

Charting the Future Course of Nebraska Library Services

Focus Groups



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Background

In 1991 the Nebraska Library Commission sponsored *Nebraska Information Partnerships*, a statewide conference involving nearly one hundred people, who were brought together to envision goals and directions for Nebraska library services. A Nebraska Library Futures conference with over 100 invited participants will be held in June 2008 with the intention of bringing fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and fostering direction, partnerships and collaboration. Prior to the conference the Planning Committee will be holding focus groups across the state.

Goals of the Conference and Focus Groups

- Develop a shared vision for library and information services in Nebraska.
- Design a blueprint for seamless, customer-centered, life-long access to library and information services in Nebraska.
- Explore how all types of libraries can work together to provide library and information services more efficiently and effectively.
- Educate library staff and boards, public officials, customers, and other stakeholders about library and information services in Nebraska.
- Engage Librarians from all types and sizes of libraries to unite and speak with one voice.
- Foster collaboration among library and information professional organizations, library advocates, including the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, and library resources, in order to improve library and information services for Nebraskans.

Focus Groups -- Purpose and Guidelines

The first phase of the 2008 Nebraska Library Futures Conference is to gain feedback from library staff and board members, library users, library non-users, and community members who have a stake in the growth and development of library and information services. On the reverse side are 7 questions to be used in a focus group setting to gather ideas about the kind of services wanted or needed by Nebraska libraries in the next five years. The questions have no right or wrong answers, and you may build off of one another's responses. For each focus group, there should be a facilitator and a recorder. The facilitator will ask the questions, without additional commentary, except to help in clarifying the question. The recorder will record responses to the questions on a flip chart. Please send around a sign-up sheet to get the names of the participants. The facilitator or recorder will then write up the notes and attach the list of participants. Please send the recorded notes, preferably as an email attachment, including the date and location of the meeting, a list of participants, including the facilitator's and recorder's names to your Nebraska Regional Library System Administrator. Their names and e-mail addresses are below, as well as their phone number should you have questions.

The Nebraska Library Futures Planning Committee: Patty Birch (North Platte High School), Jim Bothmer (Creighton), Nancy Busch (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Brenda Ealey (Southeast Library System), Gail Formanack (Omaha Public Schools), Greg Mickells (Lincoln City Libraries), Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library), Kris Rogge (Johnson County) Bev Russell (Scottsbluff Public Library), Rivkah Sass (Omaha Public Library), Wally Seiler (Alliance Public Library Foundation), Ted Smith (Norfolk Public Library), Kathy Tooker (Eastern Library System), and Rod Wagner (Nebraska Library Commission).

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FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

1. As a customer, staff person, and/or library user what are your expectations of the library?
2. How are the roles of libraries changing?
3. What are the key trends and issues affecting libraries?
4. What library service needs and wants will you and your community have within the next five years?
5. What knowledge, skills and abilities do you and your community need to be successful?
6. Beyond your community whom do you want or need to partner with to be successful?
7. Other comments:

Thank you for participating in the Focus Groups for *Charting the Future Course of Nebraska Library Services!*

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