

Introduction

Libraries are community treasure chests, loaded with a wealth of information available to everyone equally, and the key to that treasure chest is the library card. I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.

First Lady Laura Bush

Nebraska's libraries and information centers are vital links to local, regional, state and global information resources, and as such, are valuable community and state assets. The purpose of the Nebraska Library Commission's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan 2003-2007 (hereinafter referred to as the LSTA Plan) is to identify goals and activities designed to improve access to library and information services for all Nebraskans. These goals and activities are based on the library and information service needs of Nebraskans, as identified through the Making a Difference @ your library™¹ needs assessment project.

Specifically, this LSTA Plan sets forth the mission, needs, goals, activities, intended outcomes, timeline, and planning and implementation procedures for administering Nebraska's LSTA program from 2003 to 2007. It defines stakeholders and their roles, and the communication and monitoring procedures that will assure the involvement of the library community and library users in the implementation of the LSTA program in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) supports programs and services to libraries and the public with a combination of state general funds and federal LSTA funds. LSTA funds comprised approximately 25% of the NLC's total funding for the fiscal period 1998-2002. State general funds and LSTA funds are intermingled in agency operations and library aid programs and services.

Nebraska Library Commission staff worked closely with members of the State Advisory Council, Commissioners, Regional Library System Administrators, and other statewide representatives, to prioritize the identified issues and needs and to develop appropriate goals for the LSTA Plan. The LSTA Plan also reflects planning undertaken in preparation of the Nebraska Library Commission's 2003-05 biennium budget request to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in September 2002.

The LSTA Plan will be available electronically through the Nebraska Library Commission Web site (www.nlc.state.ne.us) and in print, upon request. Strategic action plans will be developed as part of the implementation of the LSTA Plan and achievements and outcomes will be communicated through a variety of information products and resources, including NLC's Web site.

¹ www.nlc.state.ne.us/mission/makingadifference.html