

Your guide
to the
Nebraska
Library
Commission

N_E Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Summer 1999

Vol. 6 No. 2

Library Commission Prepares for Centennial Celebration

Nebraska Library Commission staff are working on plans for celebrating the state agency's 100th anniversary in the year 2001. The Nebraska Public Library Commission was established by an act of the Legislature on March 26, 1901 and the office of the Commission was opened in the State Capitol on November 11 of that year. The Commission was charged to *encourage the establishment of libraries where none existed and the improvement of those already established.*

Current celebration plans include launching a Centennial Web Site as early as this fall, to be developed over the next several months to



▲ (Left to right) Rod Wagner, Nancy Busch, Mary Jo Ryan, Maggie Harding, Dave Oertli, and Vern Buis review research on the history of the Library Commission.

include historical photos, documents, and a timeline of key Nebraska library-related events. Maggie Harding has been working with the Nebraska Library Commission over the past year to organize a Commission archive and assist in eliciting oral histories from current

and former Commission staff.

As the history of the Nebraska Library Commission is closely linked with that of Nebraska public libraries and the Nebraska Library Association, the Centennial provides an opportunity to highlight the important role libraries play in the state—past, present, and future. Activities will be held throughout 2000 and 2001 to commemorate libraries of all types. The Library of Congress Bicentennial Celebration will take place in the year 2000 and also provides exciting opportunities for libraries to participate in activities locally.

Those interested in tracking the Nebraska Library Commission's Centennial plans can look for future announcements of the Centennial Web Site launching on the Library Commission home page <www.nlc.state.ne.us> and in all Commission publications. ▲

▲ In this Issue:

From the Director:
Twenty-two Graduate with Library Degree
page 2

Library Commission Funds Systems
page 3

A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights,
part ten
page 9

News of Nebraska Libraries and People
page 11

Snapshot:

Edna Dean Bullock



Edna D. Bullock, first secretary (director in today's terms) of the Nebraska Public Library Commission from 1901-1906, was born at

North Lewisburg, OH, April 26, 1869. Miss Bullock received her B.L. from the University of Nebraska in 1889, and a B.L.S. from the New York State Library School. She engaged in library and bibliographical work in twelve states. Prior to her appointment as Commission secretary, she was a cataloger at the University of Nebraska Library. Following her tenure at the Commission, Miss Bullock was on the editorial staff of the H.W. Wilson Publishing Company from 1910-11 and held various positions with the
(Continued on p. 2)

From the Director...

Twenty-two Graduate with Library Degree

Congratulations are in order. On August 8, twenty-two Nebraskans were awarded master's degrees in library science by the Emporia State University (ESU) School of Library and Information Management. Over the past two-and-a-half years these individuals, along with some from surrounding states, participated in ESU's Nebraska-based weekend library science program. This class is the second group to graduate from the Nebraska program, allowing many people to continue their employment, stay in their communities, and pursue a graduate library science degree. The program has helped address the needs of learners, and made the ESU School of Library and Information Management a leader in developing new approaches to meet library science education needs.

A value of ESU's approach to library science education is bringing faculty to a place where students can come together without traveling a great distance. Since Nebraska is one of a number of rural states that does not have an in-state graduate library science program, an imported program makes pursuing a library science degree easier (although certainly not easy).

Educational programs have rapidly evolved to the point where people can participate where and when they want to. Technology allows educational program delivery nearly anywhere at anytime. There is concern that distance education programs that rely heavily on the Internet or interactive video sacrifice the person-to-person interaction of the classroom and do not measure up to the effectiveness of traditional approaches. The dialogue and spontaneous exchange of ideas that happens within a classroom setting is difficult to replicate. While there is skepticism that technology-based instruction is as effective as traditional approaches, a growing number of colleges and universities offer online instructional programs. A mix of onsite and online instruction seems a good combination.

ESU has indicated interest in starting a third Nebraska library and information science program in 2000, dependent on student interest. Incorporation of additional technology may make it easier for students from across Nebraska to participate, rather than mainly those in eastern Nebraska where the critical number necessary to hold the program has existed.

ESU's School of Library and Information Management has had a significant effect on Nebraska library services, providing a growing number of librarians with professional library science degrees. ESU's success in developing off-campus programs and experimentation with instructional technology will give Nebraskans access to professional and continuing library and information science education well into the future. ▲
Rod Wagner

Snapshot, continued

Continued from page 1
Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau, including director.

Miss Bullock presented at the 2nd Nebraska Library Association (NLA) annual meeting, held on December 29, 1896, about "Traveling Libraries." She was elected vice-president of NLA at that meeting. University of Nebraska professor J.I. Wyer, reading at the meeting of the state association in 1901 from his prepared paper, *Nebraska Library Work: Progress of the Past Year All Over the State*, noted: "The library laws passed by the last legislature form a chapter of the utmost importance in library progress during the year. The establishment of the public library commission,

for which the Nebraska library association, with the federation of Women's clubs have been working for six years, gives to Nebraska libraries a central bureau, which has given immense possibilities for work in helping and strengthening existing libraries and creating new ones and especially in bringing books to the many bookless communities in the state. This work has begun in a very satisfactory manner and is in charge of Miss Edna D. Bullock, who is fitted by training and experience to take care of this work in a very efficient manner. The legislature also amended the library law increasing the amount of tax which may be levied by any city or town, from 1 mill to 2 mills per annum." ▲

Talking Book Computer System Upgraded

This May, the Talking Book and Braille Service converted its automation system to provide better customer service. The one-week data conversion and staff training process brings the service into Y2K compliancy. The new system serves as the electronic backbone of the Talking Book and Braille Service, enabling staff to maintain borrower information, requests and reserves, and informa-

tion about the collection. It is also used to circulate recorded and Braille books and maintain playback equipment inventory.

The Library Commission's Adaptive Technology Center was also upgraded this summer. Upgrades include improved software for scanning print materials, character enlargement on computer monitor, and Braille embossing. The upgrades will help provide Internet access to Talking Book and Braille borrowers. ▲

Compass

NEWSLETTER

NCompass is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 (in Nebraska only). Fax: 402-471-2083. ISSN: 1075-9719. Director: Rod Wagner
Editor: Mary Jo Ryan
Design and Production: Joanne Crawford
Proofreaders: Mary Geibel, Janet Greser
Home Page: <www.nlc.state.ne.us>

Summer 1999 Vol. 6 No. 2

Nebraska Library Commissioners: Karen Warner, Norfolk, term expires 2000; Robert King, Holdrege, term expires 2000; Wally Seiler, Alliance, term expires 2001; Richard Jussel, Kearney, term expires 2001; Velma Sims, Fremont, term expires 2001; Kristen Rogge, Johnson, term expires 2002. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

Preparation of this newsletter was supported in part by funds allocated through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Special Report: Copyright, Multimedia and the Internet, part one

In this first installment of the *NCompass* series examining the principles of copyright law, we introduce the issues around use of the Internet to extract information resources.

New technologies available to schools and libraries offer opportunities for media specialists and librarians to motivate students and provide current information for customers. Learning opportunities are endless and encompassing. Internet Web pages provide colorful and interesting displays of information at the touch of a few keystrokes. Computers and color printers allow downloading and printing images, graphics, and photographs. Scanners facilitate placing multimedia and text into web pages, e-mail, or files to send throughout the world. Software programs like *WebWacker* provide the mechanism to capture an entire section of the Internet and store it on the computer for playback at a later time. But is it legal to download, make copies, or distribute text, graphics, photographs, or software from the Internet? Are some things on the Internet protected from theft by the copyright laws? What prevents anyone from copying or distributing these items from the Internet?

One cannot assume that everything on the Internet has been placed there legally. One cannot assume that everything on the Internet is free for the taking. Many sites will have a disclaimer that indicates that the site is protected by copyright or licensed. Even if there is no mark of copyright, the information on the Internet is protected by copyright law according to the 1989 Berne Convention.

Before downloading, copying, or distributing text, a photograph, or a graphic from the Internet, determine whether or not your action falls under Fair Use. These

questions are asked to determine Fair Use: What is the purpose and character of the use? What is the nature of the copyrighted work? How much of the work will be copied? What is the effect of the copying on the potential market for the work? Fair Use generally falls under use for research, scholarship, teaching, news reporting, comment, or criticism. Educators working in a face-to-face teaching situation in a classroom of a non-profit educational institution can rely on the "Guidelines for Educational Use" under Section 107 of Fair Use (see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/copyright/copyfaireduse.html>) to guide them in photocopying from books and periodicals only.

If library staff wish to use a photograph, graphic, text, music, video clip, or excerpts from magazines or books for other than Fair Use, permission needs to be obtained from the copyright holder. Many copyright-free and royalty-free works exist on the Internet including clip art, music, and stock file footage. Some bookstores, computer, and music stores sell copyright-free media. Searching the Internet for words like "clip art," "stock file footage," "copyright free music," reveals many sources of copyright free materials. Don't assume that because something is on the Internet that it is free for the taking.

In the next issue of *NCompass*, this series will examine copyright issues to consider when creating a Web page or a multimedia project. For more information see the Nebraska Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/>, search on Copyright. For the full text of the *Copyright Handbook: a Guide for Nebraska Libraries*, search on the title or contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Send comments or suggestions for this series to Ellen Van Waart, 402-471-4004 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <evanwaart@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲
Ellen Van Waart

Library Commission Funds Systems

The recent award of \$1,313,722 in biennium 1999-2001 library support grants will fund training and development assistance for Nebraska libraries through Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems.

The Library Commission approved new agreements, representing a 4.3% increase over funding for the last biennium. The Library Systems partner with the Library Commission to provide a mechanism for development of cooperative programs among libraries,

seek ways to extend library services to areas without service, work to foster long term library service development, provide general consulting to local libraries, and promote and enhance libraries and library services. The funding is used to provide for costs related to staffing, office space, interlibrary loan, and continuing education. This continuing partnership between the Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission has been in existence since 1985. ▲

Maria Supports Commissioners

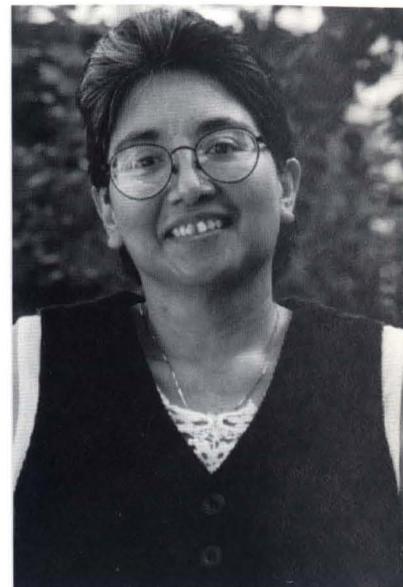
Maria Medrano-Nehls came to the Library Commission by way of the Mexican American Commission where she worked for 3-1/2 years. Before moving to

Maria was recently named by Governor Johanns to the Council for Juvenile Justice.

Lincoln, Maria worked at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Kearney for two years. She serves as the Commission Administrative Secretary. She describes her responsibilities as assisting all of the Library Commission executive staff. Maria is a native of North Platte and has been married to Fred Nehls for 24 years. Together they have two sons: Scott, 23 and Jeff, 21. Both of her sons live in Lincoln.

Maria has a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from UN-K and was recently named by Governor Johanns to the Council for

Juvenile Justice. She serves as a board member on the Supreme Court Resolution Council, Hispanic Community Center, and the Nebraska Family Support Network. She is active in the Latino Vote organization, and works with Youth Leadership. She says that generally three nights a week are committed to her volunteer activities. When Maria has spare time, she enjoys reading anything and everything. She reads self-improvement titles, mysteries, romances, and lists V.C. Andrews as her favorite author. Maria just acquired a new family member, a dog named Sateba. ▲



Jacque Assists with Statistics

Met Jacque (pronounced Jack) Crocker who is a new Staff Assistant at the Library Commission. She describes her duties as working with Web pages

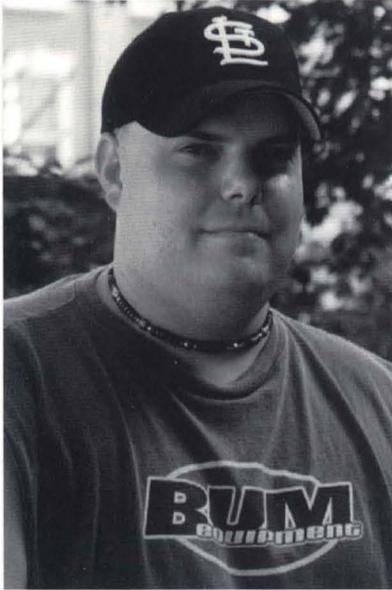
Jacque comes to the Commission from the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office in the Corporate Division.

and data entry. For eight years, Jacque worked for the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office in the Corporate Division and prior to that, she worked in three different bakeries in Lincoln and Tucson. Her baking talents are frequently enjoyed by Library Commission break room visitors! Jacque holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from UN-L and a Master of Public Administration degree from UN-O. She was born in Ohio and lived in Arizona and Florida, but since she lived a majority of her life in Nebraska she considers herself a native. She is a graduate of Pius X High School.

Jacque has had a life-long relationship with libraries and as a girl used the Northeast Branch Library, formerly on North 27th Street in Lincoln. Her favorite books as an adult include a variety of mysteries, folk tales, and craft books. Her new interests include dough art and soap making. Jacque and her husband Jim Pratt celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary this spring. They share their home with a green iguana—recently discovered to be a female—named Champion. In her free time, Jacque enjoys home improvement projects and Tai Chi. ▲



Dan Assists with Circulation



Dan Hogan is the second twin hired to join the staff at the Library Commission and is a recent Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate from UN-L. He works as a

Circulation Clerk with the Talking Book and Braille Service and describes his duties as rewinding incoming cassettes, circulating cassettes to customers, and working with some cassette repairs. Dan is a Nebraska native and is a graduate of Norris High School near Hickman. He came to library work due to the encouragement of a friend currently employed by Lincoln City Libraries.

Dan was a member of the ROTC and the National Honor Society of Pershing Rifles while at UN-L where he attended Officer Training. He completed Personnel Administration Specialist School while he

was a member of the National Guard and Army Reserve from 1988-1992. Vocationally, Dan would love to make a living exhibiting his drawings and paintings in galleries but for the moment, he is considering graduate school. He and his twin brother Dave share an apartment with a 7-year-old cat named Pookie. Dan enjoys reading *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Source* (a journal about rap music). If he could choose any other vocation, Dan would be a professional athlete. His favorite sports teams are the L.A. Lakers, the Seattle Mariners, and the Green Bay Packers. ▲

Dan would love to make a living exhibiting his drawings and paintings in galleries but for the moment, he is considering graduate school.

Susan Trains Librarians in Online Skills



Susan Knisely serves in the position of Online Services Librarian and comes to the Library Commission after working at Midland Lutheran College as a Reference

Librarian. Susan earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from UN-L and a Master's Degree in English from Miami University in Oxford Ohio. Discovering that the teaching field wasn't for her, she observed a trend in her vocational choices apart from her education goals and they kept returning her to libraries. She completed library school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and now enjoys career satisfaction in helping patrons becoming independent researchers.

Susan is married to a long-time friend, Will Duly, whom she met in Junior High School. Susan has eclectic taste in reading and lists some of her favorite fiction writers as Margaret Atwood and Jane Smiley and says that in the non-fiction realm, biographies and autobiographies are her picks. If Susan were stranded on a desert island with only three foods to nourish her, she would select chocolate chip ice cream, grapes, and bagels. ▲

Susan enjoys career satisfaction in helping patrons becoming independent researchers.

Special Report...

Library Service Capacity Expanding

In the *Public Library Profile, 1996-1997*, less than 50% of reporting libraries indicated that their library provided public access to the Internet. Data compiled for the 1997-98 reporting year shows that the landscape has changed dramatically. Of the 229 reporting libraries, only 24 accredited libraries, and 48 of all reporting libraries, indicate no public Internet access. The first time a question was asked about Internet access in the Public Library Statistical Report was four short years ago. At that time, 14 libraries reported offering Internet access for the public. Internet access has quickly become accepted as a basic service of public libraries.

The change in attitude is clear—a short while ago, library boards would question, “Should we provide Internet access?” Now the question is, “When and how will we provide Internet access?”

According to Kretzmann and McKnight in *Mobilizing Community Assets*, communities grow by focusing on the capacity, not the needs. The community capacity-building model focuses on assets, and so can libraries. Public Internet access is one of those assets, increasingly not viewed as an optional library service. More and more, government agencies are using electronic resources to disseminate information. In a world where “information is power,” communities disconnected from information resources are increasingly disadvantaged. The Office of Management and Budget notes, “75 percent of all transactions between individuals and the government—including such services as delivery of food stamps, Social Security benefits, and Medicaid information—will take place electronically.” As public institutions, libraries could provide access to this information for all citizens.

The Internet serves to “level the playing field” for libraries across the state. No longer do size and location put limitations on a community’s access to information. As stated by a participant in a recent Basic Skills class, “It (using the Internet) is obviously a basic skill that is a requirement for librarianship today.” Congratulations to Nebraska communities, library staff, and Regional System Administrators for having the vision to work with the Library Commission to prepare for and help implement this essential library service! One goal for the year 2000 could be for all libraries in Nebraska to provide access to the Internet for their community.

For more information about building capacity, contact Kit Keller, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Kit Keller

Libraries Access Electronic Databases

Nebraska libraries can again access electronic resources through the Nebraska Library Commission’s statewide

database purchase using state tax funds. This funding provides subscriptions to a variety of databases so that Nebraska citizens can access information in libraries of all types at no cost to the individual libraries. These databases include:

- H.W. Wilson OmniFile FullText Select (index and full text for nearly 1,000 titles)
- H.W. Wilson Biographies Plus (46,000 biographical profiles with links to news coverage)
- Books-in-Print with Reviews
- OCLC FirstSearch (WorldCat, NetFirst, World Almanac, GPO Monthly Access, ERIC, MEDLINE, ContentsFirst, ArticleFirst, PapersFirst, ProceedingsFirst, Union List, and Electronic Collections Online)
- Health Source Plus (via EBSCOhost)
- Electric Library (public and academic libraries)

Customer access outside the library can be arranged for some databases. Contact Allana Novotny,

402-471-6681 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <anovotny@neon.nlc.state.ne.us> for details to distribute to local library customers to promote access outside the library. Training, training materials, and promotional materials can also be made available for participating library staff. For information about the latest training activities, search the Nebraska Library Calendar on the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, for dates and locations.

Register to use these databases on the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/databases.html>.

In addition, the Library Commission has arranged for substantial FY2000 discounts for libraries to dozens of databases through OCLC, EBSCO, GALE Group, Bell and Howell Information and Learning, Electric Library (for K-12 school media centers), SIRS, Grolier, and Britannica.

The most up-to-date information on these and other subscriptions is posted to the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Databases and to the Trial e-mail list. Subscribe to the Trial e-mail list at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/tlist.html>. ▲



▲ Librarians access databases at the Database Roadshow in Broken Bow.

Record Support for Public Libraries in FY 1999

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$260,802 in library grants to improve access to electronic information and/or

improve information access for underserved populations. The funds, made available through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), allocated by Congress and distributed by the Library Commission, address LSTA goals according to the Commission long range plan, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Five Year Plan. Public libraries in 30 Nebraska communities will receive LSTA

funding to improve library information services. In addition, six libraries in the Saunders County Library cooperative received funding to automate circulation, linking the libraries with online catalogs and Internet access. For more information, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on 1999 LSTA Recipients.

Additionally, 92 public libraries in Nebraska were refunded \$219,040 in discounts on their 1998 telecommunications costs through E-Rate, a federally managed program that promotes growth and development in the use of telecommunications in schools and

libraries. Public libraries applied for discounts on basic telephone service, monthly Internet service, and installation of new services such as wiring, cabling, hubs, routers, and servers to provide faster and better connections to the Internet. For a complete list of libraries and funding amounts, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on E-Rate. These (and other) libraries are now in the process of applying for discounts on telecommunications services for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, see the Schools and Libraries Division Web page at <www.sl.universalservice.org/>. ▲

Newsline Launched

An evening reception at the Lincoln Station Great Hall marked the official startup of Newsline, a phone-based

service that blind individuals use to access newspapers. A product of the National Federation of the Blind, Newsline is now available in Lincoln

free of charge for blind or visually impaired listeners. Newspapers include the *Lincoln Journal Star*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *USA Today*. Using telephone keys, listeners can access different sections of a newspaper, change synthetic voices, read faster or slower, repeat paragraphs, or hear the spelling of unfamiliar words.

The Library Commission

awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Nebraska Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired for promotion and outreach to introduce potential listeners to the service. Sponsors of Newsline hope to expand to other parts of the state. For more information, contact Bob Deaton, 402-471-8175 or 800-809-2419. ▲

Motion Picture Video License Renewed

The Library Commission renewed a statewide Motion Picture Video License for all 275 public libraries in Nebraska for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, at no charge to public libraries. With this license, libraries may show motion pictures in the library facility and take advantage of numerous programming opportunities. All terms and conditions of the license remain in effect for the renewed license, including: motion pictures may be shown only in the library facility, no publicizing or advertising specific titles, showings must be free to the public, videos must be legally acquired (purchased or rented, not taped from television or illegally copied), and showings must not compete with local movie theaters.

Each library received a list of producers and distributors whose titles are covered under this license. Titles

produced or distributed by these companies may be shown only in Nebraska public library facilities. At a cost of less than one cent per person, this license offers an extraordinary community value allowing provision of quality library services and programs.

Nebraska libraries are using motion pictures in activities like Summer Reading Programs, Children's Story Hour, Book Discussion Groups, Senior Citizen Programs, Educational or Cultural Programs, and Film Festivals. ▲

"Thank you so much for the statewide motion picture license... We are especially appreciative of it here in Beatrice because it allows us to show the movies of our hometown star, Robert Taylor."

Laureen Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library

Special Report...

Librarians Meet MARC

Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) can be annoying, confusing, and, at times, downright nerve-wracking. But for the librarian who fully understands and uses it, the MARC format can also be a powerful and wonderful tool. Kimberly Shelley, Library Commission Cataloger/Technical Services Librarian facilitates the workshop, "Introduction to MARC: Books Format," to help Nebraska librarians understand and use MARC. The workshop explains what a MARC record is and how it is constructed, how it compares/contrasts to a printed catalog card, and how librarians can create or use MARC records to meet staff/customer needs.

Fifty-one librarians across the state have participated in the workshop so far, and with their help and input, the "Introduction to MARC" workshop just keeps getting better and better. Participant comments include, "[I] had been wondering how to interpret the MARC records on my system — now I know," "It was very basic, which was what I needed," "I appreciate all the handouts to refer to later and books to look at," and "A very good refresher, plus lots of new information."

To find out about workshop availability in your area, search the Nebraska Library Commission calendar at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/calendar/libcal.html> using the keywords Introduction to MARC. For more information, to schedule a MARC workshop, or to recommend other cataloging workshop topics, contact Kimberly Shelley at 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kimberly@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Kimberly Shelley

Special Report...

Commission Awards 1999 Children's Grants

The Library Commission awarded 1999 Grants for Excellence in Children's and Youth Services, totaling \$16,420, to the following libraries:

Ceresco Public Library, Multicultural Awareness Program: \$1,000; Elkhorn Public Library, Toddler Storytimes: \$1,000; Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, Outreach to Children in Shelters: \$2,300; Kearney Public Library and Information Center, Special Events for Young Adults at Risk: \$1,100; Shelton Public Library, Training for Teens: \$1,200; Central City Public Library, Young Adult Golden Sower Book Discussions: \$875; Wakefield Public Library, Saturday Programs for Spanish-Speaking Children: \$795; Chadron Public Library, Tips for Teens Programs: \$1,750; Kilgore Memorial Library, York, Service to Children and Parents In Correctional Facility: \$2,900; Beatrice Public Library, Resource Center for Learning Disabilities: \$2,000. ▲

Mary Jackson

Ninety-two Attend Basic Skills Class

The Public Services class has been a part of the core classes of Basic Skills for the past ten years. This spring, the class was offered in six locations around the state, with 92 people participating. The delivery format of this class differed from previous Basic Skills classes in several respects. Library Commission staff taught the classes onsite, rather than via videoconferencing or videotaped lectures. Since the Public Librarian Certification program is currently undergoing an extensive evaluation, this format allowed Commission staff to get firsthand feedback from library staff around the state.

Responding to the changing nature of public services in libraries today, mainly as a result of technology, an online component was added to this Basic Skills class. Online registration and an online pre-training questionnaire to determine availability of technology

and technical skills of participants were also added. Assignments were submitted via e-mail and class participants posed questions and facilitated discussion through e-mail groups. The class curriculum is available entirely on the Commission home page, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Mini-courses.

As an optional component, a two-hour computer lab session introduced library staff to the electronic databases provided by the Library Commission. Hands-on instruction was offered for using FirstSearch, the Electric Library, and Books-in-Print Plus with Reviews as an integral part of the library's public services.

Collection Development Basic Skills classes are scheduled for Fall 1999. Search the Nebraska Library Calendar on the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us> for dates and locations. ▲

Advisory Council Sets Priorities

The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries set 1999

Issue Priorities at their summer meeting in Gering. In addition to priorities set in 1998, the Council plans to focus on:

- Educating senators prior to the upcoming session regarding library service issues and funding
- Informing library boards, as well as city and county officials, about statewide database access available through libraries, provided

by the Library Commission through state tax funding

- Educating the public concerning library services and needs

The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 17 at the Alliance Public Library. Council agendas and minutes are available on the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Council. ▲

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

In this latest installment of the continuing NCompass series examining applications of intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights, we explore the issue of customer use of the Internet in libraries.

Last fall, Chris Hansen, Senior Staff Attorney at the National American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) office and lead counsel on the landmark Internet censorship case, *ACLU v. Reno*, spoke to an audience at the Library Commission about Internet censorship issues facing public libraries. Hansen stated that the Supreme Court decision in *ACLU v. Reno* case established the Internet as a format (similar to casual conversation, books and magazines) and sought the same protection under the law as these types of media. The proponents of Internet restrictions sought to establish the Internet as a form of broadcast media and subject to the laws governing that format. Hansen suggested that librarians use this concept as a standard, "Whatever guidelines govern the use of a book in the library would guide the use of the Internet."

Several court cases targeted public library Internet policies. In October 1998, a California superior court judge dismissed a lawsuit attempting to force the Livermore Public Library to prevent children from accessing sexual material on the Internet. (*American Libraries*, December 1998, p. 17). In November 1998, the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, concluded that the Loudoun County Library was under no obligation to provide Internet access to its patrons. But since it chose to do so, it is restricted by the First Amendment in the limitations it is allowed to place on patron access. The judge declared that the Loudoun County Library Internet filtering policy offended the guarantee of free speech in the First Amendment and was unconstitutional, see <www.techlawjournal.com/courts/loudon/81123op.htm>.

ACLU v. Reno 2, challenges the Child Online Protection Act, see <thomas.loc.gov>, which requires persons engaged in the business of distributing material harmful to minors via the World Wide Web to restrict access to such material by minors. The judge found that the federal Internet censorship law violates the First Amendments rights of adults and placed a temporary restraining order on its enforcement.

In June 1998, the ACLU issued a report, *Censorship in a Box: Why Blocking Software is wrong for Public Libraries*, calling blocking software clumsy and ineffective, see <www.aclu.org/issues/cyber/box.html>, and offering alternatives: acceptable use policies, time limits on use of the Internet, conditional Internet access for minors on completion of an Internet use seminar, publicity and links to recommended sites, and use of privacy screens.

The American Library Association (ALA) policy on the use of Internet filters is set forth in the *Resolution on the Use of Filtering Software in Libraries*, see

<www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/filt_res.html>. At its annual spring meeting, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee discussed the Resolution at length, unanimously concluded that no alteration should be made to their affirmation that use of filtering software to block access to constitutionally protected speech violates the Library Bill of Rights (<www.ala.org>). Ann Symons, ALA President and Intellectual Freedom proponent, said, "We do not help children when we simply wall them off from information and ideas that are controversial or disturbing...by teaching children how to use this valuable tool, helping them become critical thinkers, and guiding them to high-quality resources, that's what we librarians do best." (*American Libraries*, Jan. 1999, p. 44.)

Recent legislative action on filtering use in libraries reminds librarians that this hot topic needs ongoing monitoring. In June, the Senate Commerce Committee approved S. 97, the Children's Online Protection Act, stating that in order to receive E-rate discounts, libraries with one Internet access terminal would have to certify that the library is "enforcing a policy to ensure that minors do not use the computer for Internet access to material that is obscene and child pornography." ALA responded, "S. 97 not only writes into federal law a single and highly flawed technological approach to protecting children online, it forces libraries to broadly employ that technology in a manner that threatens the rights of all library users to access constitutionally protected material," see <www.ala.org/washoff/alawon>.

The *Nebraska Statutes* address the issue of distributing or lending obscene materials in Chapter 28, "Crimes and Punishments." Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Libraries and educational institutions are exempt from this provision as stated in Chapter 28, Section 815, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/liblaws/chap28.html#28-815>.

The Nebraska Library Commission affirms its role in promoting free and open access to information in the public libraries of Nebraska, see *Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: A Nebraska Library Commission Interpretation*, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/elecaccess.html>.

For more information, see ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom at <www.ala.org/oif.html> or the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Freedom. For the full text of the *Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Handbook*, search on the title or contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Send comments to Ellen Van Waart, 402-471-4004 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <evanwaart@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Guest editorials are invited. Submit to Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲ Ellen Van Waart

"....by teaching children how to use this valuable tool, [the Internet] helping them become critical thinkers, and guiding them to high-quality resources, that's what we librarians do best."

Special Report...

Community-Library Advocacy Project Update

The Nebraska Community-Library Advocacy Project worked with 25 communities in 1999, pursuing a vision of **affordable, reliable, progressive, and equitable library service for all Nebraskans regardless of their economic status and geographic location.** Activities included:

- Planning for the Community-Library Advocacy Project in Nebraska included Mentor-Advocates from Libraries for the Future, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association (NLA), Regional Library Systems, and Nebraska libraries.

- The primary goal was to create a broader base of advocates for public library service throughout the state, beginning with a statewide event to bring individuals together for sharing, learning, and growing.

- A statewide advocacy event was held in York in March, with 50 people attending. Doris Bass (VT) and Terry Preston (CA) represented Libraries for the Future. Participants were selected based on responses to a survey and low per capita library funding.

- A follow-up to the York event was held in August, where advocates shared local experiences and participated in a legislative day activity at the state capitol.

- Mary Lankford (TX) facilitated meetings in South Sioux City and Bellevue where local community-library advocates gathered to plan for initiatives which will lead to better library services in those communities.

- One focus for the Community-Library Advocacy Project for 1999-2000 will be to increase participation in the annual Legislative Day sponsored by the Legislative Committee of the Nebraska Library Association.

- An update of the Community-Library Advocacy Project will be shared with NLA's TUFs (Trustees, Users, and Friends) and Public Library Sections at the NLA/NEMA fall Convention.

- This collaboration of local, regional, and national entities provides a framework for the success of this project. National sponsors include Friends of Libraries U.S.A. and Libraries for the Future, with funding from the Viburnum Foundation.

For more information, see the Community-Library Advocacy Project home page, <www.nol.org/home/NLA/advocacy> or contact Ellen Van Waart at the Library Commission, 402-471-4004 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <evanwaart@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Ellen Van Waart

Task Force Studies Public Library Finance

The Library Commission organized and convened the Nebraska Public Library Finance Task Force in February 1999

to address issues that emerged concerning public library funding: statutory changes to limit local tax levies, local budget lids, and the Libraries for the 21st Century funding request presented to the governor and legislature. The NebrasKard, a proposed reciprocal borrowing card, became an issue within the library community and was referred to the task force for consideration. The Task Force was also asked to assess issues and trends related to public library finances and to identify and evaluate options for funding for areas of Nebraska that provide minimal or no local financial support for public library service.

The first product of the Task Force is a set of sixteen principles to guide discussion and development of recommended actions for financing Nebraska public libraries.

The Task Force believes that these *Guiding Principles* can serve as the basis for the development of public policy and approaches for adequate funding for Nebraska's public libraries. For these *Guiding Principles* and other task force information, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Public Library Finance. The task force invites comment on and seeks endorsement of the principles embodied in this document. Questions, comments, and recommendations should be directed to Rod Wagner, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rwagner@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Members of the Task Force are: Joan Birnie (Broken Bow Public Library), Brenda Ealey (Southeast Library System), Shirley Flack (Scottsbluff Public Library), Judy Grandstaff (Blue Hill Public Library), Ron Heezen (Omaha Public Library), Richard Miller (Nebraska Library Commission), Ted Smith (Norfolk Public Library), Ann Stephens (Fremont Public Library), and Kathy Tooker (Eastern Library System). ▲

Emporia Graduation Held

Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management (ESU SLIM)

held a graduation ceremony in August at the Peter Kiewit Lodge, Mahoney State Park for the *SLIM-Nebraska II* students. Becky Pasco, *SLIM-Nebraska I* graduate and current *SLIM* doctoral student, provided the commencement address. Dr. John Schwenn, ESU Vice-President for Academic Affairs, conferred the Master of Library Science degree to the graduates. Dean Robert Grover led the ceremony, with other faculty members attending.

The students started the graduate program in January 1997 and completed 42 semester hours of coursework. Twenty-two members of the graduating class are from Nebraska, five are from South Dakota, two from Iowa and one recently moved to Minnesota. The students represent a variety of backgrounds and work experiences including academic, public, medical, corporate, and K-12 library settings.

Plans for the next Master of Library Science program in Nebraska have been tentatively set to start in September 2000. For more information, call 800-552-4770 or see ESU SLIM home page at <slim.emporia.edu>. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Governor Mike Johanns appointed **Kristen M. Rogge** (Johnson) and **Velma Sims** (Fremont) to the **Nebraska Library Commission**. Kristen replaces **Jean Sanders**, who served two terms as a Commissioner. Kristen recently returned to Nebraska from Washington D.C., where she was involved in Planning and Policy Analysis in the area of developmental disabilities. She is currently managing a family business in Johnson and serving on the Nemaha County Development Alliance. Velma replaces **Katherine Fletcher** who resigned last fall. Velma is a retired Fremont elementary school principal and has been active in a variety of Fremont area community improvement activities and the Fremont Public Library Friends group. ▲

The **Library Commission** now provides **reference service** for Nebraska libraries. The reference librarians at the Library Commission can be reached at 800-307-2665 (ask for the information desk), fax: 402-471-6244 or e-mail: <ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Free reference assistance is available to all Nebraska library and media center staff. For a closer look at the resources of the Library Commission, see the newly revised Access and Selection Policy on the Library Commission home 2page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Access and Selection. ▲

In May, some five hundred library advocates traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 25th annual **Library Legislative Day**. **Brenda Ealey**, Chair of the Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Committee, **Rod Wagner**, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission, **Kay Walter**, Vice President of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and **Dee Yost**, President of the Nebraska Center for the Book, represented Nebraska. Walter and Yost also attended the annual meeting of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. ▲

Lincoln Public Schools received the **1999 National School Library Media Program of the Year** award from the American Association of School Librarians. The award "for recognizing that the mission of the school library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information" is sponsored by Follett Library Resources. **Donna Peterson**, director of Lincoln Public Schools Library Media Services accepted the award at this summer's ALA Conference. ▲

Commission staff recently attended dedications to celebrate new libraries. They include **Sally Snyder**, Gothenburg Public Library; **Nancy Busch**, Alliance Public Library; and **Rod Wagner**, Baright Public Library in Ralston. ▲

Dr. Sharon McCaslin, Peru State College Technical Services Librarian, has resigned to accept a position at Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia. ▲

Nebraskans winning national awards include: **Kit Keller**, Library Technology Coordinator at the Library Commission, presented with the John G. Lorenz Award by the U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for "timely and accurate submission of state library agency data" as part of national library statistical data collection; **Adrienne Posey**, Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library, Creighton University, honorable mention in the *American Libraries* photo contest cosponsored by the Library of Congress and Ingram Library Services; **Michelle Simmons**, English Teacher, Omaha South High School, awarded ALA's 1999 Marshall Cavendish Scholarship; **Charity K. Stokes**, UN-L assistant professor, 1998 recipient of the First Step Award-Wiley Professional Development Grant presented by ALA's Association for Library Collections and Technical Services; and **Holly Wissink**, library assistant, Lincoln City Libraries, awarded ALA's Christopher J. Hoyt/ERT Scholarship. ▲

Kate Marek, currently serving as Library Media Specialist at Otte-Blair Middle School and formerly Southeast Library Administrator, became the first to receive a PhD from **Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management**. ▲

Verne Haselwood was honored at a retirement reception this spring. A former Library Commission member, Library System Board member, and Nebraska Library Association officer, Verne has been recognized as an outstanding library science teacher, University of Nebraska at Omaha faculty member, and winner of the 1998 Mad Hatter Award. ▲

New library directors include: Bloomfield Public Library, **Norma Koertje**; Brunswick Public Library, **Julie Forbes**; Callaway, Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library, **Beverly Stivers**; Greenwood Public Library, **Lesia Cameron**; Hildreth Public Library, **Vicki Casper**; Indianola Public Library, **Judith Hollers**; Laurel Community Learning Center, **Jill Hoelsing**; Lincoln Correctional Center, Diagnostic & Evaluation Center, **Nancy Terhune**; Osceola Public Library, **Paula Johnson**; Palmer Public Library, **Debra Brakke**; Palmyra Memorial Library, **Hazel Schrader**; Peru State College, **Peg O'Rourke**; Pilger Public Library, **Kari Stasch**; Schuyler Public Library, **Doug Stutzman**; Snyder Public Library, **Laura Hamata**; Walthill Public Library, **Judi Davis**; Wilcox Public Library, **Teresa Carey**. ▲



New on our Home Page:

see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>

▲ Nebraska libraries invited to participate in Choices for the 21st Century, search on Choices.

▲ OCLC's new FirstSearch is now available for public use. For information and links, search on New FirstSearch.

▲ For the latest state government publications online, search on Government Publications Online.

For a print copy contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Nebraska Library Commission



The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120
Lincoln NE 68508-2023
34-00-00

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 212
Lincoln, NE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

