Nebraska Library Commission Participates in Museum-Library Partnership

Western Trails is a four-state museum-library collaborative funded through a National Leadership Grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in October 2001.

The grant funds this partnership to digitize and provide World Wide Web access to photographs, text, and maps about historic and modern trails in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas. Records for the images will be stored in databases that can be searched from a common search engine.

$498,637 from IMLS will be matched by $682,134 from the state partners. State project coordinators will receive $20,000 to develop and implement project plans, including:

- Meeting with the other three states to establish scanning and metadata standards and to work out database interoperability solutions
- Creating and maintaining a Web site for the state project
- Creating a centralized database of metadata records
- Promoting the project

Seven participants will contribute images to the Nebraska project and share $25,000 in sub-grants. Nebraska is rich in trails of all types, including pioneer wagon trails, railroads, highways, and modern recreational trails. The images will reflect a broad interpretation of the trails theme. Nebraska participants include the Buffalo County Historical Society, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska State Historical Society, Omaha Public Library, Oregon Trail Museum Association, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries.

An Introduction to Digitization workshop was held at the Library Commission in February. Fifty participants from Nebraska colleges, museums, historical societies, archives, and libraries learned the basics of planning a project, legal issues, and more.

Centennial Snapshot: Louise Aldrich Nixon

Louise Nixon served as Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission from 1950–1969. She formerly served as Assistant Director of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau and as Legislative Council Librarian.

Extending library service to more areas of the state was a guiding principal during her years as Secretary of the Library Commission. Bookmobiles and demonstration sites in the Sandhills, south-central, panhandle, and eastern part of the state helped communities focus on the need for new or improved libraries.
From the Director...

Wanted: 21st Century Librarians

There is growing recognition that recruitment and retention efforts must be higher priorities. Far more attention is needed to assure that the nation's libraries have qualified and skilled personnel to provide Twenty-first Century library and information services. National projections indicate that nearly half of today's library directors will retire in ten years or less. Nearly sixty percent of today's librarians are age 45 or older. With already high turnover, library staffing is a prominent current and future issue.

With this need in mind, the Bush Administration recently introduced a proposal to appropriate $10 million for librarian recruitment. The proposal is part of the President's FY 2003 budget request for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Included are funds for scholarships, distance learning technology, and recruitment of librarians with diverse language skills.

The American Library Association created a task force to address librarian recruitment and retention. The ALA initiative addresses a current and more direct problem—salaries and wages. The Better Salaries & Pay Equity Task Force was introduced during the 2002 ALA Midwinter Meeting in January. While educational programs and scholarships are important and needed, recruitment and retention efforts will be unsuccessful unless significant improvements are made in library personnel salaries and wages.

So what about Nebraska? Nebraska faces the same library personnel challenges as other states. Add in the plight of rural communities and the challenge is even greater. The problem is shared among public, school, academic, and special libraries and among all areas of Nebraska. These national initiatives must have positive outcomes. Libraries must have qualified and skilled staff. Without adequate compensation, it will become increasingly difficult to attract people to library careers.

Rod Wagner

Happy Fiftieth Anniversary Talking Book and Braille Service

On January 1, 1952, the Nebraska Public Library Commission created a Division for the Blind to provide talking book service to visually impaired Nebraskans. That new division, now known as the Talking Book and Braille Service, began under the direction of Helen Dvoracek with a collection of four hundred titles. The new library circulated 454 books in February 1952. By July, the collection of 1,100 talking books, averaging twenty-two long-playing records per title, circulated to more than three hundred Nebraskans. A complete recording of the Bible required twelve boxes of records.

Nebraska became the twenty-eighth talking book library in the National Library Service/Library of Congress nationwide network of cooperating libraries. Prior to this, visually impaired Nebraskans received service through a regional center at the Denver Public Library.

Today, with a collection of 49,000 titles, mostly on audio cassette, the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service provides books and magazines on cassette and in Braille to more than 4,600 Nebraskans with visual or physical impairment. We look back with gratitude to the hard work and vision of scores of staff members (including Helen Dvoracek, Dorothy Lessenhop, and former Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission Louise Nixon) for the crucial role they played in the development of this service. For more information see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlcl.state.ne.us>, search on Talking Books, or contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Museum-Library Partnership continued from page 1...

metadata creation, scanning, and project management. Liz Bishoff from the Colorado Digitization Project was the presenter. The following day, seventeen participants representing six of the participating institutions met with Bishoff to kick off the Nebraska Western Trails project. For more information contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Coordinator, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>.

