



Library Commission Awards Library Improvement Grants

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner recently announced that the Commission awarded \$253,323 in grants to libraries across Nebraska. Formerly called LSTA grants, the Library Improvement grants augment local support for library services, increasing access to electronic information resources and funding digitization and other library service projects.

"We are dedicated to helping Nebraska libraries meet Nebraskans' information needs, opening up the world of information for citizens of all ages," Wagner said. "The Library Commission continues to work in partnership with Nebraska libraries using funds appropriated through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency that grows and sustains a 'Nation of Learners,' to help public libraries serve the information needs of Nebraska citizens. Together we move forward toward the realization of this vision for the future: *Affordable, reliable, progressive, and equitable library service for all Nebraskans regardless of their economic status and geographic location.*"

Applications for 2007 Library Improvement grants will be available October 1 from the Nebraska Library Commission. For more information contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>, or see Announcements, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Grant recipients:

Beatrice Public Library—Lifelong Learning Technology Project.

Falls City's Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library—Purchase computers and networking equipment.

Friend's Gilbert Public Library—Automate catalog services.

Lincoln City Libraries—

- **Polley Music Library**—Digitize Music of Old Nebraska.
- **Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors**—Digitize the Nebraska Federal Writers' Project.
- **Web Site Redesign**—Redesign Lincoln City Libraries' Web Site.
- **Self-Service Checkout at Charles H. Gere Branch Library**—Purchase two self-checkout machines.

Lyons Public Library—Improved Services and Technology Access.

McCook Public Library—Railroad Digitization Photo Project.

Plattsmouth Public Library—Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID).

Randolph Public Library—Automation and Online Catalog Project.

Scribner Public Library—Mobile Computer Lab and Senior Citizen Computer Education Project.

Tilden's Raymond A. Whitwer Public Library—Antelope County Digitization Project.

Weeping Water Public Library—Purchase microfilm scanner.

Nebraska Regional Library Systems—Purchase iPods and MP3 players.



Beverly, Ryan, and Matt Kappenman (l-r) use a new self-checkout machine at Lincoln City Libraries' Gere branch.

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From the Director...

Intellectual Freedom Program Planned for October 27

Earlier this year the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) held a **Law for Librarians** program in Chicago. The OIF invited state library agency and state library association representatives from all fifty states. All states were represented. Brenda Ealey, representing the Nebraska Library Association, and I were the two Nebraska participants.

The program faculty included some of the most knowledgeable, experienced, and active people involved in intellectual freedom issues. Presentations and discussions covered many of the legal and policy issues facing libraries – privacy, religion, Internet, censorship, discrimination, access, collection development, and more. Many participants and presenters shared experiences and ideas on intellectual freedom programs.

The Law for Librarians program gave participants a full package of resources. In turn, participants were sent off with the expectation that each would return to their home states to initiate and promote intellectual freedom projects. As a result, an intellectual freedom program is included in the October Nebraska Library Association—Nebraska Educational Media Association Annual Conference. Under the sponsorship of the Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, with support from the Nebraska Library Commission, Candace Morgan will be the featured presenter. Candace is the vice president of the Freedom to Read Foundation and editor of the newly revised *American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Manual*. This program session will be a great chance to hear expert commentary and to help generate ideas for Nebraska intellectual freedom projects.

Rod Wagner



Children's Services Videoconferences Held

"**J**errific After-School Programs for K-Grade 5" was the topic of a recent videoconference for children's librarians sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission. It featured six Nebraska librarians sharing their programs, including book discussion groups, homework help, crafts, and games. Thirty-two librarians at eight different sites participated in the videoconference. To borrow the videotape or DVD, contact Library Commission Reference/Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Another videoconference for children's and young adult librarians, "Writing Grants for Youth Projects," was held in August. Sally Snyder and Richard Miller discussed the areas of focus for the Library Commission's Youth Grants for Excellence, including programs that encourage boys to read and projects related to Early Childhood Reading Programs. It was emphasized that Teen Spaces projects will continue to be eligible this year. Panhandle Library System Coordinator Cherie Longmuir and Battle Creek Public Library Director Kathy Bretschneider discussed

successful grant applications and offered advice on thinking through the process.

