

Your guide to the Nebraska Library Commission

# N<sub>E</sub>COMPASS

N E W S L E T T E R

Summer 1997

Vol. 4 No. 2

## NEBASE Annual Meeting Successful

**T**he 1997 NEBASE Annual Meeting was held in June in Lin-

coln. One hundred and sixteen librarians from across the state heard the Keynote address, "Internet 2: What it is, Where we are, Where it's going," by Craig Summerhill, Coalition for Network Information.

Program highlights included Federal Telecommunications Act Update, Future Options with OCLC Access Methods, and New Products and Services from OCLC. Breakout sessions included Library Commission FirstSearch Group Purchase Update and Question and



▲ Jo Budler (right), Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, introducing Keynote speaker Craig Summerhill, Coalition for Network Information.

Answer Session, Update on the Batchload Project (adding holdings information from 31 selective users to the OCLC Online Union Catalog), and Cataloging of Electronic Resources. For more information, contact Jo Budler, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jbudler@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

### Database Trials Continue

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to arrange free trials of databases. These include NEWSBANK, Electric Library, Current Contents (via OVID and/or Information Access Co.), OVID, Encyclopedia Americana and Encyclopedia Britannica. These services are offered for different periods of time. At the end of the trial period, librarians will be given the opportunity to subscribe to each

of the services. They will be able to "buy in bulk" the electronic information access that their customers need, maximizing their buying power to ensure local citizens greater access to information at a reduced cost to the taxpayer. The response to previous statewide group purchases arranged by the Library Commission has been overwhelmingly positive.

For details on databases, availability and registration information, or to register, consult the Commission Home Page at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/trial.html>>. For more information, contact Jo Budler, 402-471-4031 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jbudler@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>, or Allana Novotny, 402-471-6681 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <anovotny@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲



▲ Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, provides update.

▲ In this Issue:

**From the Director: 1997 Unicameral Highlights** page 2  
**Children's Grants Awarded** page 2

**A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part six** page 3

**News of Nebraska Libraries and People** page 7

## From the Director...

### 1997 Unicameral Highlights

**W**e Nebraskans pretty much take our single house legislature, the only Unicameral in the nation, for granted. Its single track may explain why legislative bills can become law quickly, as seemed to be the case in the latter days of this past legislative session. By the June 12 Sine Die, our 49 senators had moved scores of bills including biennium appropriations, tax law revisions, and more. Some bills passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Nelson are of note to library supporters.

One item that failed enactment was a \$1 million biennium appropriation for state aid to libraries. Resulting from the Libraries for the 21st Century initiative (the focus of Senator LaVon Crosby's LB 95), the Appropriations Committee supported and the Legislature approved the \$1 million biennium addition to the Library Commission budget for state aid. Although Governor Nelson vetoed the funds, the issue may be revisited in the next legislative session.

Further refinements were made to the 1996 property tax bill (LB1114) which sets local government levy limits. LB 269 (1997) amended the tax legislation to further clarify levy policies. Every public library should have copies of these bills for review and discussion with local government officials (including township, village, municipal, and county boards) who set local budgets. The clear intent of this legislation to seek efficiencies in public services is seen in the allowances for additional levy authority for local governments that collaborate on services through interlocal agreements. The Legislature's General Affairs Committee will undertake an interim study (LR 164) to assess the impact of tax levy limit legislation on the finances and governance of Nebraska's public libraries. Librarians are asked to collect data and stories to illustrate what is happening.

Every Nebraska librarian should know where to find legislative information such as legislative bills (content, status), hearing schedules, and statutes. Along with the traditional print publications, the Legislature's Web site is a good source for a variety of legislative information, see <<http://unicam1.lcs.state.ne.us/>> or call 471-2271.

It won't be long before the Legislature is back in session. So, how about adopting a personal goal to contact your state senator, to acquaint or re-acquaint him or her with issues important to you? Senators enjoy and rely on contact with their constituents to keep informed of local concerns and needs. Be sure to also contact the senator's staff. Initiating these contacts now will make it easier to follow up later. Since there is no doubt that bills will be introduced that affect libraries, be prepared to let your senator and others know your views on legislation. ▲

Rod Wagner

## Children's Grants Awarded

**T**he Nebraska Library Commission awarded 1997 Children's

Grants for Excellence this Summer. Of the grants

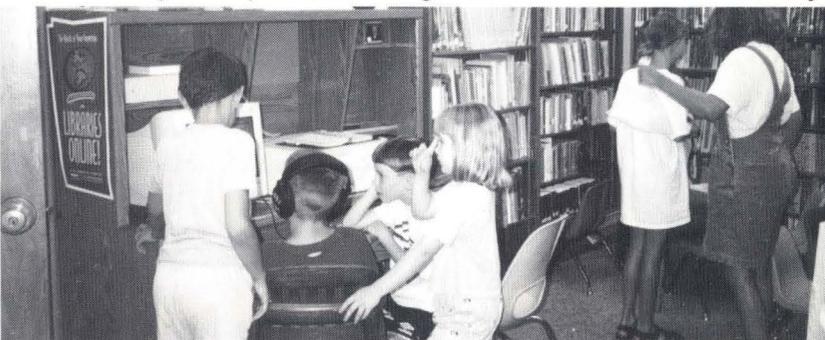
awarded, three addressed President Bill Clinton's *America Reads* challenge. Vicki Perrie, Superior Public Library, was awarded \$1,749 for outreach programs to local day care centers, including training for parents and day care staff. Linda Leader, Niobrara Public Library, plans to use \$650 for outreach to new parents, with continuing follow-up. LaVista Public Library, under the direction of Sharon McAnulty, will develop transportation to bring at-risk children to the library where volunteers will read to them weekly.

Two libraries received funding to implement the Library Commission's *Guidelines for Youth Services*. Carol Mintzmyer, Ceresco Public Library, received \$3,000 to upgrade the children's book collection, concentrating on pre-school level books

and outreach to local day care centers. Imogene Horse, Chadron Public Library, received \$575 for a program integrating art and literature to expand beginning readers' allusionary base (the mind's eye).

Two libraries developed plans to collaborate with neighboring public libraries. Laura Cundiff, Clay Center, received \$1,620 to apply collection assessment principles presented at the video conference, *Getting the Big Picture*, to her picture book collections, co-developing a picture book collection with Fairfield and sharing materials to enhance both collections. Ord Public Library received \$2,000 for collection development. Sally Wagner will facilitate a shared children's collection with other county libraries, laying the foundation for further future collaboration. If you would like to receive a copy of any of these grant proposals contact Mary Jackson at the Library Commission, 402-471-4006 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

▼ Children using the computer and checking out books at the Ceresco Public Library.



## Compass

NEWSLETTER

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Summer 1997 Vol. 4 No. 2

Commissioners: Karen Warner, Norfolk, term expires 1997; Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1998; Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1998; Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1999; Katherine Fletcher, Omaha, term expires 1999; Robert King, Holdrege, term expires 2000. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

## A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part six

“Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.”

Article IV of the Library Bill of Rights as adopted June 18, 1948 and amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council and affirmed as *Nebraska Library Bill of Rights* April 3, 1981, by unanimous adoption of Nebraska Library Commission.

In this latest installment of the *NCompass* series examining applications of intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights, we explore how librarians challenge censorship, exert community leadership, and demonstrate the courage of their convictions by ensuring that the material in their libraries truly represents diverse points of view. Since the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is one of the most reliable organizations standing by librarians in community coalitions, we asked Matt LeMieux, Executive Director ACLU Nebraska, to share his thoughts on this partnership.

“ACLU Nebraska, an organization with a diverse membership, is committed to the protection of civil liberties of all persons,” reads ACLU Nebraska’s mission statement. Arguably, the most sacred of our liberties is the First Amendment’s prohibition on government censoring speech and expression. With the mission of providing citizens with diverse information and enlightenment, libraries obviously should be free from government censorship schemes and every effort should be made to protect libraries and librarians from such schemes.

This is usually where groups like the American Civil Liberties Union come in. Often, our elected officials ignore the First Amendment in the name of protecting citizens from “indecent” or “offensive” material. Books like *Tarzan of the Apes* and *The Catcher in the Rye* have been removed from library shelves by politicians, after being deemed “offensive.” In response to many of these government censorship efforts, ACLU affiliates around the country have stepped in to protect librarians who have taken issue with the orders of “censor-happy” politicians, and more importantly, to protect the sacredness of the First Amendment.

The American Civil Liberties Union was founded 76

years ago in New York by Roger Baldwin, with a mission of promoting and protecting civil liberties, those individual rights given to us by our founding fathers. Baldwin probably would not recognize the structure of today’s ACLU, with affiliate offices in each state, but he certainly would recognize the organization’s mission, which has not changed since Baldwin’s days.

Thirty-one years ago, an ACLU office opened in Nebraska. Today, ACLU Nebraska, with a staff of three and an army of volunteers, protects Nebraskans’ rights through litigation, legislation, and public education. Abolition of the death penalty, gay and lesbian rights, reproductive freedom, and AIDS discrimination are among the topics tackled by ACLU Nebraska over the past year, indicating ACLU Nebraska’s willingness to take on unpopular causes to protect the Constitution.

Unfortunately, fighting against censorship has somehow become just as unpopular in some areas of the country. The recent court battle over the Communications Decency Act illustrates how Americans are willing to allow government to act as censors. Many communities around the nation are facing a new Internet censorship effort that has popular support: filters on library Internet terminals. In many of these instances, the ACLU has once again come to the aid of librarians and the First Amendment to stand against these populist censorship efforts.

Here in Nebraska, the ACLU, when called upon by librarians or citizens, will seek to educate the politicians on why these filters violate the First Amendment. ACLU Nebraska invites librarians and concerned citizens to contact our office with civil liberties complaints and questions, like those surrounding library filtering efforts in communities across Nebraska. Contact ACLU Nebraska at 402-476-8091 or e-mail: <NCLU@aol.com>. For additional information on ACLU Nebraska, visit our Web site at <<http://www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/aclune>>.

*Matt LeMieux*

For more information on this topic and a listing of organizations dedicated to Intellectual Freedom, see the Library Commission Home Page, <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nsf/intelinfo.html#documents>>. For a print copy, contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

**Many communities around the nation are facing a new Internet censorship effort that has popular support: filters on library Internet terminals.**

## Commission Staff Prepare for Disaster

This summer, Library Commission staff attended a Disaster Preparedness inservice training session on disaster planning and response. The session focused on water, mold, mud, cataclysmic events (fires, bombs, tornadoes) and the Library Commission Disaster Plan and evacuation procedure. The Library

Commission offers local libraries consultation and assistance in preservation, conservation, and disaster preparedness. For more information, contact Burns Davis, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

## Lisa Honored as Manager of the Year

*L*isa Brawner serves as leader of the reference team and will celebrate her fifth year with the Library Commission this November. She is this year's recipient of the

**Lisa started in the library profession shelving books for Laureen Riedesel at Beatrice Public Library.**

Library Commission Manager of the Year Award. Lisa is a Nebraska native and started in the library profession shelving books for Laureen Riedesel at Beatrice Public Library. As a student at Doane, Lisa completed a degree in music education and worked at Perkins Library with Vern Duba, who convinced her to enroll in library school. She attended the University of Missouri School of Library and Information Science and worked at Ellis Library as a teaching assistant and a reference librarian.

Her first professional library job was as a branch librarian for the Houston Public Library System. She

served as the Music Librarian in the Fine Arts and Recreation Department at the Central Library. Expensive long distance bills to her future husband brought her back to Nebraska and to her family. Lisa returned to leisure reading after a long hiatus and belongs to a reading group of Library Commission employees. She and her husband Phil live in Lincoln and enjoy travel, theater and time in front of the television which is also used for Webtv (their Internet e-mail access). They both work with Grief Recovery and Music Ministries through their church. They have a nine-year old black cat named Steinway. ▲



## Karen Would Provide Unlimited Funding

*K*aren Warner, Coordinator of Library Services at Northeast Community College Library, was recently appointed to the Library Commission. She describes