NCompass

NCompass is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 (in Nebraska only). Fax: 402-471-2083. ISSN: 1075-9719.

Director: Rod Wagner
Editor: Mary Jo Ryan
Design and Production: Valerie Dayton
Staff: Jacqueline Crocker, Mary Geib, Janet Greer

Home Page: <www.nlcl.state.ne.us>
Nebraska Library Commissioners: Karen Warner, Norfolk, term expires 2003; Robert King, Holdrege, term expires 2004; Wally Seiler, Alliance, term expires 2004; Richard Jessel, Kearney, term expires 2004; Velma Sims, Fremont, term expires 2004; 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.
Nebraska Statistical Data Collection and Reporting Updated


The compilation of the Nebraska data, the Public Library Profile 1999-2000, was distributed to all public libraries in late February. In November, the Nebraska Public Library Statistical Report 2000-2001 was available online for all public libraries in the state to report using Bibliostat™ Collect. The Southeast Library System conducted the first training session on November 30. Fifteen libraries were represented at that session and several completed the entire data entry process that morning. Since then, training sessions have been held across the state. Fifty-five libraries have completed data entry in Bibliostat™ Collect, and another fifty-one have begun data entry. The overall response to online data submission has been very positive. Participants have provided excellent suggestions for enhancements to the online survey for next year’s process. For additional information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>, or see the Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Bibliostat.

Making a Difference @ your library™ Visits Continue

Last spring, the Nebraska Library Commission launched a venture called “Making a Difference @ your library™.” As part of this project, Library Commission staff members are visiting all Nebraska public libraries to discuss successes and challenges, and plan for Twenty-first Century library service. By the end of February, 73% of the visits were completed.

For more details about this project see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Making a Difference. New photographs are added as visits are completed. For more information contact Nancy Busch, Deputy Director, at 402-471-4002, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Louise Aldrich Nixon continued from page 1...

Nixon reflected at her retirement on her most satisfactory recollection of her long career. She said, “...the acceptance of better library programs by the people and their wonderful cooperation. We could not have accomplished anything alone.”

Louise Nixon died September 9, 1989 at the age of ninety-two. The Louise A. Nixon Memorial Scholarship Fund was established through the Nebraska Library Association in her honor. The fund supports students pursuing graduate level library education. For more information about the Nebraska Library Commission during the 1950s and 1960s, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, click on Centennial.
Radio Spreads the Word About Talking Books

In early winter, Nebraska radio and television stations began to air talking book public service announcements (PSAs) aimed at seniors and their family members. Most of the PSAs were delivered to stations by twenty community volunteers, many of whom were local public library directors and their staff or members of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service Advisory Committee.

These PSAs are part of a four-month public education campaign, Take a Talking Book @ your library™, provided by the Library of Congress/National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Promotional mailings were made to Nebraska eye care professionals and Senior Centers. Newspapers are being encouraged to publish press releases as well. Nebraska librarians are encouraged to get involved with the campaign. For more information or to volunteer contact Annette Hall, Volunteer Services Coordinator, 402-471-4033, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ahall@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Annette Hall, Talking Book and Braille Service Volunteer Services Coordinator, (left) works with Patty Hall, McCook Public Library Director, on PSA distribution.

The Mead Public Library Board acknowledges the remittance we have received from you, and we are most grateful. These resources encourage us to further enhance our library with new books and materials needed as we serve our patrons in this community. We appreciate this support in the amount of $848 and so again thank you so very much!!

—Vera, Dalene, Peggy, Elaine, Lesha, June
**What’s Up Doc?**

**Available Electronically**

*What’s Up Doc?* is available on the Nebraska Library Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/doc.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/doc.html). *What’s Up Doc?* is a bimonthly publication listing new state and federal documents from the Library Commission’s Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse/Government Information Services. *What’s Up Doc?* is available on the Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), click on Publications. Nebraskans now have the choice of receiving an e-mail notice or print copies of this newsletter, upon request. Notify the Library Commission re: which option you prefer at Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023, 402-471-3217, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us).