Videoconferences are held via the statewide videoconference system. Sites were Ainsworth, Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, and Scottsbluff. There is no charge for videoconferences and participants receive two hours of continuing education (CE) credit.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Patti Sinclair (l) and Sally Snyder presented Summer Reading Program Workshops in locations across Nebraska this spring.

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Nebraska Library Commissioners:

John Dale, Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2008; Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, term expires 2007; Patrick Gross, Wayne, term expires 2009; Mary Nelson, Holdrege, term expires 2009; Velma Sims-Shipley, Fremont, term expires 2007; and Carol Spencer, Broken Bow, term expires 2007. 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.

Banned Books Week 2006 was September 23–30

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. The annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion,

even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular, and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. Since intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met, libraries across Nebraska are celebrating Banned Books Week. For more information

and to download free audio public service announcements to help spread the word about Banned Books Week, see the American Library Association Web site, <www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>.



Readers' Advisory Tool Now Available Through NebraskAccess

The Library Commission's NebraskAccess Books In Print subscription comes with free access to **Fiction Connection**, Bowker's new readers' advisory service.

With Fiction Connection, recommending titles is as easy as typing in an author, title, subject, or ISBN. When a customer identifies a

favorite book, Fiction Connection can find similar titles and display a recommended reading list of books that have comparable characteristics. Browse for books by topic, genre, setting, character, location, or timeframe. Identify books in series, including series order information.

Fiction Connection's primary focus is on fiction and biography titles from 1997 forward, although older titles may be included if they are part of a series, by a popular author, or are considered classics.

For more information see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/fictionconnection.html>.

Library Card Sign-up Month Promotes the 'Smartest Card'

Library Card Sign-Up Month, September each year, is a time year when libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. "The Smartest Card. Get It. Use It. @ your library®" is the theme for this year's campaign, and promotional tools in English and Spanish are available.

New this year are radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) featuring actor-comedian George Lopez, as well as a summary of best practices from public libraries

nationwide using the "Smartest Card" theme.

The radio PSAs can be downloaded and shared with local media. Libraries also can download a print PSA featuring Lopez that can be customized with local contact information at no cost, courtesy of The Campaign for America's Libraries.

Other tools include "52 Ways to Use Your Library Card," a sample proclamation, press release, letter-to-the-editor, PSA scripts, and "Smartest Card" artwork. There also are links to "Smartest Card" promotional items.

All materials are available at <www.ala.org/librarycardsignup>.

Libraries are encouraged to let the American Library Association know how they celebrated Library Card Sign-up Month. Send an e-mail description with contact information to <atyourlibrary@ala.org>. The strongest examples will be shared with the press as part of ALA's national media relations efforts.



First LTA Graduates Honored

The first group of students to complete the **Library Technical Assistant (LTA)** courses offered through Nebraska community colleges were recognized and congratulated at a May reception at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Students completing the LTA Associate of Arts degree were Lynn Hans, Lori Juhlin, and Jed Miller. Those who have completed the core LTA courses were Peggy Leiting and Patrice Lippert.

Library Commission Director Rod Wagner spoke at the event and expressed gratitude to Deb Robertson, Northeast Community College; Dr. Becky Pasco, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Pam Scott, Library Commission; Nebraska community college representatives; and course instructors for their efforts to launch the program.

The LTA Associate of Arts Degree in Library Science Education is available in Nebraska through a partnership of the Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Students interested in earning the LTA Associate of Arts degree should apply to the community college of their choice.

Graduates of the program are able to provide services requiring technical skills in youth and adult programming, circulation of materials, acquisition and processing of print and electronic materials, budgeting and planning, and collection development. For more information contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, at 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Toasting new LTA graduates are (l-r) Deb Robertson and Dr. Bill Path, Northeast

Community College, and Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission. Graduates were Lori Juhlin, Lynn Hans, and Jed Miller (not pictured). Peggy Leiting and Patrice Lippert completed the core LTA courses.

Nebraska Libraries Encouraged to Apply for Reading Project Funds

Approximately one hundred organizations of varying sizes in all fifty states will be selected during two grant cycles to participate in **The Big Read in 2007**.

The next deadline is April 2007.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. This program will engage libraries, literary organizations, colleges and universities, and arts organizations with other community and school partners across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.



Applications for The Big Read must be submitted online and in hard-copy format. Grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$20,000, with a minimum of \$5,000. Grants must be matched 1:1 with nonfederal funds, which can include cash and in-kind (including quantifiable in-kind staffing costs). For further information, including grant guidelines and applications, see <www.neabigread.org>. Contact Susan Chandler at Arts Midwest, 612-341-0755, ext. 25, e-mail: <susan@artsmidwest.org> with questions about the application process.

Chat about NebraskAccess

The Nebraska Library Commission invites library staff to chat about NebraskAccess via several popular instant messaging (IM) services:

- AIM
- Google
- MSN
- Yahoo!

If you have an IM account through one of these services, consider adding NebraskAccess to

your buddy/friends list. The IM screen name on all four services is NebraskAccess. Invite NebraskAccess to chat to solve problems, answer questions, etc. Or continue to contact us by filling out and submitting the Comments form on the NebraskAccess Web site, e-mail: <NebraskAccess@nlc.state.ne.us>, or call 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665.



Nebraska Libraries Feature Local Celebrity READ® Posters

Everyone is a celebrity when they READ®. Libraries across Nebraska are promoting reading with local celebrity READ® Posters. Valentine Public Library started the trend with their attractive posters featuring the library board, senior citizens, local business leaders, young readers, and families reading. Posters were also created for senators from photos taken at NLA Legislative Day. Librarian READ® posters and bookmarks were developed from photos taken at the Library Leadership Institute and the NLA/NEMA Conference.

The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Regional Library Systems, continues to experiment with this pilot project to encourage Nebraska librarians to create these unique local promotional materials. For a limited number of Nebraska libraries and school media centers, the Commission will continue to use the ALA READ® software to convert your photographs into files that you can have printed as posters and other promotional items.

If you are interested in taking photographs for us to produce into files that you can use to create local READ® posters, contact Mary Jo

Ryan for photography guidelines and licensing considerations at 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>.

For more information see the American Library Association (ALA) Web site, <www.ala.org/>, (click on Products and Publications, click on Make your own READ® posters).



2006 Summer Reading Program Well Received

“Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales,” was the theme of the 2006 summer reading program. The preparatory workshops in the spring, sponsored by the Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Commission, featured manual editor Patti Sinclair presenting ideas from the manual and other sources, and Library Commission staff member Sally Snyder discussing new books fitting the theme.

Many of Nebraska’s public libraries and some school libraries

used the theme sponsored by the Library Commission, and created and developed by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) group. To learn more, visit the CSLP Web site at <www.cslpreads.org>.

Evaluations of the program from participating libraries show that Nebraska librarians planned many exciting and well-received events. For information about Nebraska’s past summer reading programs and themes scheduled through 2009, visit the Library Commission’s Web

site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/librarians.html#srp>.

Thirty-three youth participated in the Summer Reading Program for the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service. Prizes were awarded to those reading five books. For more information about the summer reading program, contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 2.



Digital Talking Books Coming in 2008

People who borrow from the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) shouldn’t put away their cassette players just yet. The National Library Service (NLS) plans to begin phasing in digital players in 2008, but cassette production will continue for several years until there are enough digital players for everyone. That’s what NLS officials said during the recent national conference in Portland, ME, attended by Bill Ainsley,

TBBS studio manager. Although nearly all recordings are still distributed on cassette, Nebraska TBBS makes digital recordings of magazines. Both Nebraska TBBS and NLS are producing digital masters of books.

Digital recordings will sound clearer than tape. Instead of cassettes, borrowers will receive their books and magazines on a flash memory card, which is about the size of a credit card and is

inserted into a slot on the digital player. Most books will fit on one card, rather than several tapes. For more information contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book & Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, or e-mail: <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>.



(l-r) Cecilia, Tristan, and Stacy Burda (of Lincoln) volunteered to help process cassette books this summer.

