



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:

- ▲ Offering training programs for project participants and others
- ▲ Working with project participants to produce at least 2,500 images from each state



Liz Bishoff, Colorado Digitization Project Director, (standing in background) conducts the Introduction to Digitization Workshop.

- ▲ 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,

continued on next page...

▲ In this Issue:

**From the Director:
Wanted: 21st
Century Librarians**
page 2

**Talking Book &
Braille Service
Celebrates
Anniversary**
page 2

**Library
Commission
Supports Children's
Services**
pages 8 & 9

**News of Nebraska
Libraries and
People**
page 11

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

continued on page 3...

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.nlc.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

Spring 2002 • Vol. 9 No. 1

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 Geibel, Janet Greser

Home Page: <www.nlc.state.ne.us>
Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Karen Warner**, Norfolk, term expires 2003; **Robert King**, Holdrege, term expires 2003; **Wally Seiler**, Alliance, term expires 2004; **Richard Jussel**, 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 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently released 1999 summary data <nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002308> describing public libraries in the United States, District of Columbia, and the outlying areas of Guam and the Northern Marianas. Additionally, the 1999/2000 public library data for Nebraska public libraries is now available online <www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/Downloads/9900stats/index9900.html>.

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

was made available online (via collect.informata.com) for all public libraries in the state to report 2000–2001 statistical information 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 infor-



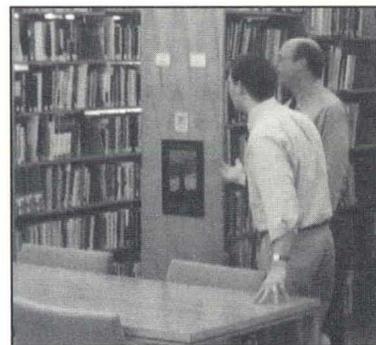
mation contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>, or see the Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Bibliostat. ▲

Participants at the Bibliostat™ training conducted by the Library Commission included (l. to r.) Jane Hilton, Elwood Public Library Director, Linda Rea, Hastings Public Library Director, and Cheryl Ahrens, Arapahoe Public Library Director.

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>. ▲



Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Holdrege Public Library System Director (left), conducts a tour of the library for Rod Wagner, Library Commission Director.

Louise Aldrich Nixon *continued from page 1...*

improved buildings, better book collections, and expanded service.

She influenced the development of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, now Talking Book and Braille Service, begun in 1952. The addition of the Teletype network system (TWX) and the continued updating of the *Union Catalog* enhanced the use of Interlibrary Loan during her watch. Nixon regarded the Commission as a resource library for the entire state. She focused on rural library service, helping with rural reading conferences and partnering with the Home Extension Service of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture.

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. ▲

Special Report...State Aid to Nebraska Libraries: Past and Present

The Nebraska Library Commission Newsletter, *Overtones from the Underground*, 2:6, 1974, reports that the first state aid funds were presented to the Tekamah Public Library. The \$385 grant was made possible through a \$200,000 general fund appropriation. The library used the state aid money to buy library furniture. The formula used in that first year of the program provided "...\$200 for every grant recipient plus \$.10 per capita, based on the 1970 census population figures." (*Overtones*, 1978). At that time, thirty-six states had state aid programs for public libraries.

From its inception, the state aid program for public libraries in Nebraska has been tied to performance. "State Aid funds will emphasize the development of library services and resources to meet community and area needs. Maintenance of local effort and progress in meeting Standards for Public Libraries will be considered in the review of grant applications." (*Overtones from the Underground*, 4:5, 1976) The intent has been to provide for enhanced services over and above those provided for through local funding. In a meeting of the Library Commission in July 1978, the "Commissioners 'reaffirmed' the principle that State Aids (sic) to Public Libraries are not a substitute for local funding...libraries must sustain levels of local financial support in order to qualify for state aids...Commissioner Robert Harris stated that "State Aid is not a handout, but an incentive program to encourage improvement of local library service." (*Overtones*, 5:12, 1978).

In 1980, the Unicameral voted a seven percent increase in the state aid appropriations for public libraries. Rather than increasing the base amount provided, the Commissioners opted to use the increase in aid "to provide incentives for countywide library services...The remaining funds, approximately \$16,000 will be disbursed to public libraries which function as county library service headquarters." (*Overtones*, 6:13, 1979) The following year, \$214,000 was allocated for financial aid to public libraries, with \$194,000 for State Aid grants and \$20,000 supporting regional library services. In 1983, the most common use of state aid payments was "for books to up-grade reference and general material collections...Among the more unusual uses is a library which will use state aid money to acquire a software program for its small computer. Libraries in the Panhandle system...agreed to pool their state aid grants to support services commonly shared by system members." (*Overtones*, 10:4-5, 1983) In 1992 State Aid to Public Libraries was linked to the public library accreditation process.

In 1999 the Commissioners of the Nebraska Library Commission approved allocation of additional state aid funds. The formula was revised, providing a higher base payment for libraries serving populations less than 5,000. Another change in the 1999 formula was the institution of an incentive payment. A percentage incentive payment is paid to libraries that receive funding from a public entity outside their primary funding source. This is to encourage libraries to seek additional public funds to support the services that, in many cases, they currently offer to people who live outside their basic service area.

In 2002, state aid payments are subject to budget cuts that resulted from a special session of the Nebraska Legislature. The per capita amounts paid to eligible libraries were reduced. However, in many cases, since the payments made were based on 2000 census figures, an increased population number offset this cut. A total of approximately \$385,000 is currently being paid to 162 eligible libraries, with average payments at \$2,248 and \$0.909 per capita. The average 2002 state aid payment to libraries serving populations of less than 5,000 (132 libraries) is \$973, and \$1.062 per capita. The average payment to libraries serving population of 5,000 or greater (thirty libraries) is \$7,843, and \$0.231 per capita. 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 State Aid.

Kit Keller

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.

Thank You!

To the Nebraska Library Commission

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>. *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>, 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: <jjwrampe@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>, 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>, 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>.

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>. 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 and 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: <jjglasemann@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 qualify 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> or contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <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:

- ▲ Benefiting low and moderate-income persons (The 51% level seems to be an important mark to hit.)
- ▲ Aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight

▲ 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

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 handicapped 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.

▲ When the document is in final draft, a public hearing on the application for CDBG funding must be held.

▲ Grants require 25% match of the total activity costs in cash or in-kind contributions

▲ Since this is federal funding, there are a number of "post award requirements" (just as there were when the Library Commission distributed federal library construction funds). A partial list of requirements includes records retention schedule, single audit act compliance, wage rate, competitive bidding, and environmental review.

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.nlc.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 focussed 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.

Library Commission Supports Children's Services

For more information about Library Commission support for Children's services contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us> or Mary Jackson, Children and Young Adult Services Coordinator, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@nlc.state.ne.us>.

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>, 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.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Children's Video List, or request a list from the Library Commission Reference/Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us>. All six Regional Library Systems plan summer reading workshops for spring. Nebraska 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 Winner's Circle—Read is now available on the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.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 best-selling *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 teen 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.nlc.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: <psscott@nlc.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

- ▲ Steve Davis, Kearney, Nebraska Educational Media Association ex-officio

New Appointments

- ▲ Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff, replacing Michael LaCroix
- ▲ Becky Baker, Seward, Nebraska Library Association ex-officio ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- ▲ **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 sponsored 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 application 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.neded.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 storytelling 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 Bretschneider**; Bruning Public Library, **Donna Schweer**; Crawford Public Library, **Ellen Renken**; Davenport Public Library, **Sharon Littrel**; Fairfield Public Library, **Gail Kimminau**; 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**; Minatare Public Library, **Lillian Covalt**; Norfolk Veterans 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 Kadavy**; 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. ▲

New on Our Home Page:

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

- ▲ Basic Skills/Organization of Materials Planned for Spring
- ▲ Childrens Library Services Videoconference March 29
- ▲ @ your library™ Promotional Videotape Available
- ▲ **Making a difference** @ your library™ Project Photos
- ▲ Nominations for NLA Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards Due May 30
- ▲ National Library Week is April 14-20

Nebraska Library Commission



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

PRESRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 212

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED