

April 1, 2017

# NeCessary KnowLedge

## Libraries: The Key to Digital Readiness

### Calendar

Universal Class: Marysville	4/3
SR Craft Workshop: Frankfort	4/5
Universal Class: Marion	4/5
Directors' Meeting	4/6
Book Repair Workshop	4/7
APPLE Training	4/11-4/12
Ninja Forms Plugin: Manhattan	4/13
Grant Writing Workshop: Manhattan	4/19
Book Fair: Manhattan	5/11
Executive Board Meeting	5/25
Directors' Meeting	6/8
School Librarian Workshop	6/16

Libraries in the NCKLS region have been successful in helping bridge the digital divide between people who have access to the Internet and those who do not by providing public computers with Internet access and Wi-Fi access for personal devices. In a recent report issued by the Pew Research Center, researchers concluded that, “Americans fall along a spectrum of preparedness for using tech tools to pursue learning online, and many are not eager or ready to take the plunge.”

The digital divide has shifted from providing the tools for access to helping people develop the skills to learn and find information using technology. Digital readiness is defined by five main factors:

1. Confidence in using new technology
2. Ability to get new technology to work
3. Use of digital tools for learning
4. Ability to determine the trustworthiness of information
5. Familiarity with current

technology terms  
 People who are the least prepared to use technology are hesitant, because of a lack of skills, to navigate the online world. Some have concerns about the trustworthiness of online information, while others may be comfortable with the technology but unaware of available resources. Libraries do an excellent job of providing basic one-on-one assistance to users who need help getting started, and many libraries conduct classes or work with partners in the community who can volunteer to provide training or assistance. There is additional work to do to fill the digital readiness gap, but many aspects of ensuring digital readiness harken back to traditional library roles, including guiding people to

credible information and trustworthy resources. Information and referral were once made to print resources and now to electronic resources. The databases available through the State Library of Kansas are an excellent resources to promote on your website, with a handout, at a community presentation, on social media, or by word-of-mouth the next time someone asks you “What’s new at the library?”  
 The Pew Research Center study also noted that library users and people with easy access are more likely to use the Internet in personal learning. Your work makes a big impact on the lives of people in the NCKLS region and the future. Keep up the good work!

~ Linda Knupp



## Service Improvement Grant Ideas

NCKLS provides funds for service improvement grants every year. We are always disappointed, at the end of the fiscal year, when we discover that we have leftover service improvement grant money. The Executive Board suggested that, perhaps, some of you might like to see how other libraries are spending

their service improvement grant funds. Lesa Dierking, the Children's Librarian at the Marysville Public Library, shared some items that her library has purchased using a service improvement grant in the past. A farm rug and farm toys, a science table for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and

math) play, and magnets, magnet box, and other accessories for a magnet table, along with musical instruments for story time were all purchased with service improvement grant funds. Lesa also noted that the "kiddos are LOVING the musical instruments!"

~ Lesa Dierking & Melendra Sutliff Sanders



## Payroll Paperwork for New Hires

Hiring and training employees can be intimidating. There are many things to remember, one of which is knowing which papers the new employee needs to complete. Of course, there are many forms, but for payroll, there are three forms every new employee must fill out: the I-9, W-4, and K-4. These forms must be filled out before the employee begins working. To make this as easy as possible, I have listed the website where the fillable and printable form can be

found:

The I-9, or Employment Eligibility Verification form, confirms that an individual is authorized to work in the United States. Employees must present valid documents (listed on the last page of the form) as evidence of this authorization. Located at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>  
The W-4, or Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, allows the employer to withhold federal income tax from an employee's pay. Located at

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4.pdf>

• The K-4, or Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate (for Kansas), allows the employer to withhold Kansas income tax from an employee's pay. Located at <http://www.ksrevenue.org/pdf/k-4.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding these forms, please contact me at [jlund@manhattan.lib.ks.us](mailto:jlund@manhattan.lib.ks.us).

~ Jennifer Lund

## Rotating Book Van News

Since the beginning of 2017, I have been weeding the NCKLS rotating book collection. My goal is to give the NCKLS libraries the most inviting collection I can. I've weeded the young

adult collection (both fiction and non-fiction), juvenile fiction, juvenile easy readers, and the juvenile non-fiction categories. The next section I will concentrate on is the juvenile picture books. There

are some areas in the adult collection I have not focused on, but I'm hoping to complete them by the end of 2017.

~ Denise Coon



## Tax-lid Exemption for Libraries: Some Good News as You Prepare Your Budgets for 2018

Roger Carswell, the Director of the Southeast Kansas Libraries System, reports: Several of the regional library system directors were able to meet with Roger Basinger of the state municipal services office regarding the "library exemption" from the tax lid. The news was probably the best we could have hoped for. Although Mr. Basinger had been skeptical last year that the wording in the bill really was an exemption for libraries, he said after

thinking about it through the winter, they have come to the conclusion that it is, in fact, an exemption for libraries. Furthermore, the budget forms that cities, counties, etc. will use have the library exemption built in. To oversimplify it a bit, on the page used to compute their maximum levy for 2018 without having to go to an election, they will start with the amount levied for 2017, then subtract the amount levied for the library to come up with a base for computing the limit. After allowing for

factors, they can increase for items such as new improvements and apply the allowable increase (1.4% for cities, 1.3% for other units of local government) to come up with the maximum levy. They will then add the amount to be levied for the library in 2018 onto that. Perfect! No city should be able to claim that the library cannot have an increase because of the tax lid; that just won't work with the forms.

~ Carol Barta

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 ★ **AMAZING** ★  
 ★ **FACT:** ★  
 ★ **NCKLS** ★  
 ★ **provided** ★  
 ★ **over** ★  
 ★ **\$154,873 in** ★  
 ★ **grants to** ★  
 ★ **libraries** ★  
 ★ **within** ★  
 ★ **taxing** ★  
 ★ **counties!** ★  
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The background of the entire page is a festive collage of colorful balloons in shades of yellow, orange, pink, purple, and blue. Scattered throughout are small, five-pointed stars in various colors, including pink, yellow, and white. The overall aesthetic is bright and celebratory.

## **Join NCKLS as we bid farewell to Richard Miller!**

Richard is retiring at the end of April, and we're having a party to celebrate the momentous occasion! We know he's been a big part of your libraries and your lives over the past 22 years, and we hope you'll be able to attend his party.

**Where: Manhattan Public Library auditorium**

**When: April 28th from 1:00—3:00 pm**

If you are unable to attend in person, but still wish to give your regards, you can join us via Zoom at <https://kslib.zoom.us/j/370535552>. *(Although, we can't promise cake to the Zoom attendees.)*



**Don't miss the final Summer Reading Craft Workshop!**

**Where: Frankfort  
When: 10-12 on Wed., April 5**

Register for the one that's best for you at [know.nckl.info](http://know.nckl.info).



## Can Reading Improve Your Health?

Reading can reduce stress for all ages. Walking, listening to music, etc. are known ways to reduce stress, but did you know the stress-reducing benefit of regular reading? A 2009 study by the University of Sussex found that reading for just 6 minutes can reduce stress levels by up to 68%.

(The Telegraph, March 2009).

Dr. Lewis, ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Lewis\\_psychologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lewis_psychologist)), Cognitive Neuropsychologist says: "Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation. This is particularly poignant in uncertain economic times when we are all craving a certain amount of escapism. It really doesn't matter what book you read, by losing yourself in a thoroughly engrossing book you can escape from the worries and stresses of the everyday world and spend a while exploring the domain of the author's imagination."

Reading books can be a source of inspiration, knowledge, answers, and comfort. If you are a parent,

the more your child sees you read, the greater the chance she will pick up a book.

(<http://www.kumon.co.uk/blog/encouraging-children-to-develop-good-reading-habits/>)

So, the whole family can reduce stress by reading.

Reading also improves memory and fights Alzheimer's. Just like the muscles in your body, your brain loves a good workout.

Reading keeps your brain active. The number of Americans affected by Alzheimer's is expected to increase to 14 million by 2050 as the general population ages. (ABC News). A recent study showed reading may help fight Alzheimer's. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=117588&page=1#.UbIVc2RAR7t>

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Reading can increase empathy which can improve life. A person reading fiction experiences emotions, and because the story isn't real, this experience feels safe.

Studies show people who

regularly submerge themselves in fictional stories, can be more empathetic. [http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0055341#s4?source=fbadsim\\_unpaid-varied\\_comp1\\_v2\\_bt&](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0055341#s4?source=fbadsim_unpaid-varied_comp1_v2_bt&)

[source=fbadsim\\_unpaid-varied\\_comp1\\_v2\\_bt&](http://source=fbadsim_unpaid-varied_comp1_v2_bt&)

Reading is enjoyable, and the many benefits of reading can improve your health and life. So, grab a book or a device and start reading. The following workshops may help!

Learn more about *OneClickDigital* and *Cloud Library* in the eReader classes offered May 23rd in Marion and May 24th in Hanover. The State Library of Kansas online databases and Skill Builders are other places to lose yourself in reading. <https://kslib.info/221/Online-Databases> *Universal Class* workshops will be held April 3rd and April. 5th, in Marysville and Marion respectively.

