

## Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

### Lizatia in the Library

A few weeks ago Lizatia, my bearded dragon, came to Columbus Public Library for a visit on a Wednesday afternoon. She was the main feature of the Pet a Dragon after-school-program for Teens that day. Teens were able to pet her, watch her run and eat, and learn about bearded dragons. For example, bearded dragons, as reptiles, don't produce their own body heat, so they like to be in the sun or against a warm body, which is why Lizatia likes being held.

To learn more about reptiles check out some the following resources:

The elibrary is an online database provided by the State of Nebraska and offers newspaper and magazine articles, pictures, and ebooks all in one search. You can search this database for information about lizards or any other topic by going to our website, [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library) and clicking the E-Materials link. From this list of online resources, click on "elibrary" and use the password "pickoff8" to login.

If you prefer to watch a video you can search our Access Video database and learn about the rain forest lizard's survival strategy or find out where bearded dragons are in the animal kingdom classification system. From our E-Materials page, click the "Access Video" link and use your library card number to login.

If you prefer print resources, we have those at Columbus Public Library as well.

"Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates: And Identification and Care Guide" by Patricia P. Bartlett, Billy Griswold, and R.D. Bartlett provides common name, family & scientific name, identifying features, adult size, life span, diet, photos and more for more than 250 species. Bearded dragons are included in this guide and are classified as a type of Agamid Lizard. Their common name of course is bearded dragon, but can also be referred to as beardies. They are similar to horned lizards, frilled dragons, and brown water dragons and typically live in a desert or savannah. They live from 8 to 10 years and as adults can be 16-22 inches long. The guide suggests a general diet of greens, vegetables, and insects. While not all inclusive, "Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates" provides basic information on a wide range of species and is a good place to start gathering information.

For more detailed information about reptiles such as evolution, temperature control, and place of origin, check out the "Firefly Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians" edited by Chris Mattison. In the lizard section of this book, skin shedding, habitat, color and reproduction habits are discussed alongside detailed color photos. The book isn't organized by type of lizard but by various features, such as versatile tongue, expendable tail, defense strategies, and social behavior such as grooming and threat displays. The most common lizards and those with unusual characteristics are discussed in separate sections. For example, spiny lizards are the most numerous with over 86 species. Males are colorful with chest patches that they display by bobbing up and down.

If you're curious about reptiles that are native to Nebraska, stop by and pick up "Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska" by Royce E. Ballinger, John D. Lynch, & Geoffrey R. Smith. Whether you want to search online or in the library, Columbus Public Library has plenty of reptile resources available.