

Your guide to the  
Nebraska Library  
Commission  
July 1, 2014–  
June 30, 2016  
Biennium in Review  
FY2015/FY2016

# Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 21 No. 1

## Library Commission Supports Next Generation of Librarians



Interns promote library  
services at Lincoln's  
"Jazz in June."

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The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) continued to improve the quality of library service in Nebraska by exposing thirty-six students to the work of libraries. The Library Commission awarded \$31,600 in internship grants to twenty-six public libraries during the biennium. Interns work in local libraries and learn about library work as they shadow staff, help with day-to-day operations, and work on special projects. They conduct summer reading programming, make recommendations for young adult collections, write blog posts, assist customers in the computer lab, help with community outreach activities, instruct customers on how to check out and download eBooks to eReading devices, and assist with events like book sales, art shows, photography contests, 3-D printing workshops, entrepreneurship camp, and Lego clubs. Several interns have expressed an interest in continuing their studies to enable them to be employed by a library.

One intern shared a story of her Summer 2016 experience, "My internship has been an amazing experience. When I first started out I was just learning the ropes on

how everything functioned here. The most surprising thing to me is that the library is not just where you check in and check out books. Librarians have a way harder job than I bet most people think. From figuring out the monthly budget to planning entire events that are fun for everyone... I interact with people young and old and help them with any need. I have learned about how technology helps the library connect to people... Everyone at this library works hard to keep it running, and this job is not easy. I will always remember this job isn't just checking in books. It takes patience and good planning skills."

A librarian commented about her intern, "We are accomplishing even more than we imagined and are all having fun in the process. She is keeping a journal and has commented on how much she is learning and is able to use her creative skills that will help her as she goes off to college... I am so grateful for this grant and what it means for our library."

Information about grants awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission—including links to a database of recipients since 1998—is located at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/>. Funding for this project has been provided through grants from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems. ●◀

### The following libraries received internship grants:

- Ashland Public Library
- Atkinson Public Library
- Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- Brunswick Public Library
- Clearwater Public Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Cozad Public Library
- Elgin Public Library
- Genoa Public Library
- Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
- Kimball Public Library
- La Vista Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- Oakland Public Library
- Omaha Public Library
- Ord Township Library
- Orleans, Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library
- Randolph, Lied Randolph Public Library
- Red Cloud, Auld Public Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Ulysses Township Library
- Wilber, Dvoracek Memorial Library
- York, Kilgore Memorial Library
- Yutan Public Library

## From the Director...

### Interlibrary Cooperation Key to Expanding Nebraska Library Service

It is a pleasure to present the Nebraska Library Commission's biennial report. This report highlights notable activities, events, projects and successes from the past two years.

The Library Commission's state statutory mission is statewide promotion, development and coordination of library services. As an extension of those purposes the Commission works with and supports over one thousand Nebraska libraries—including public, school, post-secondary, and special—that serve our communities, schools, colleges and universities, businesses, and other entities. Nebraska libraries have a long-standing tradition of interlibrary cooperation. That cooperative spirit continues to be relevant and vital to the library services provided to Nebraskans, day-in and day-out.

Nebraska libraries continually introduce new service approaches. News stories from across Nebraska describe the creative and enriching activities that are happening in the state's libraries. Programming continues to grow as a common library activity, with all age groups as participants. Digital audiobooks and eBooks are increasingly available across Nebraska to supplement libraries' core book collections. New libraries are under construction with many existing library facilities being renovated or remodeled to adapt to community needs. Many libraries are redesigning their facilities to accommodate resources for learning and creating.

The Pew Research Center confirms that book reading remains a constant for the great majority of Americans. That finding is likely even stronger in Nebraska. The popularity of eBooks and audiobooks has made books even more accessible—from anywhere and

(continued on page 4)

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**Director:** Rod Wagner

**Editorial:** Mary Jo Ryan, Tessa Terry, Janet Greser, Mary Sauers

**Graphic Design:** Reynold Peterson

**Nebraska Library Commissioners:** **Sherry Crow**, Kearney, term expires 2016; **Molly Fisher**, term expires 2018; **Patricia Gross**, Bayard, term expires 2016; **Michael LaCroix**, term expires 2019; **Chuck Peek**, Kearney, term expires 2019; **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk, term expires 2018; **Sandy White**, Sidney, term expires 2019; and **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha, term expires 2018.

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 (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.*

## Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016

State of Nebraska Funds . . . . .	\$7,771,382.47
Federal Funds . . . . .	2,747,632.90
Cash Funds . . . . .	168,504.70
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$10,687,520.07</b>

### Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016

Braille Services (Utah State Library) . . . . .	\$ 3,475
Collaborative Summer Library Program . . . . .	9,846
Continuing Education and Training . . . . .	15,844
Electronic Information Resources . . . . .	918,972
United for Libraries . . . . .	30,451
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation) . . . . .	164,587
Library Improvement Grants . . . . .	30,643
Local Library Public Computer Centers (NTIA/BTOP/Gates) . . . . .	5,640
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries . . . . .	34,498
Nebraska Center for the Book . . . . .	4,908
Nebraska Library Association . . . . .	2,500
OverDrive Downloadable Books . . . . .	377,031
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software . . . . .	8,250
Regional Library Systems . . . . .	1,069,762
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships . . . . .	62,714
State Aid to Public Libraries . . . . .	729,149
Youth Grants for Excellence . . . . .	54,584
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$3,520,353</b>

*NOTE: Project funds may be distributed over more than one fiscal year.*

# Commissioners Guide Library Commission



Lively discussion at Commission meetings: (l.-r.) Susan Warneke, Commissioner; James Van Bruggen, NE DAS Budget Division; Rod Wagner, NLC Director; Michael LaCroix, Commissioner; Jennifer Wrampe, NLC Staff; and Sherry Crow, Commissioner.

Nebraska Library Commission staff members want to thank the Commissioners who served during this past biennium for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services. As representatives of the public appointed by the governor, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services. They are primarily involved in policy making, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy. Their dedication and involvement is integral to our success.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor and serve three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners who served during the biennium were: **Steve Batty**, McCook; **Diane Boyd**, South Sioux City; **Sherry Crow**, Kearney; **Patricia Gross**, Bayard; **Molly Fisher**, Lincoln; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha; **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk; and **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha.



## Library Commission Staff Transitions

### Arrivals

- **Allison Badger**, Cataloging Librarian
- **Holli Duggan**, Continuing Education Coordinator
- **Craig Lefteroff**, Technology Innovation Librarian
- **Tan Ngo**, Accountant
- **Cecelia Ramsey**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor
- **Sam Shaw**, Planning and Data Services Coordinator
- **Tessa Terry**, Staff Assistant
- **Nicholas Westra**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation Technician

### Departures

- **Bill Ainsley**, Talking Book and Braille Service Audio Production Studio Manager
- **Kathryn Brockmeier**, Research Assistant
- **Beth Goble**, Historical Services Librarian
- **Eric Green**, Western Library System Administrator
- **Laura Johnson**, Continuing Education Coordinator
- **Emily Dust Nimsakont**, Cataloging Librarian
- **David Oertli**, Talking Book and Braille Service Director
- **Cecilia Ramsey**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor
- **Michael Sauers**, Technology Innovation Librarian
- **Diane Wotipka**, Accountant

### Reassignments

- **Dave Eckmann**, Talking Book and Braille Service Circulation Technician to Studio and Book Circulation Support Staff Assistant
- **Gabe Kramer**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation Support Staff Assistant to Audio Production Studio Manager
- **Aimee Owen**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor to Information Services Librarian
- **Scott Scholz**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation and Production Coordinator to Acting Director

#### Employee of the Year 2015



**Anna Walter**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor

#### Manager of the Year 2015



**Devra Dragos**, Technology & Access Services Director

#### Employee of the Year 2016



**Aimee Owen**, Information Services Librarian

#### Manager of the Year 2016



**Mary Sauers**, Government Information Services Librarian

## From the Director...

at any time. The Nebraska Overdrive Libraries Group grew over the past few years, with the number of libraries in the consortium increasing to 171. State funding supplemented funds from participating libraries, resulting in a significant increase in the number of books available and the lending of those books. Nebraska has many book clubs and reading groups. The Library Commission has expanded its collection of book club kits and daily sends books to libraries for readers in their communities. These are a few among many trends that underscore the beneficial purposes and work of Nebraska libraries.

