabilities.

## **Large Language Model—LLM**

A linguistic giant in the world of AI is a Large Language Model or LLM. It's a powerful artificial intelligence system built on extensive data and sophisticated algorithms, enabling it to understand, generate, and manipulate human language with remarkable proficiency.

## **Machine learning**

Machine learning involves training algorithms on data to recognize patterns and make decisions. As an algorithm is exposed to more data, its discerning process improves, making it more skilled at its intended tasks. It's like teaching a computer to learn and adapt on its own.

## **Natural language generation—NLG**

Natural language generation, or NLG systems, takes facts, figures, and data points and transforms them into coherent narratives, generating reports, articles, and content humans can easily understand. This technology powers automated reports and personalized responses to customers.

## **Natural language processing—NLP**

Natural language processing, or NLP, is like a bridge between humans and machines, allowing computers to understand, interpret, and respond to human language. It uses advanced concepts like sentiment analysis to Snooze notifications. NLP sets start and end/due dates on tasks making it easy to stay top of meetings and calendars.

## Open AI

Open AI is an American AI research company and the brainpower behind game changers like GPT-3 and GPT-4. It strives to offer responsible, ethical, and user-friendly products. It recently launched *GPTs*, an AI assistant that users can customize for various roles and intents.

### 30. Optical Character Recognition—OCR

This tech wizard will transform paper into pixels. OCR scans both printed and handwritten text, converting it into machine-readable text. Modern CR tools harness AI to make on-paper content easily editable and searchable, even allowing automated processing with contextual, skim-reading capabilities.

### 33. Prompt

Prompt is the input or query the AI model uses to produce a meaningful and contextually relevant output. They can range from simple queries like *Translate this sentence into French* to more complex requests such as *Write a short story about a detective solving a mystery*. Using the right prompt is crucial to getting a useful response from AI. You have to phrase it suitably to make it work for the system's processing style.

Editorial comment generated by Google AI when asked if prompts are the same as searches. No, prompts are not the same as search terms; while a search term is a word or phrase you type into a search engine to find information, a prompt is a specific instruction or question given to an AI system to guide its response, often with more context and detail than a simple search query; essentially, prompts are designed to elicit creative or specific outputs, whereas search terms are meant to retrieve existing information.

### 36. Robotics

It's a captivating blend of engineering, computer smarts, and AI that brings robots to life. These mechanical wonders can be anything from your helpful vacuum cleaner to futuristic human-like buddies. It is all about infusing machines with a sense of action, making them indispensable in fields like manufacturing, healthcare, and even exploring outer space.

### Self-Organizing Maps—SOM

Imagine Self-Organizing Maps or SOM as the data organizers of the AI world. They're trained to represent high-dimensional data into a simpler model while retaining its original topography. The idea is to make data easier to understand.

### Sentiment analysis

Sentiment analysis is an AI technique used to decipher the tonal value of sentences, which can be positive, negative, or neutral. Businesses often use it to analyze social media posts, reviews, or news articles and pick up on the underlying opinions on their products.

### Speech-to-text

A nifty technology that listens to your voice and transforms what you say into written words on a screen—that's it. Whether dictating a message, transcribing a meeting, or using voice commands with your device, speech-to-text makes communication and data entry a breeze.

### Text-to-image generator

This is a powerful AI tool that takes written descriptions or text-based input data and creates images based on those prompts.

### Text-to-speech

In contrast to speech-to-text, text-to-speech turns written text into spoken words. Whether a screen reader helping visually impaired individuals or a virtual assistant reading your messages aloud, text-to-speech makes information accessible and communication more inclusive, just like an **AI storyteller**.

### Virtual reality—VR

Knock, knock, virtual reality is at your door! With the help of AI, it transports you from your physical surroundings into a computer-generated world. With a VR headset, you can walk on Mars, fight dragons—or perhaps attend Taylor Swift's Eras Tour someday—all without leaving your room.

Terms Identified as Understood or Misunderstood		
Understood		Misunderstood
Help		Citation
Hours		Collections
Materials		Creation Date
PDF Full Text		Database
Print Books Only		Digital library
Resources		E-journals
Tools		Guides
Sign in		FAQ's
Videos		Holds
We don't have a physical copy in the library, you can still get it. Sign-in to request it from another library.		How do I?
		ILL
		Journal
		Journal Articles
		Journal Titles
		Libguide
		Periodical
		Placing an Item on Hold
		Privileges
		Reference Sources
		Subject Guides
		Title
		To request this resource delivered to you please sign in
		Using our Library

Original Term	Updated Terms	Expanded Term
Journal Title List		List of Journals and Magazines
To request this resource delivered to you please sign in		We don't have a physical copy. You can still get it. Sign-in to request it from another library.

## Celebrations and Milestones

New School Librarian—Hayes Center Brenda Anderjaska

New Horizons—Richard Landreth Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

The Western Library System is recruiting for a new director. This is an **exceptional opportunity**. see page 22 for the position description and application details.

## Resources for Librarians and their Communities



National Shelfie Day, originating from the New York Public Library in 2014, is an annual event celebrated on the fourth Wednesday in January. This January 22nd, join libraries from around the world by encouraging patrons and staff to take a shelfie of their favorite library book in their favorite section of their library. The National Today website declares "After all, the world belongs to those who read!"

Send your shelfie to [wls@westernlibrarysystem.com](mailto:wls@westernlibrarysystem.com) by February 15th and it will be published in the March~April Western Sun. A fun activity for students, patron of all ages, and staff to participate.

### Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission

#### Talking Books and Braille Services (TBBS)

On the [Nebraska Library Commission's website](#) go to the sidebar and click on the Talking Books & Braille. The services are listed on the right.

The image shows a screenshot of the Nebraska Library Commission website. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with white text and right-pointing chevrons. The items in the sidebar are: About Us, Accreditation • Certification, Blogs • Publications, Children • YA, Collections at NLC, Discounts • Group Purchases, Education • Training, Government Documents, Grants • Funding • E-rate, Jobs • Careers • Now Hiring, Library Management, Library Organizations, Nebraska Libraries, Reference • ILL, and Regional Library Systems. The 'Talking Books & Braille' link is circled in red. To the right of the sidebar is the main content area, which is light gray. It has a heading 'About' followed by a list of links: Ask a Question / Contact Us, Interchange Newsletter, Main Page, Press, and Staff Directory. Below that is a heading 'Application Process' followed by links: Application Information, Eligibility Information, and Quick Steps for Signing Up. At the bottom is a heading 'Collections' followed by links: BARD - Digital Books & Magazines, Bard - Instructions, Books & Magazines, Catalogs, Descriptive Videos, Request Books / Magazines, and Searchable Online Catalog. To the right of the main content area is a 'More' section with a list of links: Additional Services, National Library Service, Outreach Handbook, Playback Equipment, Related Services, and Volunteer Opportunities.

In late 2024, TBBS reorganized including updated job duties combining existing positions to create a marketing/outreach coordinator position. Miranda Shreves is the *Marketing/Outreach Coordinator* and is designing new marketing and informational pages for the libraries to help promote this valuable service. TBBS is available for those with visual impairment, learning AND physical disabilities. We look forward to receiving the new creative marketing information in 2025.

Watch the [January 15 Ncompass Live](#) when Gabe Kramer and Miranda Shreves tell us all about program

# Grant Opportunities

a grant offering of the ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation



The [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#) is an annual grant of the American Library Association (ALA) that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming.

The grant, named after the late library leader Peggy Barber, aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2024–2025 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications to support programming related to **combatting isolation for older adults**. **Remember:** your proposal should be focused on a **program** that combats isolation for older adults (such as a technology training club to teach seniors how to use technology so that they can stay connected online or a social club to bring adults together around an activity like crafting, gardening, etc.) Applications must be submitted online by 10:59 pm (MST) on February 3, 2025



Remember to check the [Nebraska Library Commission's website for grant opportunities](#). This site is continually updated with new possibilities.

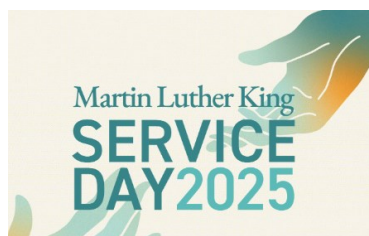


## CREATIVE AGING ARTS PROGRAM (CAAP)

These grants are provided all through the year with a floating deadline. Applications are due at least six weeks before the beginning date. This winter and spring the Nebraska Arts Council ~ Creative Aging Arts Program is accepting grant applications for artist residencies that will take place during the current fiscal year (completion before June 30, 2025).

The Artist Roster continues to expand throughout the state. There are currently 43 CAAP teaching artists, and we expect more to be added in early January.

Find detailed CAAP information here: <https://www.artsCouncil.nebraska.gov/apply/creative-aging/>



January 18-20. Libraries participate in many ways.....

- ◇ The library may have tasks for the community and staff to better the library
- ◇ If the library is closed staff participates in civic projects with either as a group or individually
- ◇ The library maintains a list of service activities in the community and makes readily available for their patrons.

## CONNECT WITH NEBRASKA PUBLIC MEDIA

Nebraska Public Media established a family engagement service to curate free, high quality family engagement resources and activities for regular family events. Our goal is to support Nebraska children, families, and caregivers learn and grow together.



Bimonthly this program provides:

- Event guide with learning goals that support intergenerational learning
- Suggested book list
- Electronic resources, games, and activity guides
- 30-minute Zoom training on upcoming themes

As a part of our family engagement pilot libraires are asked to track and share with us the following information during and after your event:

- Date and time of your planned event shared in advance of the event
- Attendance numbers
- Photos to share with us! We want to celebrate your great work. With permission to share the photos on social media.
- Share the audience survey with attendees.
- Complete a short event report to share attendance numbers, feedback, and your favorite photo..

Here is the [resource page](#) for all the resources for children and their parents.

Contacts with this program:

*Jessica Mitchell-McCollough, Director of Education*  
[jmccollough@nebraskapublicmedia.org](mailto:jmccollough@nebraskapublicmedia.org)

*Amy Cassner, Early Childhood Education Specialist*  
[acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org](mailto:acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org)



Explore the possibility of joining a professional's Reading Club with the Network of the National Library of Medicine's Region 4

Go to the [Reading Club website](#) for more information. Scroll down the page to learn about the NNLM Reading Club, handy toolkit and download the collection titles from 2018-2021.

**What is the Reading Club**  
Learn more and find tips for facilitating a health discussion.

**Recommend a Book**  
Do you have a book to recommend? Tell us. We may select it.

**Share Your Story**  
Have you used the Reading Club? Share your thoughts.

**Diverse Voices Toolkit Collections**  
Find collections that reflect the communities you serve.

**Reading Club Collection**  
Download the complete 2018-2021 NNLM Reading Club Collection - including discussion guides!

**The Rest of the Story**  
From 2020-2021, the NNLM Reading Club hosted five virtual author talks. Watch the recordings.



# Semper Disco - Always Learning

## Upcoming *NCompass Live*

Upcoming *NCompass Live* events: Sessions count for Continuing Education credits.

***NCompass Live* is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am, Mountain Time.** For more information, to register for *NCompass Live*, or to listen to recordings of past events, go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

Title	Date
<i>NCompass Live</i> : Best New Teen Reads of 2024	January 8
<i>NCompass Live</i> : Talking Book and Braille Service: Improving Accessibility to Books	January 15
<i>NCompass Live</i> : 2025 One Book One Nebraska: 'The Long March Home: A World War II Novel of the Pacific'	January 22
<i>NCompass Live</i> : Pretty Sweet Tech	January 29
<i>NCompass Live</i> : Fostering Healthy Communication in Your Library	February 5



**Big Talk From Small Libraries 2025**

Small Libraries Doing Big Things!  
February 28, 2025 #BTSL2025 [nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/](http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/)

The banner features four photographs of different library buildings, each held by a wooden clothespin. The photos show various styles of brick and stone buildings, some with signs that say 'LIBRARY' or 'COMMUNITY BUILDING & LIBRARY'.

[Register for Big Talk From Small Libraries Here](http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/)

## Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

One of the requirements for [Public Librarian Certification](#) is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses. Why participate in the Public Librarian Certification program?

- Improves library service throughout the state
- Motivates librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education
- Provides guidelines for public library boards to use in selecting and retaining personnel.

Recognizes public librarians who update their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis to provide better library service for the community

Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through *NCampus*. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period.

For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each three-year recertification period.

The courses for 2025 are listed on the next page.

## Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2025 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
open	<a href="#">Communication*</a>	Self-paced	available any time
2/3 - 2/14	<a href="#">Customer Service*</a>	-	12/22 - 1/24
3/3 - 3/14	<a href="#">Library Governance</a>	-	1/20 - 2/21
3/17 - 3/28	<a href="#">Library Technology</a>	-	2/3 - 3/7
4/1 - 4/30	<a href="#">Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*</a>	Self-paced	2/17 - 3/21
4/14 - 4/25	<a href="#">Library Finance</a>	-	3/3 - 4/4
5/5 - 5/16	<a href="#">Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*</a>	-	3/24 - 4/25
6/2 - 6/13	<a href="#">Readers' Advisory</a>	-	4/21 - 5/23
7/7 - 7/18	<a href="#">Reference</a>	-	5/26 - 6/20
7/28 - 8/8	<a href="#">Library Policy</a>	-	6/16 - 7/11
8/18 - 8/29	<a href="#">Collection Management*</a>	-	7/14 - 8/8
9/8 - 9/19	<a href="#">Programming &amp; Outreach</a>	-	7/28 - 8/29
9/22 - 10/3	<a href="#">Community &amp; Library*</a>	-	8/11 - 9/12
10/20 - 10/31	<a href="#">Management/Supervision</a>	-	9/8 - 10/10
11/3 - 11/14	<a href="#">Leadership</a>	-	9/15 - 10/24
12/1 - 12/12	<a href="#">Library Services to Children &amp; Teens</a>	-	10/20 - 11/21

(\* Required Class)





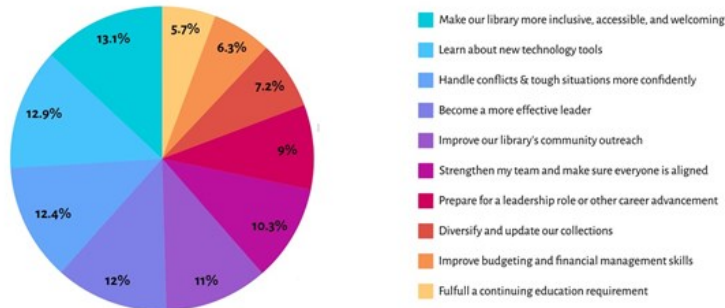
## Special Section

This special section of the Western Sun focuses on activities and resources for you in the upcoming year. This includes significant dates to remember and resources to commemorate 2025.

### Library Journal Poll Results on Professional Development Goals

Want to know what people are interested in learning in 2025? Here are the results of our poll from last week:

#### What are your PD goals for 2025?

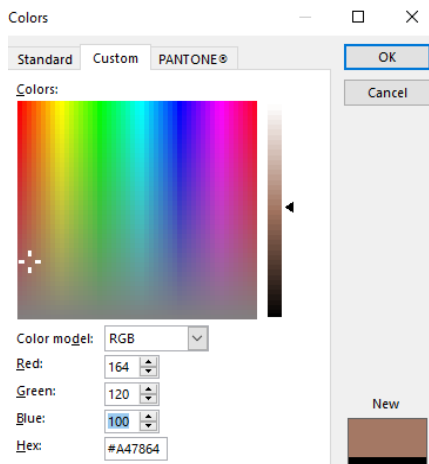


### Pantone Color of the Year—Mocha Mousse

Mocha Mousse is described on the [Pantone website](https://www.pantone.com) as capturing a global mood of connection, comfort and harmony.

For 2025, the Pantone Color Institute selects PANTONE 17-1230 Mocha Mousse, a warming, brown hue imbued with richness. It nurtures us with its suggestion of the delectable qualities of chocolate and coffee, answering our desire for comfort.

If you would like to use this color on your website or publicity pieces, you can create mocha mousse using the CMYK or RGE values in Word and other Microsoft products.

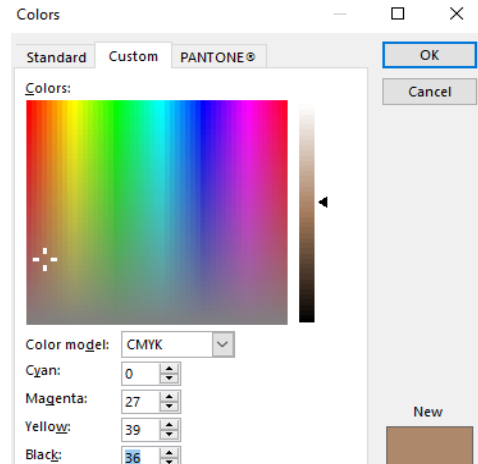


The Values for RGB are:

Red = 164  
Green = 120  
Blue = 100

For CMYK values, choose the numbers:

Cyan = 0  
Magenta = 27  
Yellow = 39  
Black = 36



# Color Out World Summer Reading Workshops

We invite you to embark on a journey of art and creativity, celebrating the multitude ways in which art enriches our lives.



Two workshops to hear Sally Snyder and Amanda Sweet, program and craft presentations and share your exceptional ideas.

Both workshops

9:30 Registration

10:00 Workshop begins

3.5 Continuing Education Hours,

No charge (everything included)

**February 19**, Alliance Public Library, In-person, virtual and recorded

**February 20**, Kathleen Lute Public Library, Ogallala, In-person only

Details and Registration will be coming in early January.

# Resources for Your Libraries and You! Special 2025 Section



# 365 DAYS TO CELEBRATE

2025

## JANUARY

1. New Year's Day
2. World Introvert Day
3. Festival of Sleep Day
4. Trivia Day
5. Bird Day
6. Cuddle Up Day
7. Tempura Day
8. Bubble Bath Day
9. Word Nerd Day
10. Houseplant Appreciation Day
11. Vision Board Day
12. Hot Tea Day
13. Sticker Day
14. Dress Up Your Pet Day
15. Bagel Day
16. Hot and Spicy Food Day
17. Classy Day
18. Winnie-the-Pooh Day
19. Popcorn Day
20. Cheese Lover's Day
21. Hugging Day
22. Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
23. Pie Day
24. Peanut Butter Day
25. Opposite Day
26. Green Juice Day
27. Chocolate Cake Day
28. Lego Day
29. Puzzle Day
30. Croissant Day
31. Hot Chocolate Day

