



N-Compass

A Quarterly Publication of the Nebraska Library Commission

Vol. 1 No. 4 /Year In Review 1994

From The Director...

Com•mis•sion: *Building Partnerships for People and Information*

We are very pleased to present the Nebraska Library Commission's Year in Review edition of *N-Compass*, highlighting a number of special events and projects of 1994. This report provides a snapshot of selected Commission activities. Beyond the facts and figures of these few pages, the trends and issues that challenge all of us to improve library and information services for the people of Nebraska tell the real story.

The relentless evolution of technology became even more prominent in 1994. Technology has become an essential resource and tool for all libraries. Continued development of *Nebraska Online*, Internet connections, and involvement in a variety of federally funded grant projects are among the initiatives undertaken to support the role of libraries as community information centers. Activities in these areas will continue to bear fruit in 1995 and beyond.

Amidst the glitz, glamour, and wonders of technology, Commission staff and regional library system administrators worked together to introduce the Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP). CLIP was developed to assist libraries in planning and evaluating community library services. The CLIP process has already helped a number of Nebraska libraries reassess community library and information service needs and goals. These and many other Commission activities are noted in this special report.

With this Year in Review 1994, I wish to extend a "thank you" to the many people who have worked with and helped the Commission this past year. We expect to build upon these partnerships and make 1995 an even more prosperous and productive year.

Rod Wagner

¹com•mis•sion

n., act of bringing together

(people and information)

¹Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

Funding/Grants

Major Library Commission grants and contracts awarded in FY 1994:

Institutional Grants	\$17,800
Library Systems	\$596,098
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$298,444
Public Library Construction and Technology	\$111,990
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	\$131,836
Subregional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (North Platte)	\$12,688
Automation Planning	\$160,858
Urban Resource Libraries (includes federal MURLS funding and state funding)	\$16,313

Children's Services Funded

The Library Commission awarded grants to five public libraries for excellence in children's services during the past fiscal year.

Target areas for the 1994 grants were Places and Spaces for Young Adults, Outreach to Day Care Centers and Interesting Kids in Information. Eleven grant proposals were received. Five were approved for funding. Recipients are:

- ❖ **Auburn Public Library**—Workshops, Programs and Delivery Services to Day Care Centers: \$1,150.00
Project Coordinator: Ruth Henderson
- ❖ **Wayne Public Library**—Grandmapa Storytime (older adult volunteers provide stories in day care homes): \$1,200.00
Project Coordinator: Jolene Klein
- ❖ **Norfolk Public Library**—Youth Literature Festival for Young Adults: \$1,500.00
Project Coordinator: Karen Drevo
- ❖ **Karlen Memorial Library, Beemer**—Information Materials for Children with Learning Disabilities: \$850.00
Project Coordinator: Tammy Lorenz
- ❖ **Niobrara Public Library**—Mentoring Program for Young Adults: \$700.00
Project Coordinator: Linda Leader

Commission Awards Grants

Communities across Nebraska are improving library services through grants made available to those libraries by the Nebraska Library Commission. Five libraries in Knox County received grants for increasing county library funding to the state minimum level of \$2.75 per capita. The grants were matched 5 to 1 by local county funds.

The Beatrice, Kearney, and Broken Bow Public Libraries received matching grants to purchase satellite dish receivers and related equipment. The West Point Public Library received an incentive grant of \$10,000 for the development of a distance learning center in the library in cooperation with Wayne State College, Northeast Community College and Metropolitan Community College.

Eleven public libraries received grants of \$300 each to document and report on the progress of their community's involvement in the Continuous Library Improvement Program.

Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) 1994 Title II Grants were awarded for both public library construction and public library technology projects. A construction grant was given to Auburn Public Library for a new library building. Separate technology grants were awarded to Ainsworth, Alliance, Battle Creek, Crofton, Fremont, Fullerton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Ogallala, Omaha, Shelby and Stanton. In addition, cooperative grants for technology projects were given to the six library systems on behalf of nineteen public libraries.

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*Commissioners:
Dr. Robert McPherson, Hastings, term expires 1997
Myrna Vollbrecht, Stanton, term expires 1997
Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1997
Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1995
Thomas Harvey, Omaha, term expires 1996
Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1996*

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

Commissioners/Staff

Governor Ben Nelson appointed Frances Lovell of Gering to the Nebraska Library Commission. Lovell replaced Marge Curtis, of Sidney, who resigned as Commissioner when she moved out of state.

Both Dr. Robert McPherson of Hastings and Myrna Vollbrecht of Stanton were reappointed to the Commission.

Ron Norman of Kearney was elected Commission Chair for 1994-95 and Thomas Harvey of Omaha was elected Vice-Chair.

Other Commissioners include Jean Sanders of Lincoln.