Nebraska Book Festival to Feature Events for Children & Adults

“Beyond Borders: Nebraska and the World” is the theme of the Nebraska Book Festival to be held October 6-7 on the campus of Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) in Lincoln. Jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Library Commission, and NWU, the festival will feature writing workshops for high school students on Friday, October 6.

A new feature this year will be a day-long series of events for children grades K-6. The program, “Outside the Lines: Creative Storytelling Activities for Children,” developed by Erika Hamilton of the Nebraska Humanities Council, will begin at 9:00 A.M. in the Smith Curtis building on the NWU campus on Saturday, October 7. The program includes “Hispanic Stories for Children” by Linda Garcia, “Keeping a Writer’s Notebook” (for grades 3-6) by N.L. Sharp, “Multicultural Tales from Around the World” by Regina Leininger, “Native American Stories” by Matthew Sitting Bear Jones, “Storytelling and Performance” by Leta Powell Drake, “Where Do You Get Your Ideas?” (grades 2-3) by N.L. Sharp, “Interactive Storytelling Workshop” by Ricardo Garcia, and “C is for Cornhusker” by Rajean Luebs Shepherd.

Concurrent with the children’s program, the adult audience will hear a keynote address by Meghan Daum, a luncheon address by Teresa Svoboda, and readings by Liza Ward, Eric Konigsberg, Sean Doolittle, Timothy Schaffert, Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes, Charles Fort, Mary Helen Stefaniak, Garry Alkire, Mary Jackson, Robert McEwen, Erin Belieu, and Alex Kava. Richard Graham from UNL Libraries will discuss the graphic novel and comics on Friday for the high school audience and on Saturday for the general public.

For more information see <www.unl.edu/NCB> or contact Michael Cartwright, Nebraska Book Festival Director, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Motion Picture License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission renewed the statewide Motion Picture Video License for all Nebraska public libraries in Nebraska from October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007, at no cost to public libraries. With this license, videos and DVDs may be shown in the library as part of library programming. 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 2.

Nebraska Libraries Host Talking Book Receptions



Talking book borrowers and staff of the Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service often know each other by voice only—over the telephone. Borrowers and talking book staff met face-to-face this summer at two receptions.

Staff presented information on ways to make better use of the service at Fremont’s Keene Memorial Library in May and Ogallala’s Senior Citizens Center in June. They described new books, magazines, and movies with audio description, and they responded to questions from borrowers and their families. Staff members of Keene Memorial Library and Ogallala’s Goodall City Public Library described audio and large print books, and other local public library services. For more information contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book & Braille Service Director, see contact information on page 5.

Library Commission Holds First-Ever Vendor Day

More than forty Nebraska librarians and media specialists attended the first Vendor Day at the Library Commission in April. The purpose was to provide Nebraska librarians with an opportunity to meet multiple vendors during a single day to learn more about their products. Representatives from seven companies traveled to Lincoln to present demonstration sessions. Companies represented were CSA, ebrary, EBSCO, Gale, ProQuest, RefWorks, and Serials Solutions. The next vendor day will

be held April 17, 2007, at The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. For more information contact Susan Knisely, Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <NebraskAccess@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Dinner and Dialogue Sessions Held

During the most recent session of the Nebraska Unicameral, senators passed legislation for an interim study to be conducted under the auspices of the General Affairs Committee to examine the relationship between local government in cities of the second class (population 800 to 5,000) and in villages (population 100 to 800) and their public library boards. The study was requested by the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Maggie Harding of the Trustees, Users, and Friends (TUFS) section of the Nebraska Library Association is chairing an ad hoc committee that includes Kris Rogge, Wally Seiler, and Joan Birnie. This group developed a plan for four “Dinner & Dialogue” sessions to bring together library directors, library board members, and local government officials.

The sessions were held at Fort Robinson State Park (September 18), North Platte (September 19), Norfolk (September 20), and Brownville (September 21). Martha Gadberry facilitated the discussions. The Nebraska Library Commission provided assistance and financial support for the events. For more information see the Library Commission Web site Announcements, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, or contact Maggie Harding, Nebraska Library Association Executive Director, 402-826-2636, <gh12521@alltel.net> or Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Metro Libraries Explore Library Marketing

A Marketing Planning Partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln City Libraries, and the Omaha Public Library created the opportunity for Omaha and Lincoln public library staff to attend a workshop, "YOU are the Library—Meeting Changing Customer Expectations" this spring. Together with workshop facilitator Kathy Coster, staff brainstormed ideas for marketing to specific audiences and building more responsive library services.

