

Your guide to  
the Nebraska  
Library  
Commission  
Summer 2000

# N<sub>C</sub> Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Vol. 7 No. 2

## National Institutes Held

**T**wo Library Administration and Management Allocation (LAMA) Institutes were held in Nebraska this spring.

In North Platte, thirty-two people participated in an institute entitled, "A Leadership Survival Kit," presented by Abigail Hubbard, University of Houston. In Lincoln, one hundred and twenty-five people participated in an institute entitled, "Libraries in the Digital Age: Visions for the Future and Road Maps for Change," presented by Deb Anderson, Mesa (AZ) Community College. The Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska's Regional Library Systems, the Public Resource Library Group



Small group discussions liven up the LAMA Institutes.

(PRLG), and the University of Nebraska Council of Libraries (UNCL) sponsored both institutes. The LAMA Institutes provide an opportunity for library personnel from all types and sizes of libraries to gather and share information and ideas,

and to discuss issues relevant to their particular environments.

For more information about LAMA and the LAMA Regional Institutes, see <[www.ala.org/lama/events/institutes](http://www.ala.org/lama/events/institutes)>. ▲

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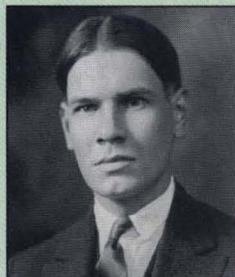
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## Centennial Snapshot: Gilbert Harry Doane



Gilbert H. Doane served as librarian at the University of Nebraska Library and as a member of the Commission Board when the Commission was decommissioned in 1933. The offices of the Commission were moved to the University and continued to function under his sponsorship until the Commission was re-established in 1935.

Doane came from Vermont, working as a teacher, a minister, and a proprietor of a farm. His family had *Mayflower* connections and one relative was hung as a witch in Connecticut. Doane served as librarian at many university libraries and worked in the New York State Library before coming to Nebraska in 1925. He was a member of the American Library Association and served as the president of the Nebraska Library Association in 1930. Doane had many varied interests including genealogy, reading, and book collecting. He wrote *The Legend of the Book*, *Searching for Your Ancestors*, and *About Collecting Bookplates*. ▲

## From the Director

### “Have you read a good book lately?”

Have you read a good e-book lately? Long anticipated and much discussed, electronic books are making their way into library service. In June, a group of Nebraska academic and public libraries worked together to purchase a collection of e-books from netLibrary. The Nebraska library e-book consortium pooled funds to purchase a collection of more than two thousand titles. The e-book collection will be available to library customers for loan. Similar to the loan of physical books, these books are available for a much shorter duration and to only one reader at a time.

The arrival of the e-book has drawn mixed reactions. Some dismiss e-books as impractical and expensive, perhaps due to a fear that e-books will replace the physical book. New technologies make portable electronic reading devices a good alternative to the physical book. These slim, light, and powerful devices eliminate portability and convenience problems. The reality is that readers will have a choice. E-books will not replace the physical book. New media will join old media.

E-books should stimulate new information products. Stephen King's Internet novella, *Riding the Bullet*, debuted in March. With more than one half million downloads, it served as a successful test of electronic publication. Electronic publications have potential for furthering specialized publishing. A distribute-on-demand publishing model will encourage availability of specialized books, text and technical books, and serial publications. The e-book is creating new markets for small and specialty publishers.

Some Nebraska libraries have purchased electronic reading devices for demonstration and loan. E-books are suitable for any library. Libraries can join with other libraries for cooperative purchasing, making available hundreds of titles at a cost based on the library's service population or some other equitable formula.

E-books won't replace the physical book and the Internet won't replace libraries. Indeed, the Internet and e-books put libraries in an even more central position. People need libraries for Internet services and for e-books. E-books present a great opportunity for libraries to introduce and promote new products and services to interest and serve their customers.

So, what's a librarian to do? Take note of trade publications and product advertisements that feature e-books. Participate in trials and demonstrations of e-books. Beg for, borrow, or buy an electronic reading device and get acquainted with how it works and what it can do. Try it out. Consider how e-books and other electronic information content can supplement the library's physical collection of books and materials. Get ready for a future where e-books will be as available and common as the physical book.

—Rod Wagner

## Advisory Council Meets

**T**he State Advisory Council on Libraries held its June meeting at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. Council member Mo Khamouna hosted the meeting and gave a tour of the newly renovated library facility.

Dee Yost, Republican Valley Library System Administrator, summarized the system's membership and services. Commission staff updated Council members on issues, including the Communities and Libraries Advocacy grant from the Viburnum Foundation, the Gates Library Foundation Technology Project, the reauthorization of the Library

Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and grants awarded this spring by the Commission. The Council followed up on their March planning session with a discussion of the NebrasKard and unanimously reaffirmed their support for the project. The next meeting of the State Advisory Council on Libraries will be September 22 in Sidney. For more information see the Library Commission home page at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)>, search on Council Minutes. ▲



Mary Nash reports on Council priorities set during March planning effort.

## NCompass

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Karen Warner**, Norfolk, term expires 2003; **Robert King**, Holdrege, term expires 2003; **Wally Seiler**, Alliance, term expires 2001; **Richard Jussel**, Kearney, term expires 2001; **Velma Sims**, Fremont, term expires 2001; **Kristen Rogge**, Johnson, term expires 2002. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

*Preparation of this newsletter was supported in part by funds allocated through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

## Commission Seeks Network Services Director

The Library Commission is accepting applications for a Network Services Director. Responsibilities include: manage NEBASE, Nebraska's regional network for OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) services; provide leadership in the development, promotion, and delivery of online information services to Nebraska libraries; negotiate, license, and manage online database services; supervise network services staff team; and communicate re: technology supported library services. Qualifications: MLS from

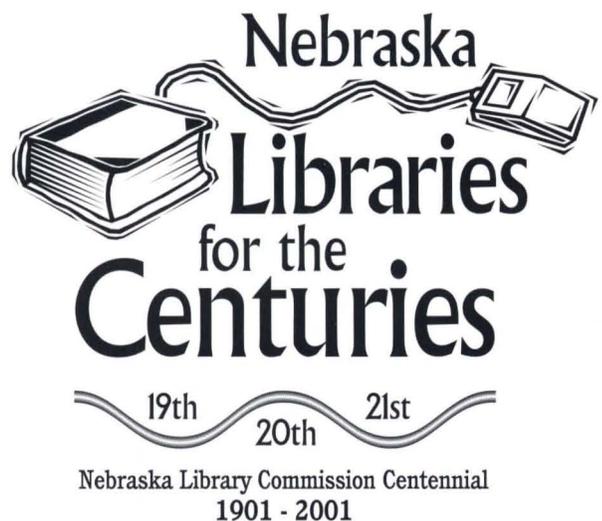
an ALA accredited program; five years library-related work experience preferred, including administrative and supervisory experience; knowledge and understanding of automated information network issues (including but not limited to OCLC systems, products, and services) and Internet and Web-based information services; excellent communication skills; ability to work effectively in a team oriented work environment; and ability to plan, prepare, and present instruction to diverse audiences. Valid drivers license required.