## FEBRUARY

1. Change Your Password Day
2. Hedgehog Day
3. Carrot Cake Day
4. Sweater Day
5. World Nutella Day
6. Optimist Day
7. Wear Red Day
8. Global Movie Day
9. Pizza Day
10. Umbrella Day
11. Latte Day
12. Lost Penny Day
13. Radio Day
14. Valentine's Day
15. Gumdrop Day
16. World Whale Day
17. Random Acts of Kindness Day
18. Drink Wine Day
19. Chocolate Mint Day
20. Love Your Pet Day
21. Sticky Bun Day
22. World Yoga Day
23. Banana Bread Day
24. Tortilla Chip Day
25. Chocolate Covered Nuts Day
26. Tell a Fairy Tale Day
27. Toast Day
28. Floral Design Day

## MARCH

1. World Compliment Day
2. Old Stuff Day
3. World Wildlife Day
4. Pancake Day
5. Cheese Doodle Day
6. Oreo Day
7. Global Day of Unplugging
8. International Women's Day
9. Barbie Day
10. Mario Day
11. Organize Your Home Office Day
12. Plant a Flower Day
13. Jowel Day
14. Potato Chip Day
15. Quilting Day
16. Panda Day
17. Saint Patrick's Day

18. Global Recycling Day
19. Let's Laugh Day
20. Astrology Day
21. International Day of Forests
22. World Water Day
23. Puppy Day
24. Cheesesteak Day
25. International Waffle Day
26. Good Hair Day
27. Scribble Day
28. Something On a Stick Day
29. Mermaid Day
30. Doctors' Day
31. Crayon Day

## APRIL

1. April Fools' Day
2. Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
3. Burrito Day
4. International Carrot Day
5. Handmade Day
6. Pajama Day
7. No Housework Day
8. Zoo Lovers Day
9. Unicorn Day
10. Sibling Day
11. Pet Day
12. Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
13. Scrabble Day
14. Gardening Day
15. World Art Day
16. Banana Day
17. High Five Day
18. World Marbles Day
19. Bicycle Day
20. Easter
21. Creativity and Innovation Day
22. Earth Day
23. World Book Day
24. Scream Day
25. World Penguin Day
26. Got Organized Day
27. Pet Parents Day
28. Superhero Day
29. International Dance Day
30. Bubble Tea Day

## MAY

1. May Day
2. Brothers and Sisters Day
3. Spring Astronomy Day
4. World Laughter Day
5. Nail Day
6. Teachers' Day
7. Tourism Day
8. No Socks Day
9. Public Gardens Day
10. Small Business Day
11. Mother's Day
12. International Nurses Day
13. World Cocktail Day
14. Buttermilk Biscuit Day
15. Chocolate Chip Day
16. Barbecue Day
17. Work From Home Day
18. World Baking Day
19. Plant Something Day
20. World Bee Day
21. World Meditation Day
22. Solitaire Day
23. Lucky Penny Day
24. Scavenger Hunt Day
25. Wine Day
26. Paper Airplane Day
27. Sunscreen Day
28. Hamburger Day
29. National Biscuit Day
30. Creativity Day
31. Smile Day

## JUNE

1. Dinosaur Day
2. Rocky Road Day
3. World Bicycle Day
4. Hug Your Cat Day
5. World Environment Day
6. Donut Day
7. Chocolate Ice Cream Day
8. Best Friends Day
9. Meal Prep Day
10. Iced Tea Day
11. Corn on the Cob Day
12. Red Rose Day
13. National Movie Night
14. Cupcake Day
15. Father's Day
16. National Fudge Day
17. Eat Your Vegetables Day
18. International Picnic Day
19. Martini Day
20. World Productivity Day
21. Smoothie Day
22. Onion Ring Day
23. Let It Go Day
24. International Fairy Day
25. Strawberry Parfait Day
26. Day of Joy
27. Sunglasses Day
28. Food Truck Day
29. Camera Day
30. Social Media Day

## JULY

1. International Joke Day
2. Made In The USA Day
3. Thirsty Thursday
4. Independence Day
5. Bikini Day
6. International Kissing Day
7. World Chocolate Day
8. Cow Appreciation Day
9. Sugar Cookie Day
10. Kitten Day
11. French Fry Day
12. Simplicity Day
13. International Rock Day
14. Mac & Cheese Day
15. Give Something Away Day
16. Hot Dog Day
17. World Emoji Day
18. World Listening Day
19. Words with Friends Day
20. Ice Cream Day
21. Hug Your Kids Day
22. Hammock Day
23. Sprinkle Day
24. Cousins Day
25. Carousel Day
26. Aunt and Uncle Day
27. Parents' Day
28. Milk Chocolate Day
29. International Tiger Day
30. International Day of Friendship
31. Mutt Day

## AUGUST

1. Girlfriends Day
2. Coloring Book Day
3. Watermelon Day
4. Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
5. Underwear Day
6. Wiggle Your Toes Day
7. Lighthouse Day
8. International Cat Day
9. Book Lovers Day
10. Lazy Day
11. Son and Daughter Day
12. World Elephant Day
13. World Calligraphy Day
14. Creamsicle Day
15. Relaxation Day

16. World Honey Bee Day
17. Thrift Shop Day
18. Fajita Day
19. World Photography Day
20. Radio Day
21. Burger Day
22. Be An Angel Day
23. Internaut Day
24. Waffle Day
25. Kiss And Make Up Day
26. Dog Day
27. Banana Lovers Day
28. Bow Tie Day
29. Lemon Juice Day
30. Beach Day
31. Eat Outside Day

## SEPTEMBER

1. World Letter Writing Day
2. World Coconut Day
3. Bring Your Manners To Work Day
4. National Wildlife Day
5. International Day of Charity
6. Read a Book Day
7. Grandparents Day
8. Literacy Day
9. International Sudoku Day
10. Quiet Day
11. Make Your Bed Day
12. Video Games Day
13. Positive Thinking Day
14. Coloring Day
15. Cheese Toast Day
16. Working Parents Day
17. International Country Music Day
18. Cheeseburger Day
19. Talk Like a Pirate Day
20. Dance Day
21. World Gratitude Day
22. Family Day
23. Redhead Appreciation Day
24. Punctuation Day
25. Comic Book Day
26. Love Note Day
27. Save Your Photos Day
28. Good Neighbor Day
29. Coffee Day
30. Ask a Stupid Question Day

## OCTOBER

1. International Coffee Day
2. World Farm Animals Day
3. World Smile Day
4. Cinnamon Roll Day
5. World Teachers Day
6. Noodle Day
7. Frappé Day
8. Octopus Day
9. Curious Events Day
10. World Mental Health Day
11. Universal Music Day
12. Savings Day
13. Train Your Brain Day
14. Own Business Day
15. Grouch Day
16. Dictionary Day
17. Pasta Day
18. Sweetest Day
19. New Friends Day
20. Office Chocolate Day
21. Apple Day
22. Color Day
23. Croc Day
24. Food Day
25. Make a Difference Day
26. Pumpkin Day
27. Cranky Co-Workers Day
28. Chocolate Day
29. Internet Day
30. Checklist Day
31. Halloween

## NOVEMBER

1. Scented Candle Day
2. Zero Tasking Day
3. Sandwich Day
4. Candy Day
5. Stress Awareness Day
6. Nachos Day
7. Hug A Bear Day
8. Cappuccino Day
9. Tongue Twister Day
10. Sesame Street Day
11. Singles' Day
12. Happy Hour Day
13. World Kindness Day
14. Loosen Up Lighten Up Day
15. I Love to Write Day
16. Button Day
17. International Students' Day
18. Entrepreneurs' Day
19. Have A Bad Day Day
20. World Children's Day
21. World Hello Day
22. Go For a Ride Day
23. Fibonacci Day
24. Celebrate Your Unique Talent
25. Day of Giving
26. Cake Day
27. Thanksgiving
28. Black Friday
29. Small Business Saturday
30. Mousse Day

## DECEMBER

1. Cyber Monday
2. Frittlers Day
3. Make a Gift Day
4. Cookie Day
5. International Ninja Day
6. Miners' Day
7. Cotton Candy Day
8. Brownie Day
9. Christmas Card Day
10. Human Rights Day
11. International Mountain Day
12. Gingerbread House Day
13. Cocoa Day
14. Monkey Day
15. Lemon Cupcake Day
16. Chocolate Covered Anything Day
17. Maple Syrup Day
18. Re-Gifting Day
19. Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
20. Games Day
21. Short Story Day
22. Cookie Exchange Day
23. Roots Day
24. Christmas Eve
25. Christmas Day
26. Thank You Note Day
27. Visit The Zoo Day
28. Card Playing Day
29. Tick Tock Day
30. Resolution Planning Day
31. New Year's Eve

## MONTHS

1. Soup Month
2. Bird Feeding Month
3. Craft Month
4. Garden Month
5. Barbecue Month
6. Candy Month
7. Ice Cream Month
8. Happiness Happens Month
9. Read A New Book Month
10. Pizza Month
11. Peanut Butter Lovers Month
12. Operation Santa Paws

Let's Celebrate



January 1 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Y2K (Year 2000) Scare, when people around the world worried that their computers would stop working because they were not programmed to handle dates after December 31, 1999.

Anniversary Dates and Years:

Pac-Man by Bandai Namco = 45

Monopoly by Hasbro = 90

United States Post Office = 250

## Public Domain

On January 1, 2025, thousands of copyrighted works from 1929 will enter the US public domain, along with sound recordings from 1924. They will be free for all to copy, share, and build upon. Public Domain includes: all of the books, films, songs, and art published in the 1920s. Duke University's Center for the Public Domain lists all the creative materials in the 2025 public domain additions on their [website](#). 1924 is significant for films as the industry was transitioning to sound. This list provides well-known examples from each category with notes of interest.

Artwork	Artist	Notes
Accommodations of Desire	Salvador Dali	
Upward	Wassily Kandinsky	
Chop Suey	Edward Hopper	
Founding of a Nation	Kawamura Kiyoo	
Berlin Coal Carrier	August Sanders	Photograph

Books and Plays	Author	Notes
All Quiet on the Western Front	Eri Erich Maria Remarque	First Translation in English
Cup of Gold	John Steinbeck	Steinbeck's First Novel
Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	
God's Man	Lynd Ward	Wordless Novel using woodblock prints. A precursor to graphic novels
Is Sex Necessary? Or Why You Feel the Way You Do	E. B. White and James Thurber	
Laughing Boy: A Navajo Love Story	Oliver La Farge	
Magic Island	William Seabrook	First book on Zombies
Maltese Falcon	Dashiell Hammett	
Marriage and Morals	Bertrand Russell	
Red Harvest	Dashiell Hammett	
Roman Hat Mystery	Ellery Queen	
Room of One's Own	Virginia Woolf	
Rope	Patrick Hamilton	
Seven Dials Mystery	Agatha Christie	
Sound and the Fury	William Faulkner	
Tarzan and the Lost Empire	Edgar Rice Burroughs	
Toad and Toad Hill	A.A. Milne	

<b>Films</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Behind That Curtain		First Charlie Chan sound film
Blackmail	Alfred Hitchcock	Alfred Hitchcock's first sound film
Black Watch	John Ford	John Fords first sound fillm
Broadway Melody	Harry Beaumont	
Cocoanuts	Marx Brothers	Marx Brothers first film
Dynamite	Cecil B. DeMille	Cecil's B. DeMille's first sound film
Eternal Love	John Barrymore	John Barrymore's last silent film
Karnival Kid		Mickey Mouse speaks his first words
Mysterious Dr. Fu Manchu		First Fu Manchu's sound film
On With the Show	Alan Crosland	First all-talking, all color, feature-length film
Return of Sherlock Holmes		First Sherlock Holmes sound film
Skeleton Dance	Walt Disney	
Spite Marriage	Edward Sedgwick and Buster Keaton	Buster Keaton's final silent film
Virginian	Gary Cooper and Victor Fleming	Cooper and Fleming's first sound film

<b>Songs</b>	<b>Composer and Lyrics</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ain't Misbehaving	Andy Razaf, Fats Waller and Harry Brooks	
Am I Blue	Grant Clarke and Harry Akst	
American in Paris	George Gershwin	
Bolero	Maurice Ravel	
More Than You Know	Vincent Youman, Rose and Eliscu	
Singin' in the Rain	Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown	1929 version
Stardust	Hoagy Carmichael	
Tiptoe Through the Tulips	Alfred Dubin and Joseph Burke	
Waiting for a Train	Jimmie Rodgers	
What is This Thing Called Love	Cole Porter	
You Were Meant for Me	Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown	

<b>Sound Recordings</b>	<b>Artist</b>	
California Here I Come	Al Jolson	
Everybody Loves My Baby	Louis Armstrong	
It Had to Be You	Isham Jones Orchestra	
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen	Marian Anderson	
Rhapsody in Blue	George Gershwin	
Shreveport Stomp	Jelly Roll Morton	

# Conferences ~ Events 2025



## ***Reimagine, Refocus, Reset: Charting a Path for the Future:*** Phoenix Convention Center

**LibLearnX** is where library professionals at all levels can take part in a conference experience that will provide ultimate learning benefits. Attendees will participate in hands-on workshops, bite-size sessions, and other formats designed to match preferred learning styles with an emphasis on collaborative learning. Join us and be inspired and motivated by thought-leaders, authors, and subject matter experts, and celebrate your colleagues and favorite authors at the Award ceremonies., The following awards will be announced during the LibLearnX conference; Love My Librarian, and the three RUSA sponsored accolades: The Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence for Fiction and Nonfiction, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration; and the Youth Media Awards.

Learn: LibLearnX is an educational experience designed to motivate, inspire, and engage in discussions that will shape the future of libraries and their communities.

Network: LibLearnX was designed to emphasize active and applied learning with added opportunities to build relationships with colleagues.

Celebrate: LibLearnX was created for ALA enthusiasts who are excited to celebrate the positive impact that libraries have on society, colleagues who are effectively championing the industry, authors and books.

Note: An ALA March 11, 2024 press release stated: After careful evaluation and analysis of financial and other critical factors, the American Library Association Executive Board has decided that LibLearnX, The Library Learning Experience, will not be held in 2026. As ALA looks ahead, efforts are underway to determine how best to present some of the most beloved celebratory events traditionally held at the January conference. See list of awards above.

## March 17



**ADVOCACY DAY ~ MONDAY, MARCH 17th. All Day**  
STATE CAPITAL AND DOWNTOWN LINCOLN  
Visit your State Legislator and/or Representative. Participate in activities that illuminate the legislators on the work and value of libraries and staff to Nebraska residents.

## August 28 and 29 (Tentative)



Tentative Date for the Joint Youth Services Retreat designed expressly for library staff serving children and teens, the tentative day is August 28th and 29th is a time to spend a bit of time connecting with and learning from fellow colleagues in a beautiful setting. at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland.



## ALA 2025 Annual Conference & Exhibition

Philadelphia | June 26 – 30, 2025

Join us for top-quality education and best practices; featured thought-leaders; and special programming for library professionals looking to further develop their libraries, communities, and careers!



#ARSL2025 is *the* conference for rural and small libraries. Our conference planners and presenters understand the constraints of shoestring budgets, small spaces, and limited staffing within small and rural libraries, as well as the unique opportunities for innovation and collaboration. Our conference is packed full of information you can take right back to your library—no scaling down required.



**October 1`3, 2025.** Attend the **North Dakota/South Dakota/Mountain Plains Library Associations** for this Tri Conference. The event will be held in Grand Forks North Dakota at the Alerus Center.

**October 22-24 2025. Nebraska Library Association Conference**  
York, Nebraska. Holthus Convention Center.



### Save these 2026 dates

**April 1~3, 2026 Public Library Association** Minneapolis Minnesota.

Public Library Association (PLA) sponsors a conference every two years. In non-conference years, PLA offers limited programs at the American Library Association Annual Conference. This premier event is designed for public library librarians, support staff, trustees and vendors. More than 100 curated education sessions, inspiring speakers and authors, networking opportunities and endless possibilities.

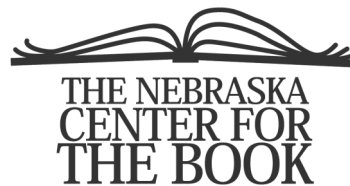


**October 14~16 Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA),** La Vista Nebraska

Every year, the Mountain Plains Library Association plans their conference with one of the twelve states included in the Association. The exception is North Dakota and South Dakota who combine their resources when the states join MPLA for a tri-conference. The last time the NLA and MPLA met together was in 2012! This is a value-added conference



and the



### Announce the 2025 One Book One Nebraska!



*The Long March Home* is a historical fiction novel inspired by true stories of friendship, sacrifice, and hope on the Bataan Death March. From the Inside Cover:

Jimmy Propfield joined the army for two reasons: to get out of Mobile, Alabama, with his best friends Hank and Billy and to forget his high school sweetheart, Claire.

Life in the Philippines seems like paradise—until the morning of December 8, 1941, when news comes from Manila: Imperial Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor. Within hours, the teenage friends are plunged into war as enemy warplanes attack Luzon, beginning a battle for control of the Pacific theater that will culminate with a last stand on the Bataan Peninsula and end with the largest surrender of American troops in history.

What follows will become known as one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare: the Bataan Death March. With no hope of rescue, the three friends vow to make it back home together. But the ordeal is only the beginning of their nearly four-year fight to survive.

Marcus Brotherton is a *New York Times* bestselling author and coauthor, with five *New York Times* bestsellers, seven national bestsellers, and four books have been optioned for movies. He was born in British Columbia and earned degrees at Multnomah University in Portland and Biola University in Los Angeles. He currently lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wife and children.

Tosca Lee is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of twelve books. Those awards include three International Book Awards, and a Nebraska Book Award for her thriller *The Line Between* and its sequel *A Single Light*. She received her B.A. from Smith College and currently lives in Nebraska with her husband, three of four children still at home, and her 160-lb. German Shepherd, Timber.

Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2025. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page.

2025 will mark the twenty-first year of the One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. The Nebraska Center for the Book invites recommendations for One Book One Nebraska book selection year-round.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

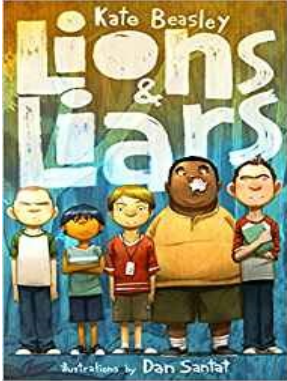
As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, "bringing together people and information."

Watch the [January 22, Ncompass Live](#) featuring Tosca Lee and Marcus Brotherton!

## One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens ~ 2025

The chosen books for One Book for Nebraska Kids and Teens are *Lions & Liars* by Kate Beasley and *Where You See Yourself* by Claire Forrest. Discussion guides and activity ideas and templates will be available on the [Nebraska Library Commission website](#) in early 2025.

### Kids ~ *Lions & Liars* by Kate Beasley



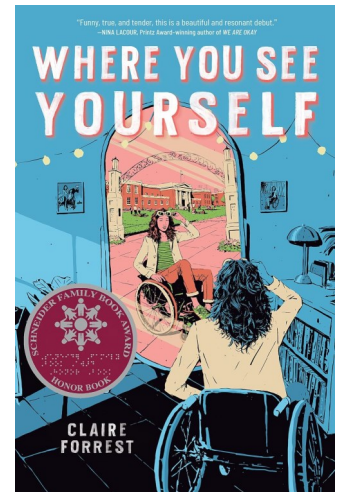
*Lions and Liars* by Kate Beasley tells the story of Frederick Frederickson, a fifth-grader who believes life operates like a food chain, with "lions" being the bullies, "gazelles" being the bullied, and himself as a lowly "flea." When he gets sent to a disciplinary camp for troublesome boys, he must navigate the dynamics of his new group, including "Nosebleed," "Specs," "The Professor," and "Ant Bite," while facing challenges like a looming hurricane, forcing him to confront his self-perception and discover the power of unlikely friendships, proving that even a "flea" can be a hero in the right situation.

### Teens ~ *Where You See Yourself* by Claire Forrest

By the time Effie Galanos starts her senior year, it feels like she's already been thinking about college applications for an eternity—after all, finding a college that will be the perfect fit *and be accessible enough for Effie to navigate in her wheelchair presents a ton of considerations that her friends don't have to worry about.*

What Effie hasn't told anyone is that she already knows exactly what school she has her heart set on: a college in NYC with a major in Mass Media & Society that will set her up perfectly for her dream job in digital media. She's never been to New York, but paging through the brochure, she can picture the person she'll be there, far from the Minneapolis neighborhood where she's lived her entire life. When she finds out that Wilder (her longtime crush) is applying there too, it seems like one more sign from the universe that it's the right place for her.

But it turns out that the universe is full of surprises. As Effie navigates her way through a year of admissions visits, senior class traditions, internal and external ableism, and a lot of firsts--and lasts--she starts to learn that sometimes growing up means being **open to a world of possibilities** you never even dreamed of. And maybe being more than just friends



The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

## Nebraska Golden Sower Nominees 2025-2026

The books are available to checkout from the Western Library System Office.

\*\*\*Asterisked, underlined items will arrive later. The estimated arrival date is listed. In parenthesis.

The [Golden Sower website](#) provides more information. Vote anytime between

November 1, 2024– April 15, 2025

### Little Bluestem ~ Grades K-2



*Big* by Vashti Harrison, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023

*The Book that Almost Rhymed*, by Omar Abed, illustrated by Hatem Aly. Dial Books, 2024

*Dog vs. Strawberry*, by Nelly Buchet, illustrated by Andrea Zuill, Random House Studio, 2024

*I am Stuck* by Julia Mills, Clarion Books, 2023

*I Want 100 dogs* by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Claire Keene, Chronicle Books, 2023

*Mr. S* by Monica Arnaldo Katherine Tegan Books, 2023

*Seals Are Jerks* by Jared Chapman, Orchard Books, 2023

*The World's Best Class Plant* by Audrey Bernick & Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Lynnor Bontigao, G. P. Putnam's sons Books for Young Readers, 2023

*Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends* by Kaz Windness, Simon Spotlight, 2023

### Honeybee ~ Grades 3-5



*Dogtown* by Kathleen Applegate & Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by Wallace West, Square Fish, 2024

*Ferris* by Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick, 2024

*The Firefly Summer* by Morgan Matson, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2024

*Greenwild: The World Behind the Door* by Pari Thomson, Farrar, Strous and Giroux, 2023

*Home Away from Home* by Cynthia Lord, Scholastic Press, 2023

*The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass, Feiwel & Friends, 2023

\*\*\**Medusa* by Katherine Marsh, Clarion Books, 2022 (Estimated arrival ~ March 31, 2025)

*The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle* by Taryn Souders, Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2023

\*\*\**Nothing Else But Miracles* by Kate Albus. Margaret Ferguson Books, 2023 (Estimated arrival ~ June 9, 2025)

\*\*\**Tree, Table. Book* by Lois Lowry, Clarion Books, 2024 (Estimated arrival ~ May 23, 2025)

### Meadowlark Grades 6-8



\*\*\**Dust* by Dusti Bowling, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023 (Estimated arrival ~ February 17, 2025)

\*\*\**The Labors of Hercules Beal* by Gary D. Schmidt, Clarion Books, 2023 (Estimated arrival ~ April 7, 2025)

*The Lost Year* by Katherine Marsh, Roaring Book Press, 2023

*Mascot* by Charles Waters & Traci Sorrell, Charlesbridge, 2023

*The Mona Lisa Vanishes* by Nicholas Day, illustrate by Brett Helquist, Random House Studio, 2023

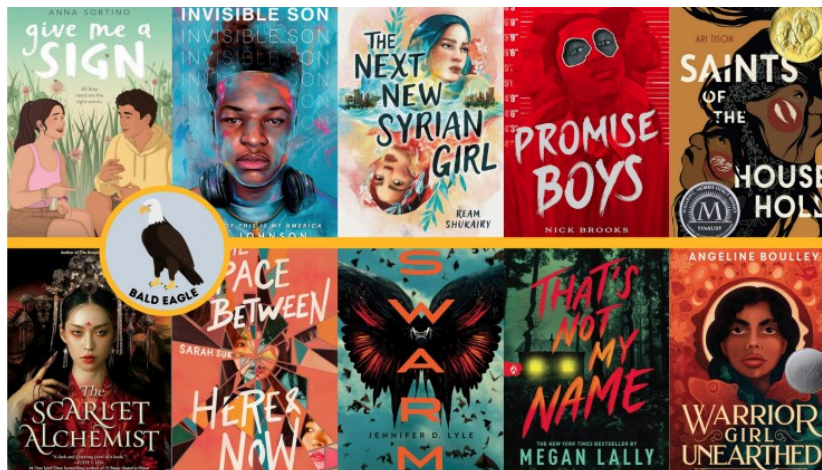
*Parachute Kids* by Betty C. Tang, Graphix, 2023

*The Probability of Everything* by Sarah Everett, Clarion Books, 2023

*Something Like Home* by Andrea Beatriz Arango, Yearling, 2024

*Wild Poppies* by Haya Saleh, translated by Marcia Lynx Qualey, Levine Querido, 2023

### Bald Eagle Grades 9-12 (New Category)



*Give Me a Sign* by Anna Sortino. G.P. Putman's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2024

*Invisible Son* by Kim Johnson, Ember 2024

*The Next New Syrian Girl* by Ream Shukairy. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023