Staff Changes in FY 1994

Arrivals

- ❖ **Vickie Beaver**, Library Assistant
- ❖ **Andrew DeLancey**, Book Circulation Clerk
- ❖ **Bruce Oorlog**, Support Services Clerk
- ❖ **Annie Sternburg**, Online Services Librarian
- ❖ **Jo Budler**, Network Services Director

Departures

- ❖ **Kevin Hanken**, Public Information Technician
- ❖ **Jacque Mundell**, NEBASE/Info. Services Director
- ❖ **Kate Wakefield**, Librarian III

Retired

- ❖ **Dick Allen**, Library Services Coordinator

Reclassifications

- ❖ **Jan Anderson**, Librarian I
- ❖ **Judy Spencer**, Librarian I
- ❖ **Paul Jacobsen**, Library Technician
- ❖ **Judy Winkler**, Librarian I
- ❖ **Oliver Magee**, Office Clerk II
- ❖ **Sara Martin**, Librarian III
- ❖ **Theresa Thomssen**, Library Assistant

Commission Employees Honored

Jim Minges, Library Development Director, was named Manager of the Year for 1993. Jim was recognized for his leadership in implementing many successful projects of direct benefit to libraries, librarians and the publics libraries serve. Ellen Van Waart, Continuing Education Coordinator at the Library Commission, was named 1993 Employee of the Year. She has always kept the "big picture" in mind and attempted to relate specific continuing education efforts to the overall purposes of the Library Commission. Both were selected from nominations submitted by Commission staff.



Over the past year, *Nebraska Online*'s continued growth increased the opportunity for all Nebraskans to compete in the global market. In July, *Nebraska Online* had 6,248 registered users accessing the system more than 6,000 times each month. In order to make the information more widely available and to reduce phone line congestion, *Nebraska Online* became accessible via the Internet. *Nebraska Online* now hosts the Nebraska Humanities Council's Humanities Resource Center, electronic mail groups for authorized users, a Computer Files Library, the Geographic Information System Data Inventory, Nebraska State Government Publications, (a Nebraska state agencies' publications database), unclaimed property information, and CD-BLND, a Talking Book and Braille Service catalog of holdings. A grant from the Small Business Administration increased the number of call-in lines and the computer capacity of *Nebraska Online*, and helped fund programming support to add new features.

Continuous Library Improvement Program

Nebraska public libraries embarked on the Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP) during 1994. This streamlined planning process emphasizes community involvement in forming a clear vision of the library's purpose and putting that vision into action through tangible short term action steps.

Nebraska public libraries, the Nebraska Library Commission, the regional library systems, and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development were partners in development of the process. The CLIP program is well underway, with the following steps completed in 1994:

1. Developed a series of satellite and video training and information programs.
2. Facilitated four regional workshops in May and June, 1994, attended by planning teams from 70 Nebraska communities.
3. Created a CLIP e-mail group on *Nebraska Online*.
4. Began the CLIP process in approximately 40 communities, including the gathering and analysis of information through community profiles, focus groups, surveys and town hall meetings.
5. Provided CLIP planning grants to eleven public libraries. Activities during 1995 will include regional follow-up meetings for libraries participating in the CLIP process, and a second series of CLIP training workshops. The Nebraska Library Commission is requesting funds to increase state aid for public libraries participating in the program in 1997.

Library Commission Highlights FY 1993/94

- ❖ Seventeen institutional libraries accredited and received state aid
- ❖ An average of 5,223 people per month used **Nebraska Online**
- ❖ 159 libraries accredited
- ❖ 156 libraries received state aid
- ❖ 15,775 talking books, magazines, and braille materials circulated each month (average)
- ❖ Current Awareness Service (SDI) delivered 8,833 documents to sixty clients. Four new clients were added to the service
- ❖ 4.4 million records in Nebraska State Database
- ❖ 166,390 total items cataloged by NEBASE members
- ❖ 3,997 items originally cataloged by NEBASE members
- ❖ Library Commission borrowed 1,317 items from other libraries
- ❖ Library Commission loaned 575 items to other libraries
- ❖ NEBASE libraries borrowed 83,237 items from other libraries
- ❖ NEBASE libraries loaned 56,936 items to other libraries
- ❖ At the end of the fiscal year, NEBASE membership included 61 full-cataloging members, 55 NEON members, and 20 NEULIST only members (libraries with periodical holdings in the Nebraska Union List of Serials)
- ❖ 2,888 state documents added to the Commission's collection, bringing the total to 76,742
- ❖ 17,941 federal documents added to the Commission's collection, and 19,891 federal documents weeded, bringing the total to 280,875
- ❖ 4,490 information requests filled by Commission's Library and Information Services staff
- ❖ 16,703 children in Nebraska registered for the 1994 Summer Reading Program, **Books Make the World Go Round**. Libraries loaned 311,176 books to children participating in the program across the state.

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Nebraska Library Commission



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