



# NEMA News

Volume 50

<http://www.schoollibrariesrock.org>

Winter 2010

## President's Message



Jean Hellwege, Karen Buckley and Betty Meyer at Conference.

The 2010 NLA/NEMA annual conference, "Nebraska Libraries: Celebrating the past, Creating the Future" was extremely successful. Due to the large number of members attending, the conference was held at the Midtown Holiday Inn and the Riverside Inn in Grand Island. Online registration enabled the members to register for the conference and the response and attendance was great!

Thanks to the many school librarians who presented sessions at the conference, and those who participated in the Exploratorium. Your expertise and knowledge helped make the conference a success, and allowed other school librarians to see what others are doing in their school.

We recognized retiring board member Jeanne Bergsten, as well as our past-president Carrie Turner at the annual meeting. Their commitment to NEMA is very much appreciated.

## NEMA MEMBERS ROCK AT NLA BANQUET



Becky Pasco

Congratulations to NEMA members Dr. Becky Pasco and Jean Lukesh who were honored at the Nebraska Library Association Banquet at the NLA/NEMA Conference held in Grand Island in October.

Dr. Pasco received the Meritorious Service Award from NLA for "steadfast leadership contributing to the improvement of Library Service in Nebraska." Author Jean Lukesh received the Mari Sandoz Award for her "enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world."



Jean Lukesh

Photos by Karen Buckley

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# IN FOCUS: The Essentials for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learning

## AASL Fall Forum, November 5-6, 2010

By Nancy Larimer, AASL Affiliate Liaison

Nearly 200 school librarians (SLs) converged on Portland, Oregon, November 5-6, for AASL's semi-annual Fall Forum, *IN FOCUS: The Essentials for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learning*. Portland is known for its strong coffee, great food, and rainy weather, and participants were able to experience all of these at the Fall Forum. Even though there was little time to visit Portland's unique restaurants, there was plenty of food for thought during the presentations.

The first choice on the menu of presenters was Paige Johnson, Global Manager of K-12 education for Intel Corporation and director of the [Intel™ Teach Program](#) (a worldwide staff development program to help educators with technology integration). Johnson focused on the realities and the requirements of our times from two perspectives: the student's (rigor with relevance) and the workforce's (competition in a global economy). Some tidbits of her presentation:

- The future workforce will be very different; rather than a "job," students will have a "portfolio of skills" that they'll use to consult in a variety of situations over and over. (what is needed: self-direction, creativity & communication skills)
- Being purposeful about content standards in combination with higher order thinking skills adds rigor. (what is needed: fewer, deeper standards & context for learning)
- Professional development is critically important but often neglected. (what is needed: more time to learn & work collaboratively)
- Students should be at the center of the learning process, working with peers and others in authentic, real-world situations where learning is demonstrated through products or performance. (what is needed: a change in assessments, lesson construction & time allowed for acceleration of learning)
- SLs need to find "critical friends"-- people who will be honest about what's working and what isn't so SLs can work to change what's needed. (what is needed: face the hard questions & speak the truth)
- A good Professional Development resource for SLs: *Intel Teach Elements*, a series of short professional development courses that provide deeper exploration of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning concepts. <http://www.intel.com/education/elements>

School librarians had time to investigate essential questions for student learning, their library programs, and their professional growth when Gail Dickinson presented the next selection on the menu, "Essential Questions." Dickinson, who is associate professor of library science at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and co-chair of the task force that wrote the *AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners*, pointed out that essential questions dive right to the heart of a subject and generally open valuable conversations. They often start with "How?" For example, "How can creativity be measured? How can I get kids to use/use the library? How can I impact student achievement?"

Tasty morsels to consider from Dickinson's presentation:

- The mental picture of what a school library is can keep it from changing. We need to re-invent the concept of growth--size isn't indicative of quality. The overall library climate is critical.
- Rather than being in a "silo of information," the SL needs to be "embedded" — co-teaching in the classrooms, helping to create online classes, leading staff development, working on curriculum, and assisting the community.
- Essential questions for SLs to consider: If I had to rebuild the library, what would I do? If I had the money, I would...." Now, think of the strategies to make it happen.

