



Library Commission Advances Statewide Recruitment

The Nebraska Library Commission launched the mentoring program and an accompanying Website as part of a librarian recruitment effort during FY2007, the third year of a \$343,682 grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Librarians for the 21st Century initiative.

The purpose of the project, "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska's Librarians @ the movies," is to increase the number of qualified professionals and recruit future librarians for employment in Nebraska libraries. It's designed to attract promising high school and college students to the profession.

The mentoring program links prospective librarians, library science students, and librarians just beginning their careers with library professionals who have working knowledge and experience to share. Library Commission staff identified potential mentors and before matching with mentees, provided training through workshops and online discussion with library consultant Cindi Hickey. Workshops focused on techniques to build the relationships that help workers grow in the library profession. At the end of the fiscal year, twenty-two mentors had been matched with twenty-eight mentees.

The website for the project debuted with resources for people interested in library careers. It has a secure feature that allows mentors to track interactions with mentees, and a searchable database of regional library job listings with links to national listings, plus information about library education options, scholarships, library careers, mentoring, and interviewing. Access the website at www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com,

www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org, or click the "coffee cup" icon on the left side of the Library Commission home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us.

A media campaign was designed around a public service announcement (PSA) to be shown in movie theaters throughout the state and marketing materials to be distributed through school guidance counselors, library media specialists, and public and academic library staff. The PSA can be viewed at www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com or at www.youtube.com (where it has been viewed 3,045 times). It was developed over a year of planning, production, testing, and revision, and premiered at the 2006 annual conference of the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association. The PSA is available on DVD for school counselors and librarians to show at career fairs and other events. It is part of a marketing kit containing materials about library education and career development resources that is currently being tested.

In conjunction with the grant, the Library Commission previously established the 21st Century Librarian scholarship program to provide financial support to Nebraskans seeking masters, bachelors, or associate degrees in library science or school library media. In FY2007, 62 scholarships totaling \$132,500 were awarded. Included were



This cut from the recruitment PSA shows a typical young librarian at work in a public library.

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From the Director...

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to present this Year in Review special issue of *NCompass* highlighting the activities, events, and projects from the past year. It's been quite a year, as the report reveals. Special projects and new service initiatives have been undertaken along with the Commission's long-term services.

Annual reports include lots of facts and figures. But stories often tell a lot more about the value and benefits of library services. Library Commission staff keep messages, notes, and files of comments from people about their service experiences. There are occasional gripes, but the great majority are appreciative. It is great to hear that a service has helped address a need, solve a problem, develop a skill, or complete a successful project.

There are amazing things going on in and through Nebraska libraries. Nebraska library workers are imaginative and innovative in adapting to trends and new experiences. Some of the many things notable from this past year include new public library building openings, book discussions hosted by libraries, teens actively involved in redesigning library spaces, children and adults using game technologies provided in libraries, exhibits and displays, and fundraising projects for special program needs. Many of these activities have come about or have been supported with the help of Library Commission grants.

To those who have been involved and who have helped in one way or another – thank you for the contributions you have made. From those who rely on library services, to those who provide them, we are pleased that the Library Commission and Nebraska libraries continue to deliver helpful and beneficial services to the people of Nebraska.

Rod Wagner



Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

State of Nebraska Funds	\$3,672,148
Federal Funds	1,501,688
Cash Funds	112,540
Total	\$5,286,376

Grants Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

Braille Services – Utah State Library	4,160
Collaborative Summer Library Program	5,995
Continuing Education and Training	39,425
Electronic Information Resources	409,787
FOLUSA – Friends of the Library USA	10,313
Gates Foundation Grants to Libraries	9,447
Incentive Payments: Dollars for Data	6,500
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	233,143
Library Improvement Grants	246,010
Marketing Metro Libraries – Lincoln and Omaha Public Libraries	17,000
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	15,995
Nebraska Center for the Book	8,907
Nebraska Library Association	14,529
NetLibrary (Solinet)	6,325
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	25,245
Regional Library Systems	656,820
Scholarships: MLS, LTA, MED, BA	74,113
State Aid to Public Libraries	368,217
Storm Damage to Libraries – Axtell and Holdrege Public Libraries	3,818
Youth Grants for Excellence	\$68,728
Total	\$ 2,224,477

NCompass

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Director: Rod Wagner

Editorial: Mary Jo Ryan, Nancy Evans, David Eckmann, Janet Greser

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Nebraska Library Commissioners:

John Dale, Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2008;
Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, term expires 2010;
Patrick Gross, Wayne, term expires 2009;
Mary Nelson, Holdrege, term expires 2009;
Charles Gordon, Fremont, term expires 2010;
and Carol Spencer, Broken Bow, term expires 2010. 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 under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

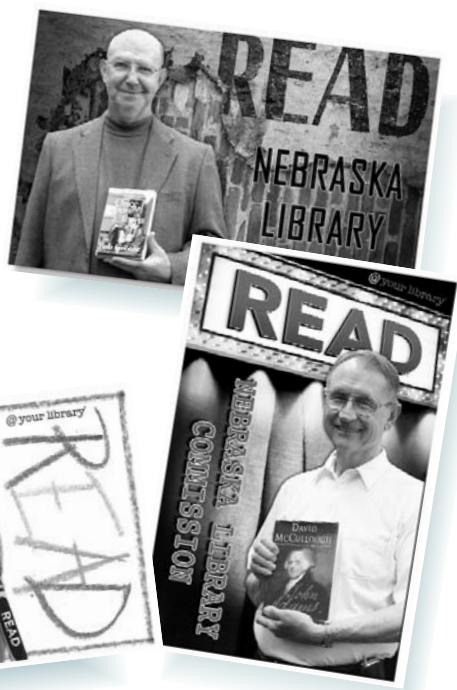
Thank You, Commissioners

Nebraska Library Commission staff thanks the Library Commissioners who served in FY2007 for their commitment to improving library service in Nebraska. Commissioners are appointed by the governor, and meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners in FY2007 were:

Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff (poster below left)

John Dale, Lincoln (poster below right)

Patrick Gross, Wayne (poster below top)
Mary Nelson, Holdrege
Velma Sims-Shiple, Fremont
Carol Spencer, Broken Bow



Library Commission Staff Transitions

Arrivals

- **Linda Jensen**, Staff Assistant, August 21, 2006
- **Laura Johnson**, Continuing Education Coordinator, October 16, 2006
- **Michael Sauers**, Technology Innovation Librarian, March 1, 2007



Linda Jensen



Laura Johnson



Michael Sauers

Statewide Council on Libraries Advises Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to advise the Commission on statewide library development and federal library programs, and planning, including the Library Services and Technology (LSTA) Plan.

Chaired by Dr. Rebecca Pasco from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the State Advisory Council meets at least twice yearly. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on State Advisory Council.