**Her love of books and the desire to work with people motivated her to become a librarian.**

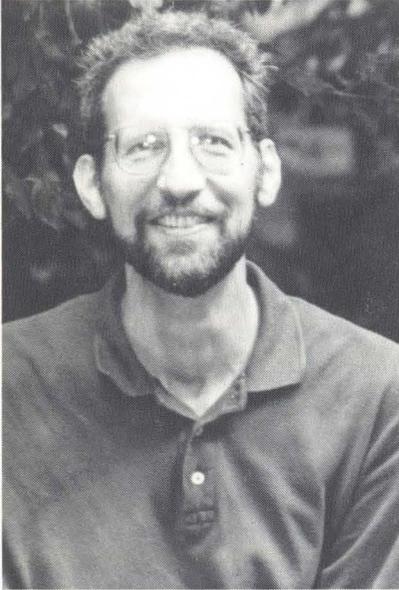
the duties of a Commissioner as being a good listener, relaying information to librarians in her area, as well as relaying information to the Library Commission from librarians. A librarian for 25 years and a South Dakota native, she received her B.A. from Wayne State College and her MLS from Emporia State University. Her love of books and the desire to work with people motivated her to become a librarian, but she has since discovered that it takes much more than that to be an effective librarian.

Karen says she likes the massive amount of information available on the Internet, but dislikes all the "not

so valuable" information posted. Her favorite Web sites are the Internet Public Library <<http://www.ipl.org/>> and Warner Brothers <<http://www.warnerbros.com/>>. If Karen could change one thing about working with libraries, it would be to provide unlimited funding for libraries. Karen is married to Steve and they are the parents of three children: Scott, Jay and Kris. They enjoy traveling with friends, being with their family and working for "Bright Horizons" on domestic violence issues. They share their home with a West Highland Terrier named Corky, named after the Emporia State University mascot. ▲



## Richard Would Facilitate Library Power to Make Change



**R**ichard Miller is the new Director of Library Development at the Library Commission. He is a Pennsylvania native and formerly served as the Southeast

Library System Administrator. He received his B.A. in English at Grove City College and taught high school English for two years. A summer internship at the South Carolina State Library inspired him to attend Library School at Drexel University. Richard has worked at the state libraries in Missouri and Montana. At the Montana State Library, Richard served as the State Librarian. The best thing about Nebraska living, according to Richard, is the ability to see more of the sky. He characterizes Nebraskans as open, friendly and accommodating.

If Richard could change anything about working with libraries he would like to see each librarian use their power to effect change in the “community.” Community can be the school, the college, or the town where the library is located. Richard is married to Rae Jean, also a librarian, and they have a 13-year-old daughter, Eleanor. They also share their home with a Sheltie named Jessie and a rabbit named Duchess. Richard enjoys reading and participating in outdoor activities. Welcome Richard! ▲

**Richard characterizes Nebraskans as open, friendly and accommodating.**

## Katherine Would Increase Library Hours



**K**atherine Fletcher describes the duties of a Library Commissioner as requiring knowledge of library systems in Nebraska, familiarity with current library

services and services libraries should provide, as well as understanding technology and library finances. Katherine was born in Denver, CO, received her bachelors degree from West Virginia State College and completed her graduate degree at University of Nebraska at Omaha. She lived in St. Joseph, MO and Washington D.C., and marriage brought her to Omaha. The best things about Nebraska living are the seasons and the honesty and friendliness of the people. Her interest in libraries is rooted in a love of reading and a background in teaching. She learned to read at a

very early age. She believes that reading is fundamental and that there is a wealth of information that is accessible only through reading.

If she could change anything about working with libraries it would be to increase the hours libraries are open to the public and increase library funding. When serving as a school principal, her work hours weren't always conducive to library use and she found herself buying more books. In her retirement, Katherine enjoys gardening and travel. She volunteers for a number of services that focus on women and children. ▲

**Her interest in libraries is rooted in a love of reading and a background in teaching.**

## Special Report...

### Staff Attend Association Meetings

**A** number of Library Commission staff attended the Spring and Summer meetings of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) sections.

The Paraprofessional Section of NLA held their Conference at the Nebraska Continuing Education Center in June. Sessions included "Staff Empowerment: Both Sides Now, (Your Brain—The Left and Right of It)," "Evaluating Internet Information," "Stress Hardiness Training," "He Said, She Said: Gender Communication Skills," "Staying Sane in an Insane World," "Personal Safety and Violence in the Work Place," and much more.

The Public Library Section spring meetings, held in Mitchell, Lexington, and Papillion in May, featured Dr. Nancy Schwede, Associate Director of the National Leadership Institute in Phoenix. Her presentation, "Leadership—To the Next Century," focused on how organizations function and affect the people who work there. Dr. Schwede emphasized the importance of trust, not only in the workplace, but in our personal lives as well. She quoted Margaret Wheatley in the book, *A Simpler Way*, "If an individual can change, it may be lucky enough to survive."

Technical Services Round Table held a spring meeting in April at the Library Commission. Peter Hetlinger, Lincoln City Libraries, made a presentation on "Dewey 21." Brian Striman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L), presented a program on "Cataloging Law Materials for Non-law Libraries."

The Special and Institutional meeting in June prepared participants to deal with the stress that comes with restructuring and downsizing in the workplace. The workshop, presented by Dr. Wess Sime, a health psychologist at UN-L specializing in stress management and exercise therapy, focused on managing interpersonal and organizational stress problems.

The College and University Section meeting in May at Doane College in Crete was keynoted by Duncan Alrich, Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Consultant. His presentation on "FDLP in Transition," was followed by sessions on "Transition to Electronic Government Information," presented by Geri Hutchins, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and Beth Goble, Library Commission. The conference featured small group sessions on twelve topics. Conference proceedings may be ordered from Jim Shaw at UNO, 402-554-2225.

For more information about NLA section activities, see the NLA Home Page at <<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/sections.html>>, or contact Mary Geibel for print information, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

## Commission Assists Alliance Assessment

**T**o assist in planning for a new library building, the Slagle Memorial Library in Alliance conducted a collection assessment. Burns Davis, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, provided training and worked in the library with the assessment team of staff and volunteers for one week. Results helped determine the collection's adequacy for curriculum support and for serving its community mission. The assessment reports describe this library's information resources at this particular point in time, including the type of materials located in the library's collection,

the number of titles, the age of the collection, outstanding characteristics, collection development goals, and how the collection is used. Reports will help formulate a plan of action, guide weeding and purchasing, and show what resources are needed and how space in the new building can be used. The success of the project depended largely on advance planning by the library staff and on the great volunteers who stuck with the process throughout the week.

For more information about this collection assessment, see <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/lrc/collmgmt.html>> or contact Burns Davis, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

## County Library Bill Passes

**T**he Legislature passed and the Governor signed LB 250, the public library law revision bill clarifying provisions for county public libraries. LB 250 is the most recent legislative proposal to address county public library governance, following earlier proposals from the past several

legislative sessions. Sponsored by the General Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Stan Schellpeper, the bill is the result of several years' efforts to enact legislative changes clarifying governance arrangements for county libraries. The new legislation provides for a county library development process and governance. For more information, see <<http://unicam2.lcs.state.ne.us/legdocs/billdocs.htm>>. ▲

## Libraries Educate Parents

**T**he American Library Association (ALA) launched a national campaign to educate parents about the Internet in connection with the announcement of the Supreme Court decision on the Communications Decency Act.

Support materials for local libraries include a tip sheet for librarians and a new camera-ready brochure, *The Librarian's Guide to Cyberspace for Parents and Kids*.

Sharon Wiegert, Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, recently commented, "These materials are marvelous...they came just in time as I prepared for a workshop for families." The brochure can be found on the ALA Home Page at <<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites>>.

To receive copies of these materials, call the ALA Public Information Office at 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041 or e-mail: <[pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org)>. ▲

## News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

New Library Directors include: Bancroft Public Library, Nancy Waite; Blair, C.A. Dana College, Dorothy Willis; Dodge, John Rogers Memorial Library, Mary Mandel; Indianola Public Library, Elizabeth Coolidge; Lincoln, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Jan Roth; Osceola Public Library, Helen Conkling; Sidney Public Library, Eileen Nightingale; Table Rock Public Library, Lisa Hunzeker; West Point, John A. Stahl Library, Jeanne Mulvihill, Interim Director. ▲

The Southeast Library System moved this summer to 5730 R Street, Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402-467-6188, 800-288-6063, fax: 402-467-6196. ▲

Nancy Busch and Beth Goble from the Library Commission were among participants representing state library agencies from 21 western states at the Western Council of State Libraries government documents marketing workshop this summer in Seattle. ▲

The Elmwood-Murdock Future Business Leaders of America adopted the public library as a community service project. The club facilitated the library's summer reading program, raised more than \$1,600 for a new computer, printer and Internet connection, and promoted the library and its services with a mailing to community members. The chapter earned second place honors in the Community Service Project competition at their National Conference. ▲

This summer, the National Library of Medicine announced that its MEDLINE database of more than 8.8 million references to articles published in 3800 biomedical journals is available free of charge on the World Wide Web, see <<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/>>. ▲

Library Commission staff Kay Goehring, Brad Hauptman, and Dave Oertli attended a meeting of the Western Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Disabled Individuals this spring in Anchorage. The conference focused on using the Internet and other new technologies to improve service to underserved populations. Oertli, Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, participated in a panel discussion on using technology more efficiently. ▲

The Hastings Memorial Library in Grant underwent renovation this past year to meet ADA standards. The Grant Rotary Club, assisted by other local youth, church and 4-H groups, spearheaded the renovation, funded by private donations and grants. ▲

Lori Sailors, Federal Documents Staff Assistant, is the Library Commission's 1997 Employee of the Year, and Lisa Brawner, Reference Services Coordinator, is Manager of the Year. They were nominated by fellow employees and chosen for their dedication and fine performance. ▲

The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association will host their joint annual convention on October 29-31, 1997. The convention, "Libraries: Leading the Way for a Successful Future," will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha. Preconferences on October 29 at the Omaha Holiday Inn Convention Center include "MADness, Censorship and Certitude," sponsored by the six Nebraska Regional Library Systems, 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., featuring Joe Raiola, Associate Editor of MAD magazine, and a panel discussion with three Nebraska religious leaders; "Preparing for the Aging Population Explosion," sponsored by Special and Institutional and Public Library sections, NOON to 5:00 P.M., featuring Jean Tevis, Librarian, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, and Ann Van Hoff, Assistant Professor, Clarkson College in Omaha; and "Book Repair and Binding: A Hands-on Workshop," sponsored by the Technical Services Roundtable and the Paraprofessional section, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., featuring Sheila Orth and Michael Rogerson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Binding Department. For more information about the Conference, see <<http://novia.net/~eierkopf/conference.html>>. ▲

Library Commission Public Information Officer Joanne Corson attended the Tilden Public Library celebration of its Diamond Jubilee this summer. The celebration featured a variety of activities, including an Open House, a demonstration of the Libraries Online computer, an afternoon storytime for pre-schoolers and an evening storyhour for adults. Maxine Eickhoff, president of the Tilden Public Library Board of Trustees, presented Alida Hall, Tilden Public Library Trustee, with the "Pat on the Back" award from the Northeast Library System. Mayor Steve Rutjens signed a Library Proclamation recognizing the library's 75 years of service to the community. ▲



◀ Maxine Eickhoff presenting the "Pat on the Back" award to Alida Hall.



*New on our Home Page:*  
(see "About the Commission" at  
<[http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/  
about.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/about.html)>):

▲ Nebraska Library Commission  
Library Services and Technology  
Act Five Year Plan (1997 - 2002)

▲ Visioning Sessions Generate  
Ideas (fall 1996)

See "State Government Publica-  
tions ONLINE" at <[http://www.  
nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pilot.  
html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pilot.html)> for state documents.

*For a print copy contact Mary Geibel,  
402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665,  
e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>.*

## Nebraska Library Commission



The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120  
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