**Commission Awards Grants**

The Library Commission recently awarded $30,730 in grants for Excellence in Children’s Library Services to thirteen Nebraska public libraries. These grants for innovative projects for children in public libraries help achieve the goals of the Libraries of Promise Campaign. For more information see the Commission home page, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Grants for Excellence.

The Library Commission also announced the award of $41,731 in grants for Continuing Education and Training for library staff and board members to twenty Nebraska libraries and library organizations. These grants are awarded to projects providing training and education for Nebraska library personnel, supporting skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. The grant program is based on state funds appropriated to help Nebraska libraries move toward achieving excellence in library service, and is a result of the Libraries for the 21st Century campaign. For more information see the Commission home page, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Continuing Education and Training Grants.

**Pam Scott Responsible for Certification**

Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, has assumed responsibility for the Library Commission certification program, including all aspects of certification of public librarians and boards of trustees. For information about certification contact Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, fax: 402-471-2083, e-mail: [pscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pscott@nlc.state.ne.us).

**Organization of Materials Basic Skills Class Offered in Spring**

Organization of Materials is the Basic Skills class planned for Spring 2002. Organization of Materials is one of four Basic Skills courses required for certification of librarians in public libraries. The course, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska’s Regional Library Systems, addresses Classification, the Dewey Decimal system, and descriptive cataloging. Sites and dates are listed on the Library Commission home page Announcement and Calendar, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us). The cost for the course is $35 for online or onsite participation (lunch not included). A notebook of curriculum material will be provided. Library staff members that do not need to take this class as part of the initial requirement for certification and/or those who have already taken the course would like a refresher will receive six hours of Continuing Education credit applied toward certification.

Contact Pam Scott (see above) for information. To register contact Jodene Glaesemann, Nebraska Library commission, The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023, fax: 402-471-2083, 402-471-4009, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [jglaesemann@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jglaesemann@nlc.state.ne.us). Payment is required prior to attendance at the first class.

**Gates Foundation Grants to be Awarded**

Nebraska libraries will benefit from funding through the U.S. Library Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Grant funding will be awarded and computers installed in libraries from Summer 2002 through Winter 2003. Public libraries that serve communities with more than ten percent poverty, that were not previously eligible for a grant from the foundation, will be invited to apply.

Public libraries will be eligible for either a library building grant or a purchase option grant. Public libraries serving communities with more than ten percent poverty level qualify for a library building grant, including hardware, software, training, technical support, software documentation, and upgrades. Public libraries serving communities with less than ten percent of their population below the poverty level quality for a purchase option grant, with the option to purchase identical computers and receive (at no charge to the library) software, training, technical support, software documentation, and upgrades. Guidelines for poverty level designation are set and administered by the Gates Foundation.

Grant applications will be mailed to Nebraska libraries from the Gates Foundation on March 26. Completed applications must be submitted to the Gates Foundation, postmarked no later than April 22. Workshops to assist with the application process will be held across the state in all regional library system areas.

Grants support expanding library public access to computers, the Internet, and digital information, as well as training and technical support for library staff. For additional information, including the projected timeline and grant writing workshops, see Announcements on the Nebraska Library Commission home page, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) or contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us).
Special Report...
CDBG Grants for Libraries

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), a source of federal tax dollars distributed through state economic development agencies, are available for the first time this year to accredited public libraries in Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) administers the Community Development Block Grant program, providing Nebraskans appropriate, affordable, and accessible housing and infrastructure. The following questions and answers are offered to help Nebraska libraries apply for these funds:

Q. How do we know if our library project fits with CDBG goals?
A. The project must comply with the state's Community Development Objective, which reads, in part, "...to provide for investments in effective and affordable infrastructure to quality communities that are investing in long-term development. This provides a sound basis for fostering local economic development, recognizing the importance of the availability and condition of public works/facilities and housing in business expansion and location decision."

Q. Which funding categories do public libraries fall under?
A. Public libraries are eligible to apply for funding under the category of "public works," and they may also apply for removal of architectural barriers. Public libraries can also apply for funds related to planning or planning for capacity building. Applying for a planning grant is advisable if the library board is just beginning to consider whether or not to build, renovate, or reconstruct a facility.