In her session "Enduring Understandings." Leslie Maniotes, Teacher Effectiveness Coordinator for Denver Public Schools, stressed the importance of SLs being "teachers of teachers, not just students." Maniotes condensed the AASL standards into these essential student skills: *inquire, create, participate, and grow*. Echoing Johnson's comments on the value of self-directed learners, she stressed the importance of the inquiry process constructing new understandings of the world—not simply answering a question. Inquiry is not a fact-finding endeavor. "There are enduring understandings when learning is deeply connected to students." Because we learn by building on what we know, there is value in leveraging what students bring to the table. Learning takes place when we bring the student's world (student-centered) and the curriculum (teacher-centered) together into a "third space" where true dialogue and real questions happen. Enduring questions are those that connect students to real experiences and their lives.

The final course in the feast of ideas at the Fall Forum was served by Dr. Ross Todd, associate professor at Rutgers University and Director of the Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries. According to Todd, we are currently at the intersection of evidence-based education and evidence-based librarianship. SLs are learning specialists who directly impact student success and, therefore, must provide evidence to show that what they do affects student success. Citing national studies and statistics isn't as effective as showing evidence of how YOUR library impacts student learning outcomes. The SL can do this by creating an electronic portfolio of evidence containing feedback, summaries, student/teacher reflections, analyses of standardized test score data, videos, and graphics. Student learning should be the centerpiece of library websites. Todd stated, "Don't tell me what you believe. Show me what you do, and I will tell you where your priorities are." Advocacy without evidence is only one person's opinion.

At the conclusion of the presentations, everyone was full to the brim with new ideas. There will be time to digest it all and continue the conversations before the next AASL event, the National Conference & Exhibition, "[Turning the Page](#)," October 27-30, 2011, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It will be even bigger and better. Don't miss it!

With regret, we accepted the resignation of NEMA secretary Sara Churchill, and thanked her for her time and commitment as secretary for NEMA.

I want to extend a big “Thank You” to the local arrangement committee; all of their hard work and time helped the conference ran smoothly. I also thank Michael Straatmann and Christine Walsh for all the work they did to help make the conference a success.

At the Annual Meeting members voted and passed a proposal to change our by-laws with regards to the renewal date of membership. “Membership begins at the month of payment and extends for the term of membership (one to three years)”. With the monthly renewal date we can encourage people to join at any time rather than waiting until fall. Technology has improved so sending out our monthly reminders shouldn’t be a cumbersome as it was in the past.

Next year’s conference, “Nebraska Libraries: Cultivating Community Connections” will be held in Lincoln on October 3-5. Mark your calendars for this event. Also, remember as your school year progresses to consider sharing your new ideas in a session at the conference. NEMA President –elect Karen Buckley will be getting the proposal forms out after the first of the year; they are due in the spring.

Wishing you a school year filled with continued successes,

**Betty Meyer**  
NEMA President



President’s Award presented to L4L committee members Dr. Sherry Crow, Judy Henning and Dr. Deb Levitov by President Betty Meyer. Not pictured is committee member Lori Umstead.  
Photo by Jean Hellwege.

## **New Secretary Appointed- Welcome Beth Kabes**

Submitted by Betty Meyer, NEMA President

Please extend a warm welcome to Beth Kabes as the new secretary of NEMA. Due to a resignation, Beth has graciously accepted the position of secretary of NEMA for the remainder of the term. She serves as the Media Coordinator and Distance Learning Coordinator for ESU7 in Columbus.

As a member of NEMA, Beth enjoys the valuable knowledge and skills shared among the members and through conferences. She has also volunteered for conference committees of NEMA and has presented on PowerMedia Plus, Technology Integration and on the online repository resource of MediaNebraska ([medianebraska.myelearning.org](http://medianebraska.myelearning.org)) at numerous conferences. Beth has also shared in the coordination efforts of the Northeast Nebraska Media Specialists Fall Workshops held each year. Beth is excited to have an opportunity to be a part of the leadership team of the NEMA organization and hopes to share information and initiatives from a statewide perspective as well as build relationships with other NEMA members. “It is relationship building that is so important for all teacher librarians,” said Beth.

### **Thanks to ...**

NEMA members who helped in the NEMA Booth and preparing CDs, cards, and the NE Guides.

NEMA member Phyllis Brunken for donating two copies of the book **The Briton and the Dane** by Mary Ann Bernal [www.maryannbernal.com](http://www.maryannbernal.com) and two "librarian" t-shirts that were raffled off at the NEMA booth during the fall conference in October. \$50 was raised from the raffle.

NEMA members who have helped deliver the NE Guides to members—Jackie Davis, Mary Reiman, Carrie Turner, Anne Kalkowski, Terry Osborn, Bridget Kratt, Becky Pasco, Sandy White, Bev Gustafson, Patty Birch, Kelly Melson, Jeanne Bergsten, Judy Henning, Betty Meyer, Trena Boshart, Kathy Terrell, Germaine Johnson, Connie Heckman, Kari Bulgrin, Lynne Wragge, Carole Matthews. If I missed anyone, I am sorry but so grateful for your help.

## NEMA Calendar

**Scholarships Deadlines**      **March 15, 2011 and August 15, 2011**

### **NEMA Board Meetings**

Saturday, January 29, 2011      10:00 AM Teleconference, Lincoln, Columbus, Scottsbluff, Kearney  
Saturday, April 30, 2011      10:00 AM Bryan High School, Omaha  
Thursday, July 14, 2011      9:30 AM Pius X High School, Lincoln

### **NLA/NEMA Conference**

October 3-5, 2011      Lincoln

### **Other State Conferences**

February 24-26, 2011      NSRA Annual Conference, Kearney  
April 28-29, 2011      NETA Spring Conference, LaVista Embassy Suites

### **National Conferences**

January 7-11, 2011      ALA Midwinter, San Diego, CA  
June 23-29, 2011      ALA Conference, New Orleans, LA  
June 26-29, 2010      ISTE Conference, Philadelphia, PA

### **NEMA News**

**Submission deadlines**      November 15, February 15, May 15, July 21.

**Mailing/Posting dates**      December 15, March 15, June 15, August 15.

## **New NLA Affiliate Membership**

Submitted by  
Christine Walsh, NLA President

In response to suggestions and ideas from the 2009 NLA/NEMA conference, the Nebraska Library Association has developed an annual affiliate membership for NEMA members. This bargain membership rate of \$30 includes joining one section of your choice (e.g. School, Children & Young People's Section) for free! You are most welcome to join additional sections and/or roundtables for a small additional fee.

The second change is the addition of a free year's membership in the New Members Round Table with every new membership in the Nebraska Library Association. Our new members are vital to the success of our organization, and this benefit will allow these individuals access to the focused programming and resources that NMRT is able to offer. NLA is committed to providing quality services to our membership.

If you have questions please contact Michael Straatmann, NLA Executive Director at [nlaexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:nlaexecutivedirector@gmail.com). Membership forms can be found on the NLA website at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/membership/>. We look forward to welcoming new NLA members this year!

## Judy Henning Awarded Mad Hatter



Photo by Betty Meyer

Judy Henning, Director of Media Services for Kearney Public Schools and Kearney High School Librarian, has been named the Mad Hatter Youth Services Award winner for 2010. The School, Children's and Young People's section of the Nebraska Library Association sponsor this award. Book vendor Duane Munson and Child's World provide the winner's plaque. The award recognizes a librarian who has demonstrated outstanding service to children through innovative programming, service to the community and professional contributions to the field of librarianship.

Henning is dedicated to her profession and to providing library services to children of all ages. "Judy is a mentor and leader for her team of librarians in the Kearney Public Schools as well as for school librarians across the state." says Sue Divan, School Librarian for the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Kearney.

Judy is a member and active participant in the Nebraska Library Association (NLA), Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA), American Library Association (ALA) and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). In her role as president of NEMA, she attended the National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. to advocate for school libraries and school librarians. She is currently the AASL Learning for Life (L4L) coordinator for Nebraska. According to Kearney School Librarian and Technology Specialist Tracy Schall, "Judy Henning is not just an advocate for library media services at Kearney Public Schools, she is an advocate for education. I am a better media specialist because of Judy Henning."



Out-going board member Jeanne Bergsten from Kearney Public Schools is recognized for her years of service by President Betty Meyer at the annual meeting. Photo by Jean Hellwege.



## **Meet UNO Student Tracy Mullen**

Submitted by Sharon Axthelm, Student Liaison

*I had a chance to exchange emails with Tracy Mullen, a new elementary librarian at Zeman Elementary School in Lincoln, for this month's highlighted LMS student interview. She is sweet, friendly, and very busy! I hope that each of you enjoy reading her thoughts about her new role, new school and new "family" here with us in NEMA.*

This is my first year as the school librarian at Zeman Elementary. For the past ten years, I've been working as a middle school science teacher for Lincoln Public Schools and recently began taking classes to earn my library media endorsement. I have a provisional license and am continuing to work on my course work though UNO.

I knew I wanted to be a school librarian but was a little anxious about changing to the elementary level. I truly enjoyed working with middle school students so it was a difficult decision to switch but I absolutely love my new job. The elementary students are so enthusiastic and eager to please and they love me simply because I lend them books. I've gotten more hugs in one quarter this year than I had in all the years I was a middle school teacher.

I can honestly say that no two days have been alike this past quarter. Every day brings a new challenge and a new set of questions, which I really enjoy. As busy as I am in my new role, I'm having a great time. I enjoy having the opportunity to work with every student and staff member in our school.

I've been pleasantly surprised at how well librarians network with each other. In my new role, I've never once felt as if I were completely alone. If I have a question about something, I can email any number of people in LPS or the NEMA list serve and get a response almost immediately. I feel as if I joined an enormous family when I became a librarian and am truly blessed by all of the support I have gotten.

I've also been surprised at just how busy I am on a daily basis. Learning to juggle all of the aspects of my new job has taken some time and a good deal of thought, but I am ultimately excited to go to work every day. I honestly think I have the best job in my school and can't believe how fortunate I am to have landed where I am this year. The staff has been incredibly welcoming and supportive and I look forward to working with them for years.

As with my first year of teaching, my hopes for this year are to do the best job I can, knowing that I will only get better as I learn the ropes. I'm a perfectionist, so I'd like to be able to do everything really well the first time, but know that isn't possible with this new job.

After I catch my breath from this whirlwind year, I'd like to work more closely with our staff to coordinate my media lessons with their curriculum. I want the media center to be a place where all students and staff feel welcome, where staff feel comfortable asking me questions knowing I will do my best to find the answer for them, and where students learn to not only love reading but to think for themselves while using the newest technology.

*Tracy has agreed to let me offer her email address here. It is [tmullen@lps.org](mailto:tmullen@lps.org). Please take a moment and email Tracy and tell her "welcome" and offer to be that support to her that we all need and enjoy with NEMA.*

## Membership in AASL Gets Even More Rewarding!

Submitted by Nancy Larimer,  
AASL Liaison

Through December 31, 2011, new or renewing members of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will receive 10,000 Capstone Rewards Bonus Points, which can be redeemed for books with Capstone and their collective divisions. These points are valued at \$100 and are a gift simply for being a member of AASL.