This special report highlights the many and varied programs and services of the Nebraska Library Commission. These programs and services would not be successful without the mutual support and assistance of the thousands of people in Nebraska's library workforce and the thousands of Nebraskans who volunteer as trustees, friends, foundation board members, and workers. For those contributions we express our gratitude and appreciation. Equally important and appreciated is the support of Nebraskans for their libraries and library services. **Rod Wagner** ↔

## Nebraskans Speak Out for Libraries

During the biennium Nebraska library representatives traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in national library advocacy activities. They met with Senators and Representatives and provided educational materials to congressional staff. Among the issues discussed with the Nebraska congressional delegation: Library Services and Technology Act and funding for Nebraska library services; school libraries and early learning

(reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and inclusion of school libraries as necessary educational components); Carla Hayden's nomination for Librarian of Congress; support for Taxpayer-Funded Research legislation; Senate support for the Marrakesh Treaty regarding accessibility to print materials in digitized formats for people with print disabilities; and support for the E-rate program for schools and libraries. ↔



Representing Nebraska in 2015 are (l.-r.) Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Sharon Burd, Legislative Aide for Sen. Deb Fischer; Sherry Crow, Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska School Librarians Association; Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission; and Steve Fosselman, Nebraska Library Association.



Representing Nebraska in 2016 are (l.-r.) Steve Fosselman, Nebraska Library Association; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Julee Hector, Nebraska Library Association; Mark DiPlacido, Research Associate for Sen. Ben Sasse; Sherry Crow, Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska School Librarians Association; and Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission.

### Ed. Note:

Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Biennial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newslist**. Fill out the form at [nlc.nebraska.gov/enews](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/enews) to stay abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly email in your inbox with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the email message to read the complete content of the blog post and to comment.

Are you missing out on important library information?

Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newslist* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.  
[nlc.nebraska.gov/enews](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/enews)

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission,  
<http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

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## Council Advises Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to make recommendations on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs—including providing input on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Program Evaluation and the LSTA Long-Range Plan. The members represent all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consist of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and customers.

They met five times during the biennium and provided input on library legislation, policies, and issues. They focused on advocacy for libraries and library service—sharing strategies, data, and stories. One meeting centered on planning for the future of Nebraska libraries, with a focus on space planning and educational partnerships. Another meeting featured Nebraska Library

Workforce issues and Continuing Education, with the council providing input on training needs. In lieu of the March 2016 meeting, council members joined others for a presentation about the Nebraska Innovation Campus and Innovation Studio including remarks about a grant proposal partnership among University of Nebraska Extension, Library Commission, Innovation Studio, and Regional Library Systems. Each meeting included a report on the Nebraska Library Commission biennium budget. Input was solicited on library programs including Nebraska Libraries and Digital Literacy, Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant Project “Cultivating Rural Librarians Technology Skills,” Library Marketing, Financial Education in Libraries, One Book One Nebraska, and the Regional Library Systems Reconfiguration. For more information about the Council, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stadv>.

### State Advisory Council members included:

**Robin Bernstein**, Freeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook**, Lyons

**Francine Canfield**, Baright Public Library, Ralston

**John Dale**, Wayne

**Ceri Daniels**, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP, Lincoln

**Beth Falla**, Lied Imperial Public Library

**Susan Franklin**, Hastings College Perkins Library

**Denise Harders**, Central Plains Library System, Hastings

**Jean Hellwege**, Lincoln Public Schools, NSLA Liaison

**Sherry Houston**, Papillion

**Joann Jackson**, Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center, Geneva

**Beth Kabes**, Chair, Educational Service Unit 7, Columbus

**Cecelia Lawrence**, North Platte Public Library

**Pat Leach**, Lincoln City Libraries

**Trine McBride**, Wayne

**Laura Marlane**, Omaha Public Library

**Julie Pinnell**, Doane College Perkins Library, Crete

**Norma Pountney**, Omaha

**Charlene Rasmussen**, Wayne

**Vickie Retzlaff**, Grant County Library, Hyannis

**Gayle Roberts**, Blair Public Library, NLA Liaison

**Sam Shaw**, Nebraska State Penitentiary Library, Lincoln

**Janet Stoeger Wilke**, Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney

**Matthew Williams**, Kearney Public Library

**Kara Welch**, Ainsworth Community Schools

**Merrillene Wood**, Learning Resource Center, Western NE Community College, Sidney

**Abbigail Yellman**, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

## E-Rate Discounts Support Technology Access in Nebraska Communities

Nebraska schools and libraries received \$26.2 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during E-rate Funding Years 2014 and 2015 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2016) through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. Schools and libraries in the state submitted 1,581 applications for 3,127 requests.

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$578,708 in discounts. Discounts ranged from 20 to 90 percent, with 123 of the state’s public libraries participating, including the Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. 121 libraries were awarded Telecommunications discounts, and 81 were also awarded discounts on Internet services and internal connections (wiring, etc.). 118 of the 123 libraries participating in the E-rate program had 60 to 80 percent discounts on their Telecommunications and/or Internet access bills.

Discounts were awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program (an indicator of the local level of need) and the county’s Rural or Urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate applications. For more information about E-rate support in Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate> or contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Consultant, [christa.burns@nebraska.gov](mailto:christa.burns@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665. For more information about the E-rate program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl/>



## State Aid Supports Local Public Libraries

The Library Commission supported public libraries during the biennium with total payments of \$710,349 in direct state aid, including *Dollars for Data* and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual *Public Libraries Survey* online, and their local funding must be at least equal to the lowest annual local income from the three previous years. Six additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid during the biennium.

**Direct State Aid.** In each year of the biennium, 169 public libraries received state aid payments. Some of these libraries also earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of Gold or Silver accreditation status—in 2015, 119 and in 2016, 118.

**Incentive Payments.** Additional direct state aid payments, based on the amount of funds received from another public entity, were made to 80 libraries in 2016 and 83 in 2015.

**Dollars for Data.** The Library Commission awarded payments of \$200 to unaccredited libraries that completed and submitted the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online—45 in 2015 and 49 in 2016. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, sam.shaw@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665. 