*Promise Boys* by Nick Brooks. Henry Holt and Co. 2023

*Saints of the Household* by Ari Tison, Farrar, Status and Giroux, 2023

*The Scarlet Alchemist* by Kylie Lee Baker. Inkyard Press, 2023

*The Space Between Here and Now* by Sarah Suk, Quill Tree Books, 2023

*Swarm* by Jennifer D. Lyle. Sourcebooks Fire, 2023

*That's Not My Name* by Megan Lally. Sourcebooks Fire, 2023

*Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Bouley. Henry Holt and Co., 2023

**STATE JOB POSTING ENDS FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025**  
**Position: Western Library System Director (Librarian/Senior),**  
**Nebraska Library Commission**  
**Class Code: A37114, Position No. 60003058**

**Description:**

Exceptional opportunity for a versatile professional to provide services for a multi-type regional library system in a 21-county area in western Nebraska:

- Provide one-on-one consulting to the libraries as requested.
- Plan, organize and present continuing education activities for System library members.
- Maintain an active System public relations program pertaining to System services.
- Coordinate activities of the Western Library System with those of the Nebraska Library Commission.
- Prepare a biennial service plan and budget for the System with the Western Library System board and in coordination with the Nebraska Library Commission.
- Visit and communicate with System members from all library environments.
- Possess knowledge (or be willing and able to gain the knowledge) of traditional and emerging areas in libraries, such as new technologies, and be able to share information about these with others.
- Promote library services through regional, inter-regional and statewide projects.
- Work effectively with a wide variety of people inside and outside the library field.

Provide timely communication and maintain effective working relationship with the System Board.

The position is located in the Scottsbluff/Gering community in western Nebraska. Scottsbluff is a city in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. Scottsbluff's population was 15,023 in 2013 and the city is the largest in the Nebraska Panhandle. Scottsbluff was founded in 1900 across the North Platte River from its namesake, a bluff which is now a National Park named Scotts Bluff National Monument. The smaller city of Gering, population of 8,480, had been founded south of the river and the two cities have since grown together to form the 7th largest urban area (Scottsbluff Metropolitan Statistical Area) in Nebraska.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

The successful candidate will have experience in library-related areas such as administration, collection management, reference, technology, etc. and the ability to work effectively in collaboration with a variety of people inside and outside the library field. Ability to organize, implement and present continuing education activities is also necessary; extensive travel is required.

**Qualifications:**

This position requires a master's degree in Library Science from an American Library Association Accredited program OR at least three years of experience in professional library/information work in a specialized area.

**Preferred:**

A postgraduate degree in Library Science or a related field is strongly preferred, as is significant professional experience in a library environment.

**Other Requirements:**

Incumbents may be required to possess a valid driver's license or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation to perform work-related travel. (This position requires extensive travel and consulting within the System. Extensive travel includes some weekends and evenings.)

**Hiring Specifications:**

- \$29.263/hour (overtime exempt)
- Full-time permanent position (normally 40 hours weekly but extended to meet job requirements), Monday through Friday

Desired starting date: Monday, March 3, 2025

For questions and further details, please contact Jerry Breazile, 402-471-4007.

To apply you must complete a State of Nebraska job application at <http://statejobs.nebraska.gov/>. Apply online on or before January 31, 2025. Workday recruiting requires all internal candidates to apply through the Jobs Hub within Workday (note, this applies to jobs that are posted externally as well). The Jobs Hub can be found in the list of top apps within each worker's apps in Workday. For Nebraska State Personnel special accommodations under ADA and/or to apply, call 402-471-2045. EEO



## News from the Western Library System Board

Elaine Lake resigned from the Board due to other pressing commitments she felt would take her time away from Board duties. She was one of two at-large representative. The Western Library System Board and Office appreciates her work, especially her creative ideas on the Summer Reading Committees.

According to the WLS Policies and Procedures, the Board President appoints board members to fill a vacancy for the remainder of their term. There were two highly qualified two applications. Dana Morgan was selected. Dana offers the skills and talents to serve in this position including:

- Leyton Public Schools K-12 Librarian for seven years. She was on the forefront of creating a more welcoming library atmosphere for her students to do their work or have a space to sit and read in a comfortable setting.
- Served on the Nebraska Library Commission's State Advisory Council for four years. The State Advisory Council advises the Commission on statewide library development and planning.
- Earned a Media Specialist/Librarian Master's degree.
- Currently a Kindergarten teacher with the Bridgeport Public Schools.

Dana is one of the two Public Library representatives. She is completing Elaine's term 07/01/2023 – 06-30-2026.

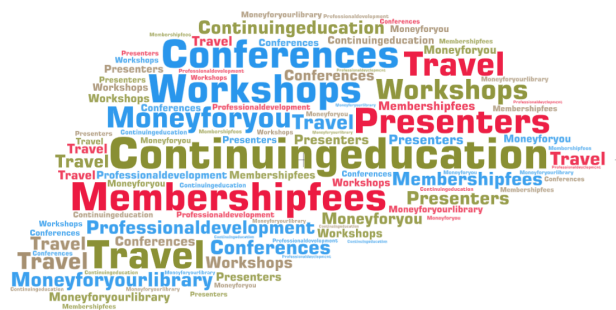
In her application, she notes that has always had an interest in all things related to reading. We welcome Dana and look forward to her contributions to the Board.

## Money for You or Your Library

### Funding from the Western Library System

All member libraries and staff are eligible.

- Eligible requests include: Dues for library association membership; registrations and travel expenses for conferences, workshops and presenters.
- Up to \$300.00 per person every two years.  
(More than one person in a library can apply if applying for their own professional development.)
- Up to \$300.00 per library for library events every two years.
- Scholarship recipients will provide a brief article for the Western Library System's Western Sun within a month of completing the activities.



**Send all requests to:** Western Library System  
615 S. Beltline Hwy West  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Email: [wls@westernlibrarysystem.com](mailto:wls@westernlibrarysystem.com)

# Western Library System Equipment Resources



The Western Library System has a binding repair machine that fixes a variety of types and sizes of books. Take advantage of this useful service to save your valuable books and avoid the cost of replacements. You make your own repairs. The office offers print and YouTube instructions for this self-service. Call the office for an appointment.



The Eco Autosmart Repair System is a full service machine, not just a buffer. It cleans and repairs your valuable discs. The machine repairs scratched (not cracked) discs. The office will repair your discs for you. Bring your items to the office or mail them to us.

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