In addition to Capstone Rewards points, members of AASL automatically receive a subscription to AASL's professional journal, *Knowledge Quest*, published five times per school year; the opportunity to apply for more than \$50,000 in AASL awards and grants; reduced registration rates on conferences and continuing education, including the AASL National Conference; and discounts on professional and educational publications on a variety of topics, as well as promotional items.

For more information, visit  
[www.ala.org/aasl/joinnow](http://www.ala.org/aasl/joinnow).

## NEMA Listserv INFORMATION

Submitted by Jean Hellwege, Executive Secretary

The NEMA listserv sends announcements and reminders from NEMA to your mailbox. It is another way to collaborate and share with our colleagues, such as the Nebraska Library Commission's Books in Series: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/booksinseries/index.html>.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NEMA listserv, go to

<<http://lists.k12.ne.us/mailman/listsinfo.nema>>  
and follow the instructions found at this site.

To post messages to the listserv, email your message to  
[nema@lists.k12.ne.us](mailto:nema@lists.k12.ne.us)

*Please follow these guidelines when posting messages:*  
**\*\*Posts should be relevant to librarianship/library issues.**  
**\*\* Please do not send or forward to the list virus warnings, recipes, chain letters, etc.**  
**\*\* Please respect copyright, trademarks, logos, etc.**  
**\*\*Political activity, such as campaigning or endorsing a candidate, is not permitted**



I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the local arrangement chairs and their committees listed below for their time, dedication and commitment to the 2010 conference. I appreciate the many hours of time that they gave to ensure that the NLA/NEMA 2010 conference was a success. Betty Meyer, NEMA President

**Judy Henning and Sherry Houston-  
Local Arrangements.**

**Steve Fosselman and Laura Martinsen-Partners and  
Donors.**

**Judy Henning, Sharon Osenga, and Delilah Gillming-  
Publicity/Program.**

**Vicki Casper-Registration.**

**Stacy Vogel-Audio-Visual.**

**Susan Mueller and Emily Fiala-Exhibits.**

**Jackie Davis-Hospitality.**

**Emily Nimsakont-Webmaster.**



Past-president Carrie Turner receives her plaque and thanks from President Betty Meyer at the annual meeting. Photo by Jean Hellwege.

## **Learning for Life**

Submitted by Dr. Sherry Crow

**NEMA's L4L coordinator, Judy Henning, assisted by other NEMA members, has been busy representing NEMA by presenting the L4L to various stakeholders in the past few months, including being featured in a Kearney-area TV spot promoting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning:**

- (2010, Nov. 18) *Integrating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into the curriculum using your library media specialist*. Presentation by Judy Henning, Sherry Crow, and Deb Levitov at the joint state conference of the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska Association of School Administrators, La Vista, NE.
- (2010, Oct. 15). *AASL standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner*. Presentation by Judy Henning, Sherry Crow, and Deb Levitov at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference, Grand Island, NE.
- (2010, Oct. 14). *What's in a name? Discussion of trends and changes in the school library world and their impact on NEMA*. Participation on panel by Sara Churchill, Sherry Crow, Judy Henning, Stacy Lickteig, Betty Meyer, and Becky Pasco at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference, Grand Island, NE.
- (2010, Oct. 13). *Integrating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in the curriculum*. Presentation by Judy Henning and Sherry Crow at the Educational Administrators Technology Conference, Kearney, NE.
- (2010, April 30). *Using the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning standards in the classroom*. Presentation by Judy Henning, Sherry Crow, and Kelly Melson at the Nebraska Educational Technology Association Conference. La Vista, NE.
- (2010, March 23). *Foundations of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning*. Presentation by Judy Henning, Sherry Crow, and Kelly Melson to the Kearney Public School Math and Science Subject Area Curriculum Committees. Kearney, NE.
- (2010, Feb. 26). *The new AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner: A foundation for inquiry-based partnerships in literacy learning*. Presentation by Judy Henning, Sherry Crow, and Deb Levitov at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska State Reading Conference. Kearney, NE.
- (2010, June). *Heartland Regional School Library Conference*. Becky Pasco and NEMA members provided leadership as a statewide team to implement a regional conference for school librarians in five states. Featured Cassandra Barnett, president of AASL; and Pam Berger, national expert in technology integration. UNO campus, Omaha, NE.

**Also, Becky Pasco, Mary Reiman, and Sherry Crow worked with NCTE on changing the NDE standards for library media programs (now school library programs) to align with the AASL/NCATE national standards.**

### **Annual Meeting Highlights**

#### **Submitted by Sara Churchill, Secretary**

NLA/NEMA Affiliate Membership has been approved by NLA. The board approved \$30 for any current NEMA members to join NLA. Sections and round table will be priced accordingly. One Book for Nebraska Kids was chosen in August and is *The Last Newspaper Boy in America* by Sue Corbett. AASL's newest tool to assist school librarians' implementation of the Standards, *A Planning Guide for Empowering Learners*, can be ordered through Britannica Digital Learning (1-800-621-3900). NEMA hosted a booth at the 2010 NASP Administrators' Days in Kearney July 28-29 distributing information on AASL's 21st Century Learning Standards.

## **The Nebraska Guide....A Legacy**

Submitted by John Courtney, NEMA Member

The true test of most things “good” is the test of time. *The Nebraska Guide* is one of those things.

The first *Nebraska Guide* was published in 1973. It came about as the result of years of deliberation and months of hard work. If we reflect back on the early 70’s and the late 1960’s we see the beginning of the school library/media movement. The National Defense Education Act (NDEA) was passed by Congress to meet the outcry for reform in education. The Russians had launched Sputnik in 1957, and this alarmed the American public and Congress that educational reform was sorely needed. The NDEA went a long way in the development of school libraries, being used to provide professional development and physical resources. Then The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed in 1965 which made possible the major thrust for the development of school libraries with the Act’s Title II and later, Title IV monies.

As the development of school libraries began, the need for some organization, guidance and leadership became apparent; which led to the establishment of the position of Library/Media consultant in the Nebraska Department of Education. The establishment of this leadership position for the state, along with the federal monies provided to virtually every school in the state, gave birth to school libraries in Nebraska. Proudly, this movement continues today. Despite financial and political restraints, including the ending of federal funding for a library/media consultant in the Nebraska Department of Education, leadership continues through local districts as well as through professional organizations such as NEMA and NLA. Also, the contributions of the leadership roles of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and at Kearney cannot be overstated .

The first *Nebraska Guide* grew from a recognized need to provide a consistent and relevant source for establishing a proper school media program, as well as uniform guidelines to measure the effectiveness of a school media program. In the spring of 1973, the Nebraska Department of Education, the Kearney Public Schools and the University of Nebraska at Kearney (then known as Kearney State College), wrote an NDEA grant to fund a workshop to explore the current state of library/media programs in Nebraska. One of the explicit goals of the workshop was to focus on the recognized needs of school libraries and media centers, and then to focus on the solutions and a method to measure those solutions once they were put in place by a local school district.

A representative group of Nebraska librarians were brought together with nationally recognized authorities from the Los Angeles Public Schools, Arizona State University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. With the support of Kearney State College and the Nebraska Department of Education, these workshop participants generated a product that has truly stood the test of time, as proven by the recent publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the guide.

From the initial instrument published in 1973 to the current 7<sup>th</sup> edition, many entities have stepped up to the plate to keep the “Guide” a viable tool for individual school library/ media programs and districts in the establishment and evaluation of their individual library/media programs.

When writings are examined, the test of time is often used as a measure of success. In the fluid and ever-changing field of education, *The Nebraska Guide*, in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition and 37<sup>th</sup> year, indeed meets that measure of success.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Programs* was distributed to NEMA members at the fall NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island. Since then, NEMA Board members have been helping to distribute the Guide to those members who were not able to attend the conference. All current NEMA members are eligible to receive a copy, free of charge, as part of their membership. If you have not yet received your copy and will be in Lincoln for any reason, please contact the Executive Secretary, Jean Hellwege at [nemecontact@gmail.com](mailto:nemecontact@gmail.com), to see if we can arrange for you to be able to pick up your copy and save our organization the expense of mailing it.

## **One Book for Nebraska Kids**

### **Submitted by Kelly Melson, YAB Liaison**

One Book for Nebraska Kids (ONfNK) has been chosen! Sue Corbett's title **The Last Newspaper Boy in America** was selected for the One Book for the year. This was announced at the NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island on October 14-15, 2010.

The One Book, One Nebraska program encourages all Nebraskans to read and discuss one particular title each year. This program has been an amazing success for the libraries that have chosen to participate across the state. This year we are featuring the kids' title and next year we will again choose a title for teens. PDF files to help you setup a book discussion will be located at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/obonk.html>

**Check out the AASL Advocacy Tip of the Day:**  
<http://advocacytipoftheday.wordpress.com/>

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEMA'S NEW NE GUIDE**

Submitted by Dr. Deb Levitov

In this newsletter is the letter of endorsement written by Dr. Roger Breed, Commissioner for Nebraska's Department of Education, for NEMA's "NE Guide" (formally known as, *The Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Programs*, Libraries Unlimited, 2010).

Please download and print this letter and place a copy of it with your membership copy of the NE Guide. Also, if you have been able to purchase a bound copy of the book from Libraries Unlimited to give to an administrator (<http://lu.com/showbook.cfm?isbn=9781591587170>), be sure to present the endorsement letter along with the book.

Members of NEMA receive a free copy of the guide as a benefit of membership. **But, members cannot copy/reprint the guide for use by anyone else (according to the contract agreement between NEMA and Libraries Unlimited, only one copy can be distributed to each NEMA member). So, the only way nonmembers can receive the guide is to purchase a copy from Libraries Unlimited.**

Materials are posted on the NEMA website that help members receive an introduction to the parts of the NE Guide. The endorsement letter is also posted with the other materials.

This is your NEMA membership at work!



## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Roger D. Breed, Ed.D., Commissioner  
Scott Swisher, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner

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February 2010


Dear Educators:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the newly revised **Nebraska Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Media Programs**. The Nebraska Educational Media Association has worked diligently to align this document with the national guidelines for school libraries published by the American Association of School Librarians, *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*. Quality learning for all students is the central theme throughout this document.

As we move forward into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is clear that we must prepare our students for an ever-changing world. Ready and, almost instant, access to accurate, up-to-date, and quality information will be the key to their success. Quality school library programs are central to the process of teaching and learning and provide direct support to classroom instruction and information literacy. Schools must have effective library media programs for the successful delivery of curriculum.

The **Nebraska Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Programs** will assist schools in the development and improvement of school libraries. The guide provides a framework for program improvement as well as a means of assessing and evaluating current programs and services. I thank the members of the Nebraska Educational Media Association for producing this document; and I recommend it to all Nebraska schools as a valuable tool for improving and promoting effective school library media services.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

### State Board of Education

<b>Kandy Ines</b> President District 7 1850 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Gering, NE 69341	<b>Jim Scheer</b> Vice President District 3 P.O. Box 16 Norfolk, NE 68702	<b>Robert Eymen</b> District 1 301 South 13th Street Suite 500 Lincoln, NE 68508	<b>Mark Quandahl</b> District 2 4885 South 118 <sup>th</sup> St. Suite 100 Omaha, NE 68137	<b>Rebecca Valdez</b> District 4 3922 South 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68107	<b>Patricia H. Timm</b> District 5 1020 North 21 <sup>st</sup> Street Beatrice, NE 68310	<b>Fred Meyer</b> District 6 1580 Highway 281 St. Paul, NE 68873	<b>Joe Higgins</b> District 8 5067 South 107 <sup>th</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68127
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# **School Library Journal Leadership Summit 2010: The Future of Reading**

Submitted by Kim Gangwish

School Library Journal hosted its annual leadership summit in Chicago on October 22 and 23. The focus of this year's summit was "to explore the latest trends and developments in literacy and technology, and identify ways in which librarians can make a genuine difference in their communities." It was an information-packed summit and helped challenge me to change my point of view where e-books are concerned. Here is a highlight of some of the major takeaways from the summit.

Stephan Abram, President for Strategic Partnerships and Markets for Gale Cengage, discussed "Libraries Matter: The Future of Reading in 2020." These are a few of the thought-provoking questions he asked:

- Does the future happen to you, or do you create it?
- Librarians play a vital role in building the critical connections between information, knowledge and learning. What is the opportunity when we move reading into a space that supports all learning styles?
- Do you define yourself as being about books, or about the skills that you teach?
- What is the learning experience you want to build? How does reading fit into that?

Don Leu from the New Literacies Research lab offered some interesting facts about the future of reading. He discussed how other nations are responding to the change in reading in their public policies. Japan has broadband in nearly every home that is 16 times faster than the broadband in the US homes for \$22 per month. Mexico has a plan to provide every citizen and school with Internet connection. He also pointed out that online and offline reading comprehension may not be isomorphic. Their research showed that you cannot tell a high online reader with a high state assessment score. There is no correlation between the two. There are different skills and strategies (an overlap) for reading online. There was concern that there's not a single state that measures students' abilities to read search engine results during state reading assessments or students' online reading comprehension, or students' ability to compose clear and effective e-mail messages in their state assessments. Very few states allow students to use a word processor for their state writing assessment. He believes that neglecting research into online reading comprehension perpetuates public policies that help the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Leu challenged us to advocate for better standards, demand better reading assessments, support greater professional development, support better instruction, point teachers to exceptional online curricula, encourage and educate school leadership, and build bridges within the reading community.

Andres Henriquez, Catherine Snow, and Gina Biancarosa shared the results of a Carnegie Foundation study on the future of reading. One key point they found was that e-readers are primarily targeted at motivated, proficient readers who are not reading primarily for education purposes. In order for e-readers to be useful in education, the technology needs to change the way readers interface with e-text in order to support interactions and reading to learn. They developed the following recommendations for reading with e-readers:

- Require Operating System Compatibility for e-reading hardware: to support student learning of all students, e-reading must be capable of running software from multiple developers
- Require core features for any e-reading interface: core supportive features must be the norm in e-reading technology
- Develop innovative features to support learning
- Support access to ancillary materials, tools that support collaborative learning
- Incorporate and develop new features to support readers who are struggling or still learning to read: e-reading technology offers an exciting means of supporting readers who are reading below grade level
- Support personalization: ability of teachers, parents, and students to download, activate, and deactivate supports so that e-reading technology meets diverse needs
- Assess readers and aggregate data: assessment of learning, reading development, and even strategy use
- Maximize e-reading technology utilization: publishers, e-reading technology developers should work with teacher educators and teachers to demonstrate how technology will improve their ability to do their jobs effectively and efficiently
- Lobby for modern educational materials adoption policies: current policies need to be revised to support adoption of e-reading technology without eroding safeguards against inappropriate use of funds.

Finally, a concluding thought from Chuck Follett, president Follett Corporation. "Accredited librarians will continue to deliver value to their schools. Librarians will flourish in the schools of the future in an involving, more interactive, consultative role. Technology will not replace you, it will elevate you. Take steps to reinvent yourself, be an inspiration in literacy, be a teacher."

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Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_ Business \_\_\_ Home

Sign me up for the NEMA listserv \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Already on listserv \_\_\_

**My contact information will be released in NEMA's  
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### I would be interested in serving NEMA:

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