## Grant Partnership Supports Nebraska's Small Libraries

A partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Community Foundation resulted in fourteen grants to twelve public libraries, thanks to the generosity of a lifelong educator, the late Shirley Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln. Each year the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), accepts proposals for

matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations of fewer than 3,000. In the past two grant cycles \$96,566 was distributed in three grant areas: **Planning Grants** funded temporary help and increased open hours, enabling several libraries to achieve accreditation; **Facilities Grants** supported construction of new or expanded library buildings and renovation or restoration work; and **Enhancement Grants** allowed for improvements in library services, including bilingual materials, a Maker Camp, and other youth services.

For each grant, the Fund provides a match of one dollar for every local dollar raised. The Nebraska Community Foundation and Nebraska Library Commission screen applicants for eligibility and provide guidance for those invited to submit proposals. For example, libraries that are not accredited may only

apply for planning grants that lead to accreditation.

Nebraska Community Foundation serves more than two hundred community-based, organizational and donor-driven funds benefitting communities across the state. Each year dozens of grants are made through these affiliated

funds providing thousands of dollars to support local libraries. The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised

Fund was established by the estate of Shirley Kreutz Bennett as a term endowment to be expended over a period of not more than twenty years for the exclusive purpose of supporting small-town libraries.

A lifelong learner, Shirley graduated from Harvard High School in 1941, earned a BA from the University of Washington, Seattle, plus an MA and PhD from Columbia University, N.Y. Shirley was a retired Professor of Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Each year, the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund advisory committee, made up of Shirley's nieces and nephews, awards matching grants for public libraries in Nebraska communities with a population of less than 3,000. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665. 



*"This worked. Thank you so much Lynda!!! You and the NLC staff are always so knowledgeable, swift, and courteous in helping me find resources for enhancing public health in Nebraska."*

– Derry Stover, MPH  
Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

## Award Honors Director Rod Wagner

The Nebraska Center for the Book presented the 2015 Mildred Bennett Award to Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. The award honors Wagner for his many years of service to Nebraska's readers and writers, as an individual who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska. The award is named for Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation. Bennett could have



**Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner (l.) received the Mildred Bennett Award from Nebraska Center for the Book President Mary Ellen Ducey.**

literally stepped out of a Willa Cather novel. Like some of Cather's heroines, she was a strong, fiercely independent, intelligent woman, who loved the land and planted her roots deeply in the soil of Webster County, Nebraska. During her lifetime, Mildred Bennett was recognized as a foremost authority on Willa Cather by literary organizations and universities across the country. For more information about Center for the Book awards, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards.html>.



## Nebraskans Are United for Libraries

Throughout the biennium Nebraska libraries continued to benefit from the resources and support of *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association. *United for Libraries* brings together library voices to speak out on behalf of library services and free public access to information. This national network of enthusiastic library supporters stresses the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses—educating and organizing the strongest voice for libraries: those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them.

The Library Commission supported membership to *United for Libraries* for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness. They used a special website ([www.ala.org/united/Nebraska](http://www.ala.org/united/Nebraska)) for Nebraska libraries to access resources, webinars, online training, and publications for Nebraska library trustees, library

directors, and library staff at no charge to them, including:

- **Trustee Academy.** Five online courses;
- **Short Takes for Trustees.** Ten 10-minute training videos;
- **Baby Boomer Volunteers for Libraries and Friends.** Webinar series on volunteer recruitment and retention;
- **Resource Collection Zones.** Current and archived newsletters, toolkits, electronic publications, special offers, etc. for Library Boards, Friends, and Foundations; and
- **Power Guide for Successful Advocacy.** A step-by-step guide to developing an advocacy campaign, with examples of talking points, flyers, petitions, etc. at <http://www.ala.org/united/powerguide>.

For more information see *United for Libraries* at <http://www.ala.org/united/about> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, [rod.wagner@nebraska.gov](mailto:rod.wagner@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665.



## PIONEER Pioneer Consortium Grows with Commission Support

Pioneer, the open-source consortium of Nebraska libraries, has expanded to twenty-four libraries, including libraries in Alma, Arapahoe, Atkinson, Axtell, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Central City, David City, Dundy County, Franklin, Grand Island, Grant, Hildreth, Holdrege, McCook, Papillion, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Superior, Valley, Valparaiso; and Western Nebraska Community College.

The consortium continued to grow the cooperative catalog, as well as provide software improvements to facilitate the effectiveness of the catalog and cooperative activities among the members. Libraries chose to join as an alternative to replacing current stand-alone catalog systems with another proprietary system at greater cost. The consortium received grants of \$23,000 from the Nebraska Library Commission to share costs with the members for software development and improvement. Franklin Public Library and McCook Public Library received grants totaling \$13,244 to assist in joining the consortium. The consortium employs the open source software Koha, a reasonably priced Integrated Library System (ILS) that serves as the basis of a growing union catalog and could lead to a statewide catalog in the future. The consortium worked cooperatively with other library consortia across the country that use the same software.

For more information see <https://nepioneer.com> or contact Richard Miller, contact information on page 6. For membership information contact Steve Fosselman, [sf@gi.lib.ne.us](mailto:sf@gi.lib.ne.us), 308-385-5333.

*Significant funding for this project has been provided through grants from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.*



Free server space hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission

Free tech support

# NEBRASKA LIBRARIES ON THE WEB

SEE MORE @ LIBRARIES.NE.GOV

## Building a Web Presence

The Nebraska Library Commission facilitated websites for ninety-five Nebraska libraries and four library systems through Nebraska Libraries on the Web, using WordPress as the website platform and hosting the service on Library Commission servers at no charge to the libraries. Libraries selected customizable templates and received free technology support and online, video-based training from the Library Commission.

This service is available to legally-established Nebraska public libraries with the understanding that they post to their blogs on a regular basis to keep their websites active and up-to-date. For more information see <http://libraries.ne.gov> or contact Craig Lefteroff, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, [craig.lefteroff@nebraska.gov](mailto:craig.lefteroff@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3106, 800-307-2665.

**Book Club Kits are packed up and ready to go out to libraries.**



## Aluminum Anniversary of Book Club Service

by Lisa Kelly,  
Nebraska Library Commission  
Information Services Director

Several years ago, shortly after attending Lincoln City Libraries' annual book sale, my colleague, Allana Novotny, said to me, "Do you think it would be a good idea to have multiple copies of books we could lend to libraries for their book groups?" That was ten years ago and not only have we not looked back, now we struggle to make room for our ever-growing Book Club Collection of more than 1,200 titles and nearly 12,000 physical volumes. Each month we average a circulation of more than 1,000 volumes—including regular and large print books, audiobooks, and DVDs—from this collection to libraries around the state.

Looking back, there are many people to whom we owe thanks for helping make this service such a success:

- First and foremost, to Vern Buis, Library Commission Computer Services Director, who helped create and design a very user-friendly database and webpage (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Ref/Bookclub/>) with auto-fill request forms and special search capabilities by holiday, Nebraska themes, and the Nebraska 150 book list celebrating the state's Sesquicentennial.

- To Devra Dragos, who created a special template for entering records in our catalog so we can reserve and check out book kits when they are requested by a library.
- To the many librarians and customers who have donated books to our collection—many directly from their book group after reading and discussing that title.
- To all the shoppers at book sales, thrift shops, and used book stores who have purchased (and many times delivered) books for our collection.
- Last but not least, thank you to the libraries and schools who use our collection and tell us how helpful it is to their community.

We are pleased to support book clubs throughout the state and have heard wonderful stories of your gatherings. To improve the service, *NCompass Live* webinar sessions on how to select titles and lead book group discussions have been presented and are archived at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/NCArchivist.asp>.