Q. What requirements must public works projects meet?
A. Public works projects must meet one of the following national objectives:
   ▲ Meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet these needs
   ▲ Eligible activities include, among others:
      ▲ Acquisition of real property to be used for provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this program
      ▲ Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements...that promote energy efficiency of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements
      ▲ Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or handi capped persons

Q. What activities are eligible for CDBG funding?
A. Eligible activities include, among others:
   ▲ Acquisition of real property to be used for provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this program
   ▲ Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements...that promote energy efficiency of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements
   ▲ Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or handi capped persons

Q. How will the requirements for this funding affect the library project?
A. The following procedures must be addressed:
   ▲ The local governing body (city/town/village council or county board) must pass a resolution to approve application for these funds. That is the body that actually applies for the funding. (Note: Contact Richard Miller, Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us > for a copy of a model agreement, spelling out the relationship between the applying body and the local entity, e.g., library.)
   ▲ The project must include a citizen participation plan. The project must have buy-in from the community and cannot be developed in isolation.

Q. What is the funding cycle for CDBG?
A. There are two funding cycles: April 1, 2002 through April 15, 2002, and October 1, 2002 through October 15, 2002. Applications are accepted during each period based upon U.S. Postal Service postmark date or date of delivery by other means.

Q. How can we get help with CDBG Applications?
A. The DED Website, <crd.neded.org/cdbg.html>, offers helpful information including documents, 2002 Community Development Application Guidelines for Improvements to: Water or Wastewater Systems and Other Public Works/Facilities and 2002 Planning and Planning for Capacity Building Application Guidelines.

For clarification or a copy of the CDBG guidelines and application, contact: Steve Charleston, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Community and Rural Development Division, P.O. Box 94666, Lincoln, NE 68509, 402-471-3119, 800-426-6505, fax: 402-471-3778, e-mail: <scharleston@neded.org>.
Library Commission Welcomes Twelve New CatExpress Libraries

Since 1999 the Nebraska Library Commission has worked through NEBASE (Nebraska's OCLC Network) to provide smaller libraries with affordable cataloging services and to help small libraries participate in the WorldCat catalog. WorldCat is OCLC's Online Union Catalog containing more than forty-eight million records from OCLC member libraries around the world. The CatExpress service allows smaller libraries to contribute to the WorldCat database, as well as share their own collections through Interlibrary Loan. In 1999 forty-two of Nebraska's libraries became CatExpress users and this January another twelve were added to this total, bringing Nebraska's CatExpress library users to fifty-four.

This fall the Commission offered funding to libraries interested in joining the CatExpress service. Twelve Nebraska libraries signed up for the service in response to the Library Commission's offer to provide CatExpress at no cost for one year. In exchange for receiving the first year of CatExpress service at no cost to the library, these libraries have agreed to maintain the CatExpress service on their own in the future and to participate as an Interlibrary Loan lender.

Welcome the following libraries to the Nebraska CatExpress Group:

- Ashland Public Library
- Blair Public Library
- Hay Springs Public Schools
- Humphrey Public Library
- Lyons Public Library
- Mead Public Library
- Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary
- Pierce Public Library
- Ravenna Public Library
- Schuyler Central High School
- Valley Public Library

Designed especially for smaller libraries, the CatExpress service requires no special training and offers an easy and affordable way to copy-catalog library materials. Since the service is Web-based, there is no need to maintain or install software. Nebraska librarians report the ease of use and staff time savings as the primary benefits of using CatExpress. For more information on CatExpress see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlcl.state.ne.us>, search on CatExpress.

Library Commission Thanks Volunteers

What would Talking Book and Braille Service be without the dedicated volunteers who narrate books and magazines, duplicate materials, process new books, and perform quality check? In February we honor these caring individuals. During 2002 National Volunteer Week volunteers were greeted with cinnamon rolls, juice, key ring flashlights, and pins commemorating the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. When the Shrine circus came to town, volunteers received bags decorated in an animal motif containing popcorn and peanuts. Appreciation for the dedication of our volunteers was expressed through custom-designed cards and posters, snacks, and milestone presentations. Travel mugs were presented to Pat Schreurs, Jeff Schroeder, and Dena Van Kirk.