The partnership began when Carol Connor from Lincoln City

Libraries, Mary Jo Ryan from the Library Commission, and Linda Trout and Sarah Watson from Omaha Public Library attended marketing training, "Creating a Library Sales Force," at the June 2005 American Library Association Conference. They expanded the planning group and explored the relationship between raising consumer awareness of the value of the public library and empowering staff to meet customer needs more effectively. Using the theme, "Quality of community matters—your public library," the libraries designed bill-

boards and other marketing materials. The partnership continues, with activities planned for the fall aimed at a younger audience. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Kathy Coster (top) leads a group discussion of how libraries can improve customer service.



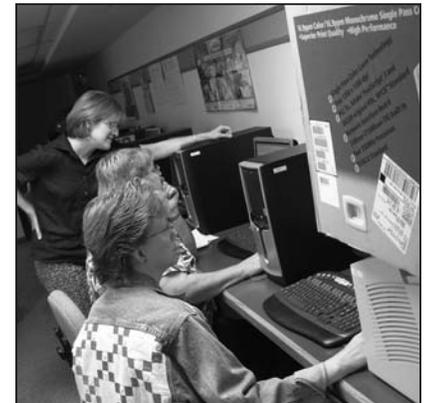
Annual Database Roadshow Offers Hands-On Training

One hundred Nebraska librarians attended the Library Commission's ninth annual Database Roadshow this summer at eight locations around the state. The all-day sessions provided librarians and media specialists with an overview of the state-funded databases available through NebraskAccess. The Roadshow also included a tour of the Librarian's Toolbox, which contains promotional and

training material about NebraskAccess. The Roadshow was divided into segments, with each focusing on a particular database. During each segment Library Commission Network Services staff discussed and demonstrated the database, and the class had time for hands-on practice and an opportunity to ask questions and work through problems.

Roadshow meetings were held in Auburn, Bassett, Columbus,

Elkhorn, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and Wayne. The training sessions were free, and participants earned continuing education credit for attending. For more information see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/NebraskAccess/>.



Susan Knisely (l) assists participants at the Auburn Database Roadshow.

Basic Skills Classes Slated for This Fall

The Basic Skills: Public Library Administration course will be offered at six sites across the state this fall. This course is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems, and addresses Governance and Cooperation; Planning; Policies and Procedures; and Personnel.

The class is one of the four Basic Skills courses required for certification of librarians. The Basic Skills classes focus on core library services and functions.

The course can be taken through on-site or online instruction. Participants must attend all three sessions to complete the course. Those taking this class for the first time will earn 6.25 Continuing Education (CE) credits. Participants who are not taking the course to fulfill the certification requirement can take this as a refresher, earning six hours of CE credits.

Register: <www.nlc.state.ne.us/training>, search on Basic Skills.

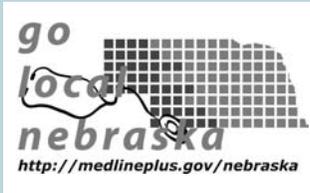
Training schedule:

- **Scottsbluff:** September 29, October 6, October 13; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. MT
- **North Platte:** October 31, November 7, November 14; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. CT
- **Kearney:** November 2, November 9, November 16; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. CT
- **Waterloo:** November 2, November 16, November 30; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. CT
- **Norfolk:** November 21, November 28, December 5; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. CT
- **Seward:** November 29, December 6, December 13; 10 A.M.-3 P.M. CT

Health Information Activities Feature Library Resources

The Nebraska Library Commission partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's McGooogan Library of Medicine, Nebraska Health and Human Services, and the National Network/Libraries of Medicine to facilitate **Community Health Information Partnerships** across Nebraska. Nebraska public libraries participated in a planning symposium and created ten local community health information teams. The symposium focused on shared resources, collection development, Internet resources, and training staff and volunteers. The teams include staff and volunteers from local hospitals and other health information organizations, as well as representatives from public and school libraries. The local teams are focused on information materials and joint programming and the development of local community health information events, such as health fairs and other educational activities targeted to specific community groups. Funding has been provided to groups in Hastings, Omaha, and Grand Island to facilitate their efforts. For more information, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on page 7.

The **Go Local Nebraska** initiative will be launched in December 2006. Funded by a grant from the National Network/Libraries of Medicine to the McGooogan Library of Medicine, Go Local is an online database that links consumers to information about health services in local geographic areas from the MedlinePlus (<<http://medlineplus.gov>>) health topics. These links include Web sites from hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, support groups, health screening providers, and many others. For example, choosing "Go Local-Nebraska" from the MedlinePlus Diabetes health topic page will display links to diabetes clinics, physicians, support groups, and additional resources on the Nebraska state site. A display is available for public libraries and community health information alliances to market this initiative to local communities. See <www.unmc.edu/library/golocal> for more information. For tips for promoting access to health information to library customers, see <www.unmc.edu/library/golocal/promotionstips.pdf>.



Librarians Learn About Disaster Planning

Nebraska librarians learned how to develop a disaster plan and conduct salvage activities at two workshops sponsored by the Library Commission this summer. The two-day sessions were held in Lincoln and Scottsbluff, and were taught by Tom Clareson, PALINET's Program Director for New Initiatives.

On the first day of each workshop participants learned how to develop a disaster plan, set salvage priorities, and conduct risk assessment. They then divided into teams to tour facilities and take part in a risk assessment exercise. Day two focused on health and safety issues, as well as equipment and supplies. In the afternoon, groups participated in "wet-book-pack-out," a water recovery exercise. Participants received notebooks of disaster planning materials for their libraries.

Librarians and media specialists are urged to take a look at a new service called dPlan, available courtesy of the Northeast Document Conservation Center, at <www.dplan.org>. It provides an online template to help libraries create a customized disaster plan. It is especially helpful for small and medium-size institutions that do not have staff devoted to preservation activities. For more information contact Shannon

Behrhorst, Network Services Director, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Recruitment Initiative Moves Forward

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to implement a statewide campaign to recruit the next generation of Nebraska librarians, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Librarians for the 21st Century initiative. Four scholarship programs associated with this grant are now in place, applications have been finalized, and awards have been made (see list of recipients in adjoining article). Since November 2005, state and federal scholarship funds have totaled \$88,000.

Library consultant Cindi Hickey is developing mentor training and resources. A pilot team of mentors is assisting the development of mentoring tools and resources. Mentors are experimenting with OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) at www.opal-online.org, a Web conference and communication system. Cindi developed a blog <http://nlc-mentors.blogspot.com/> where mentors can communicate with her, Library Commission staff, or other mentors, and where information for mentors can be posted.

The project's Web site www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com or www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com is under development, with portions of it expected to be available this fall. Plans for the Web site include a public blog or message board, a log for mentors to track interactions with mentees, and a robust job bank database that can be used to gather information and data to analyze the library job market for Nebraska and the surrounding region.

Work is underway with Ann Seidl of Overdue Productions on production of a recruitment Public Service Announcement (PSA) to be shown in movie theaters across Nebraska as part of the marketing campaign. A rough cut of the recruitment PSA has been shown to

Nebraska librarians to inform them about its progress and content, and to solicit their feedback. It also has been tested with high school and college-age people to evaluate its effectiveness with this target market before completing the final version.



A cut from the recruitment PSA shows a typical young librarian in a public library.

Through a partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council's "Prime Time Family Reading Time" Program, www.nebraskahumanities.org/programs/prime.html, the Nebraska Library Commission is providing funding for Spanish-speaking student interns to assist with the "Prime Time" program. Reactions to the experience include:

- "I helped out with the reading program. There I helped out with the kids . . . I attended all the meetings. I was kind of like the director and I tried to keep everyone on task."
- "I thought a librarian had a laid-back easy job, but once I worked here I learned that they are very busy, hard-working people."

For more information e-mