

# Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission  
1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE  
Friday, November 21, 2014, 10:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

## MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Ceri Daniels (Chair), Robin Bernstein, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Francine Canfield, Robin Clark, John Dale, Beth Falla, Denise Harders, Jean Hellwege, Sherry Houston, Vickie Retzlaff, Sam Shaw, Janet Stoeger Wilke, and Abbigail (Abby) Yellman. Other members present via webinar: Beth Kabes, Cecelia Lawrence, and Kara Welch. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Pat Leach, Trine McBride, and Merrilene Wood. Also present: Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, and Mary Jo Ryan.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ceri Daniels opened the meeting with a welcome.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion made by Ceri Daniels and seconded by Francine Canfield to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes (July 18, 2014):** Motion made by Sherry Houston and seconded by Abbigail Yellman to approve the July 18, 2014, minutes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### Reports / Discussion:

#### Nebraska Library Commission

Mary Jo Ryan has been working for several months on the Commission's biennial report to the Governor. It has been a busy couple of years with various grant projects. Some of those include the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian program grant, the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities (BTOP) grant and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation grant. Mary Jo mentioned that the recent Nebraska Center for the Book annual membership meeting and Celebration of Books event was very successful.

The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service is moving from the Commission's lower level space to the ground level west space. There will be new recording studios, and all the talking books will be located there. The new space will also provide a training/meeting room.

#### Nebraska Library Association – Robin Clark

Robin Clark announced that the Nebraska Leadership Institute will be August 10-14, 2015 at the Saint Benedict Center near Schuyler. A new format will be used this year in which former presenters will talk about future library development in the state. Robin said that the NLA has a new website and membership software.

*Nebraska Libraries*, the Nebraska Library Association's digital publication, continues to grow, and everyone is encouraged to access it via the NLA website. NLA will have a new logo next year.

The Nebraska Library Association – Nebraska School Librarians Association joint conference in Sioux City was very successful this year with over 400 people attending and with over 50 vendors represented.

Ken Winston, NLA's lobbyist, has been working with senators in regard to library services in Sarpy County for those county residents who live outside of cities. Senator Sue Crawford has shown interest in library services, and NLA representatives have been invited to conversations about services in Sarpy County

#### Nebraska School Librarians Association – Jean Hellwege

Jean Hellwege reported that she is pleased with NSLA's presence at the NETA (Nebraska Educational Technology Association) Conference this coming spring on April 23-24. NSLA will co-sponsor keynote speaker Shannon McClintock Miller.

### **Nebraska Libraries – Common Causes: 2015 Outlook**

#### 2015 Legislative Issues and Biennium Budget

Rod Wagner reported there will be significant changes in Nebraska state government with a new governor, new senators, and new legislative committee membership. There will be four new members of the appropriations committee. He provided a list of some of the budget request items that the Library Commission submitted as part of its 2015-2017 biennium budget request. The items are requests that are over and above the Commission's current state funding levels.

Wagner said that regardless of the appropriation request, he expects the EDGE Initiative will be promoted. The Gates Foundation initially funded the EDGE Initiative, but EDGE will require future funding to continue this service. The EDGE Initiative is an assessment tool for libraries to use for technology planning. This funding request would supplement current state aid to libraries for those libraries completing the assessment and developing a plan accordingly. Richard Miller explained that the EDGE Initiative would allow public libraries to assess their current technology, examine community needs, determine where gaps exist, and plan accordingly. The libraries can then build that information into their strategic plans and their requests to public authorities. He said this initiative was designed to lead to buy in from local funders. If the local funders can see that what you are doing is coming up with technology that fulfills the needs of the community, they would be more likely to support your project. Miller mentioned that many libraries have continued their relationships with colleges and universities developed by working together with the BTOP Grant, FINRA Grant and other grants.

Abby Yellman said that she has worked with AIM (Applied Information Management Institute), a non-profit organization that focuses on teaching users of technology to be producers of

technology. AIM does not require a fee for facilitating classes. Since colleges charge a fee for their classes, Abby is trying to work out solutions for people who cannot afford classes. One possibility is for the library foundation to pay the fees. (There are AIM offices in Scottsbluff, Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney.)

Other Commission budget request items include online self-directed education course licensing, funding for continuation of the library summer student internships, funding to cover NebraskAccess subscription fee increases, increased state funds for Nebraska eReads (eBooks and digital audiobook purchases) and additional funds for the regional library systems. Rod asked the group for discussion of what their priorities would be for funding requests. Robin Bernstein said she would be interested in adding the Writing Center and Mango language databases to NebraskAccess. In regard to funding for online self-directed educational courses, Richard Miller said that lynda.com is aimed toward providing training for the general public, whereas SkillSoft is aimed towards training library staff. Cecelia Lawrence said that North Platte Public Library has signed a contract with Gale Courses which are offered free to the public. Francine Canfield said their library has subscribed to Universal Class Online for the last several years.

Laura Bush 21 Century Librarian Grant Project – “Cultivating Rural Librarians Technology Skills”

Mary Jo Ryan provided handouts reviewing the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian grant. Library Commission staff Mary Jo, Laura Johnson, Devra Dragos, Richard Miller, Kathryn Brockmeier and John Felton have been working on this project for four years, and a final report will be available in another month or so. One hundred sixty four scholarships were awarded to ninety-two students at all librarian levels in the amount of approximately \$319,000.

Several Library Commission staff worked together on this project. They decided that the students would be more successful if they were offered a coaching program that would give them some of the skills and equipment they will need. One of these items was a laptop computer. Laura Johnson felt very strongly about getting the students into the fabric of professionalism by joining and attending professional library association events. One hundred thirty-two stipends totaling \$82,000 was distributed for that purpose. Digital literacy coaching experimented with two students. They were asked to negotiate with librarians in their community for coaching and digital literacy instruction. The librarians they worked with provided feedback concerning inquiries and requests they received from library patrons. Enhanced learning opportunities were also offered to the students to help them with skills they could use in their classes. E-reader and OverDrive training were widely attended. Professional librarians and para-professionals were invited to join the students with the online classes, and the students shared information about what different libraries are doing.

Ryan provided handouts which showed the distribution of the scholarships with their educational level and a chart of the internships the Library Commission awarded. Seventy-five internships were awarded to forty libraries. She also provided testimonials from students and librarians

involved. The Library Commission's state budget request includes state funds to continue this very successful internship program.

One Book One Nebraska –Marketing and Programming – Mary Jo Ryan

The Celebration of Nebraska Books event was held at the Library Commission on November 8, 2014. Beverly Deepe Kever's *Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* was announced as the 2015 One Book One Nebraska selection.

Regional Library Systems Reconfiguration – Richard Miller & Rod Wagner

Richard Miller reported on the regional library systems reconfiguration project. The current six regions will change to four regions beginning in 2015. Miller said the new regional systems will be named Central Plains Library System, Three Rivers Library System, Western Library System, and Southeast Library System. Many State Advisory Council on Libraries members have been involved in the reconfiguration project and transition process. Richard Miller and Rod Wagner (one or both) have attended all the meetings concerning the system reconfiguration. Trev Peterson from Knudsen Law has been working with regional system representatives and handling legal matters for the reconfiguration. Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System Director, and Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library Director, both active in the reconfiguration process, mentioned the legal aspects and necessary steps involved in the reconfiguration of the systems.

New Legislative District Map – Sam Shaw

Sam Shaw, Planning and Data Services Coordinator for the Library Commission, presented information about the state legislative district map on the Commissions website. The map reflects the legislative districts and libraries within the districts.

**Back to the Future – Into the Future – Council Discussion**

Rod Wagner passed around note cards and asked the council members to write down three things they would like to see happen over the next few years. He asked them to also write down where they would like to see this happen, locally, regionally, statewide or a combination.

Discussion

Sherry Houston said that the Edmonton Public Library in Canada's services to the homeless. There are similar things happening in Nebraska. Francine Canfield commented that last summer Ralston's Baright Public Library partnered with Food Bank of the Heartland to serve 2,700 meals in an eight-week period. John Dale said that he has noticed the emphasis on how the libraries serve their communities seems to be changing from the contents within the library building to the buildings themselves.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook said that Michael Heavrin, Lyons Public Library director has established partnerships with several agencies in the area such as Northeast Nebraska Community Action, the Food Bank, crisis centers in Fremont and West Point, Department of

Health & Human Services, and emergency shelters. People in need throughout the county are coming into the library to fill out applications for services.

Abby Yellman, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library director, mentioned that she finds partnerships with service organizations like Kiwanis very beneficial because they provide funds for needs in the community.

Francine Canfield said that through her experience as a librarian, she has noticed a need for people space. She said that there will be more space in the libraries as materials move toward digitization.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook reported the Lyons public library director, Michael Heavrin, has developed good relationships with the city council. His ability to write grants helped with that relationship.

Robin Clark said she sees a need for staff space and collection space. She also said Sump Memorial Library is not suffering from circulation loss due to ebooks, and that the library still has a high circulation of books and audiovisuals, partially due to the fast-growing population. She feels people want to continue connecting in the library even though books are available through the internet.

Abby Yellman said the focus in her library has shifted after the 2011 renovation of their library. She feels the way to get people in your building is by focusing on programing and services.

Robin Clark said educating the mayors and city councils is a key to informing them of what the library does in the communities. It is important they understand that the library, as a building, contains collections vital to an educational learning environment. If activities crucial to education are held in other buildings due to budgeting, the educational piece is lost.

Abby Yellman said the Scottsbluff public library lost meeting space due to cutbacks in the renovations budget. The library can't house the number of people demanding programs.

Francine Canfield said it is hard to convince community leaders that meeting room space is important in a library. A meeting room was included in building the Baright Public Library, and it is even used for town council meetings.

Richard Miller would like to see local elected officials understand that their library director and their library board are the ones with the expertise about the importance of libraries within their community. He said that people who are not trained in librarianship and do not have the expertise think that they know what is happening in the libraries. He sees a lot of second guessing on the part of city officials.

Rod Wagner asked Vickie Retzlaff what changes have been experienced at the Grant County Library as a result of their space changes. Vickie said they integrated the hallway into the

library's space and made that a computer center. Even though it is a close space, it is a space that wasn't previously accessible. Patrons want access to the broadband in the computer center or the meeting room where Wi-Fi is also available.

John Dale mentioned there are a lot of print materials that are not available via the internet, and quality control is lacking. Janet Stoeger Wilke agreed with Dale, adding that students need to be able to evaluate the information they get.

Janet Stoeger Wilke, following up on John's comments, noted that libraries have become the "third space" for our users helping to break down the "silos" on campus. She said that libraries have been there since the beginning of the internet. Their role now has shifted to helping students to evaluate and sort the mass of online information. She said libraries have always helped to equalize things in society as they will continue to do with the growing income gap.

Richard Miller asked Robin Bernstein what difference has she noticed with library use growth in house and online. She said that the focus has been on engaging the students. She said they have sites in different parts of the United States. As one example, Robin said that Bellevue University library is using Instagram to involve all students.

Richard Miller said he sees a theme, and it seems to be, truly engaging your community. He said the building technology, books, and other things are simply tools used to engage the community. That's what we are trying to help public libraries see as they do strategic planning.

### **Noon - Lunch**

Richard Miller presented the video, *Nebraska Community Foundation Celebrating 20 Years*. Besides other things, the Nebraska Community Foundation helps small communities in Nebraska build their economies and infrastructure. Richard has worked with the foundation during the past three years developing the Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Grant. The grant helps communities with 3,000 or fewer population to improve public library services. There are three different grants available. One grant will help libraries become accredited. The other grants will be available for facilities (renovation or construction) and programming improvements.

### Council Roundtable – Successes and Challenges

**Jean Hellwege** reported a partnership with Lincoln City Libraries that brings city librarians into the school library. This is a multi-year program.

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook** reported Michael Heavrin, Lyons Public Library director is developing a new, unique website. It will have numerous links with useful information, such as history and events in the Lyons community.

Kate said that over fifty children were served and twelve teenagers volunteered for the summer reading program this year. Joy Johnson, author of *Burned Out Old Broads at Table 12 series*, the *B.O.O.B. Girls* is scheduled to speak and sign books at Lyons Public Library on December 7.

**Robin Clark** reported that there are 70,000 people in Sarpy County who do not live within a local government jurisdiction that provides tax support for public library services. Richard Miller said there is progress on a solution to this issue.

Robin reported Matt Kovar was recently hired at Sump Memorial Library as Community Engagement Coordinator. A special Christmas celebration will be held at the library Saturday, November 29. This event was very successful last year, with a thousand people attending.

A challenge for the library is a salary comparability study for exempt employees being conducted by the City of Papillion. The library is working with a city representative to educate him on why a stand-alone library director's salary is different from a library branch manager's salary.

**Robin Bernstein** reported Freeman-Lozier Library has launched its first podcast Librarian-on-the-Go campaign, and it has been very successful for faculty and staff.

One challenge is a new branding and logo launch coming out next month. Another challenge is overhauling the library's website to make it user friendly for the students.

**Denise Harders** reported that in preparation for the system reconfiguration, Republican Valley Library System had a lot of changes the other systems did not. Eight counties will be moving out of that system. It has been a challenge in the legal and accounting aspects of moving from the old library system to the new one. She is aiming for all the necessary steps to be done by December 15. There were enough funds in regional system savings to award forty grants to libraries of \$400 each. She received a lot of good feedback from the grant recipients.

**Francine Canfield** reported Baright Public Library will host a "Holiday Magic" event Saturday, November 29. This spring the library will be migrating to Sierra, along with Omaha Public Library.

**Vickie Retzlaff** reported the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant has had a positive effect on her library. There are plans to install some new windows and new carpet in the library. A volunteer is offering one-on-one genealogy training at the library. Some obituary records have been digitized in the museum located on the fifth floor of the courthouse. The Technology 101 classes offered by the Library Commission and University Extension were very helpful.

**Abby Yellman** reported Lied Scottsbluff Library had 1,201 youth participate in the library's summer reading program this year. In October the library partnered with Gering Public Library to bring author Craig Johnson to speak at the Midwest Theater. Four hundred twenty-five people attended.

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant has helped the library develop more programs. The laptops provided by the grant have made it possible for the Coder Dojo program

to teach kids coding and reverse engineering. Scottsbluff does not have a community center, so dealing with teenagers in the library has been a challenge.

**Beth Falla** reported Lied Imperial Public Library needs a new roof and a \$7,000 heat pump. There are no sinking funds available, but they have started one. They received one of the grants from Republican Valley Library System. As a project, a library student is providing a marketing plan for the library.

**Sam Shaw** has a new job working as Planning and Data Services Coordinator at the Library Commission. Rachel Good has been hired to replace him at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. This will be Shaw's last meeting as an advisory council member.

**Janet Stoeger Wilke** reported that after a year of dealing with unexpected situations at the college she is back to "looking into the future." A new Instruction Coordinator has been hired at University of Nebraska Kearney. The college has about 7,000 students, and she anticipates about 700 of those students will be studying in pre-professional, medical-related fields.

An archival consultant recommended the college hire a full-time professional archivist and a project archivist. These two positions have been filled, and they will organize and process the current archives.

**John Dale** reported he and his wife visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Library (Simi Valley, CA) and Nixon Presidential Library & Museum (Yorba Linda, CA). They also visited the William J. Clinton Presidential Center – Clinton Foundation (Little Rock, AR).

**Sherry Houston** reported she and her grandchildren attended the Lemony Snickett and Janet Nielson presentations. The One Book One Omaha selection is Karen Shoemaker's *The Meaning of Names*. The book is set in 1918 in Stuart, Nebraska, and tells how Germans were treated during World War I and describes the flu epidemic during that time.

Houston praised the libraries in Ferguson, MO for keeping their doors open during the community's recent crisis.

**Cecelia Lawrence** reported North Platte Public Library received \$1,053,188 from the late Linda K. Broge. One million dollars of that is designated towards the library building. A secret fund of \$77,842 was also established from her donations.

A challenge the library faces is replacing 25% of the staff that have recently retired.

Lawrence plans to take some board members to the PLA Conference 2015 in Denver. She is thinking about how her library will look in ten to fifteen years. She would like to hire a consultant to help with strategic planning. Richard Miller said he can provide contact information about a consultant that recently worked with Columbus Public Library.



**Beth Kabes** reported their library is continually looking to promote its collection, which is primarily instructional material. Her staff has been tweeting about the library's special resources. She hopes this will build more use of their collection.

The Nebraska School Librarians Association is working with Three Rivers Library System and the University of Nebraska Omaha to organize a School Librarians' Day to be held March 21 at the UNO Campus. Beth is interested in partnering with at least two other library systems to organize a School Librarian Day in their areas.

**Ceri Daniels** said she has enjoyed being a member and working with this group for the last six years.

### **New Business**

#### Recommendations and Resolutions

No recommendations or resolutions were presented.

#### Special Recognition

Rod Wagner presented Nebraska Admiralships (courtesy of Governor Heineman) and certificates of appreciation to Ceri Daniels and Robin Bernstein. Pat Leach was not present to accept her certificate, but it will be delivered to her.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2015 (location - TBD)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 2:30 P.M.