Minimum salary: \$40,000. For more information see Library Jobs at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)> or contact Doreen Kuhlmann, 402-471-4007, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[dkuhlmann@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:dkuhlmann@nlc.state.ne.us)>. Open until filled, with priority consideration given to applications received by September 15. Must complete State of Nebraska job application. Apply <[www.wr4neb.org](http://www.wr4neb.org)> or 301 Centennial Mall South, First Floor, P. O. Box 94905, Lincoln, NE 68509-4905. ▲

## Centennial Web Page Unveiled

Nebraska Library Commission will celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2001. In honor of the Library Commission Centennial, we are launching a **Centennial Web Site, *Libraries for the Centuries***, beginning with Pre-1900 and 1900-1909. Each month a new decade will be unveiled. Information includes historical photos, documents, and a timeline of key Nebraska library-related events. Maggie Harding has worked with the Nebraska Library Commission for more than a year to organize the Commission

archives, record oral histories from current and former Commission staff, and write the Web text. See the Library Commission home page at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)> and click on the Centennial button for a history of the first two decades. Other activities in the planning stage include a speaker series, a historical display, and a project to involve local libraries celebrating their own local history. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

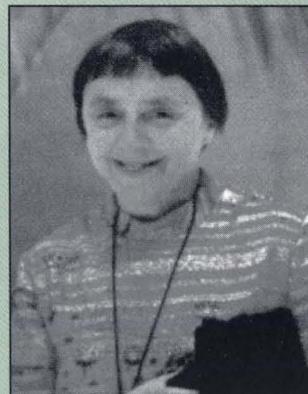


## Jane Pope Geske Honored

The Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Public Library has been renamed to honor Jane Pope Geske, Library Commission Director from 1969-1971 and 1973-1976. Geske was an early president of the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, as well as a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and of Friends of the University of Nebraska Libraries. She served as president of the Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Arts Council.

The room was renamed the **Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors** at the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association Annual Meeting this summer. Norman Geske presented a

portrait of his wife to hang in the room on the third floor of the library. The room has more than 10,000 volumes and information on more than 3,000 Nebraska authors. ▲



## Diane Wells

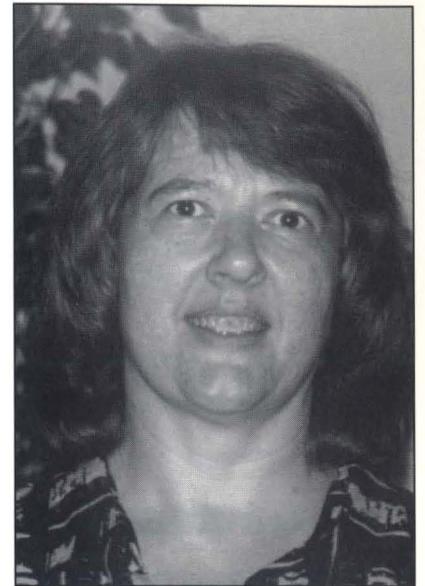
**D**iane Wells recently completed the State's six-month Information Technology Retraining program and assumed new responsibilities as Computer Service Support Staff.

**Diane says the best thing about Nebraska is the unobscured view of the horizon**

Her responsibilities include general computer troubleshooting and support within the agency, with a special emphasis on the Talking Book and Braille Service and adaptive technology. Diane began her employment at the Commission in February 1982 in the Film Service. In 1983, she began working with the Talking Book and Braille Service as recording studio coordinator and then served for twelve years as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator.

Diane received her Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Communications from Wayne State

College and attended graduate courses in Adult Education at UN-L and Public Administration at UNO. Diane says she reads practically anything and started by reading her mother's Agatha Christie and Nero Wolfe mysteries alongside Nancy Drew mysteries and *A Wrinkle in Time*. She now lists her favorite authors as Dick Francis and Elliot Roosevelt. Diane lives in downtown Lincoln and says the best thing about Nebraska is the unobscured view of the horizon. Diane and her partner, Jeremy Hickenbottom, have one daughter, three-year-old Michaela. ▲



## Jodene Glaesemann

**J**odene Glaesemann recently joined the Library Commission staff as an Administrative Assistant. She came by way of the Foster Care Review Board where she worked for more than five years and describes some of her

**Jodene's move to The Library Commission is fueled by a long-time interest in librarianship.**

duties as working with payroll, personnel, accounts payable, and employee benefits. Jodene earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from Peru State College and is a graduate of Lincoln East High School. Before becoming a state employee, Jodene was accepted into the Master of Library Science program at Emporia State University and briefly considered that career choice. Her move to the Library Commission is fueled by a long-time interest in librarianship, beginning in high school where she fulfilled her Citizenship Issues class requirements by volunteering at the Gere Branch of Lincoln City Libraries.

Jodene has lived the majority of

her life in Lincoln although she was born in Kansas City and lived a short time in Minnesota. She says the best things about Nebraska life are the polite people and the energy of living in Lincoln. In her reading habits she enjoys mysteries, particularly those by Ellen Hart and Sandra Scoppentone, and is beginning to read the work of Toni Morrison. As a new homeowner in the Near South Neighborhood, she is spending many hours adjusting to the needs of an 82-year-old home. In her leisure time, she walks, rides her bike, and runs. She follows several different Husker sports, particularly women's basketball and softball. On her new computer at home, she often finds herself checking out



Huskerwebcast.com at <huskerwebcast.com/main.stm>. She shares her home with two housemates, a dog named Chow Chow, a cat named Leta, and three African Water Frogs named Curly, Moe, and Larry. ▲

**Evelyn Kubert**



*Evelyn Kubert is the newest member of the Library Commission Interlibrary Loan and Reference staff. She was formerly the librarian at the Resource Center for Churches.*

Evelyn also worked for Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln City Libraries. She is a graduate of Concordia Teacher's College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Evelyn's early memories of libraries begin at the Seward Public Library where she spent many hours in the mystery section. Her favorite authors now include Kathleen Norris, Anne Tyler, Gail Godwin, Tomi De Paola, David McCullough, and Leo Lionni.