Because of the great success of the book groups, we very nearly wear out Information Services Technician Mary Geibel, who works to make and confirm reservations—sometimes for many months in advance. She sends out books and checks them in with email confirmations and conducts an annual inventory each summer to make sure the website is correct. If anyone had told me in library school that I'd spend a significant amount of time on book clubs and a special collection just for serving groups in the state, I'm quite certain I wouldn't have believed it. Growing and cultivating this service has been one of the most satisfying accomplishments of my years at the Library Commission. Happy Anniversary! For more information, contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, [lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov](mailto:lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4015, 800-307-2665.

## From the Lower Level to the West Wing

Visitors to the Nebraska Library Commission picking up talking books or arriving for meetings may have found themselves in a new area of the Library Commission during the last biennium. After several years of preparation, operations in the lower level of the Atrium building were moved to a first floor space across the lobby from the main Library Commission entrance. Now affectionately dubbed the “West Wing,” the new space includes relocated Talking Book and Braille Service stacks, circulation, duplication, and the Cardinal Room, a new meeting/training space to replace the lower level Crane Room.

The move required careful planning, as available space was reduced from approximately 12,000 to 8,000 square feet. Innerspace Studios helped design the new floor plan, and demolition commenced in July 2014. Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) circulation staff were able to move into their new offices in December 2014, once the talking book collection and stacks were relocated. The recording studios were more difficult to move. Because special construction techniques are required to block outside sounds from the studios, six custom booths were built by vocalbooth.com to create an updated audio production suite. Two pairs of booths are wired together as studio/control room facilities, and two additional booths serve as standalone editing suites

for postproduction, markup, review, and assembly procedures. The booths were constructed in November 2014, and they became operational with updated recording equipment in February 2015.

Though the space is smaller, digital talking books are more compact, allowing for a reduction in shelving

needs without impacting service. Similarly, the Cardinal Room comfortably seats sixteen for training sessions, an adequate size in an era of increased reliance on webinar training formats. After more than a year of daily use, the West Wing amenities have proven to help with efficient workflow and quieter operations. The



*Photo courtesy of Rachel Kenny*

**Scott Scholz, Talking Books and Braille Service Acting Director, replaced Dave Oertli, who retired in Fall 2015.**

first floor location provides close proximity to the Readers Advisory service counter and mail room, and studio volunteers and visitors have a very short walk from the building’s main entry doors without having to navigate stairs or elevators.

In June 2015, TBBS staff and volunteers hosted an *NCompass Live* webinar session discussing the move, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgID=14357>.

For more information about Talking Book and Braille Service, contact Scott Scholz, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Acting Director, [scott.scholz@nebraska.gov](mailto:scott.scholz@nebraska.gov), 402-471-6553, 800-307-2665.

## Digital Talking Book Access for Android Devices

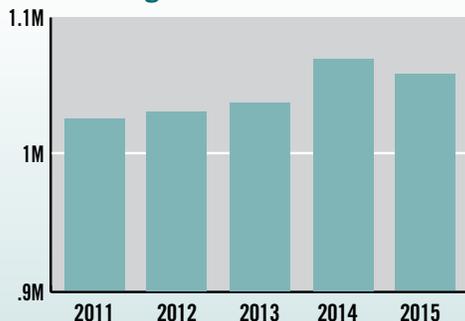
On the heels of the BARD Mobile app for IOS devices, the National Library Service released a BARD Mobile app for Android users in 2015. Nebraskans who are blind, visually impaired, or have a physical disability can now download audio and braille books and magazines to Android phones and mobile devices like the Kindle Fire. To use BARD Mobile for Android, register first with the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service at <https://nlbard.loc.gov/ne1a/>. Then access the BARD Mobile app through the Google Play store. The free app allows readers to download with their National Library Service BARD accounts. New selections are added daily. For Apple device users, follow the same registration process, and look for the BARD Mobile app in the Apple App Store.

## Commission Funds Statewide Motion Picture License

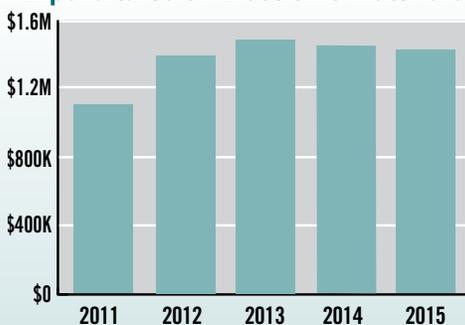
Public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries was made possible by the statewide license funded by the Nebraska Library Commission, at a cost of \$34,498 for the biennium. All Nebraska public libraries are covered by the license between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA. With this license, motion pictures were shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries throughout the two-year period. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/discounts/motionpicture.asp> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, [susan.knisely@nebraska.gov](mailto:susan.knisely@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665.

## Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

### Registered Borrowers



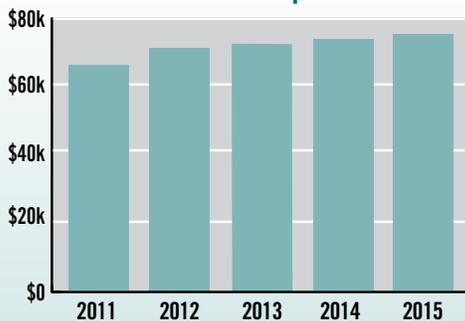
### Expenditures on Electronic Materials



### Collection Size



### Total Collection Expenditures



## The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 9,091 public libraries in the United States. In Nebraska, there are 269 public libraries plus 7 bookmobiles and 20 branch facilities. Seven libraries in the state are combined with public schools and two are combined public/academic libraries. The 2015 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 90% of libraries. The results provide a dependable measure of overall library public service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of eBooks and Audiobooks held and used has increased, due to more libraries participating in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium. There are at least two participating libraries in every non-metropolitan legislative district in the state. Looking at Internet connectivity in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates an increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. Between 2014 and 2015, there was a 27% decrease in the number of libraries offering connection speeds less than 6.0 Mbps, and a 10% increase in libraries offering connection speeds in excess of 6 Mbps.

Overall circulation of material has decreased, but use of non-print resources has increased. Greater numbers of library programs and increased attendance indicate that public libraries are actively engaging community members in learning events at all age levels. Collections of video materials (both physical and downloadable) continue to rise steadily, with video physical holdings increasing more than 5 percent between 2014 and 2015.



Other trends revealed by the results of the 2015 Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 171 Nebraska Public Libraries loaned eBooks – that's 63% of Nebraska public libraries. The population served by these libraries is 1,522,539 or 80% of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 6,947,489 items (not including leased electronic items, such as eBooks and Audiobooks)
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,828
- Public libraries loaned 12,746,301 items in FY2015
- Libraries that connect to their community through social networks: 186 or 69%
- Number of registered library users: 1,058,733
- Number of public library visits per year: 8,253,674
- Libraries providing wireless Internet access: 92% of reporting libraries
- Libraries delivered 32,854 programs, attended by 766,288 people
- Libraries with a website: 197 or 84%
- Nebraskans paid only \$37 per capita in 2015 for public library service
- Nine Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2015 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*.

(continued on page 11)

## The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska *(continued)*

### Selected Library Statistics, 2012 through 2015

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	1,031,149	1,070,816	1,058,733	2.61%
Total Visits	8,525,436	8,213,065	8,253,674	-3.29%
Items Borrowed	13,217,839	13,005,617	12,746,301	-3.70%
Items Borrowed per Capita	8.64	8.44	8.15	-6.04%
Internet Computers for Public Use	2,849	2,803	2,828	-0.74%
Libraries Providing Free Wi-Fi	215	206	214	-0.47%
Number of Programs Offered	28,485	31,582	32,854	13.30%
Library Program Attendance	655,259	709,070	766,288	14.49%
Number of Books in Collection	5,549,691	5,603,018	5,666,128	2.05%
Number of Print Subscriptions	13,084	12,738	11,415	-14.62%
Number of Audio Materials	241,770	249,604	246,716	2.00%
Number of Video Materials	311,158	327,892	346,158	10.11%
Total Materials held	6,751,324	6,837,704	6,947,489	2.82%
Annual Hours Open	427,097	416,744	430,703	0.84%
Legal Service Area Population	1,529,192	1,541,684	1,564,374	2.25%
Local Government Revenue	\$49,634,811	\$50,978,226	\$53,496,986	7.22%

### NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are **8.2 Million** annual visits to Nebraska public libraries (not including virtual library visits).<sup>i</sup> That's more than **92 sellouts** at Memorial Stadium.<sup>ii</sup>

**More than 21%** of Nebraskans **do not** have access to high-speed Internet (a paid Internet service other than dial-up) at home.<sup>iii</sup> They often rely on their public libraries.

#### Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **92%** offer **FREE** public Internet access<sup>iv</sup>
- **91%** offer **FREE** Wifi<sup>iv</sup>
- **1,863,703** eBook and Audiobook checkouts in FY 2015 and 2016
- **1,512,255** readers served by Nebraska public libraries participating in Nebraska eReads



#### Library Programs Energize Community Connections

- **21,182** Children's Programs offered, with **595,810** attendees. **10,481** of these programs were geared to a Pre-Kindergarten audience, with more than **230,000** attendees<sup>iv</sup>
- **3,270** Young Adult Programs offered, with **47,369** attendees<sup>iv</sup>
- **8,397** Adult Programs, with **123,109** attendees<sup>iv</sup>
- **Invaluable** community service as anchor institutions and catalysts for community connection

#### SOURCES:

<sup>i</sup> 2013-2014 Nebraska Public Library Survey (90% reporting)

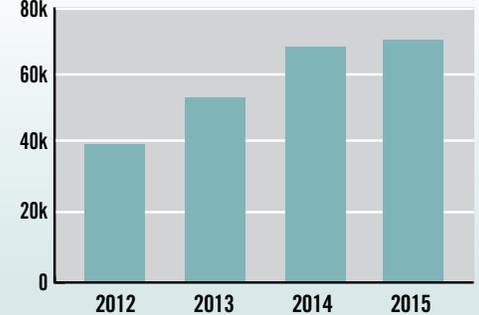
<sup>ii</sup> UNL Athletic Media Relations

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-28.pdf>

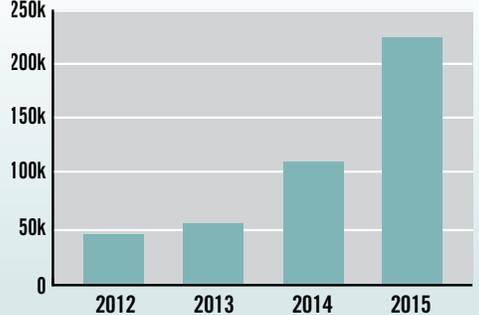
<sup>iv</sup> 2014-2015 Nebraska Public Library Survey (90% reporting)

## Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

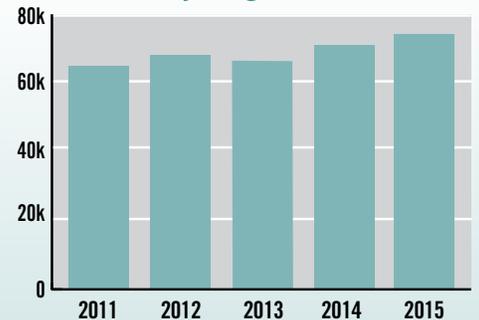
### Circulation of Adult Downloadable Materials



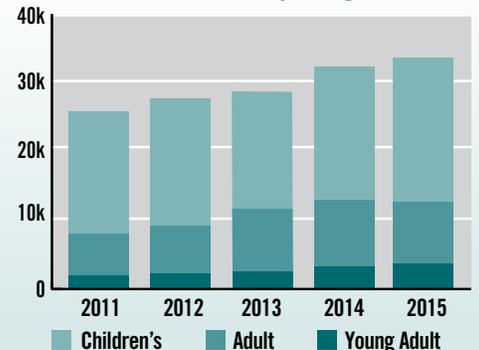
### Circulation of Childrens Downloadable Materials



### Total Library Program Attendance



### Number of Library Programs



## NebraskAccess Provides Reliable Information Resources

NebraskAccess is the Nebraska Library Commission's public resource portal for Nebraskans leading to information databases, evaluated websites, government publications, and more. Timely information is provided through seasonal "Hot Topics" and "What's New" links, as well as "Nebraska FAQs" which are created when the Library Commission Information Services reference librarians receive the same Nebraska-related question more than once.

Free, 24/7, full-text access continued to be available to thousands of magazines and journals, biographical information, and genealogical information, but the database line-up in NebraskAccess changed and expanded in 2016. Databases with consumer health, legal, and small business information and other topics for adults and older students were added, while younger students now had access to age appropriate full-text magazines, an electronic

encyclopedia, and other resources.

Nebraskans logged in outside of libraries with either a password from the library, their Nebraska driver's license, or State ID. They used this service to complete work or school assignments, research health and medical topics, keep up on current events, trace family histories, make personal and business economic decisions, and explore hobbies and other topics of personal interest.

Check out the expanded offerings in NebraskAccess at <http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov>. For more information contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, [devra.dragos@nebraska.gov](mailto:devra.dragos@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.

*NebraskAccess databases are funded through the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.* 

### Number of searches undertaken in the statewide subscription databases between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016:

Biography Reference Bank & Center	2,995,726
Consumer Health Complete	101,084
FirstSearch	756,571
Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia	914,964
GreenFILE	884,274
Legal Information Reference Center	577,813
MasterFILE Complete	1,956,728
MyHeritage	231,542
NoveList Plus	1,167,324
NoveList Plus K-8	27,026
Point of View Reference Center	504,090
Primary Search	971,727
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	1,003,086
Science & Technology Collection	916,806
Small Business Reference Center	441,756
Topic Overviews K-6	20,489
Topic Overviews Public Libraries	96,277

### Number of searches undertaken in the statewide subscription databases between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015:

Books in Print	51,490
eLibrary	112,651
FirstSearch	627,235
HeritageQuest	211,921
Wilson Biographies	1,194,743
Wilson OmniFile	1,942,215



## Library Commission Supports Training for Library Staff and Volunteers

The Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support Nebraska libraries in their efforts to improve library service by providing continuing education (CE) and training for library staff members. From July 2014 to June 2016, the Commission sponsored or underwrote 491 events which were attended by 1,349 Nebraska library staff and board members. These training activities included the annual "Big Talk from Small Libraries" online conferences, Basic Skills classes, *NCompass Live*, and training for the Cataloging Certificate program. Training sessions also included learning activities and sessions for strategic planning, E-Rate, and summer reading. Thirty-six Basic Skills classes were offered with 348 participants who attended one or more classes.

The Nebraska Library Commission also underwrote membership in *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association, for Nebraska public libraries to ensure access to training materials for library volunteers, foundation, Friends, and Trustee board members. See more information on page 7.

Holli Duggan joined the Nebraska Library Commission as the new Continuing Education Coordinator in February 2016 after Laura Johnson's retirement. For more information, contact Holli Duggan, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, [holli.duggan@nebraska.gov](mailto:holli.duggan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665. 

## Commission Supports Children's Services

Throughout the biennium, the Nebraska Library Commission continued to make support for library services to children a priority. The Commission supported the state-wide Summer Reading Program by providing training and materials. The Library Commission provided state-wide workshops, co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book-talks across the state. The Library Commission supplied manuals and booklists to complement the themes. Additional materials were made available on the Library Commission website. As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium, which consists of all fifty states and the District of Columbia and two territories, the Library Commission contributed funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading>. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. The 2015 theme was "Every Hero Has a Story." The teen theme was "Unmask!" and the adult theme was "Escape the Ordinary." The 2016 theme was "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read." The teen theme was "Get in the Game—Read" and the adult theme was "Exercise Your Mind—Read." Fifteen children/teens received \$529 NEST College Savings Scholarships as part of the Summer Reading Program each year, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading/scholarshipdrawing.aspx>.

The Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems invited children and teens across the state to read and discuss the same book. Book Club Kits help facilitate the activity. The 2016 **One Book for Nebraska Kids** was *Stick Dog* (HarperCollins, 2013) by Tom Watson and *The Girl Who Was Supposed to*

*Die* (Square Fish, 2014) by April Henry is the 2016 **One Book for Nebraska Teens** selection. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK> for information and activities.

Children's Services grants were awarded to public libraries and regional library systems for a total of \$54,584. Funded projects were designed to provide afterschool programming for elementary school age children, provide "Make It" programs, purchase STEM/STEAM-focused materials for activities for young adult programs, provide a book club of ten girls and chaperones to meet monthly, offer storytelling training, purchase microscope kits for check-out to families, and more. The Library Commission awards these grants annually to give Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions. It is expected that this funding will provide a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, [sally.snyder@nebraska.gov](mailto:sally.snyder@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665.

## Library Community Planning Leads to Accreditation

Public library accreditation encourages excellent library service in Nebraska communities. It establishes minimum standards for library service, ensures that libraries adhere to those standards, offers service benchmarks, and provides evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected by Nebraskans. The one hundred and twenty-two libraries accredited this biennium under the Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Guidelines emphasized their efforts with library community planning as a requirement for accreditation. They also reported meeting twelve minimum requirements and accumulated points demonstrating strengths in library service.

The application process has been streamlined by pre-filling some statistics reported by the library through the annual statistical survey and comparisons of the library with "peer libraries" of similar size. Library staff have commented on the ease of use of the application and on their appreciation of the progressive point total display as they work their way through it. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/libaccred> or contact Richard Miller, contact information on page 6.





## Commission Supports Financial Education

In FY15 the Nebraska Library Commission completed a 23-month grant project with funding from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, in partnership with the American Library Association. The *Smart Investing@your library® Builds Nebraska Communities* project, a collaboration with the Three Rivers Library System (formerly Northeast Library System), involved twenty-two libraries and several partners and focused on library staff training, resource development (print and electronic), and library customer educational sessions (face-to-face and online).

Local extension Educators introduced the online curriculum.

Participants then worked through self-paced online courses, addressing basic financial management and investment—segmented for different age cohorts with attention to specific needs depending on life stage. Participants received support and encouragement from library staff at the local level and also had access to online Q&A services staffed by

Extension educators. At the conclusion of the online series, participants reconvened for face-to-face sessions to assess outcomes and maintain momentum for continued learning on financial topics. The results of pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires demonstrated that the majority of

participants increased knowledge and confidence in the subject matter. They also rated the training highly (“educational content” and “overall program” garnering 98.3 and 97.3 percent favorable ratings), with the majority of the respondents judging the training as “excellent.”

The online financial education courses were also made available to all Nebraska resi-

dents as a stand-alone educational opportunity. They continue to be used and individuals can register for the courses at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/financialeducation>.

For more information contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Grants Coordinator, [joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov](mailto:joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665.



Financial Education @ your library®  
Ask @ your library®  
about learning opportunities



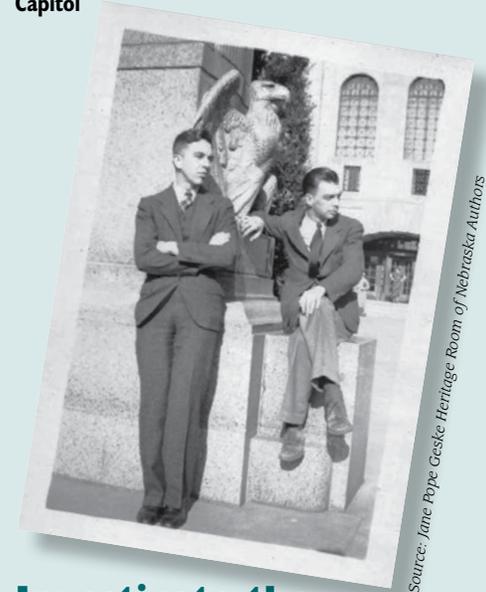
*“I have thoroughly enjoyed all the lessons and learned tons thru the education. I appreciate all the effort it has taken to put this together and hope we can do more classes like this in the future. We are so lucky to have such an excellent librarian in Gordon – she is a wealth of knowledge on so many things. Thanks again!”*

– Participant, Library Customer Training, Gordon

*“The activities were very good. There was a lot of discussion on things people learned, the format of the curriculum, and what people liked or didn’t like. Everyone was pleased to learn that the online curriculum will remain open for further learning. I had a lot of great comments also on the books and DVDs we got for the library with the grant. Thank you for this opportunity to offer this to our community. It will undoubtedly continue to have a positive impact.”*

– Jennifer Norton, Director, Neligh Public Library

Weldon Kees and Norris Getty at the State Capitol



Source: Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors

## Investigate the Past with Nebraska Memories

Throughout the biennium Nebraska Memories offered access to digitized Nebraska-related primary source materials, including glass-plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, documents, and oral histories at <http://memories.nebraska.gov>. The newest collection from Doane University Library includes a wealth of photographs and documents. They provide an interesting depiction of the buildings and people of the college through the years. The scan of the library code of conduct should be amusing for today’s librarians and library customers.

Scans of materials held by Nebraska cultural institutions are accepted, with the items continuing to be held by the institution. Private donations of materials to the Nebraska Library Commission are also scanned and added to Nebraska Memories. Each month Library Commission staff write Blog posts highlighting items and collections and featuring a historical theme. To browse these posts, see the Nebraska Memories category on the *NCompass Blog* at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog>. For more information or to consult on materials for inclusion, contact Devra Dragos, contact information on page 12.

## Library Commission Hosts Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book—supporting the following projects:

### Celebration of Nebraska Books.

Each year this celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska book selection, honored winners of the Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announced the choice for next year's One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the event.

**Jane Geske Award.** The Bookworm in Omaha was presented the 2014 Jane Geske Award and the 2015 recipient was Lincoln City Libraries' One Book-One Lincoln Community Reading Program. The award—a piece of art by a Nebraska artist—was given annually to honor exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and literature in Nebraska. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and long-time active member of many Nebraska library and literary activities.

**Letters about Literature.** Nebraska students were recognized each year by Governor Pete Ricketts for their letters to authors that influenced their lives. In this annual national reading/writing contest, young readers wrote letters to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

**Mildred Bennett Award.** Nebraska Library Commission Director **Rod Wagner** was recognized for significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. He was cited for leadership and service in the promotion of Nebraska literature—following in the footsteps of Mildred



### THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

### National Book Festival.

Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, D.C. to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, D.C. Each year they shared information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors.

**National Idea Exchange.** The Library Commission provided assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book President Sherry Houston and Treasurer Donna Kennedy Marvin to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange in Washington, D.C. The information-sharing activity kept the board apprised of what's happening at the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and at state Centers for the Book around the country.

**NCB News.** Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute four editions of the Center for the Book newsletter (<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html>) with news about Nebraska literature and literacy, book reviews, feature articles, and a calendar of events.

**Nebraska Book Awards.** Nebraska books were honored each year in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These books were written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html>.

**Nebraska Book Festivals.** The twenty-third Nebraska Book Festival was held in 2015 at the University of Nebraska Omaha's Weitz Community Engagement Center and attended by ninety-one writers, readers, and fans of Nebraska stories. It featured writers' workshops and author readings/talks. The student/teacher writing teams of the NeBooks Project presented an iBooks Showcase, featuring iBooks published by Nebraska school teams. Students from Lexington Public Schools shared their experiences with the research, writing, and publishing process. The Bookworm and University of Nebraska Press sold Nebraska-related books. The Festival was sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Friends of the University of Nebraska Press and the NeBooks Project. In 2016 the festival took a hiatus to devote a year to gathering input and planning for the next chapter of Nebraska Book Festivals.

**One Book One Nebraska.** The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of titles for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. The 2015 One Book One Nebraska selection was *Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* by Beverly Deepe Kever. The 2016 selection was *The Meaning of Names*, by Karen Gettert Shoemaker. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html>.

For more information about Center for the Book activities, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov> and <https://www.facebook.com/Nebraska-CenterfortheBook>, or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665. 

## NCompass Live Wednesday Webinars Provide Continuing Education

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT. During this biennium, 102 episodes of *NCompass Live* were broadcast with 2,411 live attendees. Audience members watched from around Nebraska and across the U.S., including Alaska, and from other countries including Canada, England, France, Ireland, Jamaica, and the Philippines.

*NCompass Live* sessions were presented by Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest speakers from public, academic, and school

libraries in Nebraska—as well as from Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, Wisconsin, and Canada.

More than 375 archived sessions are recorded and available for viewing at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/NCArchivist.asp>. For the list of upcoming sessions, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive>. To suggest a topic for *NCompass Live*, contact Christa Burns, contact information on page 5. ➡



## Nebraskans Enjoy Downloadable Reading

The Nebraska OverDrive Libraries consortium increased from 168 to 171 member libraries during the biennium, with 114 of those libraries serving populations of less than 2,000—the smallest serving 134. Library customers downloaded 347,607 audiobooks and 644,590 eBooks. Nebraska eReads funding, approved by the Legislature for the Nebraska Library Commission’s biennium budget, provided Nebraska OverDrive Libraries with an additional \$90,247 to purchase materials. The total Nebraska eReads funding of \$200,000 was distributed among the consortium, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries based on

the size of their legal service areas. OverDrive continued to provide users with new and updated mobile apps and online reader features. And more publishers offered titles for purchase/license.

The Library Commission coordinated and supported the OverDrive service for Nebraska OverDrive Libraries and contributed funds for materials purchased. Any legally-established public library (population under 100,000) was invited to participate. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, contact information on page 9, or Devra Dragos, contact information on page 12. ➡

## Advisory Committee Looks to the Future

The Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service represents the needs of readers by making recommendations concerning policies, programs, and services. The nine-member committee—comprised of talking book users, service providers, and librarians—meets twice each year. During the biennium the Advisory Committee approved updates to the TBBS Loan and Reproduction of Materials policies to reflect the completion of the transition to digital talking books. The policies impact the circulation of books and equipment to borrowers, and the use of resources to make additional copies of books and magazines.

The Advisory Committee also discussed the impact and potential of several kinds of evolving technology that will continue to shape library services to visually impaired populations, such as promotion of the BARD download site and mobile apps that can be used to access BARD. Other topics included outreach strategies, possible uses for a batch of cartridges provided by the National Library Service (NLS), and how to handle “unrated” commercial audiobooks that have become part of the NLS program.

For more information about the Talking Book and Braille Service, contact Scott Scholz, contact information on page 9.

### Committee members during FY2014 and FY2015 included:

- Jim Berryman**, Grand Island
- Kate Borchman Hassebrook**, Lyons
- Patricia Candy**, Kearney
- Shasta Coverdell**, Omaha
- Elizabeth C. Evermann**, Lincoln
- Eloise Hiatt**, Lincoln
- Susan Ledder**, Lincoln
- Linda Marie Mentink**, Columbus
- Dan Nieman**, South Sioux City
- Beth Pakiz**, Omaha
- Kristal Platt**, Omaha
- Shirley Weihing**, Gering
- John Wick**, Omaha ➡

## Commission Funds Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$1,069,762 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's Regional Library Systems during the biennium. These nonprofit organizations, governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region, worked to improve library services through cooperation among all types of libraries and school media centers within each system area. On January 1, 2015, Nebraska's regional library systems were reconfigured from six to four systems, adjusting their bylaws and incorporation documents to modify their system boundaries and revise counties served. They changed their names, and the boards reorganized to assure broad representation. A summary of the changes is outlined below:

- **Central Plains Library System** includes (with some changes) counties served by the former Meridian and Republican Valley library systems. The system's main office is located in Hastings, with a satellite office in Kearney.
- **Southeast Library System** includes counties served by the previous Southeast Library System, plus additional counties. The system office remains in Lincoln.
- **Three Rivers Library System** includes (with some changes) counties served by the former Eastern and Northeast library systems. The system office is located in Omaha.
- **Western Library System** includes all counties served by the former Panhandle Library System, plus additional counties. The system office remains in Scottsbluff.

Each system offers a variety of services including newsletters, library staff meetings, training resources,

workshops, consulting, and planning assistance. With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to area libraries:

**Resource Sharing.** Among items loaned or centrally provided were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, storytelling kits, iPods and MP3 players, eReaders, laminator, binding system, Poetry kits, Spanish kits, DVD players, cutting machines and dies, and scanners.

**Consultation.** System administrators consulted with member libraries on numerous topics including weeding, collection development, local government relations, strategic planning and accreditation, library board training and certification, E-rate discounts, personnel policies and hiring, automation systems/ other library technology, interlibrary loan (ILL), computer security, censorship, and data collection. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, websites, flyers, email, listservs, social networking sites, and meetings of library staff and supporters.

**Continuing Education (CE).** The Systems partnered with the Library Commission to present sessions on Trustee Training and Board Development (including "Planning for Nebraska Public Libraries"), children's services (including summer reading programs), collection management, policies, copyright, eBooks/eReaders, and Makerspaces. They facilitated annual meetings, specialized meetings and training for public library directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and pre-conferences and sessions at the Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska School Librarians Association (NLA/NSLA) conference.

They taught online Basic Skills classes and staffed exhibit booths to educate stakeholders about local library services.

### System Highlights included:

#### Central Plains Library System (CPLS)

- Traveled more than 11,000 miles visiting libraries to offer continuing education and individualized consulting.
- Consulted via telephone, email, and in person on many topics including library board training; hiring a new library director; E-Rate; programming; policies; certification of staff and accreditation of libraries; cataloging; weeding; and collection arrangement.
- Conducted a record-breaking "Week of Weeding" in 2016, with 30 public and school libraries participating, weeding nearly 7,000 items—some of which had not been circulated for 20-40 years.
- Coordinated workshops for school and public librarians about eReaders and OverDrive, Makerspaces, Pioneer Consortium, Strategic Planning/Accreditation, Policies and Procedures, E-Rate Discounts, Displays and Library Organization, Conflict Resolution, Budgeting, NebraskaAccess, Digital Citizenship, Technology, and the Summer Reading Program.
- Participated in cooperative projects including Youth Services Retreats, Tri-City Education Fair at the Hastings Museum, *NCompass Live* book review webinar, NLA Public Library and Trustee Sections (PLTS) Spring Meetings, Day of Education, and NLA preconferences and makerspace displays.
- Cleaned 833 audio, video, and game discs and repaired 58 book bindings to keep items circulating from member libraries' collections.
- Provided access to 156 professional journal (and 211 other) articles through electronic delivery.

(continued on page 19)



## Commission Funds Regional Library Systems *(continued)*

- Circulated 566 audiobooks, professional books, 30 die cutting units, 49 classroom book sets, 6 Spanish language kits, and 2 Wii gaming systems.
- Distributed 10 newsletters and 197 display ideas.
- Maintained a website, a Pinterest account, and a Flickr account for member libraries' information.
- Established a new service loaning complete sets of Golden Sower titles to school and public libraries.
- Ordered 199 puppets through group purchase.

### **Southeast Library System (SELS)**

- Sponsored or cosponsored 35 continuing education sessions for more than 227 hours of CE opportunity on topics such as Strategic Planning, Succession Planning, Formal Writing, Charitable Gaming, Music in Children's Programming, Talking Book and Braille Services, Makerspaces, Building Teen Groups, Working with Home Schoolers, Unattended Persons Policies, EDGE Initiative, Foundations and Friends Groups, Cloud Computing, Grants, NebraskAccess, NLA preconferences, makerspace displays, and more.
- Visited 46 libraries for one-on-one consulting or assistance, for more than 200 hours on topics such as weeding, strategic planning, state statutes, personnel policies, cataloging, library policies, building layouts, new director orientation, copyright, selecting library ILS vendors, writing RFPs, and more.
- Published 24 issues of the newsletter, which included articles and updates from more than 53 libraries of all types.
- Supplied 24 member libraries with nearly 4,751 pages of professional literature in the first two years of the Journal Article Request Service.
- Circulated book kits, professional journals, and professional literature more than 700 times.

### **Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)**

- Sponsored/cosponsored continuing education opportunities including Communities in Poverty, Overdrive and E-readers, Intellectual Freedom, Working with Spanish-speaking Customers, Bully-proofing the Library, Writing Groups, Technology Programming and Makerspaces, NebraskAccess, Strength Training, Strategic Planning/Accreditation, Budgeting, Summer Reading Program (including a webinar with 199 views), Strategic Planning, Curb and Counter Appeal, NLA PLTS Spring Meeting, and NLA preconferences and makerspace displays.
- Collaborated with other systems to provide training including Fall Workshops, Youth Services Retreats, and Preconferences,
- Shared information with area libraries through Facebook page and Pinterest boards.
- Provided training at 6 library board meetings.
- Held 6 directors' meetings.
- Awarded \$1,235 in CE scholarships
- Distributed 10 newsletters.
- Visited and consulted with more than 77 libraries with an emphasis on public libraries working toward accreditation.
- Provided consultation to libraries on topics including strategic planning, accreditation, open meetings law, trustee roles and responsibilities, and collection management.
- Loaned 105 book club kits, 195 professional books, 6 journals (188 articles), and 11 STEAM kits to school and public librarians.
- Created system website through "Nebraska Libraries on the Web" project, with close to 1,000 views within a few months of establishing it.

### **Western Library System (WLS)**

- Provided Job-a-Like sessions and librarian meetings for networking and idea-sharing.

- Published 8 newsletters.
- Awarded \$300 in CE scholarships for area library staff to attend conferences.
- Taught "Intellectual Freedom and Core Values" online Basic Skills class to thirty students.
- Consulted with 120 libraries.
- Traveled 12,000 miles.
- Cleaned 1,002 DVD discs.
- Circulated a rotating DVD-BlueRay collection to 7 libraries, 60 issues of professional journals to 16 libraries, 9 book club kits, as well as Cradle Catchers, and an inventory scanner.
- Communicated with area libraries by maintaining a website using WordPress through Nebraska Libraries on the Web and weekly announcements via the listserv.
- Attended meetings including ARSL, Tacoma, WA; NLA/NSLA, South Sioux City, NE; ALA, San Francisco, CA; Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Meeting, Loveland, CO; Celebration of Nebraska Books, Lincoln, NE; Legislative Advocacy Day and Nebraska Innovation Studio, Lincoln, NE; and Do Space, Omaha, NE.
- Facilitated 12 WLS board meetings and the legal process for the reconfiguration of the library system, along with 2 system annual meetings.
- Enabled author visit by Tim Smith "Buck Wilder" at 16 schools.
- Cosponsored continuing education events including Strategic Planning, Summer Reading Program, PLTS Spring Meetings, Author Tours, Makerspaces, NebraskAccess, Weeding, E-Rate Discounts, and NLA preconferences and makerspace displays.
- Staffed community events and promotional exhibits including Nebraska League of Municipalities annual meeting, North Platte Legacy of the Plains annual meeting, and Alliance Chautauqua. 



# Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium  
1200 N Street, Suite 120  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023  
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**The Nebraska Library Commission had a record number of Book Club circulations in February 2016, with 1,298 items sent to Nebraska libraries.**

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**



## Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics / July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **24,970** items, with book club circulation representing **22,648**
- ☞ The Library Commission served **3,327** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **392** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **10,602** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska Overdrive Libraries Consortium library customers (from **171** participating libraries) downloaded **347,607** audiobooks and **645,124** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **11,126** images and audio files.
- ☞ **6,449** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **172,048**.
- ☞ **1,094** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **47, 098**.
- ☞ **2,411** electronic state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total of state e-docs to **10,443**. These e-docs were accessed **152,174** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **102** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **2,411** attending live and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission hosted and supported websites for **95** public libraries and **4** regional library systems.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **287,381** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to more than **3,548** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **321** magazine issues and **9** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **61,442** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **37,885** audio books and **1,132** audio magazines, **2,654** Braille materials, and **420** music instruction pieces.
- ☞ **1,349** Nebraska library staff and board members attended one or more of **491** continuing education classes sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, with **6,584** total attendances during the biennium. This includes **348** who participated in one or more of the **36** online Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **855** library staff participated in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program, up from **807** in FY 2015.
- ☞ **172** public libraries were accredited, with **122** of them accredited during the biennium.