(Source: BookTalk by BookBub)

~ LaDonna Clark



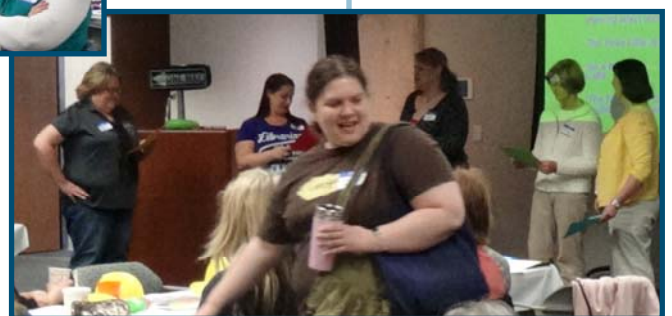
## Service of the Month: Summer Reading Support

In February and March, summer reading workshops were held around the state. 48 librarians from 28 of the NCKLS libraries attended this year's summer reading workshop in Manhattan. These workshops are organized and hosted by each regional library system, so they are customized to focus on the needs of regional librarians. The state youth consultants evaluate proposals from a pool of national applicants to select a workshop presenter. These presenters share ideas geared toward the current summer reading theme while incorporating best practices and theories current in the field of library services to children and teens. So, not only does the workshop help librarians plan their summer reading programs each year, it also provides an opportunity to catch up on issues affecting youth

librarianship. In addition to the keynote presenter, each year, the workshop includes a shorter topical session. This year's workshop included a session on Breakout EDU. This concept is similar to the popular Escape Room businesses popping up around the country. However, Breakout EDU incorporates education along with the fun escape event. The Breakout session provided workshop attendees with a pre-made Breakout game that utilizes this year's summer reading theme: Build a Better World. Funding for the keynote speaker comes through a grant from the State Library

of Kansas using LSTA funds from the federal government. The SLK summer reading program grant also pays for summer reading supplies, such as the posters, reading records, and completion certificates, each library receives. The regional youth consultants apply for this grant annually, and the statistics each library keeps about summer reading registration, completion, and event attendance are used when we write up the grant. Any summer reading testimonials your library shares are also included in our yearly grant application.

~ Melendra Sutliff Sanders





North Central Kansas Libraries System

**NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS LIBRARIES SYSTEM**

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[www.nckls.org](http://www.nckls.org)

## Build a Better World! with a Program Kit

The following NCKLS kits tie into the CSLP summer reading theme. If you don't know how, check your manual for more details!

### Storytime Kits:

Construction	In the Garden	Homes
Healthy You	Ocean	Bugs & Worms
Celebrations	Getting Dressed	On the Go

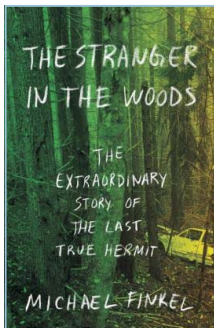
### 6 by 6: Early Literacy Kits:

Tip Tip Dig Dig	Alphabet Under Construction
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### Maker Kits:

Builder	LEGO	Book Repurposing
Solar	Robot	Circuit
Break It reMAke It		

## The Stranger in the Woods: A Contemporary Hermit



Michael Finkel's riveting new nonfiction book concerns a Massachusetts native named Christopher Knight. Knight was one of several

children raised in a household that prided itself on self-sufficiency and detachment from neighbors. Christopher graduated from the local high school in Albion and later took a job installing alarm systems. When he was twenty years old, he drove his Subaru to the Maine woods, left the keys in the vehicle and walked away.

Thus began the life of this hermit who lived in the woods in a dense encampment for 27 years by himself. Some might label this solitary life as a case of severe mental illness, and yet

Chris proved to be an intelligent man, well-read on many different levels, who simply had no desire to interact with others.

He lived a life of contemplation and had adapted to his surroundings, adding conveniences as he needed them.

What ended his solitude was a case of bad luck. How had he acquired food and other necessities over the years? By burglarizing summer homes and camps in the area, he acquired food, tools, and other needs. Disgruntled and frightened homeowners worked with a Maine State Trooper and with Border Patrol agents to put an end to the thefts. An elaborate system of sensors alerted law enforcement to a raid one evening, and Chris was arrested for decades of theft.

Author Finkel made arrangements to

interview Chris while the hermit was incarcerated and learned much about Chris's world view. He left society, not because he was unhappy or angry, but because he wanted to be alone. He was ashamed of the thefts he had committed, but he said they were necessary for him to survive Maine winters in the snow and the winds. He didn't wish to return to civilization: he wanted to go back to the woods and wait for death.

Why read a book like this? It is an oddity of a biography, but it is also a study of individualism and the values of solitude. It will make you question what makes a life complete, what makes for purposeful existence. I encourage you to learn more about this modern hermit.

~ Marcy Allen