



## #110 Rivkah Sass

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Executive director of the Omaha Public Library, Rivkah Sass made national news in 2006 when she was selected as the nation's Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal* magazine. The magazine wrote: "She's a risk taker, a change agent and a library true believer. Sass has labored with passion, joy and a heavy dose of courage to begin to push the Omaha Public Library toward greatness." In the "Face" drawing, Omaha's downtown library is constructed of books. Sass is holding a book by her favorite author, Jane Austen. Her coat, made up of author's names and book titles, was actually featured in a *Library Journal* magazine photo. Mayor Mike Fahey, a roaster, warned the crowd not to drink too much at the Press Club event, saying, "I don't want to see a headline in the *World-Herald* tomorrow, 'Librarians Go Wild.'" Other roasters were novelist Timothy Schaffert, raconteur Rick Dooling and Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, executive director of the Peter Kiewit Foundation. In a letter read that night, Sen. Ben Nelson wrote that she has "given Omaha a positive new attitude toward its libraries. Sass worked for four library systems before a headhunter lured her to Omaha in 2003. She grew up on a dairy farm in California and received a Master in Library Science degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. Sass has since moved on.