Evelyn, a Nebraska native, believes that the best things about Nebraska living are the sky and the

migration of the birds. Of the Internet, Evelyn says she loves that there is so much information available, but there can be a lot of material to sift through to get to an answer. Favorite sites include <[www4.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed](http://www4.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed)> to verify medical citations and <[cedar.evansville.edu/~ecoleweb/index.html](http://cedar.evansville.edu/~ecoleweb/index.html)>, a hypertext encyclopedia of early church history. Evelyn has been married to Cliff Kubert for thirty-two years. They have three sons: Doug, Greg, and Gary. She loves to spend time with her family and considers herself a children's advocate. ▲

**Evelyn considers herself a children's advocate.**

**Diana Dreith**



*Diana Dreith is a Nebraska native and has lived in Lincoln all her life. She is a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School and has been married to her husband Jim for nineteen years.*

Together they have four children and three grandchildren. Since their kids all live in the Lincoln area, they remain Nebraska residents but dream of a more mountainous, less humid retirement residence. Diana is an Office Clerk II for the Talking Book and Braille Service. Her primary duties involve rewinding tapes, checking for repair needs, pulling titles for daily circulation, and helping out with sorting mail and circulation. Diana also works with her husband in their family business, Central Office Equipment.

Diana is an avid reader and collects paperbacks of her favorite authors, including Danielle Steele,

Jeannette Oke, and Lillian Jackson Braun. She enjoys quilting, gardening, and camping. Diana spends spare time on the Internet accessing information on her favorite website, <[www.drweil.com](http://www.drweil.com)>, an Internet site for integrative medicine. She also uses the Internet to keep in touch with long-distance relatives through instant messaging. If Diana could choose any other profession, she would prefer to own her own quilt shop (some of her favorite places to visit locally and when traveling). ▲

**Diana assists with circulation of Talking Book and Braille service materials.**

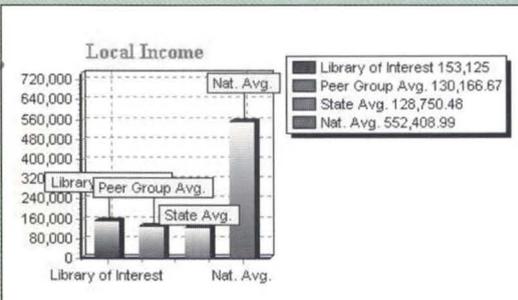
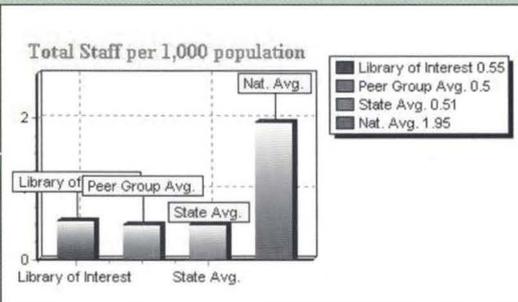
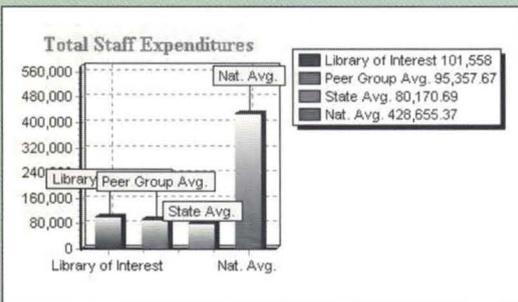
## Special Report... Comparison Tool Introduced

Peer comparison facilitates comparison of a local library with a group of similar libraries. The validity of these comparisons is dependent on the similarity between the library of interest and its peer group. For example, a library's total circulation can be compared with that of a group of similar libraries, but in order to make a valid comparison of total circulation, one must choose peer libraries that have similar total expenditures and serve similarly sized populations. The new online Peer Comparison Tool provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) helps make this possible (see [nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/publicpeer](http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/publicpeer)).

Currently the Peer Comparison Tool has two data sets available to use for comparison purposes—the final public library data for 1996 and the preliminary public library data for 1997. An online tutorial is available. After going through the tutorial, try a simple search. For example, using the preliminary 1997 data set and the simple search option, I selected Lexington Public Library as my library of interest. I then selected the option Pick List of Peers by Library Names. Next I chose four other libraries in Nebraska that serve populations close to the size served by the Lexington Public Library. With those libraries as my designated peer group, I selected the variables for comparison. I chose population of legal service area, local income, total staff per 1,000 population, and total staff expenditures. From a variety of reporting options, I then selected the type of report to generate—bar graphs comparing Lexington Public Library to the designated peer group, the state, and the nation. The resulting charts are clearly labeled and show the percentages for each of the variables I selected for the peer comparison.

This tool was demonstrated at the recent annual meeting of State Data Coordinators. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged. As the data collection and reporting process is expedited using the Internet, the data sets for each year will become available faster. Many library staff are familiar with the comparison tool offered by Bibliostat.com (formerly Management Dynamics). That tool, Bibliostat Connect, does what this free tool does, and more. Nebraska libraries can purchase Bibliostat and Scholarstat Libraries software at a 12.5 percent discount through a special purchase arrangement negotiated by the Library Commission, in cooperation with NEBASE (Nebraska's OCLC Network), the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR), and Bibliostat.com. Both tools use the same data submitted as part of the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS).

—Kit Keller



## Volunteer Recognition Emphasized

Pam Scott, Library Development Library Consultant, recently completed a six month interim assignment as Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Talking Book and Braille Service. Annette Hall has been hired to serve as a permanent, part-time Volunteer Services Coordinator. Annette's duties include volunteer recruitment and recognition, program evaluation, and volunteer facilitation.

As interim Volunteer Services Coordinator, Pam organized several activities to recognize volunteers. They received birthday and Valentine/Appreciation Day cards. Two volunteers received citywide recognition at the Lincoln/Lancaster County United Way's Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony. Pam also worked with Talking Book and Braille Service staff to create a plan for the ongoing recognition of volunteers at various milestones of service. To get a copy of this plan or for more information contact Dave Oertli, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: [doertli@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:doertli@nlc.state.ne.us).

## Legislative Report

The Nebraska Legislature's 2000 session concluded without any changes of special consequence for Nebraska libraries. Library representatives sought increased state aid funding and legislation permitting changes in debt financing provisions for library technology purchases.

Senator LaVon Crosby's legislative bill 1224 sought additional state aid funding for libraries as outlined in the *Libraries for the 21st Century* initiative. The Appropriations Committee added \$150,000 to the Nebraska Library Commission's budget for state aid purposes, and that amount was approved by the Legislature. However, Governor Johanns vetoed the additional aid appropriation.

Senator Gene Tyson, with several cosponsors, introduced legislative bill 1134. Senator Tyson's bill proposed provisions allowing municipalities to arrange debt financing for library technology purchases and allowing purchase payments over several years. The Government committee did not advance the bill to the floor. This legislative proposal is expected to be re-introduced in the 2001 legislative session.

## Commission Renews Databases

So that all Nebraskans may have access to the information and material they need or want, regardless of where they live or work, the Nebraska Library Commission is renewing several databases on behalf of Nebraska libraries for fiscal year 2000/2001. This subscription period begins July 1, 2000 and ends June 30, 2001.

The databases are listed below:

**Wilson Omnifile Full Text Select Edition** is a multidisciplinary, 100 % full-text database providing full text articles from more than twelve hundred periodicals, beginning with 1994. This subscription allows up to fifty users from all types of libraries to access this database simultaneously.

**Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated** contains the full text of articles from more than one hundred print volumes of biographical reference books and includes more than 45,000 biographies. This subscription allows up to twenty-five simultaneous users from all types of libraries to access this database. Last year's subscription did not include illustrations. This year Nebraskans do have access to the illustrated version.

**FirstSearch (OCLC's FirstSearch Base Package)** provides library users from all types of libraries unlimited simultaneous access to the following databases:

▲ **WorldCat** (the OCLC Online Union Catalog). The world's most comprehensive bibliography, with nearly forty-three million bibliographic records representing 370 languages, information from 4,000 years of knowledge, and holdings of the world's libraries.

▲ **The World Almanac**. This database of *The World Almanac* (first published in 1868) covers arts and entertainment, U.S. cities and states, people in the news, the nations of the world,

sports, the environment, vital statistics, science and technology, computers, taxes, and much more. It will soon include all of the Almanac titles, *The World Almanac of the U.S.A.*, *The World Almanac of U.S. Politics*, and *The World Almanac for Kids*.

▲ **NetFirst**. Bibliographic citations, complete with summary descriptions and subject headings, describing high quality Internet-accessible resources suitable for a wide range of interests and age groups.

Records contain hotlinks to connect users to resources of interest.

▲ **ArticleFirst**. Contains bibliographic citations that describe items listed on the table of contents pages of more than 13,000 journals in science, technology, medicine, social science, business, the humanities, and popular culture.

▲ **ERIC. Educational Resources Information Center**. Represents the most complete bibliography of educational materials available (starting in 1966). The ERIC database is a guide to published and unpublished sources on thousands of educational topics, with information from RIE (*Resources in Education*) and CIJE (*Current Index to Journals in Education*).

▲ **ContentsFirst**. Contains the table of contents pages and holdings information from more than 13,000 journals in science, technology, medicine, social science, business, the humanities, and popular culture. Although most of the journals are published in English, journals in other languages are also included.

▲ **GPO Monthly Catalog**. Consists of records published by the Government Printing Office (GPO) since July 1976. It includes references to congressional committee reports,

hearings, and debates, as well as documents from executive departments.

▲ **MEDLINE**. Covers all areas of medicine, including clinical medicine, experimental medicine, dentistry, nursing, health services administration, nutrition, and more. Indexes more than 3,500 journals (most with abstracts). Now includes a backfile covering 1965-1984, increasing the coverage from 1965 to the present.

▲ **OCLC Electronic Collections Online**. A growing collection of journals in a variety of subject areas, all with full-text articles online. Articles include original content and images. The interface supports cross-journal searching and browsing within selected journals. Users can view bibliographic information for all journals and view abstracts and full-text articles from journals to which their institutions subscribe.

▲ **OCLC Union List of Periodicals**. Includes more than seven million listings linked to more than 750,000 bibliographic records in WorldCat. The listings provide local holdings information so that users can search for locations of periodicals in their own and other libraries.

▲ **PapersFirst**. Provides access to individual papers presented at conferences worldwide. A major research aid covering every congress, symposium, exposition, workshop, and meeting added to The British Library Document Supply Centre's proceedings collection since October 1993. Users may order the full text of papers cited in PapersFirst from The British Library using the FirstSearch online ordering service.

▲ **ProceedingsFirst**. Provides tables of contents of papers presented at conferences

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next page...

## Special Report... Ninety-nine Attend Spring Classes

The Spring 2000 Basic Skills course, Organization of Library Materials, was held in six sites across the state during April and May. Ninety-nine people registered for the course including forty-five library directors, thirty-three public library staff, and eleven others from institutional libraries, schools, hospitals, and a monastery. Participants registered using online, fax, telephone, and direct mail. Information announcing the classes was placed in the *NLCommunicator*, Nebraska Library Commission Web announcements and calendar, and regional system newsletters. The online registration included a pre-course questionnaire designed to explore current library practices involving technology, cataloging, merchandising, and public relations experience. Applicants were also asked to complete pre-course activities including a community and library assessment, library photography project, and subscribing to the BSKILLS Listserv.

The class was developed and delivered by Kit Keller, Marilyn Liedorff, Mary Jo Ryan, Kimberly Shelley, and Ellen Van Waart. Content included discussion of the tools that catalogers use in preparing records, the importance of standard procedures and policies, library automation, review of actual records created by catalogers, the overall organization of libraries, and organization of electronic information (including databases and Internet Web sites). By analyzing photographs of how bookstores make information and materials readily accessible to customers, participants explored merchandising principles that librarians can use to enhance access to information. The course featured an information technology lab, using the Commission's mobile computer network and onsite computer labs. The lab assignment provided an opportunity for participants to join the BSKILLS Listserv, find cataloging records online, and explore ways that electronic information can be organized.

Participants registered by March 1 were sent a camera with an explanation of the goals of the Library Photography project and how to take photographs from the point of view of what the customer sees in the library. The photographs were placed in albums and used in the merchandising section of the course. Several people requested a loan of the albums to share with boards and others in the library to explore what other libraries are doing in remodeling or renovation projects. The evaluation results showed that participants did look at the organization of their libraries differently as a result of taking photographs and discussing their observations.

The BSKILLS Listserv had ninety-nine participants. Listserv discussions addressed many issues surrounding the organization of library materials, as well as other pertinent topics. The Listserv proved to be an effective communication tool for a number of topics related to the course. The course evaluation was primarily handled via the Listserv. A section of the class can be found on the Library Commission home page at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/liborg.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/liborg.html)>. The Basic Skills course, Organization of Library Materials, fulfills one of the four course requirements of the Public Librarian Certification program. For more information contact Ellen Van Waart, 402-471-4004, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[evanwaart@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:evanwaart@nlc.state.ne.us)>.

—Ellen Van Waart



Ellen Van Waart leads class discussions in Papillion.

## Databases *continued...*

worldwide. Each record contains a list of the papers presented at each conference. Like PapersFirst, ProceedingsFirst provides access to The British Library Document Supply Centre's vast collection of conference proceedings.

**Books in Print with Reviews (BIP+Reviews)**, distributed through Bowker Publishing, allows users to retrieve data on more than 1.9 million in-print, forthcoming, out-of-print, and out-of-stock publications, including more than 288,000 online full-text book reviews. Last year (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000) the Commission subscribed to BIP+Reviews through GALE. Earlier this year, based on librarian request, the Commission arranged for a trial of BIP+Reviews with Bowker Publishing. Based on the positive reaction and input from librarians across the state, the Library Commission changed the statewide subscription this year from GALE to Bowker. All types of libraries across the state will be sharing ten simultaneous users. Remote patron access is permitted, but since our subscription has a limited number of users and is viewed as more of a "librarian's tool" than a customer tool, it is recommended that librarians not encourage remote patron access.

**Kiplinger Special Service (KSS)** is an Internet subscription service based on The Kiplinger Letter. Both give concise, authoritative business forecasts and expert advice. KSS also gives hypertext links to expanded forecasts, source material, and further background detail, along with additional advice and guidance on how these forecasts can help users profit or protect their interests. KSS helps managers and professionals make more profitable decisions for their businesses, organizations, or government agencies.

**Electric Library** provides full-text access to a wide variety of source material, including magazine, journal, and newspaper articles; wire service stories; television and radio transcripts; photographs; maps; and reference books (almanacs, dictionaries, subject encyclopedias, etc.). The database supports both natural language and Boolean searching and is designed to provide novice users with easy access to online information. Due to limited funding, this contract is limited to public and post-secondary libraries. The Library Commission also arranged for discounted pricing for all K-12 libraries in the state.

See the Library Commission home page at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)>, search on database registration, to register for these databases. ▲

## Motion Picture Video License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission has renewed a statewide Motion Picture Video License for all 275 public libraries in Nebraska for July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

There is no charge to public libraries. With this license, motion pictures may be shown in the library facility as part of various programming opportunities.

All terms and conditions of the license will remain in effect for the renewed license:

- ▲ Motion pictures may be shown only in the library facility.
- ▲ No publicizing or advertising of specific titles is allowed.
- ▲ The showings must be free to the public.
- ▲ Videos must be legally acquired (purchased or rented, not taped from television or illegally copied).
- ▲ No showing may compete with a local movie theater.

Librarians might use motion pictures in library activities such as the following:

- ▲ Summer reading programs
- ▲ Children's Story Hour
- ▲ Book Discussion Groups
- ▲ Senior Citizens Programs
- ▲ Educational or cultural programs
- ▲ Film festivals

This license offers an extraordinary value to the library, allowing provision of quality library services and programs to the community. Nebraska librarians have responded favorably to the Motion Picture License. One librarian said, "As a small library we are pleased to be able to use this license and save the money we would have spent to have a better library program for our youth." Another commented, "We are especially appreciative of it here because it allows us to show

the movies of our hometown star, Robert Taylor."

The Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) no longer requires Nebraska libraries to display a seal of program participation (as in the past). However, libraries with seals may continue to display them. All public libraries received a list of producers and distributors whose titles are covered under this license. Titles produced or distributed by these companies may be shown in MPLC-licensed public library facilities. For more information contact Ellen Van Waart, 402-471-4004, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <evanwaart@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Commission Compiles Children's Resources

The Library Commission recently collected electronic resources with special appeal for children, children's librarians, and parents into a special section of the Nebraska Library Commission home page. Caregivers and others who work with children can find advice on discipline and self-esteem, along with information on hobbies and other activities to challenge and engage children. Librarians serving children and young adults can find ideas to improve professional skills, information about special events, summer reading help, and the best in children's literature. Children have direct access to discover games, puzzles, homework help, and science projects. Local and Nebraska-specific materials and sites will be added as they are developed. See the Nebraska Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Children's Resource Page. ▲

## Girls' State Delegates Visit

Seven Girls' State delegates participated in a simulated Library Commission Meeting at the Nebraska Library Commission this summer.

The young women met with Rod Wagner and Mary Jackson and role-played a Nebraska Library Commission meeting, giving feedback on proposals and ideas presented to them. This discussion provided an excellent opportunity to hear the needs and concerns of youth regarding community library service.

Three of the seven young women reported that there is no public library in their community and that they rely heavily on their school library for both recreational reading materials and research and school assignment support.

They reported concerns including the lack of library evening hours, the out-of-date content in some of the books, and a serious shortage of materials when a research topic is assigned to the entire class. Two participants mentioned that their school's reading materials are too limited.

The group felt that public libraries need to make more computers available for public use, including word processing. They also asked that public libraries provide programs for young adults, similar to the summer reading program for younger readers. One young woman asked how she could get her school to offer a summer reading program since there is no public library in her town. The delegates felt that librarians are generally very helpful to them, assisting with locating information and suggesting good books—although they were aware of other young people who had not been treated courteously in the library. ▲

## Special Report... Commission Offers Deal on netLibrary

Imagine having a collection of 1,500 electronic books at your fingertips and imagine sharing the cost of that collection with several dozen other libraries across the state.

Translate this into a real-life situation and it might go something like this: One of the business owners in your area calls and asks if you have any information to help her develop computer use policies. You search online and find that one of the titles, *E-Policy: How to Develop Computer and Internet Guidelines to Protect Your Company and its Assets*, is in the shared collection. You explain how she can check out this book without leaving her office (after undergoing an authentication process through the local library or the Nebraska Library Commission).

Thanks to the work of Nebraska librarians and Library Commission staff serving as a collection development team, this service is now available. A collection of 1,500 titles is available. One thousand are from the Academic Collection and five hundred from the Mass Appeal Collection. An academic library may participate for as little as \$1.29 per full-time equivalent student. K-12 media centers pay \$1.29 for 50% of their enrollment and public libraries pay only two-and-one-quarter cents for their population served (the figure used in the Public Library Statistical Report). The minimum charge is \$75.

Currently, only those libraries that are paying consortium members have access to this shared collection. The collection will belong to this group of libraries in perpetuity. In years to come, this consortium may choose to purchase more collections together. Other libraries may join as these new collections are developed. ▲



## Data Elements Proposed

Each year, public library staff complete an annual survey providing information about the governance, services, and finances of their library. The public library survey program started in 1988, with nearly 9,000 public libraries participating annually. Each state and territory has a State Data Coordinator, appointed by the Chief Officer of the state library agency. State Data Coordinators collect library data at the local level and submit the data to the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS). Kit Keller serves as State Data Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission.

FSCS specifies standard core data elements to be collected by all states and territories. This provides for consistent, regular reporting of certain information on specific elements of library operations, including information about staffing, operating income and expenditures, and services. Changes to the core data set are scrutinized, evaluated, tested, and voted on in a three-year process before being implemented at the individual state level.

State Data Coordinators recently voted on proposed data elements. The following were added by majority vote:

- ▲ Administrative entity mailing address—The current data element “street address” is important for mapping purposes. However in some cases this does not provide an acceptable address for contacting the administrative entity. Providing both elements will give the best description of the location and contact point of the library.
- ▲ Central Library—Each administrative entity may report either no central library or one central library.

▲ Number of users of electronic resources in a typical week—Librarians are asked to count the number of customers using electronic resources in the library in a typical week. Electronic resources include, but are not limited to, Internet (WWW, , telnet, etc.), online indexes, CD-ROM reference sources, software, and the online catalog.

