

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2002–
June 30, 2004
Biennium in
Review

Vol. 11 No. 2

N_C Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



NebraskAccess Provides Information Access across Nebraska

The Nebraska Library Commission finances access to online information resources with funding from the State of Nebraska.

By sponsoring NebraskAccess, the Library Commission provides Nebraska residents with free online access to thousands of current full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, business information, and much more.

Citizens across Nebraska can access these electronic information resources, free of charge, through libraries and (with a Nebraska driver's license) directly from the NebraskAccess Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/logon.html>.

- ▲ FirstSearch Base Package of eleven databases through OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)
- ▲ Wilson OmniFile Full Text Select
- ▲ Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated
- ▲ Kiplinger Forecasts
- ▲ Books in Print
- ▲ eLibrary from ProQuest (available through public and academic libraries only)

For more information see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess>.

NebraskAccess Links on Nebraska Library Web Sites

Libraries across Nebraska are building NebraskAccess links on their library Web sites and publicizing it in their newsletters and other print communication.

Add a Link to Your Library Web Site

The Nebraska Library Commission can help library staff add a local Web link to NebraskAccess. See Resources at the Promotional & Marketing Materials section of the Librarian's Toolbox for instructions on *How to Add NebraskAccess Links to Your Library's Web Site*, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/addlinks.html> and a simple Web form, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/yourownpage.html> that can be filled out and submitted to create a localized online resources page.



Lincoln Southeast High School Media Specialist Mary Reiman (right) assists a student using online databases for an assignment.

Detailed instructions on how to fill out and submit the form are provided. For more information or assistance using the Web form contact Nebraska Library Commission Network Services staff, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <nebraskaccess@nlc.state.ne.us>.

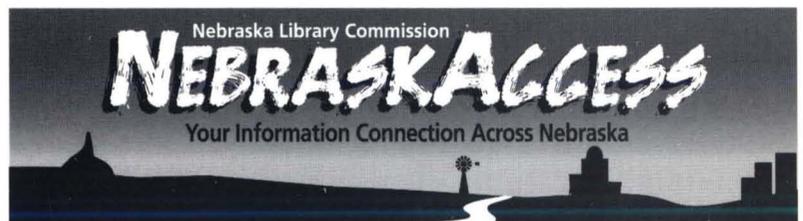
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From the Director...

The Nebraska Library Commission's "Biennium in Review" chronicles events, projects and activities from the past two years. New initiatives blend with the Commission's core services—from the redesign and launch of NebraskAccess, the revision of Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation, training and more training, to the distribution of hundreds of thousands of Talking Books. In all, this report reflects the diversity of the Library Commission's many and varied services.

Among the most notable projects reported in these pages is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Library Program that resulted in more than two hundred Nebraska public libraries adding new high-end computers and public Internet access for the benefit of tens of thousands of Nebraskans. New computers and software, along with exceptional training for library workers, gave participating libraries a huge boost in their capabilities. Testimonials from librarians indicate that the Gates Foundation's program has been an overwhelming success. The Library Commission looks forward to continuing in partnership with the Gates Foundation through its "Staying Connected" initiative.

Also notable is Nebraska's participation in the Western Trails project (funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services), resulting in Web-accessible historical images contributed by Nebraska libraries and museums. Another important project outcome is the training for library, archive, and museum personnel, building knowledge and skills for planning and managing digital imaging projects. The resources and expertise acquired through the Western Trails project will further the development of digital library services.

Many more special projects and ongoing services are described here in this report. On behalf of the Nebraska Library Commission, I thank the many people who have contributed to the Library Commission's mission in statewide promotion, development and coordination of library services.

Rod Wagner

Nebraska Library Commission Biennium Funding July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004

State of Nebraska Funds	\$6,925,571
Federal Funds	1,949,204
Cash Funds	143,238
Total	\$9,018,013

Grants funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004

Children's Grants for Excellence	\$78,442.40
Children's Program: Leading to Reading	\$900.00
Collaborative Summer Library Program	\$13,438.92
Continuing Education & Training Grants	\$95,696.53
Electronic Information Resources	\$773,226.46
Gates Computer Grants	\$8,209.00
Interlibrary Loan Lender Compensation to Libraries	\$309,878.65
Library Cataloging Software (OCLC CatExpress)	\$6,748.00
Library Services and Construction Act Grants	\$10,175.00
Library Services and Technology Act Grants	\$388,566.36
Master of Library Science Scholarships	\$14,000.00
Nebraska Center for the Book Grant	\$20,000.00
Nebraska Community Foundation Training	\$7,995.65
Nebraska Library Association Grant	\$4,151.03
netLibrary eBook Support	\$2,401.95
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	\$7,500.00
Regional Library System Funding	\$1,169,803.97
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$690,880.00
State Depository Libraries: Cataloging Assistance	\$3,500.00
State Technology Grants	\$42,439.00
Utah State Library (Braille Services)	\$8,340.00
Total	\$3,656,292.92

NCompass

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Kristen Rogge**, Chair, Johnson, term expires 2005; **Jean Ahrens**, Scottsbluff, term expires 2007; **Patrick Gross**, Wayne, term expires 2006; **Mary Nelson**, Holdrege, term expires 2006; **Velma Sims-Shiple**, Fremont, term expires 2004; and **Carol Spencer**, Broken Bow, term expires 2007. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Advisory Group Addresses Development and Planning

The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries is established by the Nebraska Library Commission, meeting three times annually and advising the Library Commission on federal library programs and other issues. Council members represent libraries in public, academic, school, and special settings, or are library customers. The Nebraska Library Commission appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries during the 2002-2004 Biennium:

- ▲ Becky Baker, Seward Memorial Library
- ▲ Susan Baird, Box Butte Development Corporation, Alliance
- ▲ Tracy Bicknell-Holmes, NLA Ex-Officio Representative, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries
- ▲ Jim Bothmer, Health Sciences Library, Creighton University, Omaha
- ▲ Janice Boyer, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- ▲ Nancy Cantin, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center
- ▲ John Dale, Lincoln City Libraries
- ▲ Steve Davis, NEMA Ex-Officio Representative, Kearney Public Schools District Media
- ▲ Karen Drevo, Norfolk Public Library
- ▲ Brenda Ealey, NLA Ex-Officio Representative, Southeast Library System, Lincoln
- ▲ Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff Public Library
- ▲ Stan Gardner, Conn Library, Wayne State College
- ▲ Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Holdrege Public Library System
- ▲ Patricia Gross, Gering High School
- ▲ Margaret (Maggie) Harding, NLA Executive Director, Crete
- ▲ Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago
- ▲ Michael Herbison, Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney
- ▲ Theresa Jehlik, Omaha Public Library
- ▲ Diana Johnson, Stromsburg Public Library
- ▲ Mo Khamouna, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Library, Curtis
- ▲ Kathy Lute, Ogallala
- ▲ Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System, Kearney
- ▲ Ken Oyer, Hartigan Medical Library, Alegent Health, Omaha
- ▲ Rebecca Pasco, Ph.D., University of Nebraska at Omaha
- ▲ Kay Schmid, Hruska Memorial Public Library, David City
- ▲ Tom Schmitz, Lincoln Regional Center Library
- ▲ Ruth Seward, Lexington Public Schools Media Center
- ▲ John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
- ▲ Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith, Schuyler Public Library
- ▲ Jane Wall, Lincoln
- ▲ Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation, Lincoln ▲

Library Commission Staff

Arrival:

- ▲ Robert Shafer, hired November 1, 2003

Departures:

- ▲ Mary Jackson, February 28, 2003
- ▲ Dan Hogan, June 30, 2003
- ▲ Nancy Busch, August 18, 2003

Reassignments

- ▲ Cherie Longmuir: from Readers Services Coordinator to Panhandle Library System Coordinator
- ▲ Kit Keller: from Library Data Services Coordinator to Planning & Data Services Coordinator

- ▲ Lisa Kelly: from Information Services Coordinator to Information Services Director
- ▲ Sally Snyder: from Federal Aid Administrator to Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services

Employee of the Year:

- ▲ 2002—Allana Novotny
- ▲ 2003—Julie Pinnell
- ▲ 2004—Dave Eckmann

Manager of the Year:

- ▲ 2004—Shannon Behrhorst ▲

Mary Jackson, Children's and Young Adult Services Coordinator, retired after eighteen and one-half years with the **Nebraska Library Commission.** She was honored at the Library Commission in February 2003.



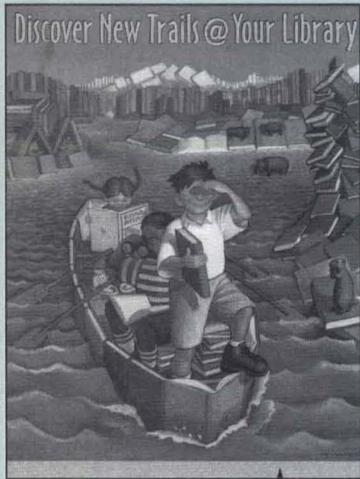
Commission staff and library representatives from throughout the state shared refreshments and good wishes. Mary received a card signed by Commission staff, numerous cards from well-wishers statewide, a memory book containing fond recollections of "Mary moments," and a gift book from Commission staff, *When They Were Young: A Photographic Retrospective of Childhood*, by Robert Coles. ▲

Making Space for Teens in Libraries

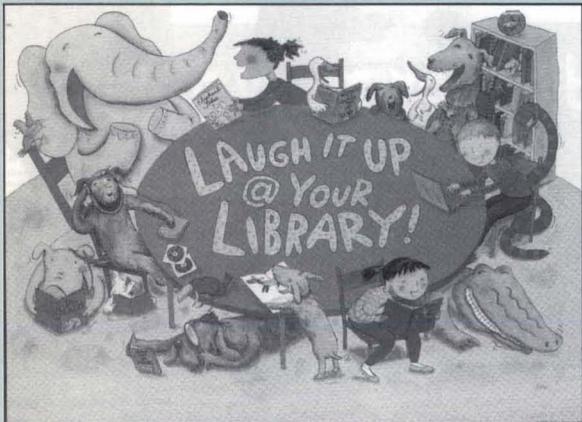
Kimberly Bolan Taney, author of *Teen Spaces: The Step-By-Step Library Makeover*, visited Nebraska for a week in May 2004. The Nebraska Library Commission sponsored five presentations to Nebraska librarians across the state. Three were part of the Nebraska Library