Volunteers reaching out to make life richer for others is a vital component of our American heritage. Thank you, volunteers.

Legislative Day Activities Held

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Legislative Day Luncheon was held in February in Lincoln. Using the theme, Making a Difference @ your library," the daylong event focused on the number and variety of services that librarians provide for their customers. With a special emphasis on library services to youth, the luncheon featured a recognition ceremony for young people involved with their local libraries. A continuing education seminar featured Maxine Moul, President of the Nebraska Community Foundation. The seminar focused on library leadership and funding opportunities for libraries and their communities.

MLS Reception Held

A Reception/Information meeting for twenty-eight current and prospective Missouri MLS students was held in the University Library on the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) campus this spring. Faculty discussed admissions and coursework for persons interested in beginning the program and advised students already enrolled. This semester nine students are enrolled in Cataloging, six students in Library Administration, one student in Special Libraries, and three students in Academic Libraries. University of Missouri will offer Managing Collections and Access, taught by Professor Charley Seavey, in the 2002 summer session. This will be a web assisted course covering the eight-week summer session, June 12—July 29, with a face-to-face class meeting in Lincoln, at the Nebraska Library Commission, July 7th—July 9. For more information, contact either Charley Seavey, e-mail: <seaveyc@missouri.edu>, or Becky Pasco, e-mail: <rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu>.

Karen Hein, Reference and Electronic Services Librarian at UNO (left), and Marty Magee, MLS student from Omaha and Omaha Public Schools library media specialist, consult reference materials.
Libraries of Promise Campaign Enters Second Year

The Libraries of Promise campaign is based on supporting the development of five of the assets that young people need in order to grow into productive adults: teaching, mentoring, nurturing, safety, and opportunities for service. Public libraries contribute significantly to children and youth in these five areas. The Libraries of Promise campaign, now in its second year, gives public libraries across Nebraska opportunities to demonstrate the many ways they contribute to the well-being of children, providing the resources to help young people develop in these five key areas. Nebraska libraries pledging to provide any combination of these resources are designated Libraries of Promise. They receive a certificate and window decal to recognize the extra effort in these areas.

Success stories like these are posted on the Library Commission Web page <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, as examples for other libraries:

▲ In Indianola the librarian offers a warm, safe place for children whose parents are socializing. She has developed warm relationships with children who might not otherwise use the library.
▲ Anselmo children and youth flock to the library to socialize, read, check out new books, play games, and dress up in new identities. The library is the only safe place in the community where young people can gather.
▲ A special shelf of books written and illustrated by local children resulted from a collaborative project between the Klyte Burt Memorial Library and the school in Curtis. Children develop writing skills and their work receives public recognition, thus nurturing their interest in writing.
▲ The Lexington Public Library enlisted volunteers to teach in Spanish, helping provide Spanish-speaking middle-school students with computer and Internet skills.
▲ Atkinson high school students deliver library materials and stories to daycare centers, giving them the opportunity to be of service to the community.

▲ The Neligh Public Library plans to offer training in volunteer skills to young adults and to help them find volunteer positions, supporting opportunities for community service.

Public relations materials to help youth librarians communicate the importance of their services to communities will be distributed by the Nebraska Library Commission. For more information see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Libraries of Promise.

Service Learning Partnership Planned

Public libraries across Nebraska will pilot a Service Learning project, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L) and funded through a grant from the Nebraska Volunteer Commission. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning that engages students in solving problems and addressing issues in their school, public library, or greater community, as part of their total education and development. Service Learning projects have been a part of school curriculum for many years and are now being introduced into public libraries as part of the statewide Libraries of Promise campaign, showcasing the library’s role in youth development. Public librarians throughout Nebraska were chosen to pilot this Service Learning project because of their abilities to think and envision creatively.

