

Plain Speaking

Central Plains Library System

Educate Connect Inspire

Volume 1, Issue 8

February / March 2016

Making Space

Makerspaces are making their way into all types of libraries: academic, public, and school libraries are joining this trend to adapt to changes in what their communities want and need. Makerspaces represent those adaptations as society changes focus from the “consumption of knowledge to the co-creation and production of knowledge.” (Enis, 2015, p. 24)

Librarians attending the 2015 NLA/NSLA Conference in Lincoln were given the opportunity to see a makerspace firsthand. The Directors of the Nebraska Regional Library Systems collaborated to bring a variety of makerspace activities to the Exhibits Hall.

The following list contains vendor information and approximate cost.

Calligraphy practice mats are intriguing to both children and adults. It is a fabric mat that is 28” x 18” with grid lines marked on it. Using only a Chinese character writing brush and a dish of water, participants are able to practice calligraphy and writing Chinese characters. The writing shows up black on the mat, but when it dries, it disappears. The mat will last for 10,000 times and it is hand washable. The mat and a brush sell on Amazon for \$11.

Coloring pages for adults have become very popular and it is easy to see why. This is a nearly-free

addition to a makerspace. Books are available for purchase, but countless pages are free online. Provide crayons, fine-tipped markers, and/or colored pencils for a cost of \$1 - \$10. Adult Coloring Clubs have social, mental, and creative benefits. People are drawn to the club because, unlike a book club, no preparation is necessary and no particular skill is required, not even speaking English. The Club provides an opportunity to meet new people in a stress-free environment. Participants “unplug” from the screens in their lives and unwind (Marcotte, 2015, p. 18-19).

Hastings Office
2727 West 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Kearney Office
816 East 25th Street #7
Kearney, NE 68847

Denise Harders
402-705-1409
denise.cpls@gmail.com

Sharon Osenga
308-708-1688
sharonosenga@gmail.com

Kay Kloppenborg
800-569-4961
cplsasst@gmail.com

Board Members

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Crochet needles, project books and yarn are a traditional addition to a makerspace. Cross stitch, knitting, needlepoint, sewing, and weaving are also popular activities. A Needlework Club can be a big hit. Anyone of any age working on any kind of needlework project is welcome. The only thing the library needs to provide is the space and maybe a coffee pot.

Decorated duct tape can be purchased in craft stores, home improvement stores and from Amazon for about \$5 per roll. Discounted combo packs are available as well. Kids (and adults) will make jewelry, bags, wallets, hair accessories and more. Once you have the tape, even the old-fashioned silver kind, scissors, a ruler, and some idea books are all that is needed to set up a Duct Tape Makerspace that will encourage creativity.

LEGO® building blocks are commonly found in makerspaces. LEGO® Clubs are popular with the tween crowd. Books filled with projects can be bought or just turn the club members loose. There are a variety of sources for these well-known building sets, but the least expensive way to increase your stash is to ask for donations. Nearly everyone has a box in the attic, basement, or garage.

MaKey MaKey is a kit that turns everyday objects into touchpads and combines them with the internet. It is easy to make a banana piano and other unique projects (Silver, 2015). The classic kit can be purchased directly from the official website or through Amazon for around \$50.

Quilling is an old craft that is coming back into popularity. Narrow strips of colored paper are curled around a fine-tipped tool (or a toothpick)

and glued to paper to make decorative items or greeting cards. The quilling tool can be purchased at Hobby Lobby for \$3.99. Packs of paper strips in color groupings are available there for \$2.99. Pattern books are optional; there are many free design ideas on the Internet.

Squishy Circuits come in a kit with instructions for making both conductive play dough and insulating play dough. The tools in the kit allow children to create circuits and explore electronics using that dough (Thomas, 2015). The full kit is available from the Squishy Circuits Store webpage as well as Target, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon for around \$25. Individual components can be purchased separately.

Strawbees are an inexpensive, easy-to-use construction kit. The instruction booklet for beginners is online at the Strawbees website (Strawbees, 2015). After that, only imagination limits what can be built. Using cardboard, plain drinking straws and the plastic connectors called Strawbees, kids and adults develop creative and problem-solving skills. The Central Plains Library System purchased the dies to cut out the connectors from Accucut. The plastic is available from them as well for \$20/50 sheets. We will be glad to cut connectors or to loan the dies to any Nebraska library.

Zoob® is a building set that has five different styles of pieces “that snap together in 20 different ways. Kids can make connections that rotate, limbs that extend, axels that spin” (Alex Brands, 2015) and more. Sets come in many different sizes and price points ranging from \$20 - \$120. They are available from Walmart, Amazon, and ToysRUs, in addition the Alex Brands website.

These items represent a small sampling of what can be included in a makerspace. Academic librarians may choose to provide a space where users can take things apart (Harris, 2015, p. 9). School librarians might encourage exploration and creativity through writing, cooking, making films, or building a website (Abram, 2015, 10).

Start small and grow slowly. A makerspace can be a permanent area in your library or it may be a book cart with supplies than can be rolled into any classroom or it could be a group of carefully labeled plastic totes on shelves waiting for the afterschool crowd to arrive. The “space” part of makerspace is not the important part. Makerspaces are about your community’s culture, not specific rooms or equipment. Programs offer communities “a place to gather, share expertise, and work creatively and collaboratively, regardless of the tools involved.” (Enis, 2015, p. 25)

References

- Abram, S. (2015). Real makerspaces in school libraries. *Internet@Schools*, 22 (1), 10-11.
- Alex Brands. (2015, December 30). *Zoob® build it, move it, Zoob it™*. Retrieved from <http://www.alexbrands.com/>
- Enis, M. (2015). Meet your maker. *Library Journal*, 140 (12), 24-29.
- Harris, J., & Cooper, C. (2015). Make room for a makerspace. *Computers in Libraries*, 35 (2), 5-9.
- Marcotte, A. (2015). Coloring book clubs cross the line into libraries. *American Libraries*, 46 (11/12), 18-19.
- Silver, J., & Rosenbaum, E. (2015, December 30). *MaKey MaKey*. Retrieved from <http://www.makeymakey.com/>
- Strawbees. (2015, December 30). *Dream big, build bigger!* Retrieved from <http://www.strawbees.com/>
- Thomas, A. (2015, December 30). *Squishy circuits*. Retrieved from <http://squishycircuitsstore.com/>

Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section 2016 Spring Meeting

The Future

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CT

SESSION I: Rebecca Stavick, Executive Director of Do Space, <http://www.dospace.org/>
Presenting on *Do Space* a one-of-a-kind concept: it’s a community technology library, a digital workshop and an innovation playground filled with new opportunities to learn, grow, explore and create.

SESSION II: Emily Dust Nimsakont, Head of Cataloging & Resource Management, Schmid Law Library, UNL
Emily’s presentation is on RDA (*Resource Description & Access*) for non-tech services librarians and paraprofessionals, in other words, for lay people

SESSION III: Erica Rose, Library Science Instructor at University of Nebraska-Omaha
Presenting on *Skills and Dispositions for 21st Century Librarians*

More details: <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/comp.old/para/2016SpringMeeting/2016Paraspgconfwebsite.html>

Janet Greser
NLA Para Board Member
janet.greser@nebraska.gov

Policies for Results

March 17, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Policies for Results is the encouragement to look at writing policies in four parts: Philosophy, Regulations, Procedures, Guidelines. Participants will learn how to develop a policy and practice writing a policy in a small group.



This workshop will be presented by Bonnie McKewon. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch. It will be held at Seward Memorial Library, 233 South 5th Street, Seward, NE. For registration information, contact Todd Schlechte at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com or 402-476-6188.



Puppet Order



Would you like to infuse extra excitement into your storytime? Add puppets to your routine and see the sparkle in the little ones' eyes.

Folkmanis has more than 250 puppets of all sizes available. The company has been making the most innovative and engaging specialty puppets in the world since 1976, delighting imaginations and winning nearly every industry, child development, and kid-tested award - many repeatedly.

We will be placing a Central Plains Library System group order on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. If you would like to order puppets for your library, go to <http://www.folkmanis.com> to see pictures and videos. Our group rate is 50% of the price listed on the website, plus 15% for shipping. For example, the new French Bulldog puppet's retail price is \$29.99. We pay \$15.00 plus \$2.25 for a total of \$17.25.

If you would like to order any puppets, please call Kay at 1-800-569-4961 or email her at cplsasst@gmail.com by **Monday, February 29, 2016.**



Summer Reading Workshop

On Your Mark, Get Set Read

Presented by Central Plains Library System



5 CEU's

Date: March 21, 2016
Mid Plains Community College
601 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101
(Registrations due March 14th)

AGENDA

9:30 -10:45 am Book reviews by Sally Snyder, NLC

10:45 -11:00 am Sharing Time

11:00—Noon Extension Educator

LUNCH—1 Hour

1:00 - 1:30 pm Games with Denise and Sharon

1:30 - 3:30 pm Crafts with Jody Crocker

In case of inclement weather please contact the System office to see if the workshop has been rescheduled (1-800-569-4961 or 308-708-1688)



SUMMER READING REGISTRATION —\$20.00

Date: March 21, North Platte Registration Fee \$20.00 (Includes your lunch)

Your Name: _____

Library: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send registration and checks to: Central Plains Library System
2727 West 2nd Street, Suite # 233
Hastings, NE 68901

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 administrated by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Celebrate National Library Week

April 10-16, 2016



First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

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

Access to Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Opinions

Free online access to the official published judicial opinions of the Nebraska Supreme Court and Nebraska Court of Appeals will be available to the public beginning January 1, 2016, through the Nebraska Appellate Courts Online Library at ne.gov/go/opinions.

Public libraries serve as a valuable resource for self-represented litigants in the court system by providing access to computers, the Internet, printers, and other basic information about the law. Additionally, after January 1, 2016, public libraries will be able to offer the official certified opinions of the appellate courts free of charge using the online library.

Text-searchable opinions dating back to 1871 will be available for the Nebraska Supreme Court. The full collection of opinions of the Nebraska Court of Appeals, beginning with its establishment in 1992, will also be offered.

Permanent versions of all published opinions will be provided exclusively via the online library once formal printing of the Nebraska Advance Sheets and the Decisions of the Nebraska Court of Appeals ceases in June 2016.

Access via the online library allows the appellate courts to make their judicial opinions more easily available to the public.



Week of Weeding



The Central Plains Library System is declaring February 1 – 6, 2016, a “Week of Weeding”!

We want to encourage everyone to participate by agreeing to weed a section of their library that they have been avoiding. You know what it is—that corner, that shelf, that genre of books that you have put off weeding for a while. Now’s the time! ***ALL*** Libraries in CPLS are eligible to participate!

How to Participate:

1. Call the Hastings CPLS Office (800-569-4961 or 402-462-1975) or send Sharon or Denise an email at sharonosenga@gmail.com or denise.cpls@gmail.com to let us know you want to participate.
2. If you need extra encouragement or help deciding what to weed, let Sharon or Denise know. We will be glad to give advice and to lend a helping hand.
3. After you finish your weeding project, fill out the form below.
4. Those who submit their forms to the Hastings CPLS Office by February 12th will be entered into a drawing for a Kindle Fire eReader! The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on Monday, February 15, 2016.



Week of Weeding Participation Form

Library _____

Section Weeded _____

How many books were weeded? (approximately) _____

Best (or worst) thing that was weeded out? _____

We’d love to see some “before and after” photos of your project! You can email digital pictures or submit printed photos with this participation form. (Pictures are not required and will not affect your library’s chance to win the eReader.)

Return form to: Central Plains Library System
2727 West 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901



Big Talk From Small Libraries

February 26, 2016

8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (CT)

Big Talk From Small Libraries is back!

We've been listening! A comment we've heard pretty often is that so many presentations at conferences seem to be by and for librarians from larger libraries. Well, **Big Talk From Small Libraries** will change that. This free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better. Each of our speakers will be from a small library or directly works with small libraries.

Topics will range from technology (new tech and old tech) to programming to new roles for the library. Come for the programs on what you're dealing with now, or maybe try something new.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small their library is, but if your library serves a few thousand people, or a few hundred, this is the day for you.

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2016 will be broadcast online using the GoToWebinar online meeting service. GoToWebinar login instructions will be e-mailed to registered attendees the day before the conference.

This conference is organized and hosted by Christa Burns and Craig Lefteroff of the Nebraska Library Commission and is co-sponsored by the Association for Rural & Small Libraries.

More details can be found @ <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>



Cutting Machines

These handy machines cut out letters and shapes from paper, felt, cloth, thin cardboard, magnetic sheets, and foam. CPLS owns two Ellison machines—one Original and a Prestige Space Saver—plus one Mark IV Accu-Cut Machine, and dies (including a 2" alphabet/numbers and a 4" alphabet/numbers). System members may check the desired machine and/or dies out for a month at a time. See the reservation schedule online at: <http://libraries.ne.gov/cpls/die-shapes/>. Call the Hastings CPLS office to reserve this equipment for your library.

Cover One Book Repair Service!

The System has purchased a binding repair machine that fixes a variety of types and sizes of books. This machine easily binds up to a 2 ½" thick book and it has a sliding wall to hold smaller books in place. It will also work with legal size and well as regular 8 ½ x 11" size items. Repaired books will be ready to use in just 20 minutes! Go to <http://www.coverone.net> and click on the link for Book Repair Demo on the left-hand side of the page to see it in action.

This machine is perfect to repair books with glued bindings that have "popped" and split into several big chunks, paperbacks that have come out of their covers, and books where individual pages are coming loose.



Mail or bring your books to the Hastings System Office.

We will repair them for \$1 per book plus actual return postage.

Disc Cleaning and Repair

The System Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic 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 play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016, each CPLS 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.
- If you come to the CPLS Office in Hastings and pick up the repaired discs, the charge is 35 cents per disc. A similar service at a retail video outlet costs more than \$5.00 per disc!

Audiobook Collection

CPLS owns over **650 circulating audiobook titles**. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD, MP3, and Playaway formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

New titles include:

The Hen of the Baskervilles by Andrews, Donna
Aunt Dimity and the Summer King by Atherton, Nancy
The Christmas Train by Baldacci, David
The Guilty by Baldacci, David
Book Clubbed by Barrett, Lorna
Gone to Sea in a Bucket by Black, David
Malice at the Palace by Bowen, Rhys (MP-3 format)
The Oregon Trail by Buck Rinker
Depraved Heart by Cornwell, Patricia
The Burned Bridges of Ward, Nebraska by Curtwright, Eileen
The Angel by Dawson, Mark
The Mistletoe Inn by Evans, Richard Paul
A Banquet of Consequences by George, Elizabeth
"X" by Grafton, Sue
Fate and Furies by Groff, Lauren
After She's Gone by Jackson, Lisa
The Theory of Death by Kellerman, Faye
Thomas Jefferson & the Tripoli Pirates by Kilmeade, Brian
The Bazaar of Bad Dreams by King, Stephen
Summer by Kingsbury, Karen
Into Thin Air by Krakauer, Jon
After Glow by Krentz, Jayne Ann writing as Castle, Jayne
Rosemary -The Hidden Kennedy Daughter by Larson, Kate
God is With You Everyday by Lucado, Max
204 Rosewood Lane by Macomber, Debbie
16 Lighthouse Road by Macomber, Debbie
A Storm of Swords by Martin, George R.R.



Audiobook Collection - New Titles—continued

A Clash of Kings by Martin, George R. R.
A Dance with Dragons by Martin, George R.R.
Game of Thrones by Martin, George R.R.
A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms by Martin, George R.R.
Circling the Sun by McLain, Paula
The Power of I Am by Osteen Joel
Step on a Crack by Patterson, James
Stars of Fortune by Roberts, Nora
Target Tokyo by Scott, James M. (MP3 format)
My Story by Smart, Elizabeth
Blue by Steel, Danielle
An Irish Country Wedding by Taylor, Patrick
An Irish Doctor in Love and At Sea by Taylor, Patrick
A Spool of Blue Thread by Tyler, Ann
The Crescent Spy by Wallace, Michael
The Martian by Weir, Andy
The Hunting Trip by Butterworth III, William E.
Hot Mahogany by Woods, Stuart

View the list of titles
 on our website under
 Services
 and then call or email
 the System office
 to borrow or reserve
 titles.

2016 TEEN TECH WEEK™

CREATE IT AT 
 YOUR LIBRARY!

Teen Tech Week will be held March 6-12, 2016. It is a national initiative sponsored by YALSA and is aimed at teens, their parents, educators and other concerned adults. The purpose of Teen Tech Week is to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of digital media, especially the non-print resources offered through libraries, such as e-books, e-readers, databases, audiobooks, and social media. Go to <http://teentechweek.ning.com/page/toolkits> for FREE digital download of themed posters, bookmarks, and more!

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Paraprofessional Section 2016 Spring Meeting
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SESSION I: Rebecca Stavick, Executive Director of Do Space, <http://www.dospace.org/>
 Presenting on *Do Space* a one-of-a-kind concept: it's a community technology library, a digital workshop and an innovation playground filled with new opportunities to learn, grow, explore and create.

SESSION II: Emily Dust Nimsakont, Head of Cataloging & Resource Management, Schmid Law Library, UNL
 Emily's presentation is on RDA (*Resource Description & Access*) for non-tech services librarians and paraprofessionals, in other words, for lay people

SESSION III: Erica Rose, Library Science Instructor at University of Nebraska-Omaha
 Presenting on *Skills and Dispositions for 21st Century Librarians*

More details: <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/comp.old/para/2016SpringMeeting/2016Paraspgconfwebsite.html>

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CPLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to \$100.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.
 Only one scholarship per person per year.
 Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name _____
 Library _____
 Event _____
 Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)
 Amount requested _____

Other information: _____



Send your request to: Central Plains Library System
 2727 W. 2nd Street # 233
 Hastings, NE 68901



NLA Bus Trip to PLA

The Public Library Association Conference is scheduled for April 5-9, 2016, in Denver, Colorado. It is the premier event for public libraries, drawing thousands of librarians, library support staff, trustees, friends, and library vendors from across the country and around the world. This multi-day event offers over 100 top-quality education programs, social events that include author luncheons and networking receptions, and a bustling exhibits hall featuring the latest in products and services. **Register by February 26 and save!**

<http://www.placonference.org/registration/>

NLA is excited to offer a group bus trip to PLA Conference in Denver Colorado. NLA, with help from the Legacy fund, will be able to offer low cost transportation for Nebraska librarians to and from the conference via charter bus. A bus will leave in the predawn hours on April 5th from Omaha, making pick up stops in Lincoln, Grand Island, and North Platte before depositing travelers in Denver. For more information, contact Jake Rundle at rundleje@gmail.com.

Preconferences are available on the afternoon of the 5th and the morning of the 6th. Regular conference activities start at 9:30 a.m. on April 6 with a Book Buzz. The Opening Session with Anderson Cooper starts at 2:00 p.m.

Join your fellow librarians for a terrific bus trip to Denver.

NLA Advocacy Day is Tuesday, March 8, 2016



Libraries are “Community-Maker” Spaces

This year's event will start at 10:00 am with a briefing at the State Capitol in Hearing Room 1507. From 10:45 to 11:45 am you will be able to meet with your senator and/or staff. Escort your senator to the noon luncheon at the Cornhusker. And after lunch, you can take advantage of an optional activity hosted by Nebraska Library Commission &

Nebraska Innovation Studio, to be held at the Innovation Studio & Innovation Campus Auditorium, 2021 Transformation Drive, Lincoln, NE

We have a terrific day scheduled so please make your plans to attend!



Eleven Points to Effective Lobbying

by Sharon Osenga

1. Make an appointment to visit your legislator.
2. Identify yourself and/or the organization you represent.
3. Make sure you inform the legislator that you are a registered voter in his/her district.
4. Be prepared. Deal in facts. Leave supporting documents
5. Get your point across in the fewest possible words.
6. Don't argue, name call or threaten.
7. Give the legislator a chance to express his/her point of view and be a good listener.
8. Don't be afraid to admit ignorance on special points. Say you will find the answer and report back.
9. Even if turned down, leave on a friendly note since you may want to join forces on another issue or get back later on the original issue in question.
10. Give special recognition to the legislators who are known to be on your side, and ask them for advice and help in reaching other legislators.
11. If lobbying with a group, one person should speak on behalf of the group.

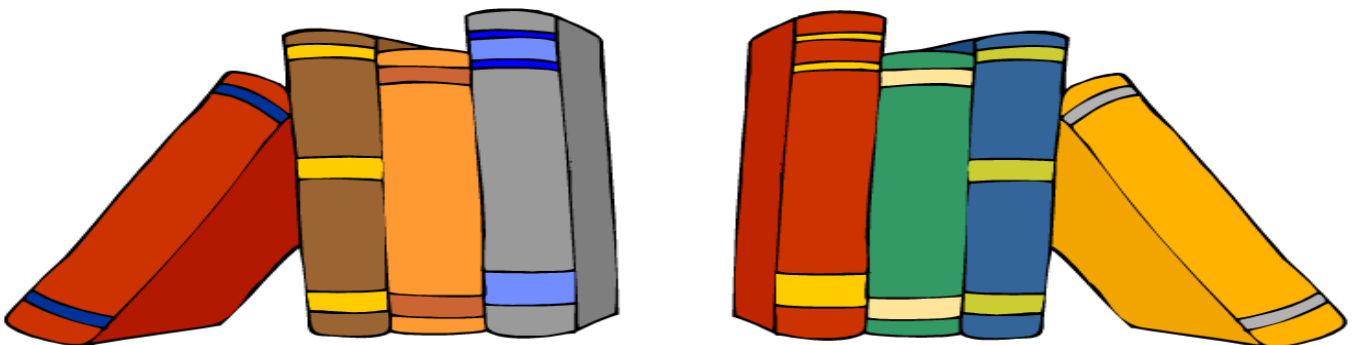


2016

READING

CHALLENGE

- a book published this year
- a book you can finish in a day
- a book you've been meaning to read
- a book recommended by your local librarian or bookseller
- a book you should have read in school
- a book chosen for you by your spouse , partner, sibling, child or BFF
- a book published before you were born
- a book that was banned at some point
- a book you previously abandoned
- a book you own but have never read
- a book that intimidates you
- a book you've already read at least once



Central Plains Library System

Mark Your Calendar

- February 1-6 CPLS Week of Weeding (see page 7)
- February 8-19 Basic Skills, Customer Service
- February 10 Quarterly Meeting with NLC
- February 15 President's Day Holiday —System Offices Closed
- February 26 Big Talk from Small Libraries (see page 8)
- Febr.29-March 11 Basic Skills, Library Governance (taught by Denise)
- March 6-12 Teen Tech Week "Create It @ Your Library" <http://teentechweek.ning.com/> (see page 11)
- March 8 Advocacy Day, Lincoln (See page 14)
- March 8 State Advisory Council for Libraries, Lincoln, 1:30 pm
- March 19 School Libraries Day
- March 21 Summer Reading Program Workshop, North Platte (see page 5)
- March 21-April 15 Basic Skills, Organization of Materials
- April 5-9 Public Library Association Conference, Denver (see page 13)
- April 10-16 National Library Week, "Libraries Transform" (see page 6)
- April 25-May 6 Basic Skills, Readers Advisory (taught by Sharon)
- May 2-8 Children's Book Week <http://www.bookweekonline.com/about>

Where else could a member of the public linger for over ten hours without being questioned?

~Barry Bowes



We're On the Web

libraries.ne.gov/cpls