

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

Columbus Public Library has Your News Online

Although the weather certainly doesn't feel like it consistently, spring is here and this week the nation is celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day. If you have ever been curious about the origins of these holidays, or how people are currently celebrating them, let me direct you to two of our online resources for answers!

The first is eLibrary, a collection of full text magazine and newspaper articles, TV/radio transcripts, pictures, maps, ebooks, and videos, as well as links to related websites. The Nebraska Library Commission provides this and other online resources through NebraskAccess. You can visit www.nebraskaccess.ne.gov to see all the resources available or follow links from the E-Materials page of our website, www.columbusne.us/library. Use your Nebraska Driver's License number or call the library (402-564-7116) for a password to access these resources.

With eLibrary, you can search for a topic and select specific item types, such as limiting your results to just newspapers and magazines. You can also use the advanced search feature to select newspaper articles older than 90 days, search scholarly journals, or choose a specific reading level. The Reference tab offers searches of dictionaries, encyclopedias, and almanacs. This tool is especially helpful in the beginning stages of a research project.

Using the Basic Search feature, I found 38 newspaper articles, 48 pictures, 113 magazine articles, and more results in other formats about Earth Day. At the top of my search results, eLibrary has compiled information about Earth Day in an easy to view format so I can read right away that Earth Day began in 1970 to "emphasize the dangers to the planet from environmental problems."

The second online resource I'd like to direct you to is America's Newspapers, powered by NewsBank. America's Newspapers can be accessed by visiting the E-Materials page of the library's website, www.columbusne.us/library and clicking on the America's Newspapers link. Simply sign in with your library card number to access local, regional, and national news from newspapers, blogs, journals, broadcast transcripts and videos. You can search a topic, browse coverage of an issue or event, or read a specific issue of a newspaper, such as the Omaha World-Herald.

After signing in with your library card, to search for a topic, click "America's News" and enter your search terms. You can also search within a specific newspaper or magazine by clicking the title of that resource. On the search page, you can limit your results by date, location, and source type (magazine, newspaper, web-only sources, etc.).

In 2013, of the resources included in NewsBank's database, there were 16 articles about earth day in Nebraska newspapers, including the Lincoln Journal Star, Grand Island Independent, the Omaha Examiner, and others. The first search result lists various events available in Omaha and Lincoln to celebrate Earth Day in 2013.

Both eLibrary and America's Newspapers contain current news as well as archive past issues of magazines and newspapers. Explore these and other educational and entertainment based online resources provided by Columbus Public Library by visiting our website, www.columbusne.us/library and clicking the E-Materials link. Call us at 402-564-7116 and we would be glad to help you navigate our resources! You can also make an individual appointment with Rachelle or Karen, or stop by our Tech Tuesday event on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6-8pm.