State Advisory Council members for FY2007 were:

Patty Birch, North Platte Senior High
Janice Boyer, University Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Nancy Cantin, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center
Kathy Ellerton, Northeast Library System, Wayne
Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff Public Library
Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library

Joan Giesecke, Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Cindy Gitt, Holdrege Area Public Library
Patricia Gross, Gering High School
Maggie Harding, Nebraska Library Association, Crete
Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago
Theresa Jehlik, Omaha Public Library
Diana Johnson, Stromsburg Public Library
Scott Kinney, Chadron Public Library
Marty Magee, National Network/Libraries of Medicine
Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System, Kearney
Rebecca Pasco, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Kristen Rogge, Johnson
John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith, Schuyler Public Library
Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation, Lincoln
Frank Zimmerman, Auburn Public Library Trustee

Departures

- **Cherie Longmuir**, Panhandle Library System Coordinator, April 30, 2007
- **Belinda Fanning**, Library Technician, June 27, 2007

Reassignments

- **Allana Novotny** from Librarian to Senior Librarian, Network Services
- **Sally Snyder** from Librarian to Senior Librarian, Library Development

Employee of the Year

- **Sally Snyder**, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services

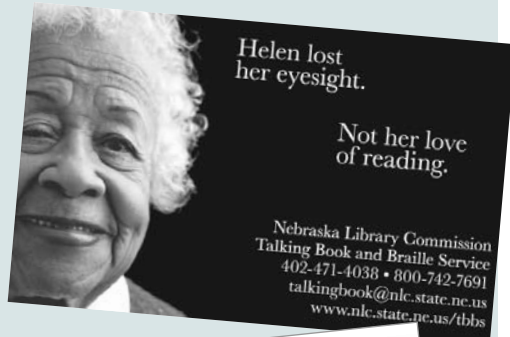


Sally Snyder

Talking Book and Braille Service Staff Provide Outreach

Fiscal Year 2007 outreach efforts included:

- Ads outlining the service in 175 Nebraska newspapers, as well as in *Older Nebraskan's Voice*, the *Neighborhood Extra* newspaper supplement, and *New Horizons*



- Packets to home-nursing agencies, hospice services, school districts, doctors of osteopathy, rheumatologists, and support groups for Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease
- Displays at the Governor's Conference on Aging, Phelps County Diabetes Fair, Plattsmouth Transition Fair, and Diabetes Spring Seminar
- Presentations for library science students, University of Nebraska librarians, National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, and at the Visually Impaired Peer Support (VIPS) state convention
- Induction of volunteers, Marjory Gloe and Jeff Schroeder, as Admirals in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

Talking Book Advisory Committee Raises Awareness

The advisory committee to the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service was formed to represent the needs of borrowers and to make recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Committee members this year focused on outreach to schools and on ways to promote the service. The committee hosted two sessions at the Visually Impaired Peer Support (VIPS) state convention, and provided input into the loan policy in

anticipation of the arrival of digital books and players next year.

Committee members for FY2007 were:

Carolyn Bennett, Beatrice
Robert Deaton, Lincoln
Sandra Kelsey, Fremont
Nancy Oltman, Hastings
Ryan Osentowski, Lincoln
Kay Paulsen, Lincoln
Shirley Schmidt, Columbus
Mike Steinmeyer, Hebron
Avis Wiest, Ogallala

Free Talking Books and Magazines Help Nebraskans to Keep on Reading

Individuals with visual or physical disabilities may qualify for free talking books from the Nebraska Library Commission. No one needs to forego the pleasure of reading just because they cannot see regular print or hold a book or turn its pages—not when recorded books, magazines, and playback equipment are free to any qualifying Nebraskan.

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, working with the Library of Congress, offers 60,000 book titles and 100 magazines, mostly on cassette. The book collection includes nationwide best-sellers, westerns, biographies, history, and romances. The Library Commission's

studio records books and magazines about Nebraska and the Great Plains.

A cassette player is loaned to each borrower. It has large buttons and can be adapted with finger extenders for the control keys and headphones for private listening. All materials are mailed to borrowers and returned to the Talking Book and Braille Service postage-free. Application forms can be downloaded

from www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs/tbbs11.html. For more information contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691, e-mail: doertli@nlc.state.ne.us or talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us.



Librarians Attend Vendor Day

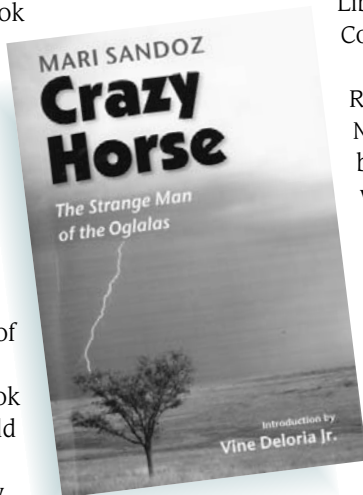
The Library Commission held its second annual Vendor Day in May at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The annual event gives librarians the opportunity to meet with multiple vendors of electronic information, automation, and other library products and services. More space was available this year and additional vendors provided product demon-

strations. Vendors had the opportunity to present two sessions during the day, as well as meet with participants in an exhibit area.

For more information contact Shannon White, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4031 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: swhite@nlc.state.ne.us.

One Book One Nebraska Celebrated *Crazy Horse*

Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas, by Mari Sandoz, was celebrated as the 2007 One Book One Nebraska selection. Preliminary evaluation results show that most respondents heard about the reading promotion through the library or the newspaper and plan to participate in 2008 One Book One Nebraska.



Ann Stephens, director of Fremont's Keene Memorial Library, said, "The One Book One Nebraska activities held at Keene Memorial Library provided a real opportunity for the library to engage the community on a different level through focusing attention on one book and one author." She noted that the goals of promoting literacy, exploring a book that reveals Nebraska's rich history, understanding the writing process by focusing on one author's perspective, encouraging reading as a way to build community, and increasing library attendance and support were achieved. Fremont activities included:

- **Book discussion** led by Brian Rocky, vice president of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center; Phyllis

Stone, an elder of the Rosebud Lakota Nation; and Tom Boyle, director of Luther Library at Midland Lutheran College.

- **Presentation** by Ron Hull, University of Nebraska-Lincoln public broadcasting pioneer. Hull was a friend of Sandoz and shared highlights of his interviews and meetings with her.

- **Crazy Horse Photographic Exhibit**, created by the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center from a book of photographs

taken by Bill and Jan Moeller and supported by the Fremont Area Art Association.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored each year by a coalition of organizations, including the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Humanities Council, and University of Nebraska Press. In 2007 the celebration was organized under the leadership of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. For more information see www.onebookonenebraska.org.

Library Commission Initiates One Book One Nebraska Kids

The Library Commission began a new program in FY2007 to encourage children across Nebraska to all read and discuss the same book. The first selection was *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson, aimed at fourth to sixth graders.

This was the kickoff for an ongoing event that will alternate between upper elementary and middle school titles. Announcement of the year's title will occur each January to give librarians and students plenty of time to read and discuss the book. Book bags containing fifteen paper-



back copies of the book along with discussion questions, activities, and background information were available from the Regional Library

System offices and Nebraska Library Commission Information and Reference Services, 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us.

Library Commission Advances Statewide Recruitment *(continued from page 1)*

scholarships for students in the new Library Technical Assistant program, available in Nebraska through a partnership of the Nebraska community colleges, the Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Library Commission reached potential future librarians who might serve Nebraska's growing Hispanic community through a partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council's "Prime Time Family Reading Time" program. The Library Commission provided stipends for Spanish-speaking student interns to assist with the "Prime Time" programs in Crete, Lincoln, Omaha, Hastings, South Sioux City, and Scottsbluff. The "Prime Time" programs gather families at libraries to read award-

winning children's books and discuss real-life issues.

The internship program succeeded in creating interest in the library profession as well as changing the perception of the work. Said an intern at Lincoln City Libraries: "The fact that librarians shelve books, work at the desk, etc., is true, but I realized that it is not even one-quarter of their job. Librarians do amazing work for the community...It was a priceless opportunity that was incredibly fun at the same time...I sincerely look forward to working here in the future."

Work on the recruitment grant will continue in FY2008; the grant period was extended one year to allow all phases of the program to be fully implemented.

Library Improvement Grants Awarded

The Library Commission awarded \$341,169 in library improvement grants in FY2007 to twenty-four libraries, including one institutional library and one Regional Library System. The grants were formerly called Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants. The Library Commission distributes federal funds administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that supports museums and libraries. The funds, awarded through a competitive grant process, are intended to augment local library programs and services by supplementing local funding.

Computer workstations and servers, laptops, self-checkout systems, scanners, printers, copiers, and software were among the items purchased with the grant monies. (Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.)

Before **Hooper Public Library** was awarded a \$15,888 library improvement grant in FY2007, it was one of the few libraries in the state still not automated. With limited city funds in the town of 827, Library Director Karla Shafer said there was little hope of getting it done. When she became director three years ago, Shafer said, she decided to "dig in and see how the automation could happen." Upon receiving the grant, she says, the community was "blown over."

Purchasing will conclude in the next few months and Shafer is beginning to enter all the library's holdings into the Hooper Public Library Catalog.

She enters at least one hundred items each of the five days the library is open, which is a challenge because she's the only staff member. Volunteers are helping attach bar codes, and another small grant allows a high school student to help part time, she said.

The library soon will be ready to issue library cards with bar codes to each of its customers. That will be a first in Hooper history, and an exciting step, Shafer says. She expects it to be an adjustment for patrons, but "we will be patient." The library is planning a big celebration at the conclusion of the "New Ways @ your library®" project. Says Shafer: "What a wonderful thing it was to receive the library improvement grant. It will change Hooper forever."

Use of **Gering Public Library** computers by teens has more than doubled and use by younger children is up even more since the library installed new equipment purchased with a \$4,560 library improvement grant. The grant funds were used to update a children's computer, and add a teen computer, color laser printer, and Time Limit Manager software.

Before the computers and software were installed, the library averaged 125 teens on one computer and 70 children on two older computers each month of the school year. Those numbers increased to 260 teens and 175 children per month with the new equipment. "We've seen more teens come in and they're excited about being able to get on the computers," says Library Director Diane Downer. One student printed in color so she could make a poster for a school project, she said.

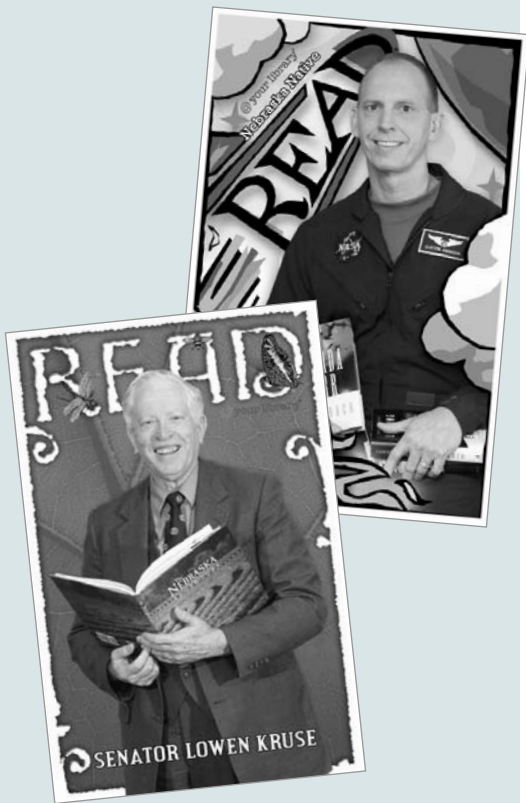
Another creative use of the new equipment: "Staff members are taking pictures of various events and displaying them, which makes people more aware of what's happening at their library," says Downer.

To augment the project, local funds will be used to replace the five remaining public-access computers and purchase a new server, she said.

Lied Randolph Public Library used a \$16,575 library improvement grant to create an electronic catalog, introduced at the dedication ceremony for the library's new building, with 250 people attending. Staff also demonstrated use of the system for all twelve grades in the public schools, plus eight groups and organizations.

Circulation and visits to the library have increased by about 75% following the project, which is much higher than projected, said Library Director Peggy Leiting. "We find that patrons search our automated card catalog daily whereas in the past they seldom used the old card catalog," she said. "We have also noticed that community members who did not use the library are starting to come in," she added.

The library's updated Website includes a link to the online catalog, which allows access from home computers, offering one of the biggest benefits of the new system, says Leiting. Other benefits for



Libraries Create Local READ® Posters

Nebraska libraries continued to promote reading in FY2007 with celebrity READ® posters featuring local business leaders, young readers, senior citizens, and families. The Library Commission uses American Library Association software to convert photographs into files that can be printed as posters and other promotional items.

The Library Commission also provided READ® posters with statewide interest. Posters of state senators were made during Nebraska Legislative Day, and astronaut Clay Anderson, a Nebraska native who spent five months aboard the International Space Station, posed for a READ® poster for libraries and school media centers to use to promote reading and books. The Library Commission provided upon request a CD containing Anderson's poster and bookmarks that can be printed at a local print shop or quick-copy center. To date, 218 Anderson CDs have been mailed to Nebraska libraries.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

Library Commission Awards Continuing Education and Training Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded Continuing Education and Training grants totaling \$26,033 through a competitive grant process. Public libraries and Regional Library Systems used the funds to provide continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel and trustees. These awards help equip library personnel with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide quality library and information services. (Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.)