Association/Public Library Section Spring Meetings. Participants returned home with ideas, enthusiasm, and plans for their libraries. Eight libraries in Nebraska sent photos of their current teen space and received suggestions for improvement. Small groups reviewed the library spaces and shared ideas and suggestions that were compiled and mailed to the libraries following the workshops. ▲



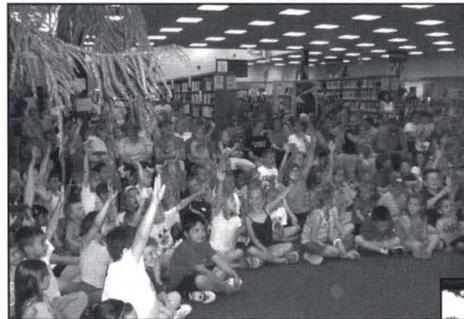
The Nebraska Library Commission supported Nebraska library participation in Collaborative Summer Reading Programs, 2003 Laugh It Up @ your library® and 2004 Discover New Trails @ your library.®



Children's Services Grants Encourage Innovation

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$78,442 in grants for Excellence in Children's Library Services from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004. These grants for innovative projects for children and young adults in public libraries encourage creative thinking, risk-taking and new approaches to address the problems and needs of children and young adults. For more information see the Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Grants for Excellence or contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us>. Grant recipients were:

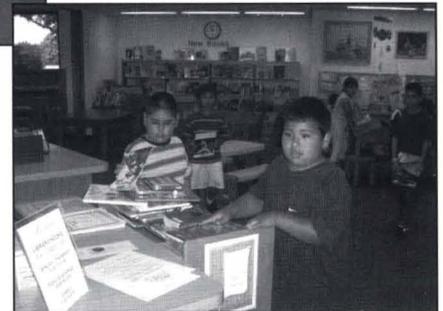
- ▲ Atkinson Public Library
- ▲ Auburn Memorial Library
- ▲ Battle Creek Public Library
- ▲ Callaway, Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library
- ▲ Central City Public Library
- ▲ Gibbon Public Library
- ▲ Gretna Public Library
- ▲ Kearney Public Library and Information Center
- ▲ Lexington Public Library
- ▲ Lincoln City Libraries
- ▲ McCook Public Library
- ▲ Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
- ▲ Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section
- ▲ Norfolk Public Library
- ▲ Orchard Public Library
- ▲ Pierce, Lied Pierce Public Library
- ▲ Ponca Public Library
- ▲ Ralston, Baright Public Library
- ▲ Randolph Public Library
- ▲ Seward Memorial Library
- ▲ South Sioux City Public Library
- ▲ Springview, Keya Paha County Library
- ▲ Stromsburg Public Library
- ▲ Tilden, Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library
- ▲ Ulysses Township Library
- ▲ Wayne Public Library
- ▲ Wymore Public Library
- ▲ York, Kilgore Memorial Library ▲



Photos from the Norfolk Public Library illustrate how bilingual programs for children help Hispanic families feel welcome at the library.

This program was featured in *Library Sparks*, November 2004, and Karen Drevo, Youth Services Librarian, credited their Children's

Grant for Excellence from the Nebraska Library Commission with helping staff add Spanish language experiences to library programming for children.

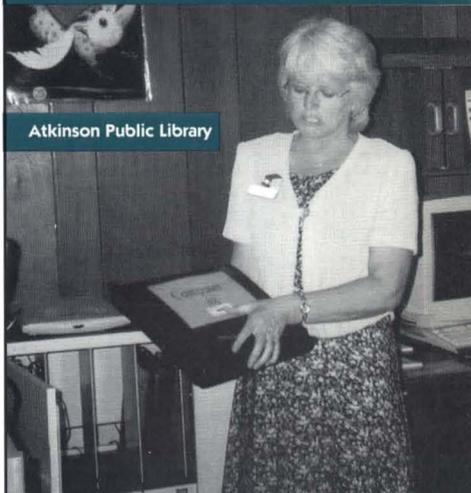


Libraries Use Technology Grants to Finance Local Information Access

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$431,005 in Library Technology Grants from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004 to Nebraska libraries to improve public access to electronic information. Grants are funded through federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, allocated by the U.S. Congress and made available through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as well as through State of Nebraska funds for library technology allocated by the Nebraska Legislature. For more information see the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on LSTA Grant Recipients or contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. Grant projects included:

- ▲ Alliance Public Library
- ▲ Atkinson Public Library
- ▲ Beatrice State Developmental Center
- ▲ Blair Public Library
- ▲ Bloomfield Public Library
- ▲ Central City Public Library
- ▲ Chadron Public Library
- ▲ Clarkson Public Library
- ▲ Columbus Public Library
- ▲ Creighton Public Library
- ▲ Crete Public Library
- ▲ Elmwood Public Library
- ▲ Emerson Public Library
- ▲ Fairmont Public Library
- ▲ Genoa Public Library
- ▲ Grand Island Public Library
- ▲ Hartington Public Library
- ▲ Hastings Public Library
- ▲ Imperial Public Library
- ▲ Kearney Public Library and Information Center
- ▲ Laurel Community Learning Center
- ▲ LaVista Public Library
- ▲ Leigh Public Library
- ▲ Lexington Public Library
- ▲ Lyons Public Library
- ▲ Meadow Grove Public Library
- ▲ Milford, Webermeier Memorial Library
- ▲ Nebraska Regional Library Systems
- ▲ Neligh Public Library
- ▲ Niobrara Public Library
- ▲ Norfolk Public Library
- ▲ North Bend Public Library
- ▲ Ogallala, Goodall City Library
- ▲ O'Neill Public Library
- ▲ Orchard Public Library
- ▲ Osceola Public Library
- ▲ Pierce, Lied Pierce Public Library
- ▲ Plattsmouth Public Library
- ▲ Polk Public Library
- ▲ Randolph Public Library
- ▲ Ravenna Public Library
- ▲ Schuyler Public Library
- ▲ Seward Memorial Library
- ▲ Shelby Public Library
- ▲ Shelton Township Library
- ▲ South Sioux City Public Library