The first two data elements will not be reflected in the Public Library Statistical Report received by libraries. They only affect the data submission to FSCS in a few instances. However, the third data element should be collected at the local level and reported to the Library Commission. For more information contact Kit Keller, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Forums Held Across Nebraska

Librarians, library boards, and the general public attended a series of statewide public forums this Summer. The Nebraska Library Commission used this opportunity to generate input and discussion on the *Libraries for the 21st Century 2001–2003 Campaign for Improved Library and Information Service*. The Library Commission will use the ideas and recommendations from the Public Forums to revise the state long-range plan, and to construct the 2001–2003 biennium budget request. The forums were held in Scottsbluff, Cozad, and Lincoln. For more information contact Nancy Busch, 402-471-4002, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Youth Advisory Board Meets

The Nebraska Library Commission Youth Advisory Board convened via videoconference for the final 1999–2000 meeting in May. Summer Reading news and deadlines, the Children's Resource Page, multi-cultural needs of youth librarians, and dates for videoconferences were discussed. Members who served this year were Joan Chesley, Fremont Public Library; Evonne Edgington, Offutt Air Force Base; Pat Headley, Elkhorn Public Library; Maxine Erpelding, Wood River Schools; Shawna Lindner, Kearney Public Library; Merry Von Seggern, Grand Island Public Library; Karen Zaruba, Ord Schools; Janet Gill, Bloomfield Schools; Paula Mares, Schuyler Public Library; Sherry McGrath, Ogallala Public Library; Ruby Tiensvold, Rushville Schools; Beth Trupp, Gering Public Library; Tom Kelly, Oxford; Vicki Perrie, Superior Public Library; LaVila VanBoening, Hasting Schools; Sue Antes, Syracuse Public Library; Karla Wendelin, Norris Schools; Roberta Schuller, Bennett Schools; Sandy Wallick, Lincoln City Libraries; and Sarah Watson, Omaha Public Library. The Board's next meeting is September 15, 1:00–4:00 P.M. CDT at the Library Commission.

For more information contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Advisory Committee Adds Three

Alisa Gunther of Gering, and Constance Merritt and Stephen Speicher, both of Lincoln, are the newest members of the Advisory Committee to the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Their first terms will expire December 31, 2001. Other members are Robert Howard of Greenwood, Tony Jaynes of Omaha, Gladys Maxwell of Norfolk, and Jane Crouch, Carl Olson, and Amy Rut, all of Lincoln. The Advisory Committee represents the needs of customers and makes recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Membership consists primarily of borrowers but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and other individuals who understand the needs of users. For more information contact Dave Oertli, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Library Classifieds Available

The Nebraska Library Commission recently subscribed to Library Classifieds, a service of the OHIONET library network. Nebraska libraries can now post classified ads to a central Website. Libraries can buy or sell used audio/video equipment, books, computers, microfiche readers/printers, furniture, etc. The site also includes job postings. There is no charge to Nebraska libraries for this service. For more information see the Announcement on the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us> or see Library Classifieds at <www.ohionet.org/classifieds/onlcntry.asp?network=NEB> or contact Susan Knisely, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Video Conference Set

At the suggestion of the Youth Advisory Board, videoconferences are being held so children's librarians can engage in informal discussion of topics representing some of the main events for children on the library calendar. The videoconferences encourage conversation among librarians who have difficulty traveling to conferences and workshops. The first videoconference featured Children's Book Week. The second conference will highlight *Read Across America*. Librarians are encouraged to bring questions, ideas, visuals, and problems to share on October 6, 2:00–4:00 P.M. CDT. Sites include: Ainsworth, Alliance, Beatrice, Chadron, Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, O'Neill Scottsbluff, Sidney and Valentine. For more information contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Scanner Enhances Access

A recent grant from the State Records Board to the Library Commission provided a new scanner to enhance access to microform publications. This digital access to the Commission's state and federal government publications in microfiche or microfilm format provides high quality prints and images that can be faxed or e-mailed as file attachments. Publications scanned from microforms can also be posted on the Commission's State Government Publications Online Web page. For more information contact Beth Goble, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Special Report: Commission Offers Virus Help

Viruses, worms, and "Trojan horses" are a very real and present threat to computer users. The Library Commission maintains a Web page that links to a variety of security-related resources to help libraries address this problem at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)>, search on Virus. The following security measures can be taken immediately:

- ▲ Install a good antivirus product on any computers connected to the Internet or used by the public. The Commission site links to the International Computer Security Association, which certifies antivirus products.
- ▲ To ensure that new viruses are recognized, keep antivirus software current by regularly downloading updates from the vendor.
- ▲ Do not open attachments unless you are sure they are legitimate. If you have any doubt, save them to a file first and scan the file before opening it.
- ▲ Exercise caution when downloading software via the Web or FTP. Scan any downloaded files before using them.
- ▲ Keep up with general software and operating system updates. Vendors regularly release security fixes for their products.
- ▲ Maintain good backups so that if all other defenses fail, you can restore destroyed data.
- ▲ Subscribe to one of the free security alert services provided by antivirus software vendors and others (see Commission Web page).

Today's security picture is complicated by the fact that many of the assurances experts dispensed in recent years no longer hold true. For example, until recently viruses were not transmitted within the body of an e-mail message, only within attachments. This is no longer true. It is still true that the vast majority of viruses are transmitted via attachments, so extra caution with attachments is important.

Since hoaxes, messages claiming to alert recipients to ominous-sounding but nonexistent threats, can cause as much damage as actual viruses, it is best not to forward any "alerts" to friends and associates. Hoax messages are becoming more sophisticated, but they can generally be recognized by three classic markers:

- ▲ Citing some impressive authority, IBM, Microsoft, the FBI, the White House, etc.
- ▲ Outrageous claims, such as saying the virus will "fry your processor" or "blow up your monitor," etc.
- ▲ Urge you to tell everyone, spreading fear and panic and choking e-mail servers worldwide

Nothing promises to eliminate computer security threats. As the Internet becomes more pervasive, the level of danger may increase. It is hopeful that vendors are paying more attention to security issues and computer users are becoming more savvy and cautious. Another promising possibility is that Internet service providers and others at the "infrastructure" level may assume a larger role in safeguarding the Internet itself. For more information contact Dennis Klebe, 402-471-4559, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[dklebc@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:dklebc@nlc.state.ne.us)>.

—Dennis Klebe

## Commission Awards Grants

The Library Commission recently announced the award of \$346,573 in library grants to fund library technology projects to improve public access to electronic information through Nebraska libraries, grants for Training and Continuing Education for library staff and board members, and children's library services grants. The grants, supported through federal and state funds, will be distributed through the Library Commission to libraries and library organizations across the state. \$287,892 was dispersed through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to libraries in twenty-five Nebraska communities, three consortia, and one institution. For descriptions of the grants designed to improve information technology services and/or improve information access for underserved populations, see the Library Commission Web site at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/lsta2000recipients.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/lsta2000recipients.html)>.

The Nebraska Library Commission also awarded \$43,681 in Training and Continuing Education Grants to seventeen libraries for training and education activities for Nebraska library personnel, supporting skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. These projects are funded through state funds allocated to help Nebraska libraries move toward achieving excellence in library service as a result of the *Libraries for the 21st Century* campaign. For descriptions of the grants see the Library Commission Website at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/continuingeducationgrants.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/continuingeducationgrants.html)>.

Twelve public libraries received \$15,000 for special projects in the area of children's services. These grants contribute to the development, maintenance, and support of library services for children and young adults. For descriptions of the grants see the Library Commission Web site at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/chgrants2000.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/chgrants2000.html)>. ▲

## Triconference Planned

The MPLA/NLA/NEMA (Mountain Plains Library Association, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Educational Media Association) 2000 Triconference is planned for this fall in conjunction with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Task Force annual meeting. The conference will be held October 25–28, at the Holiday Convention Centre in Omaha. This year's conference, **Beyond the Horizon...Charting Our Course to the Future**, will feature Steve Coffman, author of the article "Building Earth's Largest Library: Driving into the Future" and David Shenk, author of *Data Smog: Surviving the Information Glut* and *End of Patience* (sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission). Nebraska storyteller Jym Kruse is the banquet speaker. For the most up-to-date information see the conference Web site at <[reinert.creighton.edu/triconf](http://reinert.creighton.edu/triconf)> or contact Sarah Watson, Registration Chair, 402-444-4808, e-mail: <[sarahw@omaha.lib.ne.us](mailto:sarahw@omaha.lib.ne.us)>. ▲

## Fatbrain.com Offers Library Discounts

The Library Commission renegotiated a discount for Nebraska libraries through Fatbrain.com. Fatbrain.com is now offering guaranteed discounts of at least 10%, up to 40%, with free expedited delivery (2-3 day UPS). To take advantage of the new discounts and the free expedited shipping, see the Library Commission home page at <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)>, search on discounts on books or see <[www1.fatbrain.com/store.cl?p=nebrasky&cs=19552](http://www1.fatbrain.com/store.cl?p=nebrasky&cs=19552)>. For more information contact Kenneth Travis at Fatbrain.com, 877-845-0100, ext. 267, e-mail: <[kennetht@fatbrain.com](mailto:kennetht@fatbrain.com)>. ▲

## Librarians Encouraged to Reach Out

A *Talking Book and Braille Service Outreach Handbook* is now available to librarians and other advocates for Nebraskans with visual or physical impairment. Librarians, educators, rehabilitation counselors, medical practitioners, and care providers are encouraged to order this handbook in regular print or large print. *The Talking Book and Braille Service Outreach Handbook* presents a basic overview of the Talking Book and Braille Service, as well as an explanation of who is eligible for the service and how they can apply. It serves as a guide for presentations in classes or at meetings and as a reference to use when a person in the community experiences sight loss, stroke, or some other impairment that limits their ability to use regular print materials. *The Outreach Handbook* comes in a packet that includes samples of related information including Talking Book and Braille Service

catalogs, braille alphabet cards, and various pamphlets and brochures.

To order a packet or additional copies of the handbook or other materials, contact the Nebraska Library Commission, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@nlc.state.ne.us)>. For the Web version of the *Talking Book and Braille Service Outreach Handbook* see <[www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs/outreachbook.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs/outreachbook.html)>. ▲

## E-Rate Supports Public Library Technology

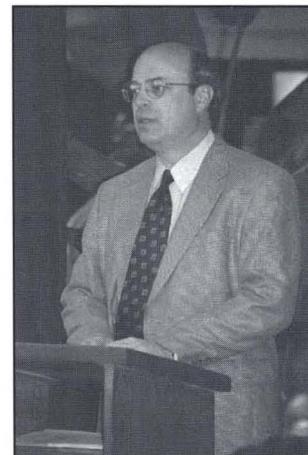
During the past two years, \$363,923 has been awarded to ninety-six Nebraska public libraries through the Universal Service e-rate telecommunications discount program. E-rate is a federally managed program that promotes the use of telecommunications in schools and libraries. One hundred and ten libraries received funding during the first two years. Public libraries (and the Nebraska Library Commission) applied for discounts on basic telephone service, monthly Internet service, and installation of new services (wiring, cabling, hubs, routers, and servers) to provide faster and better connections to the Internet.

The third year of the funding cycle has just begun. Ninety-six libraries have received notification that they will receive e-rate discounts. Additional funding announcements are expected. As libraries receive funding commitment letters, librarians are reminded to fill out Form 486 to authorize payment of invoices from library service providers. For more information see <[www.universalservice.org](http://www.universalservice.org)> or contact Pam Scott, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[pscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pscott@nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

## Volunteers Celebrated

Celebrate Volunteers! was the theme of a spring reception at the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. The event was an opportunity for borrowers to meet the library's excellent volunteers who help make the service possible.

Carolyn Sung, Chief of Network Division within the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, described the work of the National Library Service and presented awards to volunteers who reached milestones of service. Library Commission Director Rod Wagner and Talking Book and Braille Service Director Dave Oertli also thanked volunteers for their contribution to this service. ▲



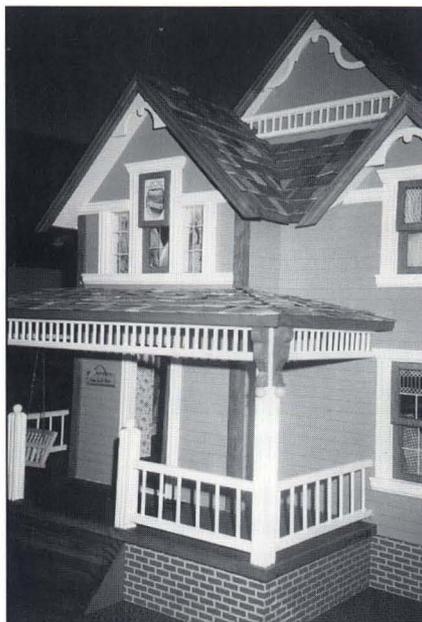
**Commission Director Rod Wagner thanks volunteers for their commitment.**

## NebrasKard Planning Underway

The State Advisory Council on Libraries recommended action on the NebrasKard reciprocal library borrowing agreement at its March meeting in Kearney. The Council urged efforts toward implementation of the NebrasKard, which has been under discussion for the past few years. As previously proposed, the NebrasKard would be a voluntary reciprocal borrowing agreement that would permit registered borrowers of participating libraries to borrow materials from other libraries. Nebraska's postsecondary libraries introduced a reciprocal borrowing agreement several years ago.

In response to the State Advisory Council on Libraries action, a meeting was convened in April at the Library Commission to discuss the NebrasKard proposal. The discussion weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a reciprocal borrowing program. An ad hoc committee was formed to address NebrasKard policy and procedural details. The committee included Becky Baker, Seward Public Library Director; Cecelia Lawrence, North Platte Public Library Director; Mary Nash, Nebraska Library Association President; Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library Director; and Dee Yost, Republican Valley Library System Administrator. The committee met in June in Hastings. Working from materials from other states, the committee agreed to adapt provisions of the Colorado program for use in Nebraska. The committee's proposed NebrasKard policies and procedures are available for public review and comment, along with a report presented at the Nebraska Library Commission's July meeting. Additional materials are posted on the Library Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on NebrasKard. For more information contact Richard Miller, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us). ▲

## Dollhouse Tickets Available



The Nebraska Center for the Book is raffling a hand-made dollhouse to help fund the annual Nebraska Literature Festival. A limited number of no more than 250 raffle tickets will be sold at \$20 each. For a chance to win the dollhouse and support the Nebraska Literature Festival, contact Nebraska Center for the Book board members or Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us). For pictures of the dollhouse see the Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Dollhouse Raffle. ▲

## Scholarship Winners Announced

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Scholarship Committee recently announced the winners of the Louise A. Nixon and Duane Munson scholarships for 2000. Debora Robertson, Multimedia/Web page Development Specialist at Northeast Community College, received the \$1000 Nixon award to apply toward finishing her Master's of Library Science degree through Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management. Valisa Juracek, Media Specialist for Creighton Public Schools, will apply her \$1,000 Nixon scholarship toward her work on an Educational Media Endorsement through the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Diana Johnson, Library Director for the Stromsburg Public Library, is the winner of the \$250 Duane Munson Scholarship. Diana will use her award to enroll in a children's literature class at Central Community College. Duane Munson, a well known book seller from Columbus, is the genesis and sponsor of this award intended for the enhancement of professional knowledge and skill development.

For more information on the NLA Scholarships see the NLA Web page at [www.nol.org/home/NLA/scholarship.htm](http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/scholarship.htm).

To donate to the scholarship fund contact Nancy Busch, 402-471-4002, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us). ▲

Nebraska librarians are invited to explore Correspondence Courses offered through the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies. These courses are acceptable for CE Credit in Nebraska. Courses include Basic Public Library Management from a Services Point Of View, Basic Reference, Collection Development, and Public Library Administration. For more information see [polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/slis/academic/ces/index.html](http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/slis/academic/ces/index.html) or contact Ellen Van Waart at 402-471-4004, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [evanwaart@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:evanwaart@nlc.state.ne.us).

Continuing Education (CE) Credits are issued by the Nebraska Library Commission as part of the Nebraska Public Librarian or Board Certification Program.

# NEBRASKARD

STATE LIBRARY CARD



## News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- ▲ Gov. Mike Johanns reappointed **Karen Warner and Bob King** to the Library Commission. Both will serve terms from 2000–2003.
- ▲ Two Nebraska libraries have been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** to host an exhibition titled *The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic* in 2003. Hosts include Tilden Public Library, February 6–March 20 and **Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library**, April 3–May 15.
- ▲ **Jeannette Powell** is the Library Commission's 2000 Employee of the Year.
- ▲ The **Omaha Public Library** recently installed more public access computers in five locations. The Omaha Public Library Foundation secured funding from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** to help bridge the digital divide.
- ▲ **Holdrege Public Library System** recently unveiled a new mural painted by Holdrege High School students.
- ▲ **Lincoln City Libraries and Lincoln Parks and Recreation** recently held joint groundbreaking ceremonies for the Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library and Col. Densmore Park, and for the Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library and Keech Park.
- ▲ **Deborah Nerud** has been appointed Republican Valley System Administrator. Deb is currently Public Services Manager for the Bennet Martin branch of Lincoln City Libraries.
- ▲ The **NEBASE Annual Meeting**, previously scheduled for September in Lincoln, has been rescheduled for November 15 at the Cornhusker Hotel. **Bonnie Juergens** of Amigos Library Services will be the keynote speaker. For more information see the Library Calendar on the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>.
- ▲ **Suzann Christensen**, Hastings Middle School media specialist, was recently named Hastings Educator of the Year 2000.
- ▲ **Lincoln Public Schools Library Media Program** was featured in the June/July edition of *American Libraries*. The article describes how the \$1.2 million Dewitt Wallace–Reader's Digest grant was used to implement the Library Power Initiative.
- ▲ **Friends of the Imperial Public Library** recently raised \$3,403 for their library expansion fund by conducting a silent auction of more than one hundred and forty items and services.
- ▲ **Hastings College Perkins Library, Hastings Public Library, and Republican Valley Library System** recently held a Special Second Day Issue Envelope and Cancellation ceremony in honor of the bicentennial of the Library of Congress.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Association recently announced **Golden Sower Award** winners for 1999–2000. The winners of this children's choice book award are *No Such Thing*, by Jackie French Koller (Grade 3); *Jaguar*, by Roland Smith (Grades 4–6); and *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Young Adult). For more information see <www.nol.org/home/NLA/golden/sower.htm>.
- ▲ The **Nebraska Literature Festival** will be held on September 15 and 16. *Prairie Visions: Nebraska Authors and Their Art* is cosponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Beatrice Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries. For more information contact Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8503 or Beatrice Public Library, 402-223-3584.
- ▲ The Library Commission's NEBASE Network recently arranged for a group discount for all Nebraska librarians who attend the **Internet Librarian 2000 Conference**. The Conference is planned for November 6–8 at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey, California. The discounted conference fee is \$195 for the three-day event, a 40% savings. Additional discounts for the Internet@Schools conference are offered. For more information see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Conference Discounts.
- ▲ **September is Library Card Sign-Up Month**, see <www.ala.org/librarycard>.
- ▲ **September 23-30 is Banned Books Week**, see <www.ala.org/bbooks>.
- ▲ New library directors include: Atkinson Public Library, **Judy Hagan**; Central City Public Library, **Lynn Manhart**; Ceresco Community Library, **Vickie Rauner**; Clarksville Township Public Library, **Peggy Miller**; College of Saint Mary, **Sara Martin**; Madison Public Library, **Delores Bahns**; Ravenna Public Library, **Becky Keilig**; Scottsbluff Public Library, **Bev Russell**; Spencer Township Library, **Phyllis Black**; Talmage Public Library, **Sharon Morrow**; Weeping Water Public Library, **Jan Aronson**.



## New on Our Home Page:

See <[www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)>

- ▲ Nominations sought for NLA Honors and Awards
- ▲ NEBASE Annual Meeting Rescheduled for November 15
- ▲ Library of Congress Launches Web-Braille on the Internet
- ▲ Nebrask@ Online Redesigns State of Nebraska Home Page
- ▲ Fall Basic Skills/Public Library Administration Classes Set
- ▲ Library Commission Database Roadshow 2000 Scheduled

## Nebraska Library Commission



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