The grants allowed librarians to receive technology training; bring speakers to Nebraska to present workshops on community/library planning, visionary library marketing, and customer service; attend the Mountain Plains Library Association conference; create an online catalog of library holdings; and redesign a Website.

Examples of FY2007 Grants:

Customer Service Training.

Meridian Library System Administrator Sharon Osenga won a grant on behalf of the Regional Library Systems in FY2007 to present two six-hour workshops titled "The Customer-Centered Library – How to stop tweaking and start doing it in 12 new steps for 2007" by Karen Hyman from South Jersey Regional Cooperative. "The whole idea of the grant was to focus our librarians on customer service," said Osenga. "We want our librarians to approach their services from the customer's point of view and to focus on their needs and expectations rather than just guessing what they are."

She said goals for workshop participants included learning to serve customers better by responding to their needs regarding access to library resources; becoming more aware of the unique, vital role libraries play in communities and how to capitalize on it; and identifying changes they can make in their libraries that support a customer-centered culture. Osenga said a number of librarians have improved customer service in their libraries using ideas gained from the workshop.

Among the comments on best ideas received were:

- To look at everything in your library from the patron's point of view.
- Change – do it, accept it.
- Remember to try new things even if you fail.
- Get rid of the negatives – keep things positive.
- Throw out rules that are not working.
- Change "patron" to "customer" and be flexible and willing to change to satisfy customers' needs.

Technology Skill-building.

Librarians at Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City received computer training in FY2007 as part of a three-year technology plan that also involves expanding and moving their computer room, and updating hardware and software. The training was to ensure that all staff can assist customers in the use of computers, with a goal of improving customer service and satisfaction. Most of the staff didn't grow up with computers, said Library Director Barbara Hegr, and while some were self-taught and fairly fluent, others lacked confidence.

Staff spent twelve hours outside of work learning the basics of Microsoft Word and Excel from another staff member who prepared and taught the course. Staff spent 27 hours in course time at a community college learning advanced Microsoft Word and Excel. "It was great," said Hegr. "All of us, regardless of our level of knowledge, learned a lot. Not only can the staff now assist patrons, but they have incorporated their knowledge in their regular duties."

The next step is to redesign the library's Website, adding features and improving its functionality, she said. Two staff members have taken design classes through the Library Commission and a community college, and Hegr said they hope to have the new site operational by June 2008.

For more information about Continuing Education and Training Grants, contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us.



Dinner and Dialogue Sessions Held

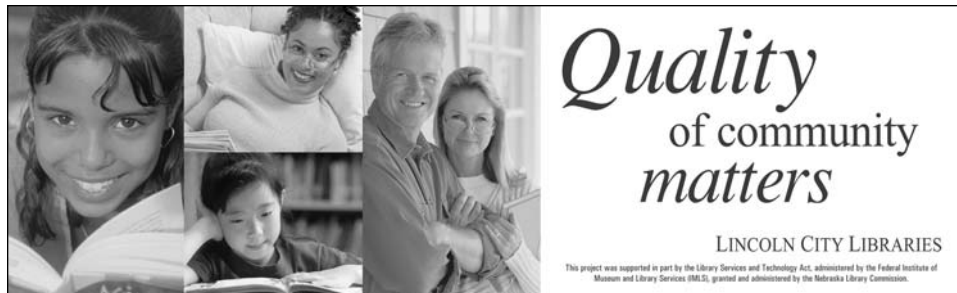
The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial support and assistance for meetings held in FY2007 as part of a legislative interim study requested by state senators with the goal of assessing the relationship between libraries and local government in cities and villages with a population of less than 5,000. Commission Director Rod Wagner attended the Dinner and Dialogue sessions with public library directors, board members, and municipal officers at four sites across the state.

Conversations at the meetings revealed that communication between libraries and government officials in most municipalities is good, but suggested that more training and education about municipal and library laws is needed. Recommendations focused on how to use the resources of the Nebraska Library Association, Library Commission, and League of Municipalities to provide education, training, and resource materials.

The final report of the Dinner and Dialogue sessions is available at www.nlc.state.ne.us; search on Dinner and Dialogue. For more information contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us.

Motion Picture License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission renewed the statewide Motion Picture Video License for all Nebraska public libraries from October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007, at no cost to public libraries. This license allows libraries to show movie videos and DVDs as part of library programming in the library. All terms and conditions of the previous license remain in effect for the renewed license. For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 5.



Billboards like this one appeared throughout Lincoln.

Libraries Host Summer Reading Program Activities

The Library Commission supported the statewide summer reading program, "Get a Clue



@ your library®" in FY2007 through training sessions for librarians and materials funding. The teen theme was "YNK (You Never Know @ your library®)."

Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, provided workshops throughout the state featuring programming ideas, book reviews, make-and-take craft ideas, and a presentation by Nebraska children's author N. L. Sharp. The Library Commission also supplied book and video lists related to the theme divided by age group, and circulated videos that complemented the theme. Additional materials were available through the Library Commission's Website.

Twenty-eight teens and children participated in the Summer Reading Program for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, with the majority reading five or more books.

As a member of the Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP) consortium comprised of libraries from several states, the Library Commission contributes funding for development and distribution of summer reading program materials.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 5. ❖

Library Commission Coordinates Joint Marketing Effort

A marketing partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission, Omaha Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries in FY2007 resulted in reaching each community with a unique message and training library staff to market the value of the library to their community.

The campaign theme, "Quality of Community Matters, your public library," focused on the value of public libraries and allowed each library to customize specific promotions to target audiences. The Quality of Community Matters theme can be adapted by other Nebraska public libraries to use in marketing the value of the library within their community.

Outreach efforts included public service announcements on local television stations that aired 68 times and billboards that rotated to various sites for

a year. A workshop attended by sixty staff members resulted in action plans being implemented to merchandise library services and materials. These included creating improved displays and shelving; providing floor plan maps for customers; offering library tours for new customers; redesigning the library's Website to make it more usable; weeding collections to free up space for "living room" groupings to encourage greater use of the library as "place;" implementing self-checkout options to free staff time for more individualized service; making presentations at neighborhood meetings; and providing customized services such as *Book Guide*, an e-mail newsletter.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 6. ❖

Network Services Delivers Training

The Library Commission's Network Services staff delivered training to Nebraska librarians in person and online in FY2007. Fifty-seven workshops and meetings reached more than 775 library staff during the year.

- NEBASE annual meetings drew 210 participants at two locations who heard from local and national speakers on libraries of tomorrow, podcasting and vodcasting, and OCLC products and report, *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*.
- Six Database Roadshows across the state offered discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice with *NebraskaAccess*, the gateway to the statewide databases funded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

- Forty-nine workshops covered such topics as digitization and scanning, WorldCat resource sharing, Connexion cataloging and local holdings maintenance, and CatExpress.
- Six two-day Gates-funded technology workshops covered practical tips for maintaining public access computers, including basic upkeep procedures and how to keep computers secure. A section on social software allowed hands-on experience with such sites as Flickr, del.icio.us, MySpace, and YouTube.

For more information contact Shannon White, see contact information on page 4. ❖

Library Commission Facilitates Health Information Partnerships


The Library Commission continued its collaboration with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's McGoogan Library of Medicine, Nebraska Health and Human Services, and the National Network/Libraries of Medicine in FY2007 to facilitate Community Health Information Partnerships across Nebraska.

Among the projects receiving financial support through the Library Commission were:

- *Go Local* initiative created an online database linking consumers to information about health services in local areas from the MedlinePlus health topics at <http://medlineplus.gov>. The links include Websites from Nebraska hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, support groups, health screening providers, and many others.
- Omaha Public Library partnership with *Ted E. Bear Hollow* provided resources to grieving children, parents, and caregivers. Twenty Healing Kits that included books, CDs, DVDs, and other resources were created and available for checkout. Library staff received training to

help them better serve grieving customers, and special programming was created to help support and educate grieving families.

- Omaha Public Library and Douglas County Public Health Department information campaign educated young adults about sexually transmitted diseases. A brochure written in an easy-to-read format for people with low literacy skills was created and disseminated in conjunction with Teen Read Week. Brochures were distributed to health clinics, coffee shops, record stores, and other likely after-school spots.
- Grand Island Public Library participated in *Family Fun Day in the Park*. Library staff distributed free health education materials written in English and Spanish to promote healthy activities to the city's culturally diverse population. The goal was to educate the public about health resources available through the library.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 6. 

Youth Grants for Excellence Awarded


The Nebraska Library Commission awarded more than \$65,000 in grants to twenty-one libraries and Regional Library Systems in FY2007 to assist in improving services to children and young adults, and to provide continuing education and training opportunities for library staff who serve children and young adults. (Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.)

The Youth Grants for Excellence program is designed to encourage creative thinking, risk-taking, and new approaches to address problems and needs of children and young adults in local communities. It is expected that the funding will provide a foundation for ongoing (rather than one-time) services, which can be continued with community support or through a reallocation of library funds.

Among the funded projects in FY2007 were a summer book discussion for

middle school students; a lap-sit program for parents and children from birth to age two; preschool storytimes; a program by a professional robotics expert/educator; creation of homework areas and teen spaces; creation of advisory boards; father/son book club, chess club, family game night; programs on geocaching and photography; and a summer reading tent outfitted with reading materials and cozy areas to encourage reading without the distraction of computers and television.

The list of grant recipients is available on the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us; search on 2006 Youth Grants.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 5. 


Library Commission Joins FOLUSA to Enhance Library Advocacy

Sally Reed, executive director of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), led workshops in North Platte and Fremont in FY2007 on the value of "Maximizing Friends." The Library Commission purchased a statewide membership in FOLUSA this year so the state's public libraries can take advantage of the group's services to enhance fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness. FOLUSA is a national organization of approximately 2,000 Friends groups, Boards of Trustees, Foundations, and individual members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters.



Sally Reed

Reed's message was that successful Friends groups must be nurtured and well-informed, and must clearly understand their role. The workshops were aimed at helping library staff and supporters work together to make sure that Friends groups are active, great fundraisers, and prepared to work in partnership with community decision-makers for library funding, referendums, and/or bond issues. Handouts from the workshops are available on the Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us; search on FOLUSA.

FOLUSA membership provides Nebraska's public libraries with subscriptions to a bimonthly publication of best practices, discounts on library resources, and global networking opportunities. For more information see the FOLUSA Website at www.folusa.org, or contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 7. 

Public Library Data Illustrates Statewide Library Service

Each year, the Library Commission collects statistical data from Nebraska public libraries.

The annual public library survey includes questions about staffing, funding, expenditures, library collections, programs, and salaries. This is useful data for planning and evaluation purposes, as well as for communicating with funders and policymakers at the local and state level.

Some of the information collected through the survey is reported to the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), through the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data, in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau. The national compilation of this data is available in the following ways:

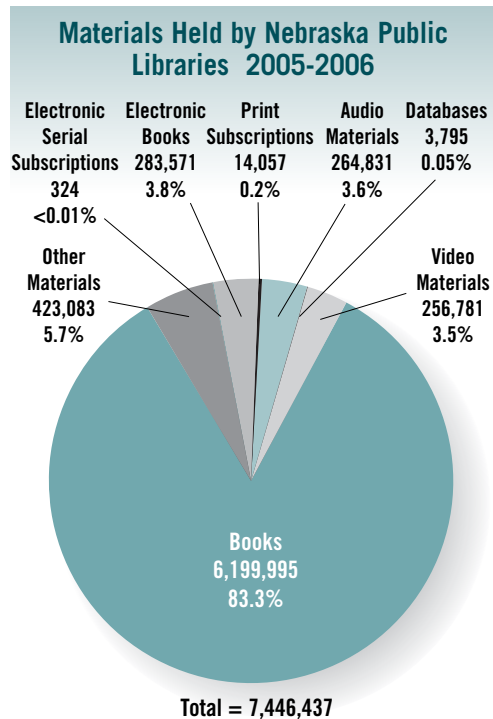
- Directors of public libraries can access *Biblisostat Connect™* (<http://connect.informata.com>) to find comparison data and create charts and graphs to illustrate specific library strengths and areas of need.
- The National Center for Education Statistics offers a "Compare Public Libraries" tool (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/compare/>) that can be used to create reports comparing one library of interest to other libraries.

Results of the Nebraska survey show that the state's public libraries continue to grow steadily each year. Users of electronic resources and reference transactions have each increased more than 20% since 2002, and circulation has increased nearly 18%.

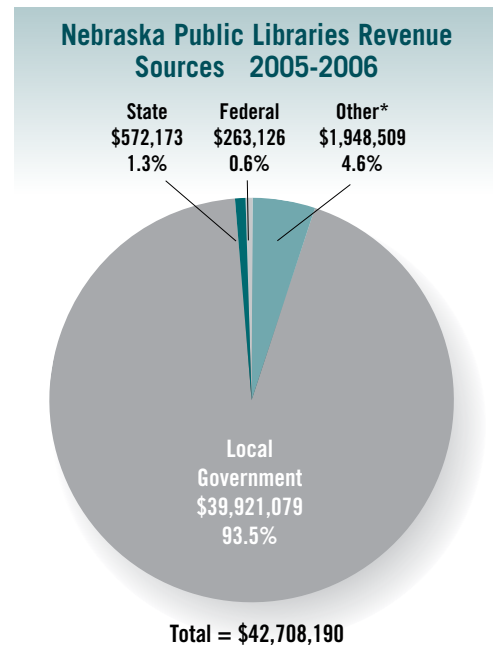
These charts are based on the responses of 214 libraries that submitted the 2005/2006 survey. Of these reporting libraries, 79% meet the state guidelines required for accreditation, and are eligible for direct state aid and state and federal grants.

Highlights from the 2006 Data

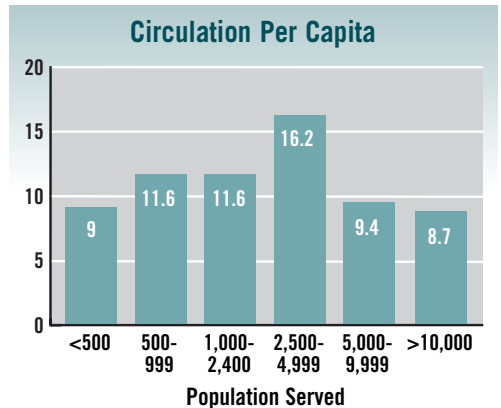
- Nebraska public libraries offered access to 7,446,437 materials



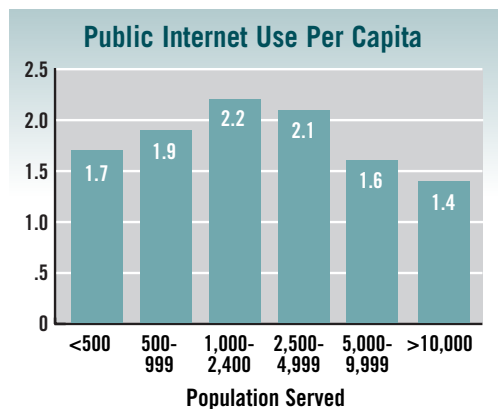
- Nebraska librarians answered 1,217,932 reference questions
- More than \$572,000 was distributed by the Library Commission to public libraries as either direct state aid or grants
- Local communities provided nearly 40 million dollars to support public libraries



- More than 13 million items were circulated by Nebraska public libraries



- Libraries provided 3,592 terminals for public access to the Internet, more than double the number available five years ago



- Libraries offered nearly 15,000 programs attended by more than 425,000 children
- Libraries reported 2,140,598 users of electronic resources

This data can be invaluable for librarians and library board members as they strive to improve public library services in Nebraska. Public library directors are encouraged to access this data through *Biblisostat Connect™* for assessment, planning and communication. For more information contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us.

* Other represents fines, fees, donations, grants, fund raisers, etc.

Library Commission Supports Nebraska Center for the Book

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. It supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. It has been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.

The Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance to the Center for the Book in FY2007, including support for the following projects:

Nebraska Book Festival. "Beyond Borders: Nebraska and the World" was held at Nebraska Wesleyan University, and was jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Library Commission, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Wesleyan University. It featured author readings, exhibits, panel discussions, music, and new this year, a day-long series of events for children in grades K-6.

Jane Pope Geske Award. The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) Department of English was honored for its long-term contribution to promotion and advancement of English literature. UNK has hosted the Nebraska Literature/Book Festival three times and has participated in festival programming since 1991.

Nebraska Book Awards. Seven books were honored in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. To be considered, books must be written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska.

NCB News. Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute three editions of the Center for the Book newsletter.

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos staffed the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of States in Washington, D.C.

National Idea Exchange. The Library Commission provided financial assistance for Linda Trout of Omaha Public Library to attend the National Idea Exchange at the National Center for the Book, where she met with other states' representatives about programs at their centers and materials.

Letters About Literature. Seven Nebraska students were recognized by Gov. Dave Heineman for their letters to influential authors. The annual reading-writing contest invites readers in grades four through twelve to write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. ➡

Library Commission Awards State Aid, Incentive Payments

The Library Commission paid \$368,217 in direct state aid to Nebraska public libraries from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using Web-based *Bibliostat™ Collect*, and local funding must be equal to or greater than that of the three previous years.

Sixty-seven Nebraska libraries earned incentive payments to acknowledge their achievement of enhanced or excellent accreditation status. Under the revised Public Library Accreditation Guidelines, which were fully implemented in 2006,

libraries are accredited at one of three levels: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level represents increased expectations regarding funding, hours open, and programs and services offered. The Library Commission paid \$800 to each library with excellent accreditation and \$350 for enhanced status.

Seventy libraries received additional direct state aid payments based on the amount of additional funds received from another public entity. A total of \$29,857 was distributed in 2007 as 1% incentive aid payments for those libraries.

For more information contact Kit Keller, see contact information on page 10. ➡

Library Commission Blog Debuts

The Nebraska Library Commission Blog offers timely conversations about activities, events, issues, and topics related to Nebraska library services. Library staff, supporters, and customers are invited to comment on any information item by clicking on the comments hotlink at the end of the posting. Click the "text balloon" Blog icon on the left side of the Nebraska Library Commission home page, www.nlc.state.ne.us, or see www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/index.html to start blogging. RSS feeds can be set up to provide an alert when new content has been added to the Blog. To subscribe to RSS click the orange and white icon on the right side of the Nebraska Library Commission home page or see www.nlc.state.ne.us/feed/feeds.asp.



Below is a sample of topics bloggers discussed:

- Grant opportunities for books, and computer hardware and software
- Laws regarding teens and summer employment in libraries
- How to receive free items for libraries
- New podcast training sessions
- Friday lunchtime videos at the Library Commission
- Lighthearted library-related videos
- National news stories related to libraries or of interest to librarians
- Scholarship deadline reminders
- Tips for using Web 2.0 technologies

For more information contact Michael Sauer, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, 402-471-3106 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: msauers@nlc.state.ne.us. ➡

Library Commission Completes Plan

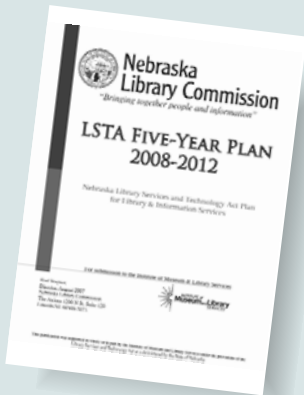
Key goals of the Nebraska Library Commission's five-year plan focus on ensuring that Nebraskans have access to enhanced library and information services and that Nebraska libraries have appropriate technology to deliver online information services.

The Library Commission prepared its Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan in FY2007 as a requirement to receive federal funds through the Grants to States program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Library Commission distributes a portion of the funds through competitive grant processes to the state's libraries.

The plan identifies goals and activities designed to improve access to library and information services. It was developed based on emerging issues and trends, evaluation of the 2003-2007 LSTA Plan, and input from the library community, the State Advisory Council on Libraries, Commission members and staff, and regional public meetings held to solicit ideas about libraries and library services. Twenty-six activities are outlined in the plan.

To see the 2008-2012 Five-Year Plan or the 2003-2007 Evaluation Report, visit the Library Commission's home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on About the Commission on the menu at the left, then click on Planning & Evaluation.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 7. ➡



NEBASE: Nebraska's OCLC Connection

Advisory Council Represents NEBASE Members

The NEBASE Advisory Council serves as a channel for communication between NEBASE and its members. Its delegates are elected for three-year terms by member libraries. The NEBASE member who serves on the OCLC Members Council is an ex-officio member of the NEBASE Advisory Council. NEBASE is Nebraska's OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) regional consortium, operated by the Nebraska Library Commission to facilitate access to OCLC products and services for libraries throughout Nebraska.

NEBASE Advisory Council members in FY2007 were:

Academic Library

Pat Hughes, Hastings College
Sally Gibson, Creighton University,
Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library

Public/Special/School Library

Greg Mickells, Lincoln City Libraries
Selective/CatExpress Library
Barbara Miller, Plattsmouth Public
Library

Ex-Officio

Michael LaCroix, Creighton University,
Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library ➡

Library Improvement Grants Awarded

(continued from page 6)

the staff, she says, are improved reference service with the ability to search by subject or keywords, better record-keeping, the ability to produce a variety of reports which are expected to help staff make decisions about collection development and weeding, and the ability to print overdue notices.

Leiting says they added two items not in the original plan – a receipt printer which provides customers with their list of books and due date, and an accelerated reading program that allows students to search for books by their reading and interest level. "We hope this will make their mandatory reading more pleasurable and encourage them to become lifelong readers," said Leiting. "Thank you for providing the funds to make this project a reality. It is greatly appreciated by us and our patrons," she said.

To meet the growing needs of the rural areas it serves, **Hartington City Library** purchased three new desktop PCs and two wireless laptops with the \$4,461 library improvement grant received in FY2007. "The equipment purchased has provided our daily library patrons with faster, more reliable service and more educational opportunities," said Library

Director Tami Anderson. "It reassures our patrons of the library's commitment to continuous improvement in the area of technology."

The library has seen an increase in usage of the technology lab since the new equipment was installed, including 85 of the 156 children served in the summer reading program participating in an online quiz program.

The laptops provide much-needed extra workstations during the library's peak after-school hours, Anderson said, and also are used for computer classes held at the library. In partnership with University of Nebraska Extension Service and other community groups, the library offered classes in digital photography, Microsoft Word and Excel, Adobe Photoshop, Internet genealogy research, and buying and selling on eBay.

Also new this year – the library board added a line item to the budget to address the library's technology needs, said Anderson. "Our cooperative partnerships and library staff continue to work well to the betterment of our community, and will continue to plan, modify, and evaluate the library's ongoing educational services," she said. ➡

Work Continues on 'Saving Nebraska's Treasures'

Work progressed in FY2007 on a \$249,837 "Saving Nebraska's Treasures" grant awarded to the Library Commission, Nebraska State Historical Society, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications.

This year an "Antiques Roadshow"-style program was produced featuring "heirloom health clinics" and preservation demonstrations at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center. The program included a consultation with David City Public Library staff about digitizing its Boston Studio collection for the *Nebraska Memories* project.

The project's goal is to make Nebraskans aware of the importance of preserving the state's cultural heritage, and to educate museum workers, families, and librarians about how to slow the deterioration of books, artifacts, docu-

SAVING NEBRASKA'S Treasures



ments, and photos. It is expected to increase participation in the Library Commission's *Nebraska Memories*

project.

The partnering organizations also produced a complementary Website and developed in-depth workshops on conservation, preservation, and digitization. The Website, www.netnebraska.org/treasures, has links to practical suggestions to help Nebraskans improve the long-term condition of objects and documents.

The grant was awarded by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a collaboration of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 6.

Basic Skills Classes Presented

Public Library Administration and Public Services classes were offered in FY2007 in each of the six Regional Library System areas and online. The courses are part of the Basic Skills series, coordinated by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems. The series also includes Collection Development and Organization of Materials classes. Onsite courses typically provide twelve to fifteen hours of class instruction over three sessions.

Librarians participating in the Nebraska Public Librarian Certification Program must successfully complete the four Basic Skills classes or have formal education or training covering equivalent subject matter.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 7, or see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us; search on Basic Skills.

Access Continuing Education Info Online

Beginning in FY2007, Nebraska library staff members were able to access Nebraska Library Continuing Education (CE) information online to track credit hours for Public Librarian Certification. See the Nebraska Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us,

search on CE Record Review, or www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/lookup.asp, and enter name and password. For more information or to receive a password, contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 7.

Publications Clearinghouse Provides Access to Government Information

The Library Commission's Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse provides access to government information for Nebraska citizens, library staff, state agencies, and the Nebraska legislature.

Through participation in the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) depository program for federal government publications, federal documents are selected to support the needs of the Library Commission's customers and the research and development needs of the state. Clearinghouse staff work with the regional depository at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Love Library to support the libraries comprising the federal depository network in Nebraska. Publications of all branches of state government and state-funded educational institutions are also collected to ensure that the information is available to a wide audience, valuable publications are preserved, and agencies have access to their own publications.

The directories of Nebraska's federal and state depository libraries got a new look in FY2007. Contact names and e-mails of library staff are now updated automatically when the comprehensive library directory is updated. The directory for the federal depository is located at www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/nefed.asp and the directory for state government documents can be found at www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/locdep.asp.

The state "epubs" program offers permanent hosting and OCLC cataloging for electronic versions of state agency publications. Any library using OCLC can download records into a local catalog so users can access the documents with a single click.

Libraries may sign up to receive notice of new epubs at www.nlc.state.ne.us/epubs/. News about Nebraska documents and selected new federal publications are highlighted in *What's Up Doc?*, a bimonthly Clearinghouse newsletter. For more information contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director, 402-471-4017 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

Continuing Education Classes Offered

The Nebraska Library Commission again this year funded numerous opportunities as part of its commitment to provide continuing education for library personnel throughout the state.

Included were teleconferences from the College of DuPage in Illinois. The Commission negotiated a statewide license to allow Nebraska libraries access to the satellite teleconferences. The programs examined challenges librarians face in the world of Web 2.0; issues facing today's multigenerational workforce; handling facilities, budgets, staffing, management, and leadership in an era of change; the best Websites to assist librarians in their jobs; issues facing library education programs and how to ensure that they remain vibrant and relevant; and a panel discussion on how traditional roles of libraries are changing in the digital age.

Other highlights of continuing education activities provided by the Library Commission included:

- Videoconference on writing grants for youth projects
- Classes on OCLC-related products such as Connexion: Browser Interface for Cataloging, Client Interface for Cataloging, and Local Holdings Maintenance; WorldCat Resource Sharing Basics; CatExpress
- Database Roadshows at six sites around the state focusing on NebraskAccess
- Classes on Web 2.0-related topics including blogging and RSS feeds
- NEBASE Hour, monthly sessions on topics like introduction to WebDewey and how to track activity with OCLC usage statistics
- Workshops on topics as varied as building a mentoring relationship, understanding MARC21 bibliographic records, and digitization

For more information contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 7. ➡

Nebraska Memories Project Continues to Grow

Two years ago the Nebraska Library Commission launched *Nebraska Memories*, www.memories.ne.gov, a cooperative effort between the state's libraries, museums, and historical societies to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials, and make them available via the Internet. The online searchable database documents Nebraska's rich history with original manuscripts, diaries, photographs, sheet music, maps, posters, movie film, sound recordings, and oral histories.

The project grew to 3,017 items with thirteen participants in FY2007. New this year was the ability for libraries to participate without learning metadata schemes or taking digitization training, making it possible for smaller libraries with limited staff or funding to add their library's historical documents to the project. A training session using "EZ Descriptions" was made available online at the Library Commission's Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, by clicking on the Library Training icon and searching on Nebraska Memories.

The project has resulted in collaborative efforts between all types of institutions involving staff, volunteers, and students.

Among them:

- Volunteers scanned 1,000 images from the Boston Studio collection at



Carnegie Library, Hastings, 1930

Hruska Memorial Library in David City. Using detailed ledgers from the local photography studio in business between 1897 and 1979, the finished project resulted in increased usage of the collection and has generated funds to help sustain the project through orders for reprints of the images.

- **Keene Memorial Library in Fremont** partnered with the Louis E. May Museum and Douglas County Historical Society to make available images of local businesses and public buildings in

celebration of the town's sesquicentennial.

- Library science students at the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** worked with the **Omaha Community Playhouse**, resulting in unique memorabilia being available online, including publicity images from the 1920s of Henry Fonda and Dorothy Brando, mother of Marlon Brando, plus photos of the Playhouse buildings, volunteers, and staff.

The Library Commission hopes to continue this type of collaboration and investigate new opportunities as it grows the *Nebraska Memories* program.

For more information see www.nebraskamemories.org or contact Shannon White, see contact information on page 4. ➡

Library Commission Pays Dollars for Data

Twenty-six unaccredited public libraries received Dollars for Data payments in FY2007 by completing the annual Public Library Statistical Report using *Bibliostat™ Collect*. The Library Commission instituted the \$250 payments two years ago to encourage the state's unaccredited libraries to take a step toward accreditation status by reporting their data online. The result has been a

more accurate picture of library service in Nebraska for the Library Commission and the National Center for Education Statistics.

For more information contact Kit Keller, see contact information on page 10, or see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us; search on Dollars for Data. ➡

Library Commission Supports Regional Systems

The Library Commission continued financial support of Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems in FY2007. The six nonprofit corporations provided assistance to improve library services through the cooperation of all types of libraries and media centers within each System area.

With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to member libraries:

Resource Sharing – audio book collections, MP3 players, dies for cutting machines, professional journals, story kits, Spanish kits, book discussion kits, scanners, videos, iPods, and downloadable books.

Consultation – weeding projects, how to apply for E-rate discounts, reading lists, policy and personnel questions, filing the library statistical report. System administrators consulted with area librarians in person, and through annual meetings, newsletters, Websites, and electronic discussion lists.

Continuing Education – Co-sponsored with the Library Commission numerous workshops on grant writing, Follett software, new technologies, digital photography, blogs, book repair, Flickr, summer reading program, and Database Roadshows. Developed training featuring nationally-known speakers. ❖

FY2007 Highlights:

Meridian

- Administrator Sharon Osenga taught Basic Skills Public Services classes, as well as a class on budgeting at the South Dakota Library Institute.
- Co-sponsored with other Systems a two-week trip to Literary Ireland for thirteen people.
- Administrator concluded a term as president of the Mountain Plains Library Association and headed the System Administrator group.

Southeast

- Provided 88 hours of continuing education in conjunction with the Library Commission and other Systems.
- Administrator Brenda Ealey served as chair of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Intellectual Freedom committee.
- Mentored MLS practicum student.

Northeast

- Sponsored workshops on cataloging in the digital age, Dreamweaver, library services for children (*above*), and Really Good Library Group meetings.
- System Administrator Kathy Ellerton taught Basic Skills Public Library Administration and Public Services



classes, and served on the Trustee Manual revision committee and the committee that revised NLA bylaws and handbook.

- Awarded its first Outstanding Librarian Award to Judy Marco, Central City Public Library, for her excellent work in children's librarianship.

Panhandle

- Marjorie Harrison became Panhandle System Administrator, succeeding Cherie Longmuir.
- Sponsored the Panhandle Library System Summer Institute.
- Administrators visited 92 libraries and consulted on 61 topics.

Republican Valley

- Administrator Sherry Houston served on the board of The Nebraska Center for the Book and the Library Commission's Youth Grants committee.
- Revamped System Website, software, the newsletter, and routing lists.
- Administrator visited 45 member libraries 69 times.

Eastern

- Administrator Kathy Tooker served as an NLA Legislative Committee Advisor and on the executive board of the UNO Friends group.
- Exhibited at League of Municipalities and Nebraska Association of City Officials events.
- Administrator made presentations to UNO library science classes. ❖

Nebraska Libraries Receive Telecommunications Discounts

Libraries in Nebraska received \$177,104 in discounts on telecommunications costs in FY2007 through the Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Discount (E-rate) program. Discounts ranged from 40% to 90%, with eighty of the state's libraries participating, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. All eighty received telecommunications discounts, and thirty-five also received discounts on Internet services. (Some libraries receive their Internet service at no charge from local Internet Service Providers; other libraries choose not to apply for Internet discounts because the requirements include filtered access to computers.)

The E-rate program also provides discounts on internal telecommunications connections and maintenance on those connections.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the library's local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the locale's level of need.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides education and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate application.

For more information on the program, see www.universalservice.org. For more information about E-rate participation in Nebraska, contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us. ❖

Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

- ☞ **1,144** Nebraska librarians attended **181** continuing education events sponsored by the Library Commission, including Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Library & Information Services staff filled **15,893** information requests.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **184,117** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **3,398** individuals and **306** facilities.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **142** issues of magazines and **20** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **40,337** audiocassettes.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **9,213** items from other libraries for Nebraska customers.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **462** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission circulated **2,492** items.
- ☞ The Library Commission awarded 27 library improvement grants totaling over **\$340,000**.
- ☞ **168** public libraries were accredited.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **5,096** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than **9.17 million** holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of NEBASE libraries, are reflected in the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ☞ NEBASE membership included **169** libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission awarded **10** continuing education grants.
- ☞ **3,792** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **128,337**.
- ☞ **718** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, and **48,047** federal documents were withdrawn, bringing the total to **48,987**.
- ☞ **432** Nebraska state government publications were downloaded or scanned, bringing the total to **1,147**. ☞



Nebraska Library Commission

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