

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2016–
June 30, 2017
Year in Review
FY2017

Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Vol. 22 No. 1

Federal Grant Awarded to Nebraska Library Commission

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**Training at the
Plattsmouth Public
Library Makerspace are
(l.-r.) Yolanda Jasso,
Lynne Campbell, Devra
Dragos, and Karen
Beckman.**

In Spring 2017 the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced a grant award to the Nebraska Library Commission through the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program. Nebraska's **Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities** project will create library Makerspaces across Nebraska in partnership with the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, Regional Library Systems, and local public libraries.

IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew said, "We are delighted to announce today's grant recipients, whose projects rose to the top of a demanding peer review process. The IMLS matching requirements incentivized an additional \$4.4 million of support from other funders and community collaborators, helping to ensure the sustainability of these projects and to enhance their reach and impact." National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields and that

have the potential to advance library and archival practice with new tools, research findings, models, services, or alliances that can be widely replicated.

Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will receive \$530,732 to advance economic development in thirty rural communities by developing Innovation Studios with tools to enable residents to explore, collaborate, create, learn, and invent. The project will demonstrate the critical role of public libraries as catalysts for economic and community development in rural communities. It will be disseminated nationally.

The initial eighteen libraries were selected to host Makerspaces, and twelve additional libraries will be selected in 2018. This project runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. For more information about the project or equipment that will be featured in the rotating Makerspaces, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios> or contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Library Innovation Studios Project Manager, joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [grant #LG-95-17-0046-17].



Rural libraries selected for the first round of Makerspaces:

- Ainsworth Public Library
- Ashland Public Library
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Broken Bow Public Library
- Central City Public Library
- Crete Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Loup City Public Library
- Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Platte Public Library
- Plattsmouth Public Library
- Ravenna Public Library
- Scottsbluff, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
- Sidney Public Library, Special Model Program Partner
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Wayne Public Library



From the Director...

Partnerships Key to Library Service

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to provide this annual report covering many of the activities, events, and initiatives from the past year. There are the on-going services the Commission provides toward its statutory mission of statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library services, and there are new initiatives that contribute to Nebraska's quality of life.

Major activities this past year included completion of the Five-Year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) state program evaluation and development of a new Five-Year LSTA Plan. The Library Services and Technology Act State Grants program continues to be a vital resource to supplement state funding in support of many Nebraska Library Commission services.

This past year much time, effort, creativity, and collaboration were devoted to securing a National Leadership Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the **Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities** project. Many months of work contributed to the grant award and to the project's official launch beginning on July 1. This report highlights the project and the work to take place over the three-year project period. Notable are the contributions and support from project partner organizations – Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems. Key to the project's success will be the thirty Nebraska libraries that will participate.

The Library Commission's efforts depend on the contributions of many organizations and individuals. Thanks to all who serve on the State Advisory Council on Libraries, Talking Book and Braille Service Advisory Committee, and partner organizations – Regional

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Debby Whitehill Bloom, Omaha**, term expires 2018; **Molly Fisher, Lincoln**, term expires 2018; **Michael LaCroix, Omaha**, term expires 2019; **Charles Peek, Kearney**, term expires 2019; **Susan Warneke, Norfolk**, term expires 2018; and **Sandy White, Sidney**, term expires 2019.

Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board.

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

State of Nebraska Funds	\$3,922,258
Federal Funds	1,404,148
Cash Funds	3,057
Total	\$5,329,463

Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$1,440
Collaborative Summer Reading Program	9,625
Continuing Education & Training	4,095
Electronic Information Resources	450,666
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation).....	68,125
Library Improvement Grants	41,162
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries.....	18,925
OverDrive Downloadable Books	226,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software (BiblioStat)	4,125
Regional Library Systems.....	565,531
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships	24,000
State Aid to Public Libraries	363,573
United for Libraries	46,595
Youth Grants for Excellence	16,049
TOTAL	\$1,839,911

Library Commissioners Steer Commission into the Future



Working at the Commission planning session are (l.-r.) Charles Peek, Kearney; Molly Fisher, Lincoln; Jennifer Wrampe, Nebraska Library Commission; Michael LaCroix, Omaha; Debby Whitehill Bloom, Omaha; Susan Warneke, Norfolk; and Sandy White, Sidney.

In FY 2017 Nebraska Library Commissioners worked with Commission staff members to craft the *Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan 2018-2022*, submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in June. The plan outlined goals, objectives, projects and activities designed to improve library services for all Nebraskans. The plan was based on the library and information service needs of Nebraskans as determined through broad-based communication and information sources, including the Commission's Spring 2017 five-year LSTA program evaluation and input from stakeholders. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/aboutus/plandoc.aspx> for a copy of the plan and for the *Evaluation of the 2012–2017 Library Services and Technology Act Plan*, conducted by John F. Dale, Independent Consultant for the Nebraska Library Commission.

As representatives of the public appointed by the governor and

serving three-year terms, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services. They are primarily involved in policy making, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy. Their dedication and involvement is integral to the success of the Nebraska Library Commission. Meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

Commissioners who served during FY 2017 were **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha; **Molly Fisher**, Lincoln; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha; **Charles Peek**, Kearney; **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk; and **Sandy White**, Sidney. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings. ➡

Ed. Note:

Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Biennial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newslist**. Fill out the form at nlc.nebraska.gov/enews to stay abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly email in your inbox with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the email message to read the complete content of the blog post and to comment.

Library Commission Staff Transitions, FY 2017

Arrivals

- **Amanda Sweet**, Talking Book and Braille Service Library Reader's Advisor
- **Jan Jolliffe**, Western Library System Director

Departures

- **Paul Jacobsen**, Library Audio Player Equipment & Duplication Coordinator
- **Richard Miller**, Library Development Director



Representing Nebraska libraries at the Nebraska League of Municipalities Conference were (l.-r.) Southeast Library System Director Scott Childers, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director Richard Miller (retired), and Grand Island Public Library Director Steve Fosselman.

Reassignments

- **Christa Porter**, Senior Librarian to Library Development Director

2017 Excellence in Leadership Award Recipients



JoAnn McManus
Nebraska Library Commission
Library Innovation Studios Project Manager



Rod Wagner
Nebraska Library Commission
Director

From the Director...

(continued)

Library Systems, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska School Librarians Association. Library services in Nebraska are best when these organizations work together for mutual benefit and toward the purpose of serving Nebraskans.

There's no shortage of great stories about Nebraska libraries and library services. While not as dramatic as presidential changes, solar eclipses, hurricanes, or multi-million dollar lottery winnings, the stories coming from Nebraska libraries are none-the-less meaningful and inspiring. Libraries make a significant, beneficial, and positive difference in the lives of the state's residents. The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to support the work and efforts of the thousands of library workers, volunteers and supporters who contribute their time and talent to Nebraska library services.

For more information about the Nebraska Library Commission, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, rod.wagner@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665.

Rod Wagner 

Nebraskans Take Library Message to Washington



Representing Nebraska libraries are (l.-r.) Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Debby Whitehill Bloom, Nebraska Library Commission; Sen. Deb Fischer; Steve Fosselman, Nebraska Library Association; and Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission.

Nebraska library representatives participated in the 2017 National Library Legislative Day activities held in May in Washington, DC. Nebraska Library Commission participants included Michael LaCroix (Commission Chair), Debby Whitehill Bloom (Commission Vice-Chair), and Rod Wagner (Commission Director). Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library Director, participated representing the Nebraska Library Association. The Nebraska library representatives met

with Senators and Representatives from Nebraska's congressional delegation and provided information about Nebraska libraries and library services. Also discussed were library-related policy issues and legislation (including the Library Services and Technology Act) and funding, youth issues (school libraries and early learning), and telecommunications policies (including E-Rate – telecommunications services for schools and libraries). 

NCompass Live Wednesday Webinars Grow

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT. During Fiscal Year 2017, 51 episodes of *NCompass Live* were broadcast with 977 live attendees. Audience members participated from 44 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

NCompass Live sessions were presented by Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest speakers from public, academic, and school libraries in Nebraska, as well as from California, Florida, Illinois,

Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia.

More than 430 archived sessions are recorded and available for

viewing at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/NCArchivist.asp>.

For the list of upcoming sessions, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive>. To suggest a topic for *NCompass Live*, contact Christa Porter, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2265. 



Are you missing out on important library information?

Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newslist* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.

nlc.nebraska.gov/enevs

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission, <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

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Advisory Council Assists with Planning

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to make recommendations on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs—including providing input on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Program Evaluation and the LSTA Long-Range Plan. This year the council participated in data gathering and plan development, including a planning session based on a Libraries Transforming Communities World Café-style discussion. In addition to planning and evaluation activities, they focused on advocacy for libraries and library service—sharing strategies, data, and stories, and providing input on library legislation, policies, and issues.

The council met three times during FY 2017, with each meeting including a report on the Nebraska Library Commission biennium budget and reports from representatives of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Nebraska School Librarians Association



Working on the Commission Long Range Plan at the State Advisory Commission Meeting are (l.-r.): Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission (standing); Jo Jackson, Fairmont; John Dale, Lincoln; and Scott Childers, Lincoln.

(NSLA). One meeting centered on maximizing social media for library communications and another featured discussion of collaborative initiatives. Council members represented all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consisted of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and customers.

State Advisory Council members included:

Drew Brookhart, Columbus Public Library

Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston

Scott Childers, Southeast Library System, Lincoln

John Dale, Lincoln

Beth Falla, Lied Imperial Public Library

Susan Franklin, Hastings College Perkins Library

Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System, Hastings

Sherry Houston, Papillion

Gail Irwin, Ainsworth Public Library

Joann Jackson, Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center, Geneva

Beth Kabes, Educational Service Unit 7, Columbus

Angela Kroeger, University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library, NLA Liaison

Cecelia Lawrence, Chair, North Platte Public Library

Lori Long, Gothenburg Public Schools

Laura Marlane, Omaha Public Library

Dana Morgan, Leyton Public Schools

Lisa Olivigni, Lincoln City Libraries

Julie Pinnell, Nebraska Wesleyan University Cochrane-Woods Library, Lincoln

Charlene Rasmussen, Wayne

Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis

Angie Richeson, University of Nebraska at Kearney, NSLA Liaison

Gayle Roberts, Blair Public Library, NLA Liaison

Sky Seery, Mid-Plains Community College, McCook

Janet Stoeger Wilke, University of Nebraska at Kearney Ryan Library

Noelle Thompson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Matthew Williams, Kearney Public Library

Abbigail Yellman, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

For more information including Council meeting agendas and minutes, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stadv>.

Free server space hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission

Free tech support

NEBRASKA LIBRARIES ON THE WEB

SEE MORE @ LIBRARIES.NE.GOV

Commission Supports Websites for Libraries

Nebraska Libraries on the Web, a service provided by the Nebraska Library Commission, provides free websites to more than one hundred of the state's public libraries and all four Regional Library Systems. Sites are hosted on the Commission servers, and software updates and security are handled by Commission staff. Using WordPress, a website platform that offers a large collection of customizable templates (rather than building sites from scratch), libraries can plug their information into the templates to save time. WordPress tools allow users to send content from their websites automatically to Facebook and Twitter. Free technology support is available from Commission staff, and users can also access on-demand training videos and blog posts with tips for website enhancement.

This service is available to legally-established Nebraska public libraries with the expectation that they add content to their sites on a regular basis. For more information, see <http://libraries.ne.gov> or contact Allana Novotny, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Librarian, allana.novotny@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6681, 800-307-2665.



PIIONEER

Commission Aids Pioneer Consortium

Pioneer, the open-source consortium of Nebraska libraries, continued to expand the cooperative catalog, as well as provide software improvements to facilitate the effectiveness of the catalog and cooperative activities among the members. The consortium employs the open source software Koha, a reasonably-priced Integrated Library System (ILS) that serves as the basis of a growing union catalog and could lead to a statewide catalog in the future. The consortium worked cooperatively with other library consortia across the country using the same software.

The consortium expanded to twenty-five libraries, including libraries in Alma, Arapahoe, Atkinson, Axtell, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Brunswick, Central City, David City, Dundy County, Franklin, Grand Island, Grant, Hildreth, Holdrege, McCook, Papillion, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Superior, Valley, Valparaiso, and Western Nebraska Community College. Libraries chose to join as an alternative to replacing current stand-alone catalog systems with another proprietary system at greater cost.

The Nebraska Library Commission provided grants of \$23,300 to supplement funding from the members for software development and improvement. Brunswick Public Library received a \$6,706 grant to assist in joining the consortium.

For more information see <https://nepioneer.com> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 4. For membership information contact Steve Fosselman, sf@gi.lib.ne.us, 308-385-5333.

Significant funding for this project has been provided through grants from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Commission Circulates Book Club Kits

In 2006, the Library Commission slowly started collecting multiple copies of books to serve as Book Club Kits to be loaned to libraries and media centers in the state. Today we have more than 1,300 titles in our collection (nearly 13,000 physical items) including elementary and young adult titles, classics, graphic novels, bestsellers, holiday titles, and Nebraska authors. A prime motivation for creating this collection was to assist with Interlibrary Loan requests for multiple copies. Our collection makes providing copies to groups easier and more convenient; one place to request copies and one place to return them, rather than individual copies from/to multiple libraries.

In 2012 we averaged book club circulation of 371 items per month and the current pace is more than

1,000 per month. As Interlibrary Loan numbers slowly decrease, book club circulation increases—complimenting each other as we continue to provide information and services to libraries and schools in Nebraska with this ever growing and very popular collection. Since January 2012, we've responded to book club requests from:

- 137 public libraries
- 97 school media centers
- 5 academic libraries
- 8 special/other libraries

For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/> or contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4015, 800-307-2665. ➔

"...just wanted to tell you how much these kits have meant to us. Since starting the book club, we have noticed an uptick in patrons and books checked out. Thanks so much!"

– Audrey Heil, Loup City Public Library



United for Libraries Supports Nebraska Libraries

Nebraska libraries continued to benefit from the resources and support of *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association. The Library Commission supported membership to *United for Libraries* for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness. Nebraska libraries used a special website (www.ala.org/united/Nebraska) to access resources, webinars, online training, and publications for Nebraska library trustees, library directors, and library staff at no charge to them, including:

- **Trustee Academy.** Five online courses;
- **Short Takes for Trustees.** Ten 10-minute training videos;
- **Engaging Today's Volunteers for Libraries and Friends** Webinar series on volunteer recruitment and retention;
- **Friend Your Library Bookmark and Poster Files** Free downloadable promotional items;
- **Recorded Webinars** Just-in-

time webinar training on topics like *Troubled Library Boards* and *Merging Friends and Foundations*;

- **Resource Collection Zones.** Current and archived newsletters, toolkits, electronic publications, special offers, etc. for Library Boards, Friends, and Foundations; and
- **Power Guide for Successful Advocacy.** A step-by-step guide to developing an advocacy campaign, with examples of talking points, flyers, petitions, etc. at <http://www.ala.org/united/powerguide>.



United for Libraries brings together library voices to speak out on behalf of library services and free public access to information. This national network of enthusiastic library supporters stresses the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses—educating and organizing the strongest voice for libraries: those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them.

For more information see *United for Libraries* at <http://www.ala.org/united/> or contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 4. ➡

#FridayReads Reviews Posted by Commission Staff

It started with an idea to share the books that Commission staff are reading, and once again this year fifty-two reviews were posted on the Nebraska Library Commission blog. Joining the global community of people who every Friday post what they're reading—a book, magazine, blog post, or bus schedule—staff share what they are reading in order to celebrate and promote reading. The staff have varied tastes and as a result

the posts covered just about every genre: non-fiction, memoir, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, history, horror, graphic novel, young adult, chick lit, historical fiction, biography, self-help, thriller, classic, cookbooks, and more. Check out these reviews on the Commission blog at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/> or on the Commission Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibraryCommission>. ➡



Small Public Libraries Awarded Grants

A partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Community Foundation resulted in four Nebraska public libraries receiving a helping hand, thanks to the generosity of a lifelong educator, the late Shirley Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln. The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), accepted proposals for matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations under 3,000.

Following Ms. Kreutz Bennett's wishes, a Fund Advisory Committee composed of her nieces and nephews recommended grants in three areas: planning grants leading to accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services; and facilities grants for new construction or the renovation, restoration, or rehabilitation of current libraries.

All grants require matching funds and evidence that the project has broad community support. Guidelines and application procedures are available at <http://necommfound.org/fund/kreutz-bennett>. For more information about this library grant opportunity, contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 4.

The following libraries received grants in 2017:

Albion Public Library: \$1,000 to develop a Makerspace for children and families.

Lied Pierce Public Library: \$2,000 to purchase new books, movies, crafts, games, and musical instruments to create a learning and nurturing environment for children during after-school hours.

Ravenna Public Library: \$20,000 to support a fundraising campaign for a new million-dollar library facility.

Walthill Public Library: \$15,000 to finish construction on the area adjacent to the \$485,000 renovation project that transformed a former Fire Hall into a new library in 2016. ➡

Library Commission Provides Government Information

The Nebraska Library Commission continued to provide a variety of government information services through the reference staff and collections. Reference research projects included state and federal legislative and legislator histories, locating historical issues of Nebraska Sales and Use Tax Regulations, and finding documents related to old streetcar lines in Omaha. The largest government documents collection is the Nebraska State Publications Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972 to collect, preserve, and provide access to all public information published by Nebraska state agencies. By law (State Statutes 51-411 to 51-413) all Nebraska state agencies are required to submit their published documents to the Clearinghouse. Examples of state agency publications received this year include reports from the Nebraska Legislature, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Department of Roads (now Transportation), and Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Local Emergency Operations Plans from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and newly published titles from the University of Nebraska Press were also made available. More than 174,000 state documents are available for direct loan and 11,000 documents are available electronically online, with retrospective scanning dramatically increasing the number available online. Nebraska state publications were searched more than 124,000 times in the Library Commission's online catalog or on the State Publications webpage. In addition, more than 47,000 federal publications are available at the Library Commission, with many of those also accessible online. Government Information reference services are available at nlc.ask@nebraska.gov,

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Library Commission Distributes State Aid to Libraries

The Library Commission supported public libraries with total payments of \$363,573 in direct state aid, including *Dollars for Data* and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual *Public Libraries Survey* online, and must receive local funding at least equal to the lowest annual local income from the three previous years. Three additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid this year.

Direct State Aid. One hundred and seventy-four public libraries received state aid payments (five more than in 2016), and one hundred and twenty-nine of these libraries also earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of Gold or Silver accreditation status (nine more than in 2016).

Incentive Payments. Additional direct state aid payments, based on the amount of funds received from

another public entity, were made to seventy-nine libraries in 2017.

Dollars for Data. The Library Commission awarded payments of \$200 to forty-seven unaccredited libraries that completed and submitted the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, sam.shaw@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665. ↔

Commission Supports Reading On-the-Go

In FY 2017 the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium served the communities of 170 member libraries, with 113 of those libraries serving populations of less than 2,000—the smallest serving 134 residents. Library

customers downloaded 232,272 audiobooks and 341,529 eBooks. Nebraska eReads funding, approved by the Legislature for the Nebraska Library Commission's biennium budget, provided Nebraska OverDrive libraries with an additional \$94,950 to purchase materials. The total state and federal funding of \$226,000 was distributed among the consortium libraries, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries based on the size of their legal service areas.



In addition to contributing funds for purchasing materials, the Library Commission coordinated and supported the OverDrive service for Nebraska OverDrive libraries.

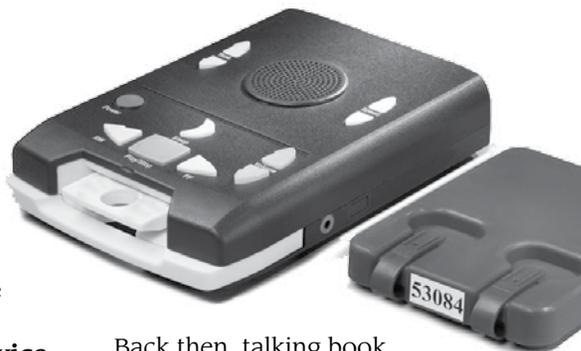
Any legally-established public library (population under 100,000) was invited to participate. OverDrive continued to provide users with new and updated mobile apps and online reader features as well as a completely updated customer interface. This year more publishers offered titles for purchase/license. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665. ↔

Talking Books: The End of the Cassette Era

In 2010, talking books began to circulate on digital cartridges, and most of the customers of the Nebraska Library Commission's **Talking Book and Braille Service** excitedly adopted the new books and machines in the first few years of their availability. The new machines were more compact and easier to use, with soft buttons and loud clear speakers. Readers could insert bookmarks into materials as they read, perfect for book clubs or studying. Perhaps best of all, each book fit on a single cartridge, instead of having to switch between multiple cassettes to finish a book.

While a few readers continued to use both cassette books and digital talking books for a while early in the transition, almost everyone has been "digital-only" for the last few years. The National Library Service (NLS) officially called an end to the cassette era, declaring the C-1 cassette players obsolete in June. We sent machines to a recycling center, and digital talking books are now the sole focus for audio-based talking book library materials. Most recordings that were originally produced for cassette have been converted to digital and are now available through BARD, the download website currently home to almost 100,000 titles—and growing every day.

But as we bid farewell to the humble cassette player, it's worth reflecting for a moment on how important these machines were for print-disabled readers over nearly five decades. When the compact cassette format was introduced in 1963, NLS began to consider how it might be used for talking books, and the first cassette-based talking books and players were introduced in 1971. The cassettes and players were smaller than the record players they replaced, and each cassette was able to hold six hours of audio—far more than any record. They were easier to send and receive in the mail, and weren't prone to the scratches and warping that could ruin talking books on record.



Back then, talking book readers were technological pioneers! Commercial audiobooks on cassette weren't developed until the mid 1970s, reaching their sales peak in the 1980s before gradually being replaced by recordings on compact disc. These days, both commercial audiobooks and talking books are mostly born and circulated in digital formats, as downloadable and stream-able materials have become the most efficient means of distribution. But as we bid farewell to the cassette, here is a poem written in 1982 by a Nebraska Talking Books customer about the occasional difficulties of the format:

Dear Friends at Library,

This enclosed cassette tape is quite a disaster,
For when it went spilling, why then it
went faster.

It got to unwinding with loops all
inside it,
And just like a child would, I wanted to
hide it.

The demise of a tape, friends, is
always quite tragic;
So here's all my hopes that the crew
can work magic
And either to fix or re-run the
cassette—
For I hadn't had time to review it all yet,
Before it unfurled like the star-
spangled banner
And acted in such an unmannerly
manner.

A replacement would be most
sincerely received,
For about this disaster I'm honestly
grieved!

For more information about Talking Book and Braille Service, see <http://nls.nebraska.gov/tbbs/> or contact Scott Scholz, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, scott.scholz@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6553, 800-307-2665. ↔

Talking Books Now Easier to Download

Many users of the BARD mobile apps for iOS and Droid devices have been pleased with how easy they are to use. You can search for books, download them, and play them right on your own device. It's a little easier than using the browser-based BARD system, which requires you to download a book to your computer, copy it to a blank cartridge, and then play it in your NLS digital talking book player.

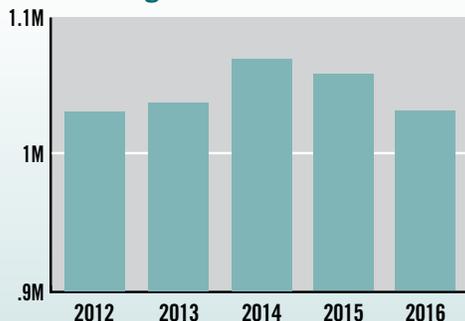
Now NLS has made **BARD Express** available for talking book customers to use with their desktop and laptop computers. Modeled after the BARD mobile apps and designed by software developer Kirk Saathoff—whose wife and son are talking book users—BARD Express simplifies the process of downloading books, unzipping files, and copying them to cartridges. It also presents a set of easy-to-use search functions on its front page. To sign up for BARD or any of the Library Commission's talking book services, contact nls.readadv@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4038, 800-742-7691, Fax: 402-471-6244. ↔

Library Commission Provides Government Information *(continued)*

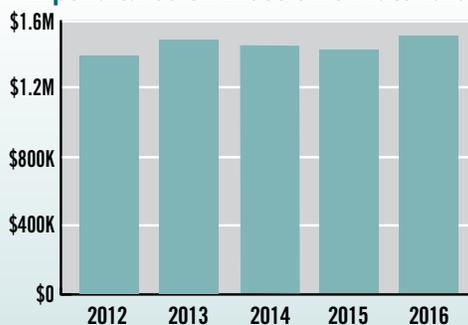
402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, and Internet chat (<http://nls.nebraska.gov/ref/ask.asp>). For more information, contact Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Librarian, mary.sauers@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665 or Bonnie Henzel, Nebraska Library Commission State Documents Staff Assistant, bonnie.henzel@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6285, 800-307-2665. ↔

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

Registered Borrowers



Expenditures on Electronic Materials



Collection Size



Total Collection Expenditures



The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 9,295 public libraries in the United States. In Nebraska, there are 267 public libraries plus six bookmobiles and nineteen branch facilities. Five libraries in the state are combined with public schools and two are joint public/academic libraries. The 2016 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 97% of eligible libraries. The results provided a dependable measure of overall library service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of eBooks and Audiobooks used has continued to increase, with 169 libraries participating in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium. There are at least two participating libraries in every non-metropolitan legislative district in the state.

Looking at Internet connectivity in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates an increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. Between 2015 and 2016, there was a 15% increase in libraries offering connection speeds in excess of 6 Mbps. While only 19% of libraries meet or exceed the FCC definition of broadband (24 Mbps), there was a 12% increase in libraries meeting this standard in 2016 compared to 2015.

Overall circulation of material decreased slightly between 2015 and 2016 (1.8%), but uses of non-print resources increased (19%). Greater numbers of library programs (4% increase from 2015 to 2016) and increased attendance (5% increase) indicate that public libraries continued to actively engage community members of all ages in learning events. Collections of video materials (both physical and downloadable) continued to rise steadily, with downloadable video titles more than tripling in 2016 compared to 2015.



Other trends revealed by the results of the *Nebraska Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 171 Nebraska public libraries loaned eBooks – that's 63% of Nebraska public libraries. The population served by these libraries is 1,539,445 or 84% of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 6,866,710 items (not including electronic items such as eBooks and Audiobooks that are leased)
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,802
- Public libraries loaned 12,520,871 items in FY2016
- Libraries that connected to their community through social networks: 179
- Number of registered library users: 1,028,691
- Number of public library visits per year: 7,739,334
- Libraries provided wireless Internet access: 88% of reporting libraries
- Libraries delivered 34,404 programs, attended by 814,126 people
- Libraries with a website: 188 or 77%
- Nebraskans paid only \$38 per capita in 2016 for public library service
- Twelve Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2016 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*.

(continued on page 11)

The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

Selected Library Statistics, 2014 through 2016

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	1,070,816	1,058,733	1,028,691	-3.93%
Total Visits	8,213,065	8,253,674	7,739,334	-5.77%
Items Borrowed	13,005,617	12,746,301	12,520,871	-3.73%
Items Borrowed per Capita	8.44	8.15	8.13	-3.63%
Interent Computers for Public Use	2,803	2,828	2,802	-0.04%
Libraries Providing Free Wi-Fi	206	214	216	4.85%
Number of Programs Offered	31,582	32,854	34,404	8.94%
Library Program Attendance	709,070	766,288	814,126	14.82%
Number of Books in Collection	5,603,018	5,666,128	5,613,746	0.19%
Number of Print Subscriptions	12,738	11,415	10,661	-16.31%
Number of Audio Materials	249,604	246,716	237,111	-5.01%
Number of Video Materials	327,892	346,158	352,393	7.47%
Total Materials held	6,837,704	6,947,489	6,866,710	0.42%
Annual Hours Open	416,744	430,703	438,437	5.21%
Legal Service Area Population	1,541,684	1,564,374	1,539,445	-0.15%
Local Government Revenue	50,978,226	53,496,986	54,887,603	7.67%



NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are **7.7 million** annual visits to Nebraska public libraries (not including virtual and online library visits).ⁱ That's more than **85 sellouts** at Memorial Stadium.ⁱⁱ

More than 21% of Nebraskans **did not** have access to high-speed Internet (a paid Internet service other than dial-up) at home.ⁱⁱⁱ Many relied on their public libraries.

Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **93%** offered **FREE** public Internet access
- **88%** offered **FREE** Wi-Fi
- **1,116,756** uses of Electronic Materials (eBooks and Audiobooks) in 2016
- **21,691** Children's Programs offered, with **643,363** attendees. **11,035** of these programs were focused on early (pre-K) literacy, with more than **241,000** attendees
- **3,607** Young Adult Programs offered, with **50,591** attendees
- **9,106** Adult Programs, with **120,172** attendees^{iv}

SOURCES:

ⁱ 2015-2016 Nebraska Public Library Survey (97% reporting)

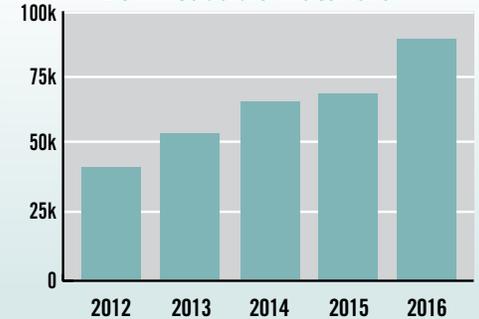
ⁱⁱ UNL Athletic Media Relations

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-28.pdf>

^{iv} 2015-2016 Nebraska Public Library Survey (97% reporting)

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

Circulation of Adult Downloadable Materials



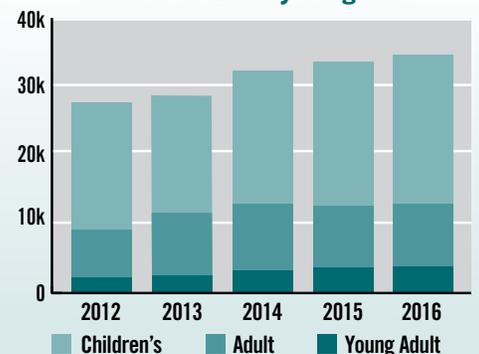
Circulation of Childrens Downloadable Materials



Total Library Program Attendance



Number of Library Programs



NebraskAccess Provides Information for All

NebraskAccess is the Nebraska Library Commission's resource portal for all Nebraskans. It leads to information databases, evaluated websites, government publications, and more. Timely information is provided through seasonal "Hot Topics" and "What's New" links, as well as "Nebraska FAQs," which are created when the Library Commission Information Services reference librarians receive the same Nebraska-related question more than once.

Free, 24/7, full-text access is available to thousands of magazines and journals, biographical information, and genealogical information, and the database lineup in NebraskAccess has expanded this year. Databases with consumer health, legal, and small business information and other topics for adults and older students were added, while younger students received access to age-appropriate

full-text magazines, an electronic encyclopedia, and other resources.

Nebraskans logged in outside of libraries with a password from the library, their Nebraska driver's license, or state ID. They used this service to complete work or school assignments, research health and medical topics, keep up on current events, trace family histories, make personal and business economic decisions, and explore hobbies and other topics of personal interest.

See <http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov> to check out the expanded offerings in NebraskAccess. For more information contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.

NebraskAccess databases are funded through the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. ♦

Number of searches undertaken in the NebraskAccess statewide subscription databases between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

Biography Reference Bank & Center	4,247,021
Consumer Health Complete	124,342
FirstSearch/WorldCat Discovery	1,208,732
Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia	1,515,093
GreenFILE	1,466,780
Legal Information Reference Center	1,186,643
MasterFILE Complete	3,233,399
MyHeritage	127,670
NoveList Plus	2,934,893
NoveList Plus K-8	24,045
Point of View Reference Center	1,149,762
Primary Search	1,561,789
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	1,577,933
Science & Technology Collection	1,505,723
Small Business Reference Center	1,048,907
Topic Overviews K-6	25,446
Topic Overviews Public Libraries	114,407



Training Provided for Library Staff and Volunteers

The Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support Nebraska libraries in their efforts to improve library service by providing continuing education (CE) and training for library staff members. In FY 2017 the Commission sponsored or underwrote 218 events, which were attended by 645 Nebraska library staff and board members. These training activities included the annual "Big Talk from Small Libraries" online conference, Basic Skills courses, *NCompass Live* webinars, and training for the Cataloging Certificate program. Training also included learning activities and sessions for community planning, E-Rate, and summer reading. Nineteen Basic Skills classes were offered with 173 participants who attended one or more classes.

The Nebraska Library Commission also underwrote membership for Nebraska public libraries in United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, to ensure access to training materials for library volunteers, foundation, Friends, and Trustee board members. New webinars were added this year, as well as updated Trustee Academy courses. See more information on page 7.

For more information about continuing education, contact Holli Duggan, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, holli.duggan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665. ♦

Support Provided for Children's Services

The Nebraska Library Commission continued to make support for library services to children a priority. The Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program, "Build a Better World," with training and materials. The Library Commission provided statewide workshops, co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book-talks across the state. The Library Commission supplied manuals and booklists to complement the themes, along with additional materials on the Library Commission website. As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium (all fifty states and the District of Columbia and two territories), the Library Commission contributed funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading>. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service.

Collaborating with the Nebraska State Treasurer and the First National Bank of Omaha, the Commission promoted the *NEST Read to Win \$529! Drawing*. Fifteen children/teens received \$529 NEST College Savings Scholarships as part of the Summer Reading Program,

see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading/scholarshipdrawing.aspx>.

The Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems provided Book Club kits and invited children and teens across the state to read and discuss the same book. The 2017 **One Book for Nebraska Kids** was *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* (Starscape, 2016) by Nebraska author Brandon Sanderson. *The Legend of Bass Reeves* (Laurel Leaf, 2008) by Gary Paulsen was the 2017 **One Book for Nebraska Teens** selection. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/OBOK> for information and activities.

\$16,299 was awarded to public libraries in Youth Grants for Excellence. Funded projects provided early literacy programming, robotics technology, STEM/STEAM materials for activities for children and families, basic astronomy education for youth, afterschool programming for elementary school children, and more. These grants gave Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions, providing a foundation for ongoing services to be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, snyder@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665. ☛

(l.-r.) Nebraska Treasurer Don Stenberg, Joanna Swanson of First National Bank of Omaha, and Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner with some of the winners of the Read to Win Summer Reading Program activity.



Commission Provides Interlibrary Loan Service

Libraries in Nebraska that don't have staff or funding to provide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service relied on the Nebraska Library Commission to find and borrow books from other libraries for them. This allowed even the smallest public libraries and school libraries in our state to meet the needs of their customers, with materials to do everything from serious research to keeping up on their favorite series. In times of diminishing acquisition budgets, ILL helped libraries that can't afford to buy every book their customers want. School libraries used ILL to obtain books in languages other than English to help teach students whose first language is not English. School libraries also used ILL services to obtain multiple copies of books for classes, as well as books for individual research papers. Home-school families used ILL through their public libraries to give their children as many educational options as possible.

The Library Commission also provided ILL for Nebraska state government agencies, which allowed them more flexibility with their journal subscription decisions, while still ensuring access to up-to-the-minute, mission-critical information. State agencies used ILL services to keep up on the latest general research in their field, to find out more about recent discoveries in their field, and to do research for a variety of proposals, projects, and problem solving. For more information contact Lynda Clause, Nebraska Library Commission Interlibrary Loan Staff Assistant, lynda.clause@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4018, 800-307-2665. ☛

"This is exactly what I'm looking for. I think you set a record for retrieval and reply, six minutes! Thank you so much."

– Tom Schmitz

Lincoln Regional Center Campus

Technology Access Fostered through E-Rate

From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, Nebraska schools and libraries received more than \$11.6 million in discounts on telecommunications costs through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. Schools and libraries in the state submitted 773 applications for 1,317 requests.

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$251,162 in discounts ranging from 20-90%. Eighty-six libraries participated, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. Seventy-six libraries were awarded Telecommunications discounts, sixty-seven were awarded discounts on Internet services, and four libraries received discounts on Internal Connections (services providing high-speed connectivity throughout the library building). Sixty-five of the participating libraries had 60-80% discounts on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills. Discounts were awarded based on the percentage of students in the local school district eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program (an indicator of local level of need) and the county's rural or urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

The Library Commission provided education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate applications. For more information about E-rate support in Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 4. For more information about the E-rate program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl/>.

Nebraska Libraries First to Participate in Broadband Toolkit Pilot

In March, five Nebraska public libraries had a unique opportunity to participate in site visits for a pilot program funded by a *Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program* grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant was awarded to Internet2®, a member-owned advanced technology consortium founded by the nation's leading higher education institutions. This pilot program provided rural public libraries a comprehensive broadband toolkit to help library staff assess and evaluate their library's broadband connection and internal Wi-Fi network and how it meets the needs of the community.

Public library directors and staff in Atkinson, Gering, Valley, Walthill, and Wymore each spent a half-day examining each library's broadband profile. Susannah Spellman from Internet2® said, "We are delighted to partner with the Nebraska Library Commission and Network Nebraska to pilot the IMLS-funded Broadband Toolkit. Being able to leverage the library technology expertise of the Nebraska Library Commission, especially from their *Library Broadband Builds Nebraska*

Communities BTOP grant, and the broadband and E-rate expertise of the State Office of the CIO delivers an even more powerful learning experience for the library staff involved in the pilot."

All five of the Nebraska libraries appreciated having an opportunity to learn about the status of broadband in their libraries and identified improvements that could be made immediately (and in the long term) to better serve their community. "The information in the toolkit that we received will help us learn and prepare to become a bigger and better community *hot spot*. We were presented with resources, hands-on demos, suggestions, and best of all—a timeline to accomplish what will help us improve and be a better asset to our community," said Janet Roberts, Wymore Public Library Director. For more information about the Broadband Toolkit and planning for internal connections, contact Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission Library Technology Support Specialist, holly.woldt@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4871, 800-307-2665.



Learning about broadband and library service are (l.-r.) Tom Rolfes, Nebraska Information Technology Commission; Janet Roberts, Wymore Public Library Director; Susannah Spellman, Internet2®; and Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission.

Commission Awards Internship Grants

Nebraskans once again reaped the benefits of the energy and creativity of Nebraska young people as they served as interns in their local public libraries. The Nebraska Library Commission awarded **Nebraska Library Internship Grants**

totaling \$27,000 to twenty-one Nebraska public libraries. These grants supported public library interns, who contributed to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries. Student interns learned about library work as they shadowed staff, assisted with day-to-day library operations, and implemented special projects. Students participated in a variety of activities including:

- plan and implement programs such as summer reading programs for all ages, storytime sessions, book discussions, and teen/tween activities;
- assist with events such as annual book sales, NE150 celebrations, and contests;
- organize Makerspaces, Maker Clubs, and other STEAM learning activities;
- create book displays, bulletin boards, and craft activities;
- assist with outreach events outside the library;
- update the library's website and social media sites (Facebook, Pinterest, blogs, etc.);
- assist with circulation activities, book selection, and collection management;
- teach technology classes and assist library customers with electronic devices and research;
- create flyers, newsletters, newspaper articles, and other promotional materials; and
- assist with verbal and written Spanish/English communication.



Presenting a program at Story Hour are (l.-r.) Atkinson Public Library Director Judy Hagan and Intern Naomi Troy.

The following Nebraska public libraries were awarded Internship Grant funding:

- Alma, Hoesch Memorial Public Library
- Atkinson Public Library
- Central City Public Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Cozad, Wilson Public Library
- Crawford Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Grant, Hastings Public Library
- Kimball Public Library
- LaVista Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries (4 branches)
- Neligh Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- Omaha Public Library (4 branches)
- Orleans, Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library
- Plainview Public Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Stromsburg Public Library
- Verdigre Public Library
- Wayne Public Library
- York, Kilgore Memorial Library

Internship funding is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.

Nebraska Memories Provides a Look into the Past

Throughout FY 2017 **Nebraska Memories** offered access to digitized Nebraska-related primary source materials including glass-plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, documents, and oral histories at <http://memories.nebraska.gov>. New items added this year included donated postcards of Nebraska buildings and landscapes.

Nebraska Library Commission staff wrote Blog postings to highlight items, historical themes, and unique collections. The Blog posts featured postcards, maps, sports, using Nebraska Memories to research individuals, ethnic groups in Nebraska, and cultural and commercial institutions of the past. To read some of these posts, see the Nebraska Memories category on the *NCompass Blog* at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog>.

Scans of materials for Nebraska Memories are accepted from Nebraska cultural institutions, with the items continuing to be held by the organizations. Private donations of materials to the Nebraska Library Commission are also scanned and added to this online collection. For more information or to consult on materials for inclusion, contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 12.

Stands and Looks Back



Source: Nebraska State Historical Society
<http://memories.nebraska.gov/cdm/ref/collection/nshs/id/556>

Center for the Book Hosted by Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book—supporting the following projects:

Celebration of Nebraska Books.

The Fall 2016 celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska book selection, honored winners of the Jane Geske, Mildred Bennett, and Nebraska Book Awards, and announced the choice for next year's One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the event.

Jane Geske Award. The Center for the Book selected **City Impact (Lincoln)**, **Literacy Center for the Midlands (Omaha)**, and **Platte Valley Literacy Association (Columbus)** to be honored for their effectiveness and dedication to literacy in Nebraska, empowering Nebraskans through education, mentorship, and increased access to books and reading. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and long-time active member of many Nebraska library and literary activities.

Letters about Literature. Nebraska students were recognized by Governor Pete Ricketts for their letters to authors that influenced their lives. In this national reading/writing contest, young readers wrote letters to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. With funding

provided to the Nebraska Center for the Book by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and support from the Nebraska Library Commission, grants for Letter Writing Clinics were awarded to introduce students to the Letters About

Literature contest and letter writing techniques. \$300 grants were awarded to: **Lisa Guenther**, Norfolk Catholic Elementary School Director of Reading;

Jennifer Van Winkle, Lux Middle School Teacher, Lincoln; **Lori Springer**, Valparaiso Public Library Director; **Noelle Thompson**, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Director and Scottsbluff Library Foundation; and **Denise Ketchens**, Oshkosh Public Library Director.

Mildred Bennett Award. The 2016 Mildred Bennett Award was presented to Nebraska poets **Twyla Hansen** and **Marjorie Saiser**. Hansen and Saiser were honored for their contributions to Nebraska writing and for their service in support of Nebraska's writers and readers—following in the footsteps of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Nebraska Center for the Book Vice President Christine Walsh and volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC. They shared information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors.

National Idea Exchange. The Library Commission provided assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book Vice President Christine Walsh to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange in Washington, DC. The information-sharing activity kept the board

apprised of activities at the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and at state Centers for the Book around the country.

NCB News. Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute three editions of the Center for the Book newsletter (<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html>) with news about Nebraska literature and literacy, book reviews, feature articles, and a calendar of events.

Nebraska Book Awards.

Nebraska books were honored in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These books were written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html>.

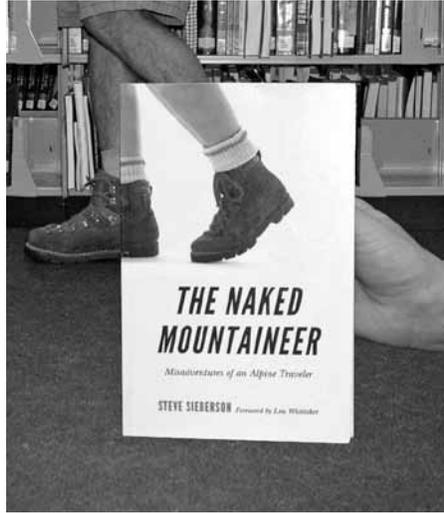
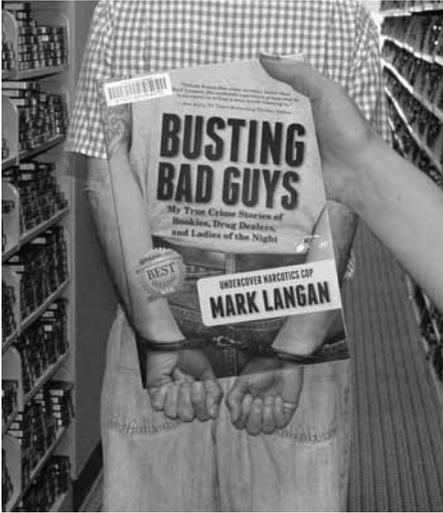
Nebraska Book Festival. The Nebraska Book Festival took a hiatus to devote time to gathering input and planning for the next chapter of Nebraska Book Festivals.

One Book One Nebraska. The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of a title for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. The 2017 One Book One Nebraska selection was *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html>.

For more information about Center for the Book activities, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>, or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665. 📞



THE NEBRASKA
CENTER FOR
THE BOOK

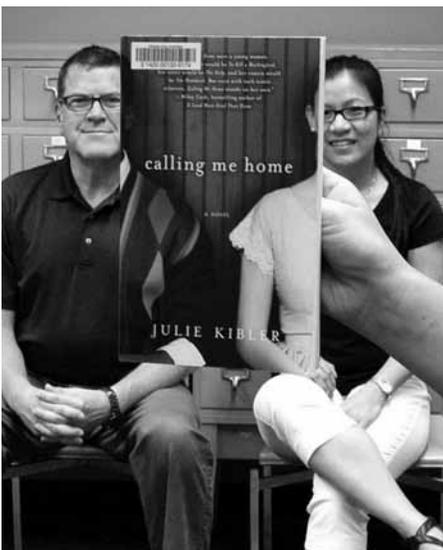


Commission Uses Social Media to Promote Collection

If you are on social media and interested in libraries, you may have come across the hashtags #bookface or #bookfacefriday. According to the *New York Times*, "Bookface involves strategically lining up your face or another body part alongside a book cover that features a matching body part so that there appears a melding of life and art." Since March the Nebraska Library Commission has posted a weekly "Bookface Friday" photo on our Facebook page, using Library Commission staff (and sometimes their kids and neighbors' dogs!).

This project started as a way to draw attention to books on the Sesquicentennial Nebraska 150 list in the Commission collection. It went on to highlight titles in our Book Club

Kit collection. Lining up the perfect shot is trickier than you'd think. Fortunately we have a photographer with a great eye, and some good-natured models. Each week we notice that our "bookface" photos capture a wider audience as they are "liked" and shared online beyond our own Facebook page. We've even caught the attention of some of the authors of the books we used. See past "bookface" photos on the Nebraska Library Commission's Facebook page, or check in every Friday to see the latest shot. To nominate a book from the Commission collection to be featured, contact Aimee Owen, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Librarian, aimee.owen@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3217, 800-307-2665.



Library Accreditation Based on Planning for Community Needs

Sixty-two Nebraska public libraries were accredited this year under the Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Guidelines. They emphasized their efforts in library community planning as a requirement for accreditation. Public library accreditation encouraged excellent library service in Nebraska communities by establishing minimum standards for library service. The accreditation process ensured that libraries adhere to those standards, offered service benchmarks, and provided evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected by Nebraskans. Libraries reported meeting twelve minimum requirements and accumulated points demonstrating strengths in library service.

For help with a library Community Needs Response Plan, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/planning.aspx>. For more information on accreditation, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/libaccred> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 4.

Motion Picture License Supports Statewide Library Programming

Public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries was made possible by the statewide license funded by the Nebraska Library Commission, at a cost of \$18,925 for the year. With this license, motion pictures were shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries. All Nebraska public libraries were covered by the license between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/discounts/motionpicture.asp> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665.

Library Commission Supports Regional Library System

The Library Commission provided \$565,531 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's Regional Library Systems during this Fiscal Year. These nonprofit organizations, governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region, worked to improve library services through cooperation among all types of libraries and school media centers within each system area. Each system offered a variety of services including newsletters, library staff meetings, training resources, workshops, consulting, and planning assistance. With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to area libraries:

Resource Sharing. Among items loaned or centrally provided were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, iPods and MP3 players, eReaders, laminator, binding system, Poetry kits, Spanish kits, STEAM kits, DVDs and players, audiobooks, cutting machines and dies, and scanners.

Consultation. System directors consulted with member libraries on numerous topics including weeding, collection development, local government relations, strategic planning and accreditation, library board training and certification, E-rate discounts, personnel policies and hiring, automation systems/ other library technology, interlibrary loan (ILL), computer security, censorship, and data collection. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, websites, flyers, email, listservs, social networking sites, and meetings of library staff and supporters.

Continuing Education (CE). The Systems partnered with the Library Commission to present sessions on Trustee Training and Board Development (including Planning for Nebraska Public Libraries), children's

services (including Summer Reading Programs), collection management, policies, copyright, eBooks/eReaders, and Makerspaces. They facilitated annual meetings, specialized meetings and training for public library

directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and sessions at the Nebraska Library Association/

Nebraska School Librarians Association (NLA/NSLA) conference. They taught online Basic Skills classes and staffed exhibit booths to educate stakeholders about local library services.

System Highlights included:

Central Plains Library System (CPLS)

- Consulted via telephone, email, and in person on many topics including library board training, hiring a new library director, E-Rate, programming, policies, certification of staff and accreditation of libraries, cataloging, weeding, and collection arrangement.
- Conducted a month-long, system-wide weeding project, with 37 libraries participating, including 1 academic, 18 school and 18 public libraries weeding more than 15,000 items.
- Coordinated workshops for school and public librarians about Strategies for Makerspaces, Pioneer Consortium, Strategic Planning/Accreditation, Policies, E-Rate Discounts, Displays and Library Organization, Brain Development in Children and Teens, Management vs. Leadership, Coping with Organizational Change, Dealing with Difficult People, Coding, Google Forms, and the Edge Technology Assessment Toolkit.
- Participated in cooperative projects including Youth Services Retreats, NLA Public Library and Trustee Sections (PLTS) Spring Meetings, and

Day of Education.

- Cleaned 502 audio, video, and game discs and repaired 31 book bindings to keep items circulating from member libraries' collections.
- Provided access to 198 professional journal articles through electronic delivery, in addition to routing 126 periodicals.
- Circulated 715 audiobooks, 45 book sets, 2 Spanish language kits, and 6 Golden Sower Award kits, with die-cutting equipment used 34 times.
- Distributed 7 newsletters, 20 Strawbees Sample Kits, and 132 display ideas.
- Maintained a website, a Pinterest account, and a Flickr account for member libraries' information.
- Awarded \$990 in CE scholarships

Southeast Library System (SELS)

- Sponsored or cosponsored 22 continuing education sessions for a total of 1,936 CE hours earned by 413 attendees on topics such as Strategic Planning, Children's Programming, Makerspaces, Teen Groups, Home Schoolers, Policies, EDGE Initiative, ADA compliance, Youth Services, School Librarians in the Digital Age, and more.
- Visited 23 libraries for more than 100 hours of one-on-one consulting or assistance on topics such as weeding, strategic planning, state statutes, personnel policies, cataloging, library policies, building layouts, new director orientation, copyright, selecting library ILS vendors, and more.
- Published 12 issues of the newsletter, which included articles and updates from more than 31 libraries of all types.
- Supplied 24 member libraries with more than 4,091 pages of professional literature and 27 titles from the book kit collection.

Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)

- A new service model was implemented establishing four

(continued on page 19)



Commission Funds Regional Library Systems *(continued)*

county groups in the service area and recruiting three System Peer Coordinators: Tammi Thiem, Genoa Public Library Director; Rosa Schmidt, Oakland Public Library Director; and Bailey Halbur, Baright Public Library (Ralston) Assistant Director.

- Sponsored/cosponsored continuing education opportunities including Strength Training, Strategic Planning/Accreditation, Summer Reading Program (workshops with 34 attendees and a webinar with 291 views), NLA PLTS Spring Meeting, Security, Fall Workshop (40 attendees), Youth Services Retreat (52 attendees), and Leadership (25 attendees).
- Shared information with area libraries through Facebook page and Pinterest boards.
- Provided training at library board meetings and directors' meetings.
- Awarded \$4,737 in CE scholarships.
- Distributed 6 newsletters.
- Traveled 15,719 miles to visit and consult with 81 area libraries.
- Provided consultation to libraries on topics including strategic planning, Foundations and Friends, accreditation, state statutes, library board and local government, certification, and collection management.
- Offered 108 book club kits (1,156 copies lent), 195 professional books, 5 magazines (170 articles accessed), and 15 STEAM kits to school and public librarians.
- Maintained system website through "Nebraska Libraries on the Web"

project, with 7,020 views.

Western Library System (WLS)

- Provided Job-a-Like sessions and librarian meetings for networking and idea-sharing.
- Published 6 newsletters with library articles and photos.
- Awarded \$300 in CE scholarships for area library staff to attend conferences.
- Consulted with 120 libraries.
- Traveled 12,000 miles.
- Cleaned 600 DVD discs.
- Circulated 34 issues of professional journals to 17 libraries, 10 book club kits, as well as Cradle Catchers and an inventory scanner.
- Communicated with area libraries by maintaining a website using WordPress through Nebraska Libraries on the Web and weekly announcements via the listserv and email.
- Attended meetings including NLA/NSLA in Omaha and Celebration of Nebraska Books, Lincoln.
- Facilitated 6 WLS board meetings.
- Cosponsored continuing education events including Strategic Planning, Summer Reading Program, PLTS Spring Meeting, Pioneer Consortium, Author Tours, NebraskAccess, Weeding, NSLA School Librarians Day, and E-Rate Discounts.
- Awarded \$12,422 in mini-grants to 28 member libraries and two Continuing Education Scholarships for MPLA conference in Denver. ➡

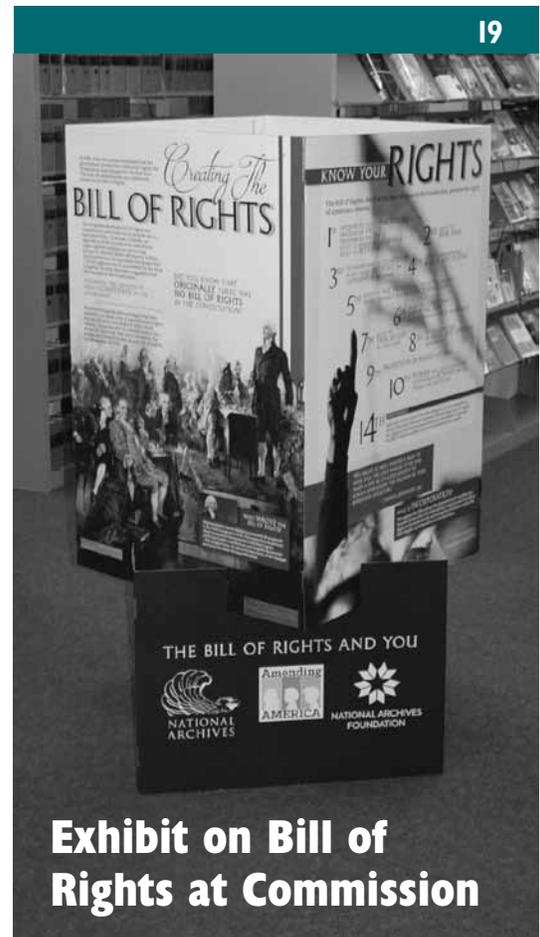


Exhibit on Bill of Rights at Commission

"The Bill of Rights and You" exhibit was on display throughout January at the Nebraska Library Commission. This free-standing exhibit from the National Archives commemorated the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Visitors explored the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution—collectively known as the Bill of Rights—and learned how Americans have exercised those rights through the exhibit and Resource Guide. The exhibit was brought to Nebraska libraries by Humanities Nebraska and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. ➡

Advisory Committee Explores Outreach

The Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service represents the needs of readers by making recommendations concerning policies, programs, and services. The committee—comprised of talking book users, service providers, and librarians—meets twice each year.

In the last fiscal year, the Advisory Committee discussed methods of outreach to various audiences, including demo equipment placed with regional library systems, marketing strategies, and outreach to dyslexic populations. For more information, contact Scott Scholz, contact information on page 9.

FY 2017 Advisory Committee Members:

- Patricia Candy**, Kearney
- Eloise Hiatt**, Lincoln
- Susan Pope**, Nebraska City
- Doug Wampler**, Omaha
- Shirley Weihing**, Gering
- Kalvin Follett**, Lincoln
- Dan Nieman**, South Sioux City
- Shasta Coverdell**, Omaha ➡



Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
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The Nebraska Library Commission had a record number of Book Club circulations in August 2016, with 1,355 items sent to Nebraska libraries.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics / July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **14,043** items, with book club circulation representing **11,980**.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **1,176** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **161** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **4,492** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska Overdrive Libraries Consortium library customers (from **171** participating libraries) downloaded **232,272** audiobooks and **341,529** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **11,315** images and audio files.
- ☞ **1,576** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **173,624**.
- ☞ **525** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **47,369**.
- ☞ **950** electronic state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total of state e-docs to **11,393**. These e-docs were accessed **124,089** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **51** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **977** attending live and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission hosted and supported websites for **100** public libraries and **4** regional library systems.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **121,541** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to more than **3,583** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **172** magazine issues and **3** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **24,286** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **22,451** audio books and **978** audio magazines, **1,962** Braille materials, and **136** music instruction pieces.
- ☞ **645** Nebraska library staff and board members attended one or more of **218** continuing education classes sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, with **3,195** total attendances during the year. This includes **173** individuals who participated in one or more of the **19** online Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **884** library staff participated in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program, up from **855** in FY 2016.
- ☞ **175** public libraries were accredited, with **62** of them accredited during this year.