In May 2001 representatives from Arapahoe, Atkinson, Beatrice, Chadron, Elkhorn, Fremont, Grand Island, Plattsmouth, and Wymore worked with campus leaders, Service Learning students, and other community leaders to determine needs of communities and youth and to list functions that public libraries have traditionally performed that make a difference in the lives of young people. This group developed grant proposals to meet specific community needs and to use service learners from participating colleges to develop and implement programs. The project was scheduled to begin in Fall 2001, but has been delayed due to UN-L administrative factors. For more information see the Announcement on the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>.
**Library Commission Fosters Statewide Summer Reading Program**

The summer reading program theme for 2002, **Join the Winner’s Circle @ your library**™, promises to be a winning program in Nebraska’s public and school libraries. Librarians are encouraged to focus on many approaches to winning, including sports, friendship, personal triumph, and victory promoting imagination, character development, multiculturalism, and self-esteem. Promotional items will be shipped in March. It is possible to place supplemental orders directly through Highsmith, see [www.highsmith.com/upstart/2002CSLP.htm](http://www.highsmith.com/upstart/2002CSLP.htm), although many items may be unavailable.

The Library Commission will again offer videos to complement the summer reading program. The videos selected this year depict winning and winners in a variety of situations. Using videos as part of the summer program adds alternative formats to programs and may encourage reluctant readers to join in the fun. There is no limit on the number of videos that may be reserved and no charge for using the videos, only the postage for return. See the Library Commission home page for the video list, [www.nlcs.state.ne.us/](http://www.nlcs.state.ne.us/), search on Children’s Video List, or request a list from Nebraska Information Reference/Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ready@nlcs.state.ne.us. All six Regional Library Systems plan summer reading workshops for spring.

Nebaska is a member of the Cooperative Summer Library Group, comprised of twelve states that share ideas and themes and cooperate to produce a reasonably-priced quality summer library program with materials that have high appeal to children.

---

**Summer Clip Art Available**

Clip art for Summer Reading Program 2002: Join the Winners Circle—Read is now available on the Library Commission home page at [www.nlcs.state.ne.us](http://www.nlcs.state.ne.us/), search on Join the Winner’s Circle. The images can be used to design local promotional and incentive materials.

---

**Commission Offers Reviews on the Web**

The Nebraska Library Commission will provide audio access to the Children’s and Young Adult book reviews on the Library Commission Web site. Library staff across Nebraska will be able to select the reviews by book title, hear the voice of the reviewer, and view the cover and sample format/pages. The reviews have traditionally been available on videotape and will continue to be available in this format, as well. While the reviews on the web page won’t replace the tapes, they may have additional benefits for some users. Librarians can choose specific titles of interest and can learn about new books from any computer, rather than depending on access to a video player. The development of Book Reviews on the Web is partially funded through a grant from the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. A sample set of fifty titles is currently under development as a pilot, scheduled to be available on the Library Commission Web site this spring.

---

**Library Commission Supports Conference Attendance for Sixty Librarians**

Jim Trelease, author of the bestselling **Read Aloud Handbook** and noted promoter of reading aloud to young people, gave an inspiring presentation in November in Omaha. The day-long event was attended by five hundred librarians, educators, and parents. The Nebraska Library Commission financed the registration fee for sixty public librarians and many media specialists also attended. Trelease used statistical information and case studies to demonstrate that a love of stories and books is the best foundation for successful readers and for academic performance. He stressed that parents should read aloud to children from infancy through their teenage years, even after they have learned to read by themselves. Reading aloud to children is a powerful opportunity for family bonding and communication.

Trelease’s appearance celebrated the first Nebraska “Read Aloud to a Child Week.” Governor Mike Johanns signed a proclamation designating this week of special activities. The Read Aloud Nebraska planning coalition, comprised of the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska Department of Education, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Nebraska School Psychologists Association, is currently exploring the development of an ongoing organization to promote reading aloud to children.

—

*The workshop featuring Jim Trelease was just great. I want to express my thanks to the Commission for the opportunity to attend this without charge. It was a great program and I enjoyed it very much.*

Charlene Harding, Director, Springfield Memorial Library
Special Report...
Open Letter from the Nebraska Center for Book

Dear Friends of the Nebraska Center for Book:

It is the time of year when we celebrate our accomplishments from the past year and ask for your continued support for the Center’s programs! The Nebraska Center for the Book is now able to promote programs and events listed below thanks to your continued membership and the generous assistance from both the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Humanities Council.

Highlights from our tenth year include:

- THE NEBRASKA LITERATURE FESTIVAL. Held at Peru State College September 21-22, 2001, this year’s festival featured the Nebraska poetry community and honored Nebraska State Poet, Bill Kloefkorn and University of Nebraska at Kearney’s Don Welch. In 2002 the festival will change its name to the Nebraska Book Festival.

- LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE. In its third annual competition, four students received awards for outstanding letters to authors. As a part of this national competition, the Weekly Reader Corporation awards each first place letter $100, and thanks to Houchen Bindery, Ltd. of Utica, the alternates receive $50. Each receive a book certificate from Lee Booksellers.

- NEBRASKA BOOK AWARDS. In its second year, books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, and/or set in Nebraska or relating to Nebraska are recognized.

- BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS AND WRITINGS GROUPS. The Center is collecting information about Nebraska book clubs and writing groups. More than 170 groups in forty-six communities have been identified.

- THE MILDRED BENNETT AWARD, given to an individual, is awarded for leadership and service to Nebraska Literature. This year’s winner was Marion Marsh Brown.

- THE JANE GESKE AWARD, given to an association, organization, business, library, school, or academic institution that has made an exceptional, long-term contribution to one or more of these fields in Nebraska: Literacy, Bookselling, Books, Libraries, Writing. This year’s winner was Friends of the Omaha Public Library.

Please support our annual membership drive. The newsletter that you, as a member, will receive will outline our many activities—all of which you help make possible. With your membership, the Nebraska Center for the Book can continue to not only build on the above programs and events, but further stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. Please contact the Library Commission, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, to request a membership form.

Thank you in advance for your 2002 membership!

Sincerely,
Joan Birnie, President
Nebraska Center for the Book

E-Rate Support Reported

Eighty Nebraska public libraries and the Nebraska Library Commission received e-rate discounts for the fourth year of the Universal Service Fund discount program. The total discounts of more than $200,000 help public libraries provide more effective services to customers by improving technology access in libraries. Most libraries received discounts for Internet or telecommunications access. Libraries used the support for improving connections and telephone service. Discount levels for e-rate are based on the percentage of students in each local school district eligible for subsidized lunch programs. In Nebraska, public libraries across Nebraska received discounts ranging from $225 in Emerson to $42,000 in Omaha.

The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) raises concerns for librarians and board members. This law, passed in 2001, affects libraries that receive federal funding for discounts relating to public Internet access. The Children’s Internet Protection Act does not affect discounts on telecommunications for year 4 (2001-2002). However, libraries that receive discounts for Internet access for year 4 are required to document that their facility took action toward CIPA compliance. Many libraries used documentation of a CIPA discussion during a board meeting as an example of such action toward compliance.

Libraries that will be awarded funding discounts for Internet access for year 5, (2002-2003) will be required to follow the following guidelines:

- Install a technology protection measure (filter)
- Adopt and/or revise the Internet Safety Policy, according to guidelines suggested by Schools and Libraries Division, see <www.sl.universalservice.org/reference/CIPA.asp>
- Post a public notice and hold a public hearing addressing filters and the Internet Safety policy.

The American Library Association (ALA) has filed a legal challenge to CIPA. The trial date for ALA v. United States is March 25. Libraries are not required to make a final decision about installing filtering technology until July 2002. ALA is asking the court to resolve the matter before any library is required to make that decision. For more information see the ALA home page at <www.ala.org/cipa>; the Library Commission home page at <www.nlclibrary.state.ne.us>, search on E-Rate; or contact Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, fax: 402-471-2083, e-mail: <pscott@nlclibrary.state.ne.us>.

State Advisory Council Appointments Made

The Library Commission recently announced the following appointments to the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries:

**Reappointments**
- Mike Herbison, Kearney
- Kathy Lute, Ogallala
- Ruth Seward, Lexington

**New Appointments**
- Steve Davis, Kearney, Nebraska Educational Media Association ex-officio
- Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff, replacing Michael LaCroix
- Becky Baker, Seward, Nebraska Library Association ex-officio
The Omaha Public Library is the winner of the 2002 Grolier
National Library Week Grant for the Find your story @ your library™ program. The $4,000
grant is awarded by the Grolier Publishing Company and ALA
for the best proposal for a National Library Week (April 14-20) public awareness campaign.
The library will partner with Nebraska StoryArts to produce
a storytelling program demonstrating the power of finding and
telling one's own story.

Kylee Nielsen, age 16, of
Kenard is the grand prize winner of the Drive to Read @ your library™ essay contest spon-
sored by Morningstar Foods Inc and ALA. Wendy Anderson,
Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public
Library Director, inspired
Nielsen to submit her winning entry on a meaningful or
inspiring book for teenagers.

The La Vista Public Library was selected as one of the winners of OCLC's (Online Computer
Library Center, Inc.) ILL Web Interface Contest. The library will receive a $1,000 credit on their
OCLC services bill.

Go Figure!, a national traveling
exhibit organized by Minnesota
Children’s Museum and ALA
tours the U.S. and stops at the
Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City, June 24 through
July 20. The exhibit introduces early math concepts such as
sorting and measuring through
kid-sized environments inspired by
familiar children’s books.

The University Library,
University of Nebraska at
Omaha, is the 2001 recipient of the Gale Group Award for
Excellence in Reference and Adult
Services for its Research Wizard,
a database-driven, Web appli-
cation for creating customized
research guides.

Torn Notebook: The Creative
Process, the fifteenth annual
Sheldon Statewide exhibit,
opened in January at the
Holdrege Public Library
System. The exhibit documents
the development of a public
sculpture and features Holdrege
High School student hosts, who
have been trained to introduce
others to the exhibit.

Public libraries in Stromsburg
and Wymore were recognized for
their outstanding efforts and
contributions to their communities during the 2001 Nebraska
Community Improvement
Program (NCIP) banquet. For
more information about the 2002
NCIP competition see the
Nebraska Department of
Economic Development Web site
at <crd.dednet.org/ncip/#
particip>. The NCIP Entry Form
and Government Resolution must
be submitted by May 1.

USDA Rural Development
Community Facility Grants
were recently awarded to: Little
Priest Tribal College in
Winnebago, $135,000 for the
construction of a new
college/public library (the Lilly
Foundation will also provide
$635,000); Rock County Public
Library in Bassett, $18,800 to
purchase bookmobile; Ulysses
Township Library, $2,400 for
library improvements; and
Village of Oconto, $103,000 to
construct a multi-use facility
serving as library, community
center, senior center, and Village
office. For more information see
<www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>.

Lincoln City Libraries is one of
fifteen libraries across the nation
selected to host the PRIME
TIME Family Reading Time
reading discussion and story-
telling series based on illustrated
children’s books, sponsored by
the Louisiana Endowment for
the Humanities and ALA.

New Library Directors include:
Battle Creek Public Library,
Kathy Breitschneider; Brüning
Public Library, Donna Schwef;
Crawford Public Library, Ellen
Renken; Davenport Public
Library, Sharon Littel; Fairfield
Public Library, Gail Kimminnau;
Youth Rehabilitation and
Treatment Center, Geneva,
Joanne Jackson; Genoa Public
Library, Sharon Jones; Giltner
Public Library, Bonnie Rudy;
Sioux County Library, Harrison,
Vicky Dunn; Hayes Center
Public Library, Debbie Cox; La
Vista Public Library, Rose
Schinker; Lewellen Public
Library, Leone Wolfe; Diagnostic
and Evaluation Center, Lincoln,
Mindy Rush; Lyman Public
Library, Bonnie Youngquist;
Minature Public Library, Lillian
Covalt; Norfolk Veterens Home,
Kate Hofman; Pierce Public
Library, Dawn Tucker; Ponca
Public Library, Beth Foulks;
Randolph Public Library, Joan
Steffen; Ravenna Public Library,
Trudi Cadenbach; Concordia
University Link Library, Seward,
Jeremy Meyer; Ulysses Township
Library, Cindy Kadavv;
Dvorecek Memorial Library,
Wilbur, Susie Homolka and
Nancy Vacek, Co-Directors; and
Wilcox Public Library, Erna
Heckens.

Recipients of the Nebraska
Library Commission Master of
Library Science Scholarships are
Andrea Dinkelman and Denise
Matulka, both of Lincoln, both
attending the University of
Illinois; Susan Franklin,
Hastings, attending the
University of Missouri; and
Marty Magee, Omaha, attending
the University of Missouri. Each
will receive $1,000 to support
their pursuit of graduate level
library education.
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120
Lincoln NE 68508-2023
34-00-00

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED