



Your guide
to the
Nebraska
Library
Commission

Spring 1996

Vol. 3 No. 1

N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

NEBASE FirstSearch Trial Applauded

In November, 155 Nebraska librarians signed up to participate in the FirstSearch trial during February, March and April 1996.

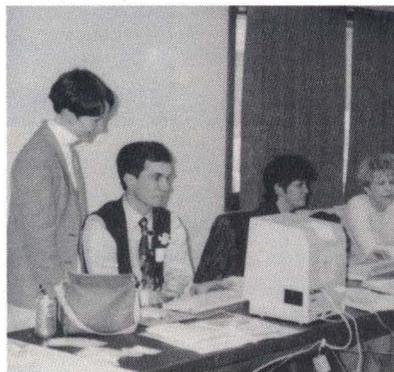
Orientation and hands-on training took place from September through March, with more than 306 attending. Jo Budler, Library Commission Network Services Director, announced, "Other states have had FirstSearch trials, but none have been as enthusiastically embraced as ours! The mobile network of computers once again proved that it is worth its weight in gold, putting more than 4,000 miles on its frequent mileage card (and all of that in the trunk of a state-owned vehicle! No glamour for this mobile network!)"

During the month of February, participating librarians had unlimited access to WorldCat, OCLC's Online Union Catalog. Comments included:

"We're high on it here; hope the others are having as good a time with it elsewhere."

"We are offering FirstSearch to the public and have had good media coverage to let them know about it. Everyone who has tried FirstSearch has liked it and say it's easy to use."

"UN-K (University of Nebraska



▲ FirstSearch orientation participants in Hastings enjoying themselves.

at Kearney) is giving users access to FirstSearch and it is being received very well."

"...only a few have been using it. Naturally we like it and my biggest fear is that by the end of the trial I'll be strung up post-haste should I even think of removing access."

And finally: "Looking forward to March 1 when we can access ALL databases." ▲

NEBASE Advisory Council Initiated

In December, the NEBASE Advisory Council was established to serve as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE, Nebraska's OCLC Network, and its members. The Council is comprised of seven delegates, elected for three year terms by the member libraries.

In addition the NEBASE member who currently serves on the OCLC Users Council is an ex-officio member of the Council.

Full member representatives:

Academic library: Ella Jane Bailey, University of Nebraska-Omaha; Brian Striman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Schmid Law Library; Lauralee Grabe, Creighton Univ. Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library; **Public Library:** Dan Owens, Bellevue Public Library; Jeanne Saathoff, Kearney Public Library and Info. Center; **Special/School Library:** Devra Dragos, Beatrice State Developmental Center; **NEON/ Selective Users:** Boni Hathaway, Auburn Memorial Library; **Ex-Officio:** Tom Boyle, Midland Lutheran College, Luther Library.

The Advisory Council will meet on April 25, 1:30 P.M. (CST) at the Library Commission. Agenda items include election of a chair for a two-year term and discussion of the agenda for the NEBASE Annual Meeting. To share ideas and suggestions, contact the Advisory Council delegates, any of the NEBASE team members listed on the Library Commission Home Page, <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>> (under "Our Staff" click on "Network Services"), or Jo Budler, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jbudler@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

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From the Director...

Nebraskans can't Afford Library Funding Cuts

Property tax and government spending reduction initiatives proposed through citizen petitions and legislative action have been around for years. This year, however, it is highly likely that significant statutory or constitutional limitations will be enacted to place restrictions on taxation and spending.

A Lincoln Journal editorial, "Libraries: Scrimp now, pay later" published last August amply describes the dilemma for Nebraska libraries. The editorial notes that "Libraries are under intense scrutiny just about everywhere as the public sector tries to make ends meet."

A Lincoln Journal editorial, "Libraries: Scrimp now, pay later" published last August amply describes the dilemma for Nebraska libraries.

The editorial goes on to say that "Cutting library services should not be treated as a matter of inevitability. Substantially weakening a library resource in any community, large or small, is a mistake."

With the focus on local property tax reductions Nebraska public libraries are even more vulnerable than libraries in other states where similar tax initiatives have been pursued. Over 90% of Nebraska public library income comes from

local tax sources. For libraries in larger communities that percentage is even higher. Public libraries in only seven other states receive a higher proportion of their operating income from local sources. State aid for public libraries in Nebraska is meager at best. State aid funding for public libraries is lower in only nine other states. Nationally, public libraries receive 78% of their funding from local sources, 12.5% from state sources, and less than 10% from federal and other sources (National Center for Education Statistics. *Public Libraries in the United States: 1993*. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research Improvement).

The Lincoln Journal editorial concluded with the following comments,

"Spenders of public dollars have a tough job right now in Nebraska. But libraries are the wrong place to look to balance the budget. In a community and on a campus, the presence of a good library says a lot about the importance attached to learning."

The absence of a good library says something, too. ▲

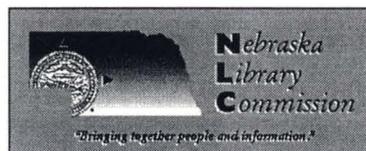
Rod Wagner

Home Page Remodeling Underway

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska State

Government Home Pages are nearly one year old. We are reorganizing the arrangement of information on these sites and contacting users for input in this remodeling process. Your input is an important part of our evaluation. We are looking for answers to questions like: What resources do you look for

on our Home Pages? What other resources would you like to find? How can we make electronic library resources more useful to you? Share your suggestions by sending comments to Janet Greser at 402-471-2010 or 800-307-2665 or e-mail <jgreser@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Library Commission Home Page: <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>>; State Government Home Page: <<http://www.state.ne.us/>>. ▲



Guide to State Agencies Available now

The "Guide to State Agencies: State Publications Classification and Ordering Directory"

has been updated and is available on the Library Commission Home Page, <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>> under "Our Services," in the "Government Information Services/State Government Information" section. This directory to Nebraska state agencies is designed

for use in ordering state publications. Agency names, addresses and telephone numbers are included as well as the Library Commission classification numbers. Libraries or individuals that want to order their own copies of state government publications or borrow copies from the Library Commission will find this guide useful. For a free print copy of the "Guide," contact Lori Sailors, 402-471-7741, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <lsailors@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Compass

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Commissioners: Thomas Harvey, Omaha, term expires 1996; Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1996; Dr. Robert McPherson, Hastings, term expires 1997; Myrna Vollbrecht, Stanton, term expires 1997; Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1998; Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1998. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

The Internet is a Reference Resource

In a recent videoconference, librarians asked how Nebraska Library

Commission staff use the Internet for reference. Lisa Brawner surveyed Commission staff and came up with the following examples:

The best overall Internet stop for reference work is Yahoo <<http://www.yahoo.com/>>. Yahoo offers thoughtful subject arrangement and provides powerful keyword searching throughout the site. You'll find information ranging from used car values to drug information. *Internet World* calls Yahoo "one of the hottest sites on the Internet." With more than 1.5 million visitors a week, its popularity speaks for itself.

Some of our customers call us for information that we locate on the American Library Association (ALA) Home Page <<http://www.ala.org/>>. We recently found a list of all accredited library schools and verified the dates of National Library Week with just a few clicks. Those attending upcoming ALA conferences will find excellent information here. A wonderful tip is to use this site to get the extension number of the area or person you want before dialing the ALA 800 phone number.

Last month we helped a patron access a Department of Agriculture press release before it was published.



◀ Lisa Brawner, Nebraska Library Commission Reference Services Coordinator, assists state employees as they search for information on the Internet.

The URL for the United States Department of Agriculture press releases is <<http://www.usda.gov/news/news.htm>>. When we showed the customer how to search the Internet with Netscape, they found additional helpful information on the USDA home page <<http://www.usda.gov/>>.

A few good sites for checking weather and road conditions when preparing to travel are:

gopher://grizzly.uwyo.edu:70/00/Road/OMA — winter road conditions for Nebraska.

gopher://grizzly.uwyo.edu:70/11/Road — for other state road conditions.

WeatherNet at <<http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/states/nebraska.html>> is a great place to get current conditions, forecasts,

weather graphics, city conditions, forecasts, and warnings for 13 Nebraska cities.

The Weather Channel at <<http://www.weather.com/>> is the ultimate weather site for current conditions and five-day forecasts for over 1,200 U.S. cities, ski weather and the Weather Classroom.

The Internet is an ever-changing tool that has changed the face of reference work. Be sure to consider it as a source when the hunt begins for your next answer. We invite Nebraska librarians to send us your favorite reference questions (along with the Internet locations you used to answer them). We'll feature your favorites in upcoming issues of *NCompass*. Send to Lisa Brawner at <lbrawner@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Clippings Available

Newspaper clippings from *The Lincoln Star*, *The Lincoln Journal*, and *The Lincoln Journal Star* dating back to the early 1950's are now available to the public for a charge of \$5 per topic and \$1 per page. There is no charge for short requests from libraries. Contact Patricia Sloan, <library@nebweb.com>, 402-473-7298 *Lincoln Journal Star* Library, P.O. Box 81709, Lincoln, NE 68501. ▲

Jake's Favorite Part of the Job is Working with Volunteers

Meat Paul "Jake" Jacobsen, a three-year veteran of the Library Commission. Jake started as an office courier before changing to his current position of

Jake's favorite part of his job is working with the volunteers because many have become good friends.

Library Technician with the Talking Book and Braille service. Jake's responsibilities include maintaining playback equipment for Talking Book and Braille users, maintaining serial number records on equipment, and assisting in the recording studios with volunteer narrators. Jake's favorite part of his job is working with the volunteers because many have become good friends.

A Nebraska native, Jake was raised in the Hickman-Firth area and has an Associate's Degree in Accounting from Southeast Com-

munity College in Lincoln. Spare time activities for Jake can be summed up in one word—sports. Not willing to select a favorite, Jake does favor going to games in person and is loyal to university and high school level men's competitions. Vacation days are spent at the College World Series and Boys State High School Basketball Tournaments. His favorite place on the Internet is the *Daily Nebraskan* site <<http://www.unl.edu:80/DailyNeb/>> because it is updated daily and has great sports coverage. ▲



Bill Coordinates the Recording Studios at the Library Commission

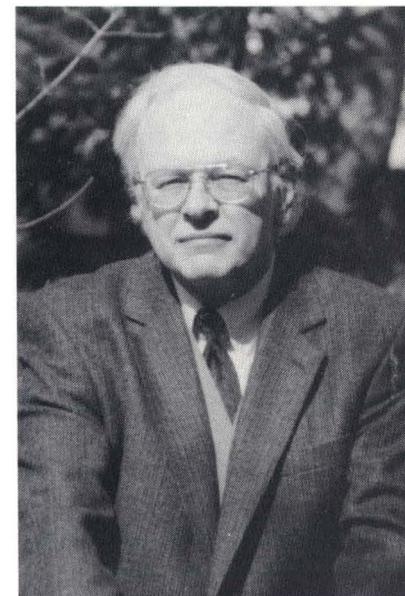
Bill Ainsley coordinates the recording studios and volunteer narrators for the Talking Book and Braille service at the Library Commission. Bill came to the

Bill came to the Library Commission by way of a newspaper article asking for volunteer narrators in 1983.

Library Commission by way of a newspaper article asking for volunteer narrators in 1983. What started as a volunteer effort turned into a full time job when his predecessor left the position Bill now occupies. His favorite magazine recorded in the studios is *Life Lines*, a publication produced by the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging.

Bill moved to Lincoln in the fall of 1965 and has been here ever since. He attended Wesleyan University, majoring in history with a minor in political science. In his

spare time, Bill is a railroad enthusiast. As a subscriber to Prodigy services, he spends 5-6 hours a week reading a railroad bulletin board service on his computer. He enjoys planning and taking annual Amtrak vacations. Before coming to the Library Commission, Bill spent 12 years with local Nebraska television stations, and is often recognized by viewers. His favorite brush with celebrity? Johnny Carson in Norfolk, Nebraska, when Johnny granted the station an impromptu interview. ▲



Norma Receives “The Senior Achievement Award”



Norma Chrastil, Library Commission Circulation Clerk for the Talking Book and Braille Service, received “The Senior Achievement Award,”

presented by the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging for the “Operation Able” program. Norma is in her 20th year with the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service. Her responsibilities include: selecting books from the shelf, inserting mail labels, checking out books to prepare for mailing, re-shelving, shifting, mending, checking in and inspecting returned books. With daily circulation between 500 and 1,000 items a day, these are no small tasks. Norma says she enjoys her job because it keeps

her active and she likes the people she works with.

A Nebraska native, Norma has always lived in and around the Lincoln area. She was married and widowed, has one daughter, three sons, and seven grandchildren. She enjoys travel, and has been to Hong Kong, Yugoslavia and Brownsville, TX to visit her sister. Norma’s favorite authors are Phyllis Whitney and Danielle Steel, but devotes more hours to her family than to reading. Congratulations on all your achievements Norma! ▲

Norma is in her 20th year with the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service.

Kami Enjoys Helping Provide a Valuable Service



Kami Bulin is in her tenth year at the Library Commission. She began in the film service, and in 1990 she became a library assistant with the Talking Book

and Braille service and has been there ever since. Kami sends informational materials and written correspondence to Talking Book and Braille users, maintains the browsing Braille, Twin Vision and magazine collections and handles a number of behind-the-scenes responsibilities that help keep the service flowing smoothly. Kami also takes care of all interlibrary loan transactions for Talking Book and Braille users. Kami says she enjoys the satisfaction of helping provide a valuable service for people who are

unable to use standard print material, and finds talking to them personally rewarding.

Kami is a Nebraska native, and has lived in Lincoln since she was one year old. Kami and her husband Scott recently became the proud parents of Trenton Scott, born in August of '95. Her dog is a German shorthaired pointer named Molly. Kami and her family spend many summer hours with their power boat and water skis. She enjoys reading magazines and nonfiction books, speed walking and shooting pool. ▲

Kami says she enjoys the satisfaction of helping provide a valuable service for people who are unable to use standard print material.

Special Report...

Public Library Guidelines Revised

For the past decade, Nebraska public librarians have been improving library service through the Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Program, based upon guidelines measuring library administration and governance, funding, services, resources and facilities. The Library Commission recently distributed a proposed revision of those guidelines to public librarians and library board presidents.

Who is revising those guidelines? The public library guidelines review committee was jointly appointed by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Public Library Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA). The committee includes librarians from all parts of the state and towns of all sizes from Lincoln to Hyannis. The committee also includes a library trustee, a regional system administrator, and Nebraska Library Commission staff. Ruth Strassler, Director of the Neligh Public Library, chairs this committee.

Why change the guidelines? During the past several years, changes in library services, and some problems with the existing guidelines have become apparent. The guidelines will be revised to:

Eliminate unnecessary or unclear guidelines, as well as those impossible to verify.

Provide two levels of accreditation, to delineate essential guidelines that all libraries should be able to meet in order to provide basic library service and additional advanced-level guidelines that will be challenging to libraries of all sizes.

Address library technology issues more adequately.

How and when will libraries be affected by the proposed revision in the guidelines? The guidelines will be discussed at Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Spring Meetings, amended as needed and proposed for adoption at the NLA Fall Conference. The guidelines are to be phased-in over a three year period, as were previous revisions. Twenty guidelines are included in both the basic and the advanced levels of accreditation. It is expected that libraries accredited at the advanced level will receive priority consideration for grants and may receive a higher level of state aid in future years. In order to learn more about the guidelines and provide input into further revision, please attend one of the NLA Spring Meetings, May 7: Gering Public Library, May 8: Kearney Public Library and Information Center, or May 9: Gere Branch, Lincoln City Libraries. ▲

Jim Mingos

Activity Calendar Available

The 1989 *Year of the Young Reader Activity Calendar*, "Books Are Windows to the World," has been reprinted. The Calendar includes activities, special observances, birthday celebrations for children's authors and illustrators and other anniversaries. NOTE: This reprint has not been changed

since the 1989 version so activities need adjustment to fit the 1996 calendar.

The Calendar may be ordered by sending your name and address along with a check for the number of calendars you would like (\$7 each). Send to: Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. ▲

Resource Material Offered

Because Medicare, Medicaid and other types of health insurance can be confusing to most people, the State of Nebraska has developed a free program to educate older Nebraskans about their health insurance. The Nebraska Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (NICA) provides free volunteer education

and support services to seniors. NICA will also supply Nebraska libraries with Medicare and Medicaid guides and brochures with tips on topics ranging from making good insurance decisions to sources for prescriptions. For more information or free materials, contact: Stephanie Brauner, NICA Program State Department of Insurance, 941 O Street, Suite 400, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-471-3845. ▲

Job Openings Listed

A list of library-related jobs for Nebraska and the region is available on the Library Commission Home

Page <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>> or under Library Net on **Nebrask@ Online** <<http://www.nol.org/>>, or call 402-471-4019 or 800-307-2665 and ask for the job hotline.

Other library related job information is available via LIBJOBS, an Internet Listserv.

IFLANET, the electronic services of the International Federation of

Library Associations and Institutions, sponsors LIBJOBS, an Internet mailing list for employment opportunities for librarians and information professionals.

LIBJOBS listings are archived at: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cgi-bin/ifla-lwgate/LIBJOBS/>>.

The LIBJOBS listowner can be contacted at: <ifla@nlc-bnc.ca>.

To subscribe to the list and receive job ads, send in the body of the message:

SUBSCRIBE LIBJOBS <your first name> <your last name> to: <LISTSERV@INFOSERV.NLC-BNC.CA>. ▲

Library Commission Children's Advisory Board Requests Volunteers

The Children's Advisory Board was established in May 1995 to provide input to the Nebraska Library Commission regarding the improvement of children's and young adult services. The Board's recommendations and advice have been extremely valuable in setting a direction for the Commission-sponsored summer reading program, continuing education for young people's librarians, the children's grant program, children's and young adult book reviews and other Library Commission-supported services. A subcommittee also completed preliminary revisions of the "Nebraska Guidelines for Young People's Library Service." The draft guide-

lines will be presented for discussion at the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Spring Meetings. The Library Commission is now requesting volunteers for the 1996/97 Board, which meets four times a year. The next meeting is April 25, 12:00–4:00 P.M. CST, via interactive video. The two-year term runs June 1, 1996 to May 31, 1998. Children's public librarians and school librarians and media specialists are encouraged to apply. To volunteer to serve on the 1996/97 Library Commission Children's Advisory Board, contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Members of the 1995/96 Board:

Panhandle: Deb Carlson, Scottsbluff Public Library.

Meridian: Hallie Hagan, Kearney

Public Library; Jamie Isom, Valentine City Schools; Judith Gutierrez, Lexington Public Schools.

Republican Valley: Mitzi Mueller, North Platte Public Library.

Northeast: C. Dean Schmid, Albion Public Schools; Sara Lee, Central City Public Library; Karen Drevo, Norfolk Public Library.

Southeast: Delores Feecken, Crete Public Library.

Eastern: Gennie Elliott, Carnegie Public Library, Tekamah; Sharon Wiegert, Papillion Public Library; Mary Ann deShazar, McMillan Magnet Center, Omaha; Nina Little, Omaha Public Schools.

NEMA representative: Kay Paulsen, Cavett Elementary School, Lincoln.

NLA representative: Glenda Willnerd, Rousseau Elementary School, Lincoln. ▲

Children's public librarians and school librarians and media specialists are encouraged to apply.

Improvement Plans Due in 1997

This year (1996) is critical for the first cycle of the Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP). In March 1997, public libraries that have not previously submitted their CLIP plan to the Nebraska Library Commission will be asked to include a copy of the plan with their 1996 statistical report form. Public libraries that have submitted their

initial plan prior to 1996 will be asked to report on the implementation of their plan, using a form included with the statistical report form.

In September 1997, the Nebraska Library Commission will allocate additional state aid to libraries that have completed and submitted CLIP plans. If the total appropriation of state aid remains constant, allocations to libraries that have not completed a planning

process will be reduced.

Library Development staff and the Library System Administrators are available to assist libraries with their Continuous Library Improvement plans. See the Library Commission Home Page at <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>> (CLIP information is found under "Our Services," "Library Development") or contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Council Announces Appointments

The Nebraska Library Commission has reappointed the following individuals to the State Advisory Council on Libraries:

Sally Wise, Director, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Schmid Law Library and 1995 Chair of the State Advisory Council on Libraries; Joan Birnie, Director, Broken Bow Public

Library; and Dr. Elmer Baker, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, York College. In addition, the Commission appointed Michael LaCroix, Director of the Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library at Creighton University, to a first term on the Council. ▲

Grants for Excellence Available

Grants for Excellence in Children's Services will be awarded to special projects

that benefit children and young adults. Grants should reflect effort in one of the following three areas: information access for children that makes use of online services, organized continuing education opportunities for day-care providers, or coalitions and collaborations with other agencies that serve children or young adults.

In three years, fourteen libraries

have earned grants. Children's librarians have been challenged to write grants focused on specific areas of service, such as young adult services, family literacy, or coalitions with community agencies. Using ingenuity and vision rather than vast sums of money, children's librarians have successfully expanded the boundaries of library service for their communities.

A total of \$6,000 is available for 1996. Public libraries may apply for any amount up to \$6,000. The libraries must be accredited, must have a certified children's librarian and Internet access in order to be

eligible to apply. Each grant recipient will also receive \$300 to use for 50 hours of Internet access to defray the expense of participation on the CHILDLIB-L listserv. A minimum of \$500 will be awarded for each grant that is approved. Written grants must be submitted to the Nebraska Library Commission by June 2. For a packet with guidelines, explanations of the target areas and an application form, contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>, or Kit Keller, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Honor Role

Libraries previously awarded grants and a description of their projects are listed below:

Auburn Memorial Library Project director: Ruth Henderson; 1994; **Workshops, programs and delivery services to day care centers**; \$1,150.

Aurora - Alice M. Farr Library Project director: Janette Thomsen; 1993; **Programming for children of Adult Basic Education students**; \$500.

Beemer - Karlen Memorial Library Project director: Tammy Lorenz; 1994; **Information materials for children with learning disabilities**; \$850.

Bellevue Public Library Project Director: Judy Andrews; 1995; **Coalition with local hospitals and high schools to provide access to life-skills and health information for at-risk young adults**; \$2,500.

Central City Public Library Project Director: Sara Lee; 1995; **Treasure Totes for school readiness**; \$500.

Chadron Public Library Project Director: Lois Jones; 1993; **Training and using children as storytellers**; \$1,000.

Fremont - Keene Memorial Library Project Director: Joan Chesley; 1995; **Collaboration with WIC (Women, Infants and Children's Center) to develop school readiness skills**; \$1,350.

Gibbon Public Library Project Director: Carmela Andersen; 1995; **Information literacy and school readiness for children from low-income families**; \$1,089.

Public Library System, Holdrege Project Director: Cindy Gitt; 1993; **Collections of children's books placed and maintained in waiting rooms of health providers**; \$1,500.

Lexington Public Library Project Director: Francine Canfield; 1995; **Saturday morning family literacy program for Spanish-speaking parents and children**; \$600.

Lincoln City Libraries Project Director: Sandy Wallick; 1993; **Story-program materials loaned to local day-care centers plus training for day care personnel**; \$2,000.

Niobrara Public Library Project Director: Linda Leader; 1994; **Mentoring program for young adults**; \$700.

Norfolk Public Library Project Director: Karen Drevo; 1994; **Literature Festival for Young Adults**; \$1,500.

Wayne Public Library Project Director: Jolene Klein; 1994; **Older adult volunteers read stories in the homes of day care providers**; \$1,200. ▲

A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part two

“Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: an Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS” was unanimously adopted by the American Library Association (ALA) Council on January 24, 1996. It is excerpted below as the latest installment in the *NCompass* Newsletter series exploring applications of intellectual freedom and the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.

The “Interpretation” begins with an introduction outlining the factors that librarians consider as they analyze the current environment, this “electronic communications revolution.” It asserts the role of librarians, “Based on its constitutional, ethical, and historical heritage, American librarianship is uniquely positioned to address the broad range of information issues being raised in this revolution.”

The “Interpretation” explores “issues arising from the still-developing technology of computer-mediated information generation, distribution, and retrieval” and suggests that they “need to be approached and regularly reviewed from a context of constitutional principles and ALA policies... In making decisions about how to offer access to electronic information, each library should consider its mission, goals, objectives, cooperative agreements, and the needs of the entire community...”

Rights of users are specified, “Users should not be restricted or denied access for expressing or receiving constitutionally protected speech... Users’ access should not be changed without due process... Users have the right to be free of unreasonable limitations or conditions... Users have a right to information, training and assistance... Users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy... Rights of users who are minors shall in no way be abridged.”

The “Interpretation” makes strong statements re: Equity of Access, “Electronic information, services, and networks provided directly or indirectly by the library should be equally, readily and equitably accessible to all library users.” It opposes “...the charging of user fees for the provision of information services by all libraries and information services that receive their major support from public funds.” It challenges libraries to develop policies and procedures that ensure equitable access to information resources and particularly to scrutinize those involving fees or user charges for potential barriers to access. We continue to struggle with the question of whether fee for use is a greater barrier to citizen access than no access in the library at all.

The “Interpretation” addresses collection management issues and affirms that decisions re: appropriateness or value of information should be left to each user, stating “Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children’s use of electronic resources should provide guidance to their own children.” It concludes with this statement, “Electronic resources provide unprecedented opportunities to expand the scope of information available to users. Libraries and librarians should provide access to information presenting all points of view. The provision of access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement.”

The full text of “Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: an Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS” is available on the ALA home page at <<http://www.ala.org/>>, choose “The ALA Library,” “Index to the ALA Website,” “Intellectual Freedom Statements,” “Full text of Interpretations,” “Final, Approved: Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks.” The direct URL is <<gopher://ala1.ala.org:70/00/alagophx/alagophxfreedom/electacc.fin>>. For a print copy, contact Mary Geibel at the Library Commission, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>.

In 1996, *NCompass* will continue this series of articles exploring the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS. We invite our readers to share ideas and help us to examine the issues and possible ramifications of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS. Send comments to Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

“...American librarianship is uniquely positioned to address the broad range of information issues being raised in this revolution.”

Martha Brey Scrivner, Coordinator of Youth and Adult Services for Lincoln City Libraries, died in January. A longtime leader in Nebraska library services for children and young adults, Martha was a valued member of the Library Commission Children’s Book Review Team. She also chaired the School, Children’s and Young People’s section and the Continuing Education Committee of the NE Library Association.

Marsha Koebernick of Dakota City died in January. Marsha served on the State Advisory Council on Libraries and on the Dakota City library board. ▲

Update on Federal Programs

Telecommunications—
The recently enacted
Telecommunications
Reform Legislation includes
some specific details of special
interest to libraries. An amendment
included in the legislation by
Senators Snowe, Rockefeller, Kerrey,
and Exon provides discounted
telecommunications rates for K-12
schools, libraries and rural health
care providers. This provision
authorizes the Federal Communica-
tions Commission to establish
policies in conjunction with state
regulatory bodies (the Public Service
Commission in Nebraska) that
determine affordable rates for
schools, libraries and rural health
care providers as part of universal
service policies.

The telecommunications
legislation also includes Internet
content restrictions. The new law
includes restrictions which make
display of “indecent” material over
online computer services a criminal
offense. Court action has been
initiated to challenge the constitu-
tionality of these provisions.

*Library Services and Technology
Act (LSTA)*—Both the House and
Senate have passed legislation for a
new federal library program to
replace the current Library Services
and Construction Act. Conferees
have worked to reconcile differences
between the House and Senate
versions of the legislation. As
reported by the American Library
Association, the tentative agree-
ments reached on the new program
include the following points:

- ▶ Administration of LSTA by an
Institute of Museum and Library
Services;
- ▶ An authorized level of funding
totaling \$150 million (to be
allocated among states and territo-
ries for technology programs and
special services);
- ▶ Minimum allotments to states
is not yet decided;
- ▶ An amount of funds retained at
the national level for library science
programs.

The library program legislation is
part of a larger bill. The House bill
is called the CAREERS Act and the
Senate bill is called the Workforce
Development Act. When work is
completed to reconcile House and

Senate versions, the bill will go back
to each body for vote, and if passed,
on to the President.

*Federal Depository Library
Program*—The Congressional
Federal Depository Library Program
administered by the Government
Printing Office (GPO) recently
released “The Electronic Federal
Depository Library Program:
Transition Plan, FY 1996-FY 1998.”
The plan is based on Congressional
direction, which proposed that
nearly all Federal government
information disseminated through
the depository library program be in
electronic format. The GPO’s plan
raises a number of issues regarding
the schedule for a major transition
to electronic access, fees for access,
appropriate formats for citizen use,
and the Federal government’s
responsibility for archiving and
preservation of information.

To keep up on the latest legisla-
tive trends affecting Libraries, direct
your web browser to: <[http://
www.ala.org/](http://www.ala.org/)> and choose “ALA the
Organization,” “ALA Offices,” and
then either “ALA Washington
Office” or “Office for Information
Technology Policy.” ▲

Internet Orientations Successful

Four sessions entitled
“Orientation to the
Internet for Nebraska
State Agency Employees,”
sponsored by the Nebraska

State Government Chapter of the
National Management Association
and the Nebraska Library Commis-
sion were held this Spring. Nebraska
state government employees had an
overwhelmingly positive response to
this overview and discussion of
customer use of the Internet to
access government information,

evaluation of customer needs and
ways to meet them, analysis of
policy and management impacts,
and the experiences of other state
employees involved in Internet-
based information provision. ▲

- ▶ State employees surfing the Internet
during the orientation in February.



News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Norma Chrastil, Library Commission Circulation Clerk for Talking Book and Braille Services, received "The Senior Achievement Award" presented by the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging for the "Operation Able" program. Norma has worked with the Library Commission since 1976. ▲

Burns Davis, CM, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, was given the March 1996 "Member of the Month" award from the Nebraska State Government Chapter of the National Management Association (NMA). The award is given to an NMA member in recognition of their outstanding service. ▲

Richard Miller has been hired as Administrator of the Southeast Library System, effective May 1. Richard is currently the State Librarian of Montana. Prior to that, he served in a variety of positions at the Missouri State Library. He replaces **Kate Marek**, who served as Administrator for more than six years and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Library Science at Emporia State University. ▲

Jim Minges, Commission Library Development Director, has accepted appointment as Director of the Northeast Kansas Library System based in Lawrence KS. Jim has been with the Library Commission for nearly 12 years. **Steve Jonas**, former Library Commission Information Systems Specialist, has accepted a position with National Research Corporation as Senior Programmer Analyst. Steve has been with the Commission since 1986. ▲

Library Commissioner **Thomas Harvey** was honored at the Omaha Western Heritage Museum's Seventh Annual African-American Awards. Cited for his leadership as principal of Omaha's nationally recognized North High School, Harvey said, "A school's success is built around an attitude of caring and commitment to each and every student." ▲

Lauren Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library Director, received the Citizen of the Year Award at the 76th Annual Beatrice Chamber of Commerce banquet. ▲

As part of the seventh annual **Nebraska State Quilt Guild Library Project**, Nebraska libraries received a complimentary book on the art and skill of quilting "Repiecing the Past," by Sara Rhodes Dillon of Fremont. ▲

The **School, Children, and Young People's (SCYP) Section** of the Nebraska Library Association is accepting nominations for **The Mad Hatter Youth Service Award**. The award is given annually to a member of this Section

who has made outstanding contributions to the field of library service to youth. Nominations are due to Beth Trupp, Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering, NE 69341, by June 30, 1996. ▲

Papillion Public Library won second prize in the Fifth Annual "Sign Me Up" contest sponsored by the American Library Association and World Book. The library won a \$500 gift certificate for the World Book catalog for signing up a 24% increase in library cardholders. ▲

Diana Boone has been named Library Commission OCLC Member Services Coordinator. She previously served with the Arrowhead Library System in Virginia, MN and the Bellevue Public Library. She will join us on May 20. **Allana Novotny** has been hired as Library Commission Network Services Librarian. Formerly from Wisner, NE, she is currently completing her Masters degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia and will start June 3. **Karen Ingish** has been named Library Commission Public Library Development Coordinator. She is currently Director of Library Services for JFK Health World Center in Barrington, IL, and a public library trustee in Streamwood, IL. She will begin June 17. ▲

New Library Directors include: Battle Creek Public Library, **Kathleen M. Ageton**; Chadron Public Library, **Carol Grimme** retired, **Dena Crews**, Interim Director; Crete Public Library, **Margaret Harding** retired, **Delores Feeken**, Interim Director; Curtis, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Library, **Mo Khamouna**; Greenwood Public Library, **Angela Gleason**; Imperial Public Library, **Elnor Brown** retired, **Norma Dannatt**, Director; Lincoln, Nebraska Department of Roads Library, **Don Robertson**; Mead Public Library, **Vera Kuhr**; Oakdale Public Library, **Elinor Richart**; Stromsburg Public Library, **Janene Erickson**; Syracuse Public Library, **Susan Kay Antes**; Valparaiso Public Library, **Jo Ann Lopez**; Waterloo Public Library, **Linda Oyster**. ▲

Nominations are being sought for the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) **Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards**. Nominations and letters of support must be sent by May 10 to Kathleen Tooker, NLA Citations Committee, Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144. ▲

The **South Sioux City City Council** approved the purchase of a 10,000 square foot building for use as a public library. The **Library Foundation** plans to begin raising funds for renovations. ▲

Next Issue:

- ▲ Article 1 of the Library Bill of Rights explored
- ▲ Nebraska Librarians share their favorite Internet resources
- ▲ Talking Book and Braille Service National Conference report

Nebraska Library Commission



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