

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2016–
June 30, 2018
Biennium in Review
FY2017/FY2018
Vol. 23 No. 1

Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Partnership to Help Close Homework Gap



Nebraska
Library Commission



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Vision.
OFFICE OF THE CIO

▲ In this Issue

From the Director
page 2

Library Commission
Facilitates
Makerspaces
page 7

State of Nebraska
Public Libraries
pages 10-11

Commission Hosts
Center for the Book
page 16

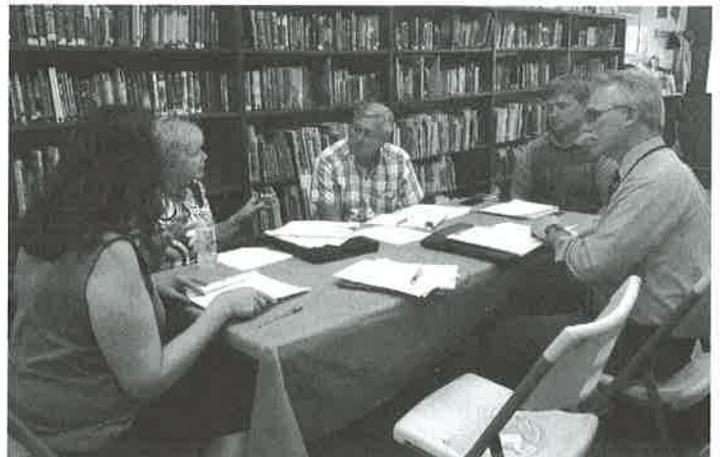
Commission Supports
Regional Systems
pages 18-19

Highlights and
Statistics
page 20

High-speed Internet access is essential to Nebraska schoolchildren and a partnership between schools and libraries in six Nebraska communities will demonstrate an innovative way to ensure that children can complete homework assignments and projects. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the Nebraska Library Commission a National Leadership Sparks Grant of \$25,000 for a partnership project with the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and six local school districts and public libraries.

The **Sparks! Nebraska Schools and Libraries-Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships** grant will support six Nebraska rural school districts and public libraries working together as partners to increase Internet speeds at the public library. They will use fixed wireless technology to provide additional Internet to the library, augmenting the current Internet service. Up to one gigabit (1,000 Mbps) of Internet speed will be provided for a designated Homework Hotspot for school district students and staff. This will help close the homework gap that rural students face when attempting to finish homework and school projects without a reliable Internet source at home. The libraries will use the school districts' network to augment existing Internet service, supplementing it with high-speed Internet access for K-12 students and

staff in these school districts so that students can complete homework assignments, collaborate in groups on research projects, access online instruction, work on special projects, and undertake other digital learning activities. Nebraska communities participating in this one-year project include Bancroft, Bayard, Genoa, Imperial, Verdigre, and Wymore.



"As Nebraska students and teachers embrace digital learning, Nebraska public libraries look for new partnership models with schools to ensure equal access to digital learning resources for all students. Students need broadband services outside of school and during after-school hours. Libraries fill the gap," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [IMLS grant: LG-99-18-0018-18].

Planning for a high speed Internet Homework Hotspot are (l.-r.) Genoa Public Library Director Tammi Thiem; Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission Library Technology Support Specialist; John Weidner, Twin Rivers School District Superintendent; Dan Ellsworth, ESU7 Network & Information Systems Coordinator; and Tom Rolfes, OCIO Education IT Manager.

From the Director... Commission Partnerships Thrive

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to provide this report covering many of the activities, events, and initiatives over the past biennium. Included are the ongoing services the Commission provides toward its statutory mission of statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library services, and new initiatives that contribute to Nebraska residents' quality of life.

Major activities during the past two years included completion of the Five-Year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Program evaluation and development of a new Five-Year LSTA State Plan. The Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program continues to be a vital resource to supplement state funding in support of many Nebraska Library Commission services.

Much time, effort, creativity, and collaboration were devoted to securing a National Leadership Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the *Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities* project. Many months of work contributed to the grant award and to the project's official launch beginning on July 1, 2017. Much has been accomplished this past year. This report highlights the project and the work to take place over the three-year project period. Notable are the contributions and support from project partner organizations – Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems. The seventeen public libraries selected for project participation are key to the project's success. Results from the initial library participants reflect the enthusiasm, effort, and creativity of library staff, volunteer trainers, local project partners, and community members. Thirteen additional libraries will be selected to participate.

The Library Commission's efforts depend on the contributions of many

(continued on page 4)

NCompass is an annual publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 (in Nebraska only). Fax: 402-471-2083. Website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>. ISSN: 1075-9719.

Director: Rod Wagner

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

Graphic Design: Reynold Peterson

Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha, term expires 2021; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha, Chair, term expires 2019; **Charles Peek**, Kearney, term expires 2019; **Arunkumar Pondicherry**, Lincoln, term expires 2021; **Lois Todd Meyer**, Lincoln, term expires 2021; and **Sandy White**, Sidney, term expires 2019.

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, 2016 through June 30, 2018

State of Nebraska Funds	\$7,691,759
Federal Funds	3,052,076
Cash Funds	7,405
Total	\$10,751,240

Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$2,545
Collaborative Summer Reading Program	14,494
Continuing Education & Training	4,095
Electronic Information Resources	912,043
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	142,043
Library Improvement Grants	96,612
Library Innovation Studios	245,170
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	18,925
Nebraska Center for the Book	7,837
OverDrive Downloadable Books	454,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software (BiblioStat)	8,250
Regional Library Systems	1,120,714
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships	30,000
State Aid to Public Libraries	728,099
United for Libraries	64,424
Youth Grants for Excellence	35,529
TOTAL	\$3,884,780

Commissioners Guide Library Commission



Working at the Commission planning session are (l.-r.) Charles Peek, Kearney; Molly Fisher, Lincoln; Jennifer Wrampe, Nebraska Library Commission; Michael LaCroix, Omaha; Debby Whitehill Bloom, Omaha; Susan Warneke, Norfolk; and Sandy White, Sidney.

As representatives of the public appointed by the governor and serving three-year terms, 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 policymaking, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy. Their dedication and involvement is integral to the success of the Nebraska Library Commission.

During the biennium, Nebraska Library Commissioners worked with Commission staff members to craft the *Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan 2018-2022*, submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in June 2017. The plan outlined goals, objectives, projects, and activities designed to improve library services for all Nebraskans. The plan was based on the library and information service needs of Nebraskans as determined

through broad-based communication and information sources, including the Commission's Spring 2017 five year LSTA program evaluation and input from stakeholders. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/aboutus/plandoc.aspx> for a copy of the plan and the *Evaluation of the 2012—2017 Library Services and Technology Act Plan*, evaluation conducted by John F. Dale, Independent Consultant for the Nebraska Library Commission.

Commissioners who served during the biennium were **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha; **Sherry Crow**, Kearney; **Molly Fisher**, Lincoln; **Patricia (Pat) Gross**, Bayard; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha; **Charles Peek**, Kearney; **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk; and **Sandy White**, Sidney. 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. ◆◆

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 <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.

Library Commission Staff Transitions, FY 2017/FY2018

Arrivals

- **Justine Carmer**, Talking Book and Braille Service Library Reader's Advisor
- **Jan Jolliffe**, Western Library System Director
- **Cynthia Nigh**, Nebraska Library Commission Library Innovation Studios Project Assistant
- **Amanda Sweet**, Talking Book and Braille Service Library Reader's Advisor

Departures

- **Justine Carmer**, Library Reader's Advisor
- **Paul Jacobsen**, Library Audio Player Equipment & Duplication Coordinator
- **Jan Jolliffe**, Western Library System Director
- **Craig Lefteroff**, Technology Innovation Librarian
- **Richard Miller**, Library Development Director

Reassignments

- **Christa Porter**, Senior Librarian to Library Development Director
- **Scott Scholz**, Talking Book and Braille Service Acting Director to Director
- **Amanda Sweet**, Library Reader's Advisor to Technology Innovation Librarian



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

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

The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 Fax: 402-471-2083

From the Director...

(continued)

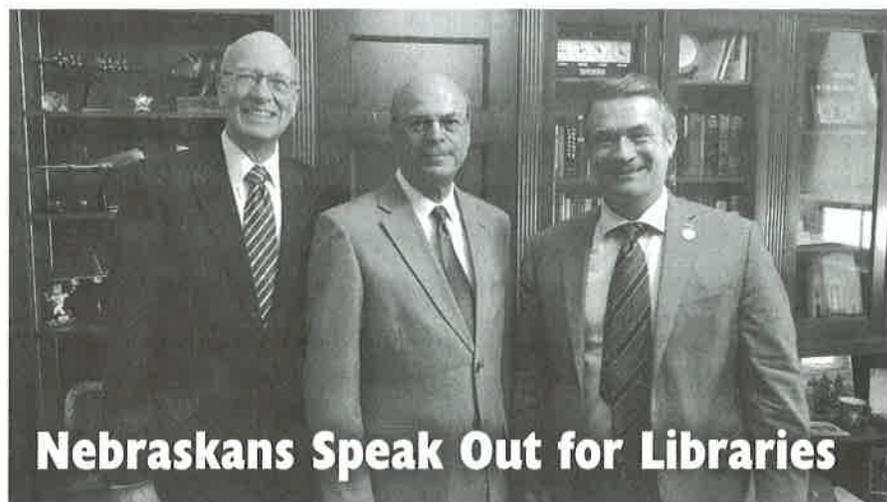
organizations and individuals. Thanks to all who serve on the State Advisory Council on Libraries, Talking Book and Braille Service Advisory Committee, and partner organizations – Regional Library Systems, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska School Librarians Association. Library services in Nebraska are best when these organizations work together for mutual benefit and toward the purpose of serving Nebraskans.

Nebraska libraries—public, school, college/university, and special—make a significant, beneficial, and positive difference in the lives of Nebraska residents. Stories coming from Nebraska libraries are meaningful and inspiring. The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to support the work and efforts of the thousands of library workers, volunteers, and supporters who contribute their time and talent to Nebraska library services.

Rod Wagner ◆◆

Staff Reviews Posted Weekly

Starting with an idea to share the books that Commission staff are reading, staff posted one hundred and four reviews on the Nebraska Library Commission blog during the biennium. They join the global community of readers who post what they are reading every Friday—a book, magazine, blog post, or bus schedule—staff share what they are reading to celebrate and promote reading. Since Nebraska Library Commission staff have varied tastes, the posts during this biennium covered nearly every genre: non-fiction, memoir, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, history, horror, graphic novel, young adult, “chick lit,” historical fiction, biography, self-help, thriller, classic, cookbooks, and more. Check out the #FridayReads reviews on the Commission blog at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/> or on the Commission Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibraryCommission>.



Nebraskans Speak Out for Libraries

Representing Nebraska libraries in 2018 were (l.-r.) Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission and Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission, with Congressman Don Bacon.

Nebraska library representatives participated in the **National Library Day** activities held in May of 2017 and 2018 in Washington, DC. In 2017, Nebraska Library Commission participants included Michael LaCroix (Commission Chair), Debby Whitehill Bloom (Commission Vice-Chair), and Rod Wagner (Commission Director). Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library Director, represented the Nebraska Library Association. The library representatives met with Senators and Representatives from Nebraska’s congressional delegation and provided information about Nebraska libraries and library services. Also discussed were library-related policy issues and legislation including the Library Services and Technology Act and funding, youth

issues (school libraries and early learning), and telecommunications policies including E-Rate (telecommunications services for schools and libraries).

Library Commission Chair Michael LaCroix and Library Commission Director Rod Wagner represented Nebraska in Washington, D.C at the 2018 National Library Day activities. LaCroix and Wagner met with Nebraska’s congressional delegation and provided information about Nebraska libraries and services. Among federal legislative and policy issues discussed were federal funding for the Library Services and Technology Act, reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, and E-Rate funding for schools and libraries.



Representing Nebraska libraries in 2017 are (l.-r.) Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Debby Whitehill Bloom, Nebraska Library Commission; Sen. Deb Fischer; Steve Fosselman, Nebraska Library Association; and Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission.

Council Advises Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission established the State Advisory Council on Libraries to provide 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. In FY2017 the council participated in data gathering and plan development, including a planning session based on a *Libraries Transforming Communities* World Café-style discussion. In addition to planning and evaluation activities, they focused on advocacy for libraries and library service—sharing strategies, data, and stories, and providing input on library legislation, policies, and issues.

The council met six times during the biennium, with each meeting including a report on the Nebraska Library

Commission biennium budget and reports from representatives of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA). Council meetings featured special discussions designed to get input from council members on a variety of topics, including maximizing social media for library communications, collaborative initiatives, utilizing Library Innovation Studios Makerspace Project resources, the relevance to Nebraska and Nebraska libraries of the trends identified through the American Library Association's *Libraries Transform* campaign, and the IMLS Strategic Plan. Council members represented all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consisted of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and customers.

State Advisory Council members during the biennium included:

Drew Brookhart, Columbus Public Library

Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston

Andrew Cano, University of Nebraska Lincoln Love Library, NLA Liaison

Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library

Scott Childers, Southeast Library System, Lincoln

John Dale, Lincoln

Beth Falla, Lied Imperial Public Library

Susan Franklin, Hastings College Perkins Library

Pat Gross, Bayard

Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System, Hastings

Jean Hellwege, Lincoln Public Schools

Sherry Houston, Papillion

Gail Irwin, Ainsworth Public Library

Joann Jackson, Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center, Geneva

Beth Kabes, Educational Service Unit 7, Columbus

Angela Kroeger, University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library, NLA Liaison

Cecelia Lawrence, Chair, North Platte Public Library

Lori Long, Gothenburg Public Schools

Laura Marlane, Omaha Public Library

Dana Morgan, Leyton Public Schools

Lisa Olivigni, Lincoln City Libraries

Julie Pinnell, Nebraska Wesleyan University Cochrane-Woods Library, Lincoln

Charlene Rasmussen, Wayne

Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis

Angie Richeson, University of Nebraska at Kearney, NSLA Liaison

Gayle Roberts, Blair Public Library, NLA Liaison

Sky Seery, Mid-Plains Community College, McCook

Janet Stoeger Wilke, University of Nebraska at Kearney Ryan Library

Noelle Thompson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Kara Welch, Ainsworth Community Schools

Matthew Williams, Kearney Public Library

Abbigail Yellman, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

For more information including Council meeting agendas and minutes, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stadv>.

Free server space hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission

Free tech support

NEBRASKA LIBRARIES ON THE WEB

SEE MORE @ LIBRARIES.NE.GOV

Commission Hosts Websites for Libraries

Nebraska Libraries on the Web, a service provided by the Nebraska Library Commission, provided free websites to more than one hundred Nebraska libraries and all four library systems. Sites are hosted on the Commission servers, and software updates and security are handled by Commission staff. Using WordPress, a website platform that offers a large collection of customizable templates, libraries saved time and money by just plugging their information into the templates. WordPress tools allowed users to send content from their websites automatically to Facebook and Twitter. Free technology support was available from Commission staff, and training was provided via on-demand video, telephone, and Google Docs.

This hosting service is available to legally-established Nebraska public libraries with the expectation that they add content to their sites on a regular basis. For more information see <http://libraries.ne.gov> or contact Amanda Sweet, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, amanda.sweet@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3106, 800-307-2665.

Commission Supports Downloadable Reading

During this biennium the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries consortium included 174 member libraries with 118 of those libraries serving populations of less than 2,000—the smallest serving 136 community residents. Library customers downloaded 513,466 audiobooks and 705,574 eBooks. Nebraska eReads funding, approved by the Legislature for the Nebraska Library Commission's biennium budget, provided Nebraska OverDrive Libraries with an additional \$94,950 in FY17 and \$94,386 in FY18 to purchase materials. The total Nebraska eReads funding of \$210,000 for each fiscal year was divided among the consortium, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries based on the size of legal service areas.

OverDrive continued to provide users with new and updated mobile apps and online reader features for multiple devices, and updated the customer interface. During the biennium additional 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 Nebraska public library (population under 100,000) was invited to participate. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, or Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665. 

Nebraskans Are United for Libraries

Nebraska libraries continued to benefit from the resources and support of *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association. The Library Commission supported membership to *United for Libraries* for all of the state's public libraries to enable them to access expert advice on growing a Friends of the Library group or working with the library Board of Trustees.

This support ensured that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations could take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness.

Nebraska libraries used a special website (<http://www.ala.org/united/Nebraska>) to access resources, webinars, online training, and

publications for Nebraska library trustees, library directors, and library staff at no charge to them, including:

- **eLearning**
 - **Trustee Academy.** Five online courses
 - **Short Takes for Trustees.** Ten 10-minute training videos
 - **Webinars.**
 - **Engaging Today's Volunteers for Libraries and Friends.** Three-part webinar series on volunteer recruitment and retention
 - **Recorded Webinars.** Just-in-time webinar training on topics like *Troubled Library Boards*,

United for Libraries

Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations
A division of the American Library Association



With Friends Like These, and Merging a Friends and Foundation

- **Resource Collection Zones.** Current and archived newsletters, in-depth toolkits, fact sheets, electronic publications, special offers, etc. for Library Boards, Friends, and Foundations
- **Friend Your Library Bookmark and Poster Files** Free downloadable promotional items
- **Citizens-Save-Libraries 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>.

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

License Allows Libraries to Show Movies

Public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries was made possible by the statewide license funded by the Nebraska Library Commission through Movie Licensing USA, at a cost of \$39,113 for the biennium. With this license,

motion pictures were shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/discounts/motionpicture.asp> or contact Susan Knisely, contact information at left. 

Library Commission Facilitates Makerspaces

In Spring 2017 the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced a grant award to the Nebraska Library Commission through the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program. Nebraska's *Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities* project is helping to build library Makerspaces across Nebraska in partnership with the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, Regional Library Systems, and local public libraries.

The Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln received \$530,732 to advance community development in thirty rural communities by developing Library Innovation Studios with tools to enable residents to explore, collaborate, create, learn, and invent.

The initial libraries selected to host the Makerspaces are exploring the critical role of public libraries as catalysts for economic and community development in rural communities. Thirteen additional libraries will be selected in the coming biennium. This project runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

For more information about the project or equipment featured in the rotating Makerspaces, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios> or contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Library Innovation Studios Project Manager, joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [grant #LG-95-17-0046-17].



Rural libraries participating in the first round of Makerspaces:

- Ainsworth Public Library
- Ashland Public Library
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Broken Bow Public Library
- Central City Public Library
- Crete Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Loup City Public Library
- Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Platte Public Library
- Plattsmouth Public Library
- Ravenna Public Library
- Scottsbluff, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Wayne Public Library



Schott Scholz (l.), Nebraska Library Commission, demonstrates the Audio Kit to library staff and volunteers at Makerspace Training.



Sam Shaw and Devra Dragos (standing), Nebraska Library Commission, facilitate training for (l.-r.) Karen Anderson, Loup City; Joy Stevenson, Crete; and Sarah Urwin, Ashland at Makerspace Training.

2017 and 2018 Excellence in Leadership Award Recipients



JoAnn McManus
Nebraska Library Commission
Library Innovation Studios Project Manager



Tan Ngo
Nebraska Library Commission
Accountant



Cynthia Nigh
Nebraska Library Commission
Library Innovation Studios Project Assistant



Rod Wagner
Nebraska Library Commission
Director

State Aid to Libraries Distributed by Commission

The Library Commission supported public libraries during the biennium with total payments of \$718,443 (2017: \$363,569; 2016: \$354,874) 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. Three additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid this biennium.

Direct State Aid. Direct state aid payments were distributed to 169 public libraries in 2018 and 174 in 2017, with 132 of these libraries earning additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of Gold or Silver accreditation status in 2018 (129 in 2017).

Incentive Payments. Additional direct state aid payments, based on the amount of funds received from another public entity, were made to 81 libraries in 2018 and 79 in 2017.

Dollars for Data. The Library Commission awarded payments of \$200 to 56 unaccredited libraries that completed and submitted the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online in 2018, with 47 receiving this in 2017. Providing this 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 Public Libraries

A partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) resulted in eleven grants to ten 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, accepted proposals for matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations of fewer than 3,000. During the biennium, \$79,750 was distributed. **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 a STREAM children's program, Makerspaces, and materials and resources for after-school programming.

The Nebraska Community Foundation and Nebraska Library Commission screened applicants for eligibility and provided guidance for those invited to submit proposals. Each year, the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund advisory committee, made up of Kreutz Bennett's nieces

and nephews, reviewed applications and awarded funding to match every local dollar raised. For more information, contact Christa Porter, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, christa.

porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665.

Grants Awarded

- **Albion Public Library**, \$1,000: Makerspace
- **Benkelman, Dundy County Library**, \$12,000: renovation
- **Genoa Public Library**, \$1,000: STREAM programs and \$5,000: renovation
- **Howells Public Library**, \$6,000: renovation
- **Lied Imperial Public Library**, \$10,000: renovation
- **Lied Pierce Public Library**, \$2,000: children's programming
- **Ravenna Public Library**, \$20,000: new construction
- **Scribner Public Library**, \$1,500: Makerspace
- **Walthill Public Library**, \$15,000: renovation
- **Wilber, Dvoracek Memorial Library**, \$6,250: increased parking ↔



NCompass Live Webinars Remain Popular

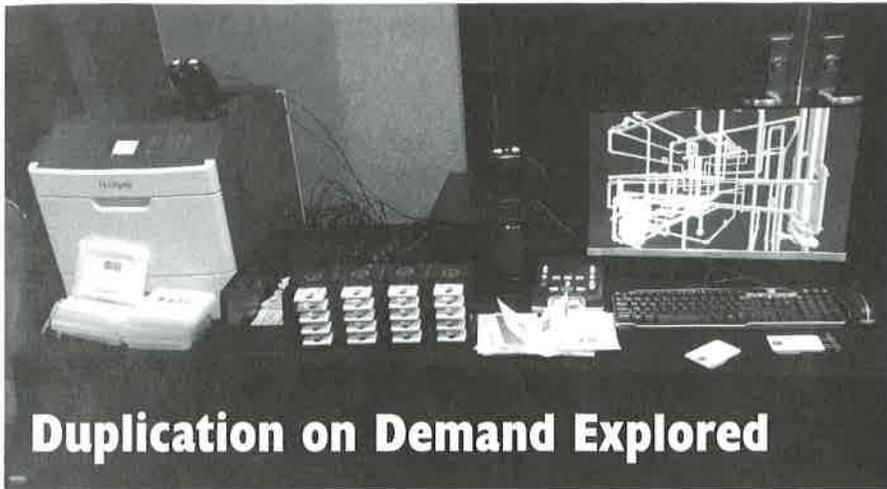
The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT. During this biennium 102 episodes of *NCompass Live* were broadcast with 1,731 live attendees. Audience members watched from across the United States and Canada.

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 California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa,

Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

More than 475 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 Porter, contact information above. ↔

NCompass ▶ live



Duplication on Demand Explored

A system similar to the one shown above may be used for Duplication on Demand in the future.

In the era of talking books on cassette, the National Library Service (NLS) provided multiple physical copies of all talking books to regional libraries like the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS). Circulating books were provided for delivery to library customers, along with a master copy to be used for making additional circulation copies or for repairing damaged copies.

Talking books began transitioning to the Digital Talking Book (DTB) format in 2010, with all new DTB titles sent to regional libraries as digital cartridges. However, a number of older "retrospective" titles were gradually converted to the DTB format, and they were not produced as physical cartridges. In recent years, NLS has also been converting a number of commercial audiobook titles to the DTB format, but not all of those are produced physically, either.

While all digital titles are available to borrowers who use the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) download website or mobile apps, many of our talking book customers don't use computers often—if at all. Access has been limited for them since our circulating collection of DTB cartridges is smaller than the total number of books available. In order to bridge this gap, TBBS began a pilot project creating "Duplication

on Demand" (DOD) cartridges in September 2017. If a reader needs a book that is not physically on our shelves, Readers Advisors have requested duplication of the book. Duplication staff have been producing a physical copy for delivery by mail. Supplementing our permanent collection with DOD cartridges allowed us to distribute books not on our shelves—popular titles with circulating copies all checked out or brand new titles with physical copies yet to arrive from NLS.

As part of this Duplication on Demand project, TBBS provided 385 titles to customers around the state during the biennium. The next step in this project will begin soon, when a new duplication system provided by NLS will arrive. The new system promises to remove a lot of the manual labor from the duplication and mail card generating processes, and will allow us to put multiple books on a single cartridge, as desired by readers. In the future, this system should allow for quick access to all talking books for all customers, regardless of their comfort with or access to computers and mobile devices.

For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs/> or contact Scott Scholz, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, scott.scholz@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6553, 800-307-2665. ➡

Wireless Delivery of Talking Books

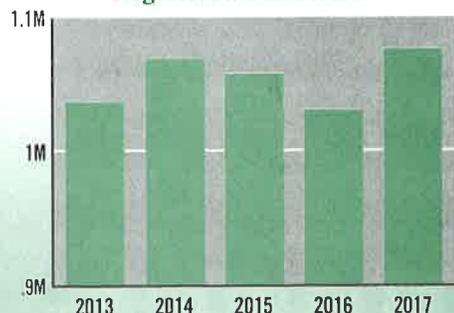
Now that talking books are made of digital files instead of miles of cassette tape, other possibilities for delivery of books to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) customers became possible during the biennium. Some customers used the BARD download website to get books, and others used apps for iOS and Droid devices. But perhaps other methods are possible as well?

The National Library Service (NLS) began experimenting with wireless forms of delivery to bring books directly to a talking book player in a reader's home. In October 2017, TBBS staff had the opportunity to look at a proof-of-concept machine called the MoCa, or Mobile Cartridge, device. Using a customer account set up through the BARD download website, the MoCa device can find a book selected for a customer, download it, and copy it to a blank digital cartridge. The cartridge can be used in any of the Digital Talking Book players provided for free to TBBS customers. In the case of this experimental machine, Internet connectivity was made possible through a cellular network. Future digital talking book players may be designed so that they can download books using cellular networks or Wi-Fi connectivity, as well as playing pre-recorded talking books on cartridge. It's an exciting time for talking books! For more information, contact Scott Scholz, contact information at left. ➡

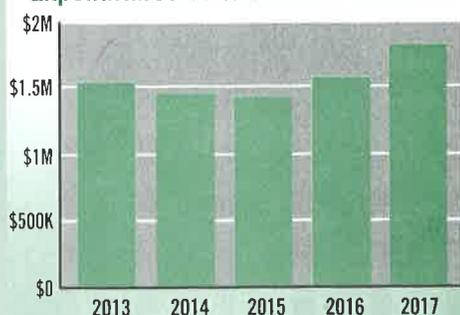


Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

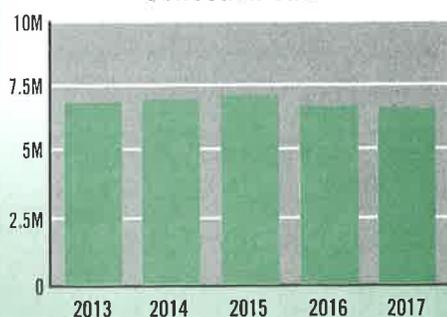
Registered Borrowers



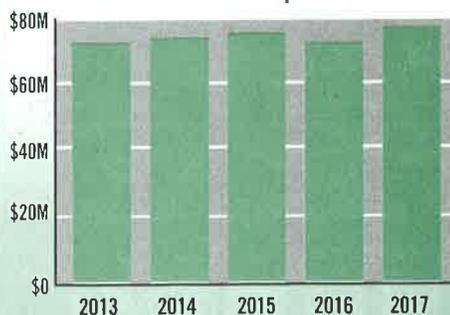
Expenditures on Electronic Materials



Collection Size



Total Collection Expenditures



The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 9,234 public libraries in the United States. In Nebraska there are 272 public libraries plus 8 bookmobiles and 20 branch facilities. Five libraries in the state are combined with public schools and three are combined public/academic libraries. The 2017 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 96% of eligible libraries. The results provide a dependable measure of overall library service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of eBooks and Audiobooks used has continued to increase, with 174 libraries participating in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium during the biennium. 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 2016 and 2017, there was a 13% increase in libraries offering connection speeds in excess of 6 Mbps. While 60 Nebraska libraries met or exceeded the FCC definition of broadband (24 Mbps), there was a 36% increase in libraries meeting this standard in 2017 compared to 2016.

Overall circulation of material decreased slightly between 2016 and 2017 (less than 1%), but uses of non-print resources increased 15%. Greater numbers of library programs (1.97% increase from 2016 to 2017) and increased attendance (5.17% increase) indicate that public libraries continued to actively engage community members in learning events at all age levels. Collections of physical video materials rose by 3.79%, compared with 2016.



Other trends revealed by the results of the 2017 Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 177 Nebraska Public Libraries loaned eBooks – that's 64% of Nebraska public libraries. The population served by these libraries is 1,538,645 or 84% of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 6,924,925 items (this does not include electronic items such as eBooks and Audiobooks that are leased, not owned)
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,875
- Public libraries loaned 12,397,754 items in FY2017
- Public libraries connected to their community through social networks: 186
- Number of registered library users: 1,089,599
- Number of public library visits per year: 7,705,428
- Libraries providing wireless Internet access: 90% of reporting libraries
- Libraries delivered 35,081 programs, attended by 856,183 people
- Libraries with a website: 176 or 72%
- Nebraskans paid only \$37 per capita in 2017 for public library service
- Eleven Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2017 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*.

(continued on page 11)

The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

Selected Library Statistics, FY 2015 through FY 2017

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	1,058,733	1,028,691	1,089,599	2.92%
Total Visits	8,253,674	7,739,334	7,705,428	-6.64%
Items Borrowed	12,746,301	12,520,871	12,397,754	-2.73%
Items Borrowed per Capita	8.15	8.13	7.87	-3.37%
Interent Computers for Public Use	2,828	2,802	2,875	1.66%
Libraries Providing Free Wi-Fi	214	216	220	2.80%
Number of Programs Offered	32,854	34,404	35,081	6.78%
Library Program Attendance	766,288	814,126	856,183	11.73%
Number of Books in Collection	5,666,128	5,613,746	5,547,502	-2.09%
Number of Print Subscriptions	11,415	10,661	10,625	-6.92%
Number of Audio Materials	246,716	237,111	234,102	-5.11%
Number of Video Materials	346,158	352,393	365,746	5.66%
Total Materials held	6,947,489	6,866,710	6,739,329	-3.00%
Annual Hours Open	430,703	438,437	444,803	3.27%
Legal Service Area Population	1,564,374	1,539,445	1,574,606	0.65%
Local Government Revenue	\$53,496,986	\$54,887,603	\$57,521,060	7.52%

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are more than **7.7 million** annual visits to Nebraska Public Libraries (not including virtual and online library visits).ⁱ That's more than **85 sellouts** at Memorial Stadium.ⁱⁱ

Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **93%** offered **FREE** public Internet access
- **90%** offered **FREE** Wi-Fi
- **1,284,710** uses of Electronic Materials (eBooks and Audiobooks) in 2017
- **22,919** Children's Programs offered, with **670,193** attendees. **11,601** of these programs were focused on early (pre-K) literacy, with more than **260,063** attendees
- **3,662** Young Adult Programs offered, with **52,537** attendees
- **8,500** Adult Programs, with **133,453** attendeesⁱⁱⁱ

Nebraska Public Libraries Provide Access to and Assistance Using New Technology

- **185** offered color printing
- **183** offered document scanning
- **11** offered 3D printing
- **20** offered vinyl cutting
- **64** offered tablet computers
- **57** offered access to early learning technologies
- **35** offered access to recreational games
- **11** offered access to robotics
- **23** offered access to smart technologies
- **21** offered access to developmental technologies
- **174** offered general computer training
- **160** offered online database training
- **130** offered social media training
- **152** offered training for online government programs
- **88** hosted community engagement events
- **131** offered assistance with locating health information online
- **133** hosted social events for adults

SOURCES:

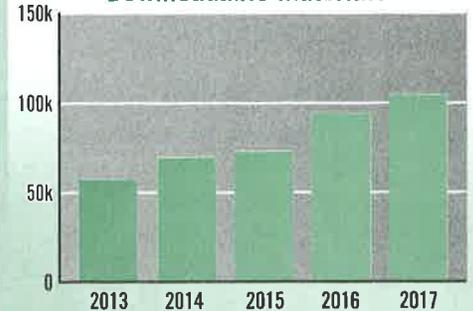
i 2016-2017 Nebraska Public Library Survey (96% reporting)

ii UNL Athletic Media Relations

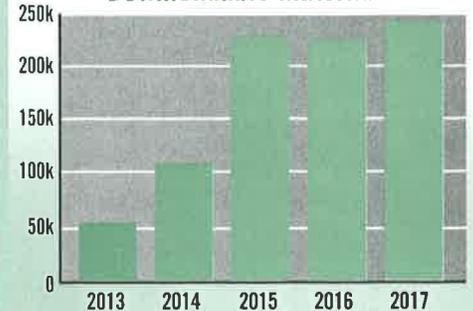
iii 2016-2017 Nebraska Public Library Survey (96% reporting)

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

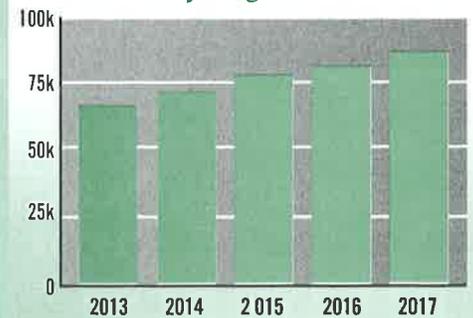
Circulation of Adult Downloadable Materials



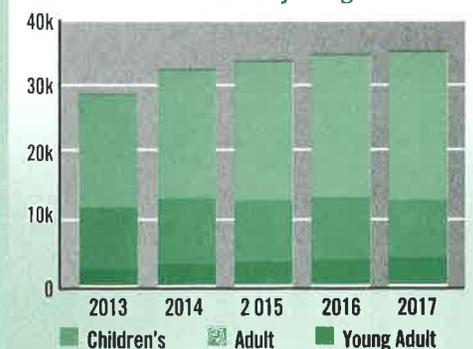
Circulation of Childrens Downloadable Materials



Total Library Program Attendance



Number of Library Programs



PIONEER

Commission Supports Pioneer Consortium

Pioneer, the open-source consortium of Nebraska libraries, continued to expand the cooperative catalog, as well as provide software improvements to facilitate the effectiveness of the catalog and cooperative activities among the members. During the biennium the consortium included twenty-five libraries, including libraries in Alma, Arapahoe, Atkinson, Axtell, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Brunswick, 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. Libraries chose to join as an alternative to replacing current stand-alone catalog systems with another proprietary system at greater cost.

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 using the same software.

The Nebraska Library Commission provided grants of \$23,300 to supplement funding from the members for software development and improvement. Brunswick Public Library received a \$6,706 grant to assist in joining the consortium.

For more information see <https://nepioneer.com> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 8. For membership information contact Steve Fosselman, 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 U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. ♦

NebraskAccess

Nebraskans Find Information through NebraskAccess

NebraskAccess is the Nebraska Library Commission's public resource portal for Nebraskans—leading to information databases, evaluated websites, government publications, and more. Timely information was 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 was made available to thousands of magazines and journals, biographical information, and genealogical information. During this biennium the database lineup in NebraskAccess changed and expanded. Databases with consumer health, legal, and small business information, and other topics for adults and older students

were added. And younger students received 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, 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.

See <http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov> to check out the expanded offerings in NebraskAccess. For more information contact Devra Dragos, contact information on page 6.

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. ♦

Searches Made in Statewide Subscription Databases July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018

Biography Reference Bank & Center	8,388,235
Consumer Health Complete	255,786
FirstSearch/WorldCat Discovery	2,955,115
Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia	3,021,308
GreenFILE	2,923,983
Legal Information Reference Center	2,399,832
MasterFILE Complete	6,377,801
MyHeritage	250,710
NoveList Plus	3,061,857
NoveList Plus K-8	58,395
Point of View Reference Center	2,337,388
Primary Search	3,140,258
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	3,141,532
Science & Technology Collection	2,996,723
Small Business Reference Center	2,133,367
Topic Overviews K-6	62,994
Topic Overviews Public Libraries	230,628

Support for Children's Services a Priority



The Nebraska Library Commission continued to support library services to children and young adults. During both years of the biennium, the Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program with training and materials. The Library Commission provided statewide 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, booklists, and materials on the Library Commission website to complement the themes, 2017: "Build a Better World" and 2018: "Libraries Rock!" As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium (consisting of all fifty states, the District of Columbia and five 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.

In collaboration with the Nebraska State Treasurer and the First National Bank of Omaha, the Commission promoted the *NEST Read to Win \$529! Drawing*. Thirty children/teens received \$529 NEST College Savings Scholarships as part of the Summer Reading Program, 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, providing Book Club Kits to facilitate group reading and activities. The 2017 **One Book for Nebraska Kids** was *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* (Starscape, 2016) by Nebraska author Brandon Sanderson and the 2018 selection was *Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading* by Tommy Greenwald. *The Legend of Bass Reeves* (Laurel Leaf, 2008) by Gary Paulsen was the 2017 **One Book for Nebraska Teens** selection and the 2018 One Books for Nebraska Teens was *Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/OBOK> for information and activities.

\$39,049 was awarded to public libraries in Youth Grants for Excellence. Funded projects provided early literacy programming, robotics technology programming, STEM/STEAM-focused materials for activities for children and families, basic astronomy education for youth, afterschool programming for elementary school children, establishing a Teen/YA Advisory Board, and more. These grants gave Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions, providing 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, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665. ♦

Commission Provides Interlibrary Loan Service

Libraries in Nebraska without adequate staff or funding to provide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service for their customers relied on the Nebraska Library Commission to find and borrow books from other libraries for them. This allowed even the smallest public libraries and school libraries in our state to meet the needs of their customers, supplying materials for everything from serious research, to keeping up on their favorite fiction series. In times of diminishing acquisition budgets, ILL helped libraries that did not have the funds to buy every book their customers wanted. Public libraries used ILL services to supplement book club selections with additional copies, including large print and audio versions.

School libraries used ILL to obtain books in languages other than English to help teach students whose first language is not English. School libraries also used ILL services to obtain multiple copies of books for classes, as well as books for individual research papers. Home-school families used ILL through their public libraries to give their children as many educational options as possible. The Library Commission also provided ILL for Nebraska state government agencies, which allowed them more flexibility with their journal subscription decisions, while still ensuring access to up-to-the minute, mission-critical information. State agencies used ILL services to keep up on the latest general research and recent discoveries in their field, and to do their own research for a variety of proposals, projects, and problem solving. Advances in electronic article-sharing (Article Exchange) helped libraries and agencies receive articles more quickly and streamlined permissions and licensing concerns.

For more information on ILL services, contact Lynda Clause, Nebraska Library Commission Interlibrary Loan Staff Assistant, lynda.clause@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4018, 800-307-2665. ♦

"This is exactly what I'm looking for. I think you set a record for retrieval and reply, six minutes! Thank you so much."

— Tom Schmitz

Lincoln Regional Center Campus

E-rate Discounts Support Technology Access

Nebraska schools and libraries received \$20.4 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during E-rate Funding Years 2016 and 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018) through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. Nebraska libraries were awarded \$475,160 in discounts. Discounts ranged from 10 to 90 percent, with 93 of the state's public libraries participating, in addition to the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. Eighty-one libraries were awarded Voice Services discounts, 74 were awarded Internet Services discounts, and 7 libraries were awarded discounts on Internal Connections (services providing high-speed connectivity throughout the library building). Seventy-one of the participating libraries had 60 to 80 percent discounts applied to their 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 Porter, contact information on page 8. For more information about the E-rate program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl>.



Learning about broadband and library service are (l.-r.) Tom Rolfes, Nebraska Information Technology Commission; Janet Roberts, Wymore Public Library Director; Susannah Spellman, Internet2; and Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission.

Nebraska Libraries First to Participate in Broadband Toolkit Pilot

Five Nebraska public libraries had an opportunity to participate in site visits for a pilot program funded by a *Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program* grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to Internet2®, a member-owned advanced technology consortium founded by the nation's leading higher education institutions. This pilot program provided rural public libraries a comprehensive broadband toolkit to help library staff assess and evaluate their library's broadband connection and internal Wi-Fi network and how it meets the needs of the community.

Public library directors and staff in Atkinson, Gering, Valley, Walthill, and Wymore each spent a half-day examining each library's broadband profile. The libraries appreciated having an opportunity to learn about the

status of broadband in their libraries and identified improvements that could be made immediately (and in the long term) to better serve their community. "The information in the toolkit that we received will help us learn and prepare to become a bigger and better community *hot spot*. We were presented with resources, hands-on demos, suggestions, and best of all—a timeline to accomplish what will help us improve and be a better asset to our community," said Janet Roberts, Wymore Public Library Director. For more information about the Broadband Toolkit and planning for internal connections, contact Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission Library Technology Support Specialist, holly.woldt@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4871, 800-307-2665.



Continuing Education Programs Provided

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. The Commission sponsored or underwrote 416 events, which were attended by 863 Nebraska library staff and board members during the biennium. These training activities included the annual "Big Talk from Small Libraries" online conference, Basic Skills courses, *NCompass*

Live webinars, and training for the Cataloging Certificate program. Training also included learning activities and sessions for community planning, E-Rate, and summer reading. Thirty-five online Basic Skills classes were offered with 270 participants, who attended one or more classes.

For more information about continuing education, contact Holli Duggan, Nebraska Library Commission, Continuing Education Coordinator, holli.duggan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665.



Commission Awards Internship Grants

Nebraskans once again benefited from the energy and creativity of Nebraska young people as they served as interns in their local public libraries. The Nebraska Library Commission awarded **Nebraska Library Internship Grants** totaling \$28,000 to twenty-one Nebraska public libraries. These grants supported public library interns, who contributed to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries. Student interns learned about library work as they shadowed staff, assisted with day-to-day library operations, and implemented special projects. Students participated in a variety of activities including:

- plan and implement programs such as summer reading programs for all ages, storytime sessions, book discussions, and teen/tween activities;
- assist with events such as annual book sales, NE150 celebrations, and contests;
- organize Makerspaces, Maker Clubs, and other STEAM learning activities;
- create book displays, bulletin boards, and craft activities;
- assist with outreach events;
- update the library's website and social media sites (Facebook, Pinterest, blogs, etc.);
- assist with circulation activities, book selection, and collection management;
- teach technology classes and assist library customers with electronic devices and research;
- create flyers, newsletters, newspaper

articles, and other promotional materials; and

- assist with verbal and written Spanish/English communication.

The following Nebraska public libraries were awarded internship grant funding:

Alma, Hoesch Memorial Public Library
 Ainsworth Public Library
 Atkinson Public Library
 Bridgeport Public Library
 Broken Bow Public Library
 Central City Public Library
 Columbus Public Library
 Cozad, Wilson Public Library
 Crawford Public Library
 Geneva Public Library
 Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
 Kimball Public Library
 La Vista Public Library
 Lincoln City Libraries (4 branches)
 Neligh Public Library
 Norfolk Public Library
 Omaha Public Library (4 branches)
 Orleans, Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library
 Plainview Public Library
 Schuyler Public Library
 Stromsburg Public Library
 Verdigre Public Library
 Wayne Public Library

Internship funding is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. ♦♦



Men wearing ladies' hats

Source: History Nebraska
<http://memories.nebraska.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/nshs/id/161/rec/11>



Henry Fonda and Dorothy McGuire in "The Country Girl"

Source: Omaha Community Playhouse
<http://memories.nebraska.gov/cdm/ref/collection/ocpi/id/17/rec/18>
 (Dorothy McGuire was born in 1918)

Nebraska Memories

Nebraska Memories offered access at <http://memories.nebraska.gov> to digitized Nebraska-related primary source materials, including glass-plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, documents, and oral histories. New items added this biennium included donated postcards of Nebraska buildings and landscapes.

Nebraska Library Commission staff wrote blog postings to highlight items, themes, and unique collections. To read some of these posts, see the Nebraska Memories category on the NCompass Blog at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog>

Library Commission staff continue to work with Nebraska cultural institutions to scan and describe their collections. Private donations of materials are also scanned and added to this online database. For more information or to consult on materials for inclusion, contact Devra Dragos, contact information on page 6. ♦♦



Broken Bow Public Library Intern (center) teaching a group of residents—soon to be certified to use the Library Innovation Studio Makerspace.

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 fall during the biennium, the Celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska book selection; honored winners of the Jane Geske, Mildred Bennett, 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 events.

Jane Geske Award. The Center for the Book selected **City Impact (Lincoln)**, **Literacy Center for the Midlands (Omaha)**, and **Platte Valley Literacy Association (Columbus)** in 2016 and **American Life in Poetry and Ted Kooser** in 2017 to be honored for their effectiveness and dedication to literacy 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. In 2016 the Presidential Award for Literacy was presented to the Hastings Literacy Program.

Mildred Bennett Award. The 2016 award was presented to Nebraska poets **Twyla Hansen** and **Marjorie Saiser** and the 2017 award was presented to Lone Tree Literary Society volunteer **Nancy Johnson**. They were honored for their contributions to Nebraska writing and for their service in support of Nebraska's writers and readers—following in the footsteps of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of

the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

Letters about Literature.

Nebraska students were recognized by Governor Pete Ricketts for their letters to authors that influenced their lives. In this 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>.

With funding provided to the Nebraska Center for the Book by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and support from the Nebraska Library Commission, grants for Letter-Writing Clinics were awarded to introduce students to the Letters About Literature contest and letter writing techniques. For a complete list of librarians and teachers awarded \$300 grants, see http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL_Grant/2018/index.aspx.

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Nebraska Center for the Book President Christine Walsh, Past-president Sherry Houston, and volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC, to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC. 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 Christine Walsh to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange in Washington, DC. The information-sharing activity kept the board apprised of activities 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 six 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 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 Festival.

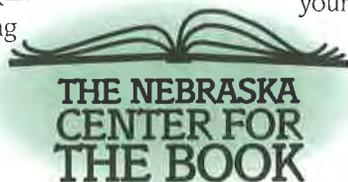
The Nebraska Book Festival took a hiatus in 2016 and returned to Lincoln in Summer 2017 with author presentations, vendors, Writing and Publishing Workshops, and family programming including a puppet theatre.

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 2017 One Book One Nebraska selection was

Black Elk Speaks by John G. Neihardt and the 2018 selection was *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell. 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/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>, or contact centerforthebook@nlc.state.ne.us. ☛



"The best thing about our discussion was the reading out loud of some of the different poems. I really do think that poetry is meant to be read out loud. You just can't get the same sense of it reading it to yourself...."

Roberta Boyd, Library Assistant,
Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Community Planning Is Fundamental to Accreditation

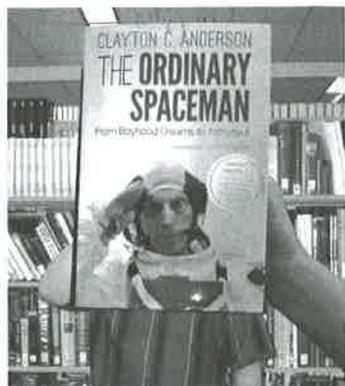
Ninety-four Nebraska public libraries were accredited (or reaccredited) this biennium under the Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Guidelines, bringing the total to one hundred and seventy-four accredited public libraries. The libraries emphasized their efforts in library community planning in their application. Public library accreditation encouraged excellent library service in Nebraska communities by establishing minimum standards for library service.

The process ensured that libraries adhere to those standards, offered service benchmarks, and provided evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed. Libraries reported meeting twelve minimum requirements and accumulated points demonstrating strengths in service.

For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/libaccred> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 8. ◆

#BookfaceFriday: Using Social Media to Promote Collections

Since March 2017, the Nebraska Library Commission has been posting a weekly Bookface Friday photo on Facebook, using Library Commission staff and guests as models. This started as a way to draw attention to books on the Nebraska 150 list, and has gone on to highlight titles in our Book Club Kit and University Press collections. "Bookface" is the art of lining up a book cover with the model's face or other body parts to create a



seamless blending of the two. Each week our Bookface photos capture a wider audience as they are "liked" and shared online beyond our own page. Often asked how these photos are constructed, we posted a "behind the scenes" demonstration on the *NCompass* Blog: <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/2018/04/27/behind-scenes-bookfacefriday/>. Check out our blog <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/tag/bookfacefriday/> every Friday to see the latest shot. ◆

Advisory Committee Discusses Outreach Ideas

The Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service represented the needs of readers by making recommendations concerning policies, programs, and services. The committee—comprised of talking book users, service providers, and librarians—met twice each year. For more information, contact Scott Scholz, contact information on page 9.

TBBS Advisory Committee Members During the Biennium:

- Patricia Candy**, Kearney
 - Shasta Coverdell**, Omaha
 - Kalvin Follett**, Lincoln
 - Eloise Hiatt**, Lincoln
 - Dan Nieman**, South Sioux City
 - Susan Pope**, Nebraska City
 - Doug Wampler**, Omaha
 - Shirley Weihing**, Gering
- ◆

Library Commission Book Club Kits Remain Popular

The Library Commission's book club collection has grown immeasurably since its small beginning in 2006. We currently own more than 1,600 unique titles and circulate over 1,000 copies per month to public libraries, schools, and state government agencies. To promote our activity and our collection, Commission staff participated in two radio programs: *That's All She Wrote* hosted by Cinnamon Dokken on KZUM in September 2016 and *All About Books* hosted by Pat Leach on KUCV, Nebraska's Public Radio station, in December 2017.

The libraries that borrow our book club kits often reciprocated by gifting us with multiple copies of titles from their own collections. This good will is a product of several years of generous libraries and librarians who are grateful for the service we provide. Lincoln, Omaha, and many other Nebraska libraries continued their annual One Book One Community programs, and this sets a good example in our state of promoting community reading for the intention of discussion and programs themed on a selected title. The One Book One Nebraska program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book also remained popular, with several Nebraska libraries reserving and discussing copies of these recently featured titles: *The Meaning of Names* by Karen Gettert Shoemaker, *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt, and *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell.

Book groups have a long and storied history, and the Nebraska Library Commission is delighted to participate in this tradition by making it easier to obtain multiple copies of books for those who want a communal reading experience. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/> or contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4015, 800-307-2665. ◆

Library Commission Supports Regional Library System

The Library Commission provided \$1,120,714 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's Regional Library Systems during this 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. Each system offered 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. A wide variety of reading and learning formats were loaned or centrally provided.

Consultation. System directors consulted with member libraries in person, in print, and digitally.

Continuing Education (CE). The Systems coordinated training for Nebraska library staff and volunteers.

System Highlights included:

Central Plains Library System (CPLS)

- 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 month-long, system-wide weeding projects, with 37 libraries participating.
- Coordinated workshops for school and public librarians about Makerspaces, Pioneer Consortium, Community Needs Response Planning/Accreditation, Policies, E-Rate Discounts, Displays and Library Organization, Brain Development in Children and Teens, Summer Reading Program, Management vs. Leadership, Coping with Organizational Change, Dealing with Difficult People, Coding,

Google Forms, Breakout EDU, Escape Room Preparation, Computer Security, and the Edge Initiative.

- Participated in cooperative projects including Youth Services Retreats and NLA Section Meetings.
 - Cleaned 899 audio, video, and game discs and repaired 82 book bindings to keep items circulating from member libraries' collections.
 - Managed 200-volume professional collection and provided 240 journal articles through electronic delivery, in addition to routing 256 periodicals.
 - Circulated 1,651 audiobooks, 45 book sets, 2 Spanish language kits, 13 Breakout EDU kits, and 9 Golden Sower Award kits, with die-cutting equipment used 77 times and 6,400 large print items loaned to 16 libraries through a Bulk Lending program.
 - Loaned Makerspace equipment.
 - Distributed 13 newsletters, 20 Strawbees Sample Kits, and 266 display ideas.
 - Maintained a website, a Pinterest account, and a Library Thing account for member libraries' information.
 - Awarded \$3,592 in CE scholarships
- #### Southeast Library System (SELS)
- Sponsored or cosponsored 41 continuing education sessions for a total of 3,807 CE hours earned by 749 attendees on topics such as Children's Programming, Makerspaces, Teen Groups, Home Schoolers, Policies, EDGE Initiative, ADA compliance, Youth Services, School Librarians in the Digital Age, succession planning, state law for public libraries, giving and receiving feedback, collection development, Accreditation, social media, determining "fake news" and bias in media, fair use and copyright, and more.
 - Conducted 54 on-site training or consulting appointments with member libraries, providing orientation to new

library directors on resources available to them through the system and the Commission, weeding assistance, training for boards on topics such as library governance, assistance to foundations or friends groups, help with certification and accreditation, and policy assistance.

- Published 24 issues of the newsletter, with articles and updates from more than 31 libraries of all types.
- Supplied 24 member libraries with more than 6,191 pages of professional literature on librarianship, municipal activities, and non-profit planning.
- Provided 94 book kits to public, school, and institutional libraries, averaging more than 6 kits each week.

Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)

- The System Peer Coordinators service model was implemented and continued to develop through the work of Peer Coordinators: Tammi Thiem, Genoa Public Library Director; Rosa Schmidt, Oakland Public Library Director; and Bailey Halbur, Baright Public Library (Ralston) Assistant Director.
- Sponsored/cosponsored continuing education opportunities for library directors and staff including Strength Training, Strategic Planning/Accreditation, Summer Reading Program (workshops with 34 attendees and a webinar with 291 views), NLA PLTS Spring Meetings, Security, Fall Workshop (40 attendees), Youth Services Retreat (100+ attendees), and Leadership (25 attendees).
- Expanded communication with libraries using Facebook, Pinterest, and other electronic media, as well as through the system website developed through "Nebraska Libraries on the Web."
- Provided Continuing Education and consultation for local library boards.
- Awarded \$4,737 in CE scholarships.
- Distributed 12 regional newsletters with articles and idea sharing by library directors and staff.
- Traveled more than 30,000 miles to deliver consulting services and continuing education opportunities to TRLS libraries and staff.

(continued on page 19)



Commission Supports Regional Library Systems *(continued)*

- Provided consultation on wide-ranging topics from public health issues to strategic planning for foundations and friends organizations, Accreditation, state statutes, certification, and collection management.
- Offered a wide variety of book kits to local libraries for programming and professional books and magazines for library staff.
- Provided more than \$10,000 for library staff to attend national and regional Continuing Education learning opportunities.

Western Library System (WLS)

- Provided Job-a-Like sessions and librarian meetings for networking and idea-sharing.
- Published 12 newsletters with library articles and photos.
- Awarded \$450 in CE scholarships for area library staff to attend conferences.
- Consulted with 146 libraries.
- Traveled more than 22,000 miles.
- Cleaned 1,148 DVD discs.
- Circulated 78 issues of professional journals to 36 libraries and 15 book club kits.
- Helped prepare Cradle Catchers packets for local hospital.
- Repaired 30 books with new Cover One book repair system.
- Communicated with area libraries by maintaining a website using WordPress through "Nebraska Libraries on the Web" and weekly announcements via listserv and email.
- Attended meetings including ARSL, Tacoma, WA; NLA/NSLA, Omaha and Kearney; Youth Services Retreats; ALA Midwinter Conference, Denver; NLA PLTS Spring Meetings; and Celebration of Nebraska Books, Lincoln.
- Facilitated 11 WLS board meetings.
- Cosponsored continuing education events including training on Strategic Planning, Summer Reading Program, Spring Meetings, Pioneer Consortium, Author Tours, NebraskaAccess, Weeding, NSLA School Librarians Day, E-Rate Discounts, WLS Escape Room, Overdrive Workshop, Community Needs Response Plan, and NLC Library Innovation Studio.
- Awarded \$12,422 in mini-grants to 28 member libraries and 2 CE Scholarships for MPLA Conference. 

Commission Makes Government Information Accessible

The Nebraska Library Commission government information and reference teams continued to provide a variety of government information services throughout the biennium. Those services were provided in many different forms, such as answering reference questions, research projects, collection development, promotion, and inter/intra-agency cooperation. For example, reference questions included requests for state statutes for elder abuse and exploitation, statutes and contact information about various landlord/tenant issues, and help finding the correct state agency for various questions. Research projects this biennium included locating an Omaha map of all fiber optic lines, finding Census information for the Chinese population in Nebraska in 1940, and determining when jurisdiction for a state agency switched from one legislative standing committee to another.

Collection development was a continuous process and a major part of providing government information services. The Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse, established by the Legislature in 1972 to collect all Nebraska state agency publications released to the public, includes more than 176,000 items in paper and nearly 13,000 items online—with over 1,200 items added each year. The Federal Documents collection includes more than 47,000 paper items, with almost 600 titles accessible online. As these collections grew, we worked closely with state and federal agencies to fill in gaps and provide documents needed for research. For example, we received items from the Nebraska Department of Education that we

didn't have in our Clearinghouse collection, provided a 1982 Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station article to North Dakota State University, and used our documents network to locate an Environmental Protection Agency document for an Interlibrary Loan customer. Staff took every opportunity to "scan on demand" any public document that was not available online and added it to our online collection. We also continued retrospective scanning of older state documents (with almost 300 items to date), and made those available online.

Promotion of government information is also an important part of what we do, mainly through blog posts and web pages. Blog entries about state and federal agencies and documents, free information resources webinars, information services for libraries and their customers, and special events (like the 2017 Solar Eclipse) are just a few examples of how we kept the public informed. Web pages with updated resources for topics such as Legal Self-Help and the Subject Guide to Nebraska State Government also aided the public in finding up-to-date information.

Government Information reference services are available at nlc.ask@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/govdocs/resources.aspx> or contact Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Librarian, mary.sauers@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665 or Bonnie Henzel, Nebraska Library Commission State Documents Staff Assistant, bonnie.henzel@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6285, 800-307-2665. 



Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
34-00-00

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE OF
NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Library Commission had a record number of Book Club circulations in August 2017, with 1,433 items sent to Nebraska libraries.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **28,078** items, with book club circulation representing **25,831**.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **2,235** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **321** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **8,530** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska Overdrive Libraries Consortium library customers (from **174** participating libraries) downloaded **513,466** audiobooks and **705,574** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **11,387** images and audio files.
- ☞ **4,117** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **176,165**.
- ☞ **1,106** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **48,204**.
- ☞ **2,499** electronic state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total of state e-docs to **12,942**. These e-docs were accessed **249,643** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **102** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **1,731** attending live and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission hosted and supported websites for **101** public libraries and **4** Regional Library Systems.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **237,359** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to more than **3,553** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **343** magazine issues and **23** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **48,325** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **46,862** audio books and **2,097** audio magazines, **2,495** Braille materials, and **251** music instruction pieces.
- ☞ Nebraska library staff and board members attended one or more of **867** continuing education classes sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, with **7,189** total attendances during the biennium. This includes **271** who participated in one or more of the **35** online Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **934** library staff participated in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program, up from **884** in FY 2017.
- ☞ **174** public libraries are currently accredited, with **94** of them accredited or reaccredited during this two-year period.