Innovative Information Access



Atkinson Public Library

Customers provided enthusiastic evaluations of library computer classes (including training in database access, computer skills, writing workshops, etc.). Wireless laptop computers are issued to customers, who use them anywhere in the library. Library Director Judy Hagen used a grant from the Library Commission to fund this program.

- ▲ Statewide Digitization Training
- ▲ Statewide Videoconferences
- ▲ Stromsburg Public Library
- ▲ Tekamah Public Library
- ▲ Valentine Public Library
- ▲ Wayne Public Library
- ▲ Weeping Water Public Library
- ▲ Wymore Public Library ▲

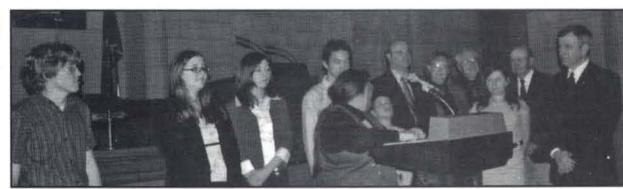
Jackson Fisher of Lincoln Named Letters about Literature National Winner

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and in cooperation with Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, announced that a Nebraska student writer was selected as a national winner in the 2004 Letters about Literature contest.

Jackson Fisher, Lincoln, was honored for his letter to Carl Hiaasen, author of *Hoot*. Jackson, a fourth grader at Morley Elementary School, stated in his letter, "Your book has given me so many ideas. Ideas for today how to respect

and act towards people I don't yet know regardless of how different they appear. Ideas for tomorrow how to work together with other people and put my efforts towards a good cause. Ideas for my future how to use my imagination and spur new ideas so that I can someday create books for kids that are smart, funny, and suspenseful. Who knows, maybe one day you'll read one of my books?" Readers in grades four through twelve wrote personal letters to authors, living or dead, from any genre (fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or

classic) explaining how that work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. Winners receive cash awards at the national and state levels. Nebraska winners were honored by the governor at a ceremony at the State Capitol. As a national winner, Fisher received a Target gift card and a trip to Washington D.C. to read his letter during the National Book Festival. 2003-2004 Nebraska Winners included **Elliott**



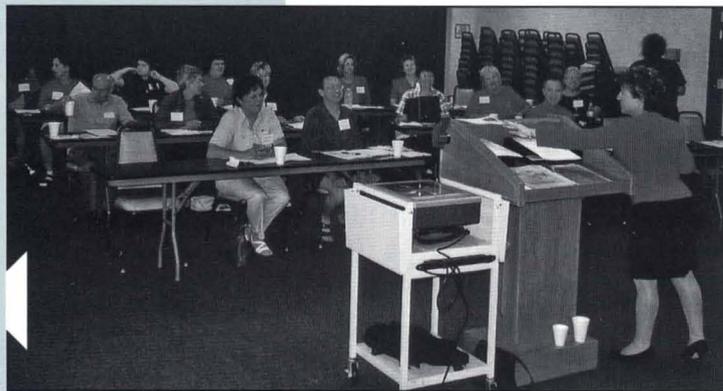
2004 winners honored by Governor Mike Johanns (far right).

Scheffler, Blair; **Kelsey Springsguth**, St. Libory; **Molly Keran**, Lincoln; **Amber Hoffman**, Omaha; **Hannah Potter**, Lincoln; **Philip Thrailkill**, North Platte; **Alexander J. Lin**, Lincoln; and **Erin Metzler**, Arlington. Honorable Mention was awarded to **Stephanie Borgia** and **Paige Yowell**, both of Lincoln; **Kelsey Butterfield** and **Adam Olson**, both of Atkinson; and **Nolan DeWispelare**, David City. ▲

Skills Upgraded through Continuing Education and Training Grants

Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$95,697 in Continuing Education and Training Grants from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004 to Nebraska libraries and library organizations. These grants were awarded to projects providing training and education for Nebraska library personnel, helping to ensure that Nebraska libraries have skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. Grant projects included:

- ▲ Atkinson Public Library
- ▲ Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- ▲ Battle Creek Public Library
- ▲ College of DuPage Videoconferences
- ▲ Creighton University
- ▲ David City, Hruska Memorial Public Library
- ▲ Digitization Training through Denver University
- ▲ Eastern Library System
- ▲ Elgin Public Library
- ▲ Fremont, Keene Memorial Library
- ▲ Grand Island Public Library
- ▲ Imperial Public Library
- ▲ LaVista Public Library
- ▲ Library Administration and Management Association Institute
- ▲ Nebraska Educational Media Association
- ▲ Nebraska Library Association
- ▲ Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section
- ▲ Nebraska Library Leadership Institute
- ▲ Nebraska Regional Library Systems
- ▲ Norfolk Public Library
- ▲ Omaha Public Library
- ▲ Pat Wagner Communications Training through Regional Library Systems
- ▲ Pierce, Lied Pierce Public Library
- ▲ Public Library Association Conference Scholarships
- ▲ Read Aloud Nebraska
- ▲ Roy Keneagy at Southeast Library System
- ▲ Something Funny at Eastern Library System
- ▲ Tilden, Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library
- ▲ Wayne State College
- ▲ What's New in Young Adult Literature Workshop in Iowa
- ▲ York, Kilgore Memorial Library



Nebraska Library Commission funded the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, offered in conjunction with Nebraska's Regional Library Systems.

netLibrary eBook Collections Supported by Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded grant funding to help small public and school libraries purchase the SOLINET/NEBASE netLibrary eBook Collection. The collection includes popularly used titles in subjects ranging from business and computer science to education, literature, history, reference, and much more. These resources include content in subjects suited for academic, public, and secondary school library customers, as well as the general public. Grant recipients included:

- ▲ Ainsworth Public Library
- ▲ Alma, Hoesch Memorial Public Library
- ▲ Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- ▲ Elkhorn, Mount Michael Benedictine High School
- ▲ Fairbury Public Library
- ▲ Gering High School
- ▲ Hay Springs Public Schools
- ▲ Hemingford Public Schools
- ▲ Lindsay, Holy Family School
- ▲ Mitchell Public Schools
- ▲ Morrill Public Library
- ▲ Norfolk, Lutheran High School
- ▲ Ogallala High School
- ▲ Orchard Public Library
- ▲ Ord Township Library
- ▲ Pierce, Lied Pierce Public Library
- ▲ Paxton Consolidated Schools
- ▲ Ponca Public Library
- ▲ Scribner-Snyder Community School
- ▲ Seward Memorial Library
- ▲ Shelton Township Library
- ▲ Spalding Public Schools
- ▲ Sutton Public Schools

For more information about the netLibrary collection of eBooks see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/netlibrary2004.html>. ▲

The Nebraska Library Commission Web site now includes a section devoted to Nebraska library history, *Nebraska Libraries for the Centuries*, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/nlcarchives/nelibrariescenturies.html>. Nebraska has a long tradition of library service, beginning with military post libraries and continuing with literary society libraries founded during Territorial times, women's club libraries, Carnegie libraries, college and school libraries, to the modern libraries of today. The Nebraska Library Commission Archives, located at the Library Commission, contain materials about the history and operation of the Commission and the libraries it has served since the Commission's creation in 1901. The collection includes Commission reports, newsletters, documents, photographs, and artifacts. Some of these materials have been digitized. Others are available for research use onsite. For more information contact Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Coordinator, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲



Nebraska Libraries for the Centuries

Libraries Use State Aid for Local Service Enhancements

From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004, \$690,880 was paid in direct state aid to eligible Nebraska public libraries, with an average payment of \$2,107. The average payment made to libraries serving a population of less than 5,000 was \$889, \$.97 per capita. The average payment to libraries serving populations of 5,000 and above was \$7,110, \$.20 per capita. To be eligible for state aid, Nebraska public libraries must be accredited by the Library Commission, meet the maintenance of effort requirement, and submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using Bibliostat™ Collect, a Web-based data collection tool. For more information, contact Kit Keller, 402-472-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

City of La Vista
Public Library



November 14, 2002

Rod Wagner
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
1200 N Street Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023

Dear Mr. Wagner:

On behalf of the patrons of the La Vista Public Library and the entire La Vista community, I would like to send thanks for the generous state aid money the La Vista Public Library was awarded. With this money, the library was able to replace a typewriter (\$699.00) for staff when ours completely broke down. With the remainder of the money (\$1,698.49), the library purchased Soft Choice anti-virus software for the library's 51 computers. Without this money, the library would have been forced to wait until the following fiscal year to obtain these much needed resources or make drastic changes in the current year's budget.

Assistance such as State Aid moneys is a very important way the Public Library can continue to serve and provide for our community. The funding provided also enables the library to stretch our budget money and provide additional materials for the public.

Again, thank you for your generosity and for thinking of La Vista Public Library.

Sincerely,

Rose Schinker
Library Director

9110 Giles Road • La Vista, NE 68128-3081 • Bus.: 402/537-3900 • Fax: 402/537-3902
e-mail - lavistamail.mccneb.edu

Recruitment and Retention Task Force Formed



A grant application (subsequently funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services) resulted from the work of the Recruitment and Retention Task Force, created by the Nebraska Library Commission to recommend strategies and actions to attract new workers to library service careers and to train and support current library workers. The task force, which first met in November 2002, was created in response to a recommendation from the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries and was prompted by the need to fill current and expected job vacancies.

During the next Biennium, the Nebraska Library Commission will develop a marketing campaign to raise awareness of and identify prospects for library service careers. High school and college students will be recruited, matched with mentors and educational opportunities, and provided with stipends, grants, or scholarships to support the pursuit of

pre-professional and professional education. A multimedia campaign and resources will be developed in both English and Spanish to achieve a more diverse cadre of library professionals in Nebraska.

The project, *Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the Movies*, will:

- ▲ Develop a marketing campaign to raise awareness and identify prospects for library service careers.
- ▲ Recruit talented and diverse library personnel, matching them with mentor/recruiters and educational/employment opportunities at whatever rung of the career/education ladder they can enter.
- ▲ Provide grants, scholarships, and stipends to support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional training.

This project will increase the number of students enrolled in pre-professional and professional education or training. The primary strategy is a one-on-one, each-one-recruit-one, mentoring approach. The **Recruitment** phase focuses on raising awareness, stereotype busting, and enticing young adults (high school, college) and pre-professional library workers into library skills training at whatever rung of the career/education ladder they can enter.

Increasing the number of professionally trained librarians in Nebraska is the ultimate goal.

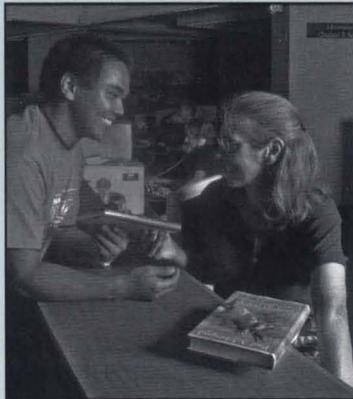
Mentor/recruiters will be trained to use a multi-media campaign (including a movie trailer, print and broadcast communication, Web resources, and 3-D exhibits/displays) to identify and inform prospects about the opportunities for rewarding careers in library service. The resources will be made available to K-12, Postsecondary, and public library staff, as well as library supporters and advocates, helping them to form a statewide network of mentor/recruiters. The **Education** phase will match prospects with appropriate educational resources at whatever rung of the career/education ladder they can enter, providing student stipends and internships. The **Employment** phase will match prospects with appropriate employment resources at whatever rung of the career/education ladder they can enter, providing employment stipends and internships.

For more information see the Library Commission home page Announcements, <www.nlc.state.ne.us> or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Library Commission Creates State Employee Web Site

Nebraska Library Commission Reference/Information Services staff created a state employee Web site to provide access to information resources. Nebraska state employees are invited to visit the Nebraska Library Commission in person, via e-mail or telephone, or on the Web at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nse>.

The Nebraska Library Commission makes available a collection of general reference materials (books, periodicals, videos, and electronic information resources, including Nebraska state and federal



Beth Goble (right) assists a customer.

government documents) for all Nebraska state employees. Most items are available for loan.

State employees can access online information resources, using passwords issued by the Library Commission. Resources include full-text magazines, newspapers, radio and television transcripts, and reference books from BigChalk eLibrary; full text magazines and journals from Wilson Web; full text business information from Kiplinger Forecasts; full text of more than 2,600 copyrighted eBooks from NetLibrary; full text of the Omaha World Herald from 1983 to the present; more than 120,000 biographies with more than 32,000 photographs from Wilson Web; eleven databases providing references to articles, books, and reports (no full text) through OCLC FirstSearch; and access to Books in Print, with reviews online. Access to these databases is provided by the Nebraska Library Commission and made possible by funding from the State of Nebraska. Library Commission Staff provide research services via phone at 800-307-2665 or 402-471-4016, fax: 402-471-6244, e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us>, or the Library Commission Web site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/askalibrarian.html>, Monday-Friday 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.CT. ▲

Public Library Accreditation Guidelines Revised

In July 2002, the Nebraska Library Commission developed a long range plan entitled, *Making a Difference @ your library™ Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library and Information Services 2003-2007*. The plan calls for the evaluation of the Public Library Accreditation program to address changing library and information needs.

A review process was implemented with an evaluation of the existing *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation* and an analysis of the accreditation process. Public comment was invited, requesting suggestions for specific recommendations for guideline additions, deletions, and other changes. The Guidelines revision was a topic of discussion at more than two dozen meetings held throughout the state during the next fifteen months (including meetings of the Nebraska Library Commission, Regional Library Systems, State Advisory Council on Libraries, Public Resource Library Group, and the Nebraska Library Association). In addition, the Library Commission maintained an open request for input on the Commission Web site <www.nlc.state.ne.us>.

In October 2003, a draft version of the revised *Guidelines* was posted to the Library Commission Web site, and this draft was the subject of a session held at the annual NLA/NEMA Convention. Following this session, a revised draft was distributed via the Commission's Web site.

Additional meetings were held, including a statewide videoconference and a meeting with representatives of

the Public Library Section of the Nebraska Library Association. Commission discussions, as well as and research and testing of guideline data, resulted in a third annotated draft of the *Guidelines*. At the Nebraska Library Commission meeting on May 14, 2004, the Commissioners voted to approve the third draft of the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, with recommendations as noted.

One significant change in the *Accreditation Guidelines* includes the adoption of three phases of accreditation based on services and programs offered by libraries. These include the **Essential, Enhanced, and Excellent** Accreditation designations. Another change is the addition of free public access to the Internet as a basic library service, and as a requirement for **Essential** Accreditation designation. In addition, once these *Guidelines* are fully implemented, state aid payments to libraries will vary according to the three phases of Accreditation.

The *Guidelines* document addresses a variety of topics, including governance, funding, staff size and educational level, hours, collection size and currency, equality of access (age, disability, location), policy requirements, board of trustees' requirements (by-laws, meeting frequency, orientation), program and service requirements, and outreach and public relations.

For additional information see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Accreditation or contact Kit Keller, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Kit Keller (right) discusses Guidelines revisions with Panhandle librarians.



Computers and Training Provided to Nebraska Libraries

The U.S. Library Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded funding to 206 Nebraska public libraries for new computers, software, and Internet access. Some of these public libraries qualified to purchase computers with local funds and to receive (at no charge to the library) software, training, technical support, software documentation, and upgrades. The Library Commission provided funding to help support these purchases.

Installation of computers and training provided by the Gates Foundation began with Before Your

"The addition of two computers purchased by the Gates Foundation grant, allowed the library to create a computer center for improved public access. The grant also allowed for us to subscribe to a wireless Internet service..."

—Broken Bow Public Library

Computer Arrives workshops held in eight sites across Nebraska. Three hundred and seventy library staff and supporters viewed a demonstration of the computers and learned about ordering the hardware. They also

"As evident in our statistics, use of the computers by the public increased by over 300%."

—Jensen Memorial Library in Minden

received media kits developed by the Library Commission (using Gates Foundation materials) to help spread the word about expanded community public access to the Internet.

"The most significant change in our library in the past year is the addition of the two Gates Foundation Grant computers... the Gates computers have generated a lot of interest from non-library users..."

—Dvoracek Memorial Library in Wilber

As computers arrived, libraries received hands-on training at their individual sites, as well as attended training at nearby libraries. As of mid-February, Nebraska libraries had received 388 computers, 60 content servers, 137 printers, 143 Spanish keyboards, and 134 24-port auto-sensing switches. Five hundred and thirty-nine library staff and supporters attended training on using the equipment and software, with sixty-five attending training on using content servers.

For more information about the Gates Foundation project, including award amounts, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Gates or contact Pam Scott, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, e-mail: <pscott@nlc.state.ne.us>, or Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, e-mail: <rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us>, both at 800-307-7665. ▲

"With the two new Gates grant computers and updating to DSL, we have been able to provide up-to-date Internet service. The increase in usage this year has been tremendous."

—Gordon City Library



Customers line up to use Lincoln City Libraries' Gates Computer Lab on opening day.

"The major success for this past year was the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant... brought more library traffic, as the patrons who want to use the computers also check out our collection while they are here."

—Grant County Library in Hyannis

"This improved our equipment by light years...teaming with the Pender Economic Development Group to urge our village board to update the Internet access to our village..."

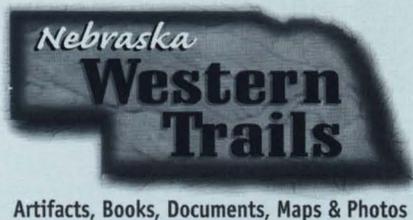
—House Memorial Library in Pender

"...the library still has a vital role to play in providing services needed for a community to stay competitive in today's fast paced and ever-changing world."

—Nelson Public Library

Western Trails Partnership Provides Access to Historic Resources

The Western Trails collaborative grant project made available a wide range of artifacts, books, documents, maps, postcards, original paintings, and photographs on a variety of topics relating to trails in Nebraska. Nebraska libraries and museums scanned images of their artifacts and documents for Web access, searchable through the Nebraska database, <trails.unl.edu/search>.



Artifacts, Books, Documents, Maps & Photos

Highlights of this partnership include:

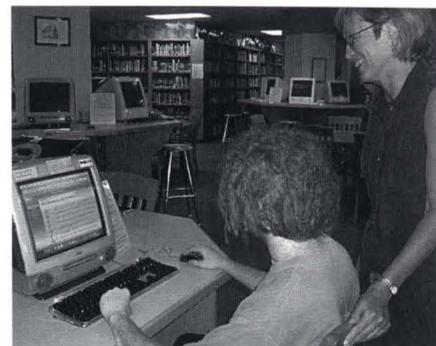
- ▲ Nebraska participants contributed to the development of standardized practices.
- ▲ The Nebraska Western Trails Web site provides access to digitized materials illustrating Nebraska's rich trails of all types—pioneer wagon trails, railroads, highways, nature trails, and modern recreational trails at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/westerntrails/home.html>.
- ▲ The Multi-State Western Trails Web site, hosted by Colorado, links all the state sites together with a unified search interface for all of the project images at <www.cdheritage.org/westerntrails>.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission conducted a usability test on the Nebraska Western Trails Web site. Participants responded positively to the content and indicated that it will be a valuable collection of primary source materials for historians, educators, and the general public. Suggestions for changes and additions for enhancing the usability of the site were made and acted on.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission provided a grant to the Nebraska Educational Media Association for high school media specialists to develop sample lesson plans for using the Web site and database.
- ▲ Partially as a result of participation in this project, the Nebraska Library Commission designated digitization projects as one of the 2004 LSTA grant priorities. The Library Commission will also continue to facilitate access to historically and culturally significant digital collections created by Nebraska libraries through the development of the *Nebraska Memories* project, by funding OCLC's CONTENTdm software for the use of Nebraska libraries and library partnerships with other cultural institutions.

The Western Trails Project was funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, <www.imls.gov>. The Nebraska Library Commission coordinated the Nebraska participants. For more information contact Beth Goble, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Library Commission Sponsors Community Technology Fairs

The Nebraska State Records Board awarded the Library Commission a \$25,000 grant to purchase a wireless mobile network and implement Community Information Technology Fairs in rural Nebraska.

This network of twelve laptops expanded training opportunities for the more remote, less populated parts of the state and improved training opportunities throughout the state. The wireless mobile network was first introduced to library personnel, community members, and state legislators at the February 2003 Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day. Online information resources were demonstrated for participants. The equipment was used in a variety of workshops, training sessions, and in Community Information Technology Fairs.



Lincoln Southeast High School Media Specialist Mary Reiman (right) assists a student.

"I received lots of positive feedback about the class and the teachers! People attending were appreciative of the opportunity."



Minden's Jensen Memorial Library Director Ellen Burchell (left) helps a customer.

A successful Community Information Technology Fair was hosted by the Jensen Memorial Library in Minden. Fourteen community members attended the session and spent two hours learning basic Internet searching techniques and skills for accessing database information. Ellen Burchell, Director of the Jensen Memorial Library said, "I received lots of positive feedback about the class

and the teachers! People attending were appreciative of the opportunity." At a session at the Sioux County Public Library in Harrison, one participant used the Library Commission-supported subscription databases to access magazine articles written by a family member, senior citizens found a wealth of online medical information, a genealogist found local family records, and a young family located regional Web sites with education and employment resources.

To schedule a session or for further information contact Kit Keller, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Telling the World about Talking Books

Activities to promote the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service included:

- ▲ Radio stations aired public service announcements produced by the Library of Congress.
- ▲ A news release concerning the 50th anniversary of the Talking Book and Braille Service generated newspaper articles, including a feature story in the *Hastings Tribune*.
- ▲ Nebraska public libraries distributed posters throughout their communities to encourage qualifying individuals to pick up talking book application forms at their public library. These posters, along with application forms, are provided free to any Nebraska library.

- ▲ A direct mailing of coupons and coupon caddies to Nebraska optometrists and ophthalmologists, physical and occupational therapists, and librarians helped get the word out about services for individuals who qualify for talking books.

Library staff and board members are encouraged to use these tools to reach out to this potential customer group. For more information see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Talking Books, or contact Dave Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Reading is for everyone

Free talking book and magazine service for individuals with visual or physical disabilities

Pick up application forms @your library™

Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service
1200 N Street, Suite 120 ♦ Lincoln, NE 68508-2023 ♦ 402-471-4038 ♦ 800-742-7691
talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us ♦ www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs

Talking Book Studios Converted to Digital

The studios of the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service were converted to digital audio to improve the sound quality and functionality of books and magazines recorded in Nebraska. Fifty-two books were recorded in the studios from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004. Since tape recorders currently in use are more than fourteen years old, this upgrade will reduce staff and volunteer production and service time. Borrowers will continue to use the same players they have now. New features will become available as digital players are introduced. In the future, customers will have the option of linking directly from the table of contents to a specific article or linking to footnotes. For more information contact Bill Ainsley, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Studio Manager, 402-471-3246, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <bainsley@nlc.state.ne.us>.

"I have an elderly friend whose mind and intellect are sharp, but her sight is failing. She uses Talking Books for her reading now.

One evening at a club meeting, she came and sat beside me and said, 'Last Saturday evening I was feeling a little lonely and blue, so I decided to listen to a talking book. Imagine my delight when I heard your voice, Marjory, reading the book. I listened with interest, pleasure and a feeling of comfort, hearing your familiar voice. I no longer felt lonely.'

This meant so much to me as a volunteer narrator to hear firsthand how our work can make a difference in someone's life. Something that brings us satisfaction and pleasure is bringing pleasure to others."

—Marjory Gloe, long-time volunteer narrator for the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service

Volunteers make it happen @ your library™



Free talking books and magazines for individuals with visual or physical disabilities

Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service

Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004

- ▲ 3,499 library staff members attended 422 Continuing Education Sessions sponsored by the Library Commission, including participants in Basic Skills Sessions.
- ▲ 177 public libraries were accredited.
- ▲ The Talking Book and Braille Service circulated 357,753 talking books, magazines, and Braille materials to 4,974 customers.
- ▲ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded 287 issues of magazines and 52 books.
- ▲ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated 87,415 audiocassettes.
- ▲ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than 8 million holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of NEBASE libraries, are reflected in the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ▲ NEBASE members cataloged 570,208 total items.
- ▲ NEBASE members originally cataloged 4,472 items.
- ▲ The Library Commission circulated 4,592 items.
- ▲ The Library Commission borrowed 18,915 items from other libraries.
- ▲ The Library Commission loaned 1,619 items to other libraries.
- ▲ The Library Commission served 12,184 customers onsite.
- ▲ NEBASE libraries borrowed 114,727 items from other libraries.
- ▲ NEBASE libraries loaned 109,456 items to other libraries.
- ▲ At the end of the fiscal year, NEBASE membership included 146 libraries.
- ▲ The Library Commission completed 31,219 reference transactions.
- ▲ 7,481 state documents were added to the Commission's collection, bringing the total to 134,915.
- ▲ 1,538 federal documents were added to the Commission's collection, and 60,639 federal documents were withdrawn, bringing the total to 100,211.



Nebraska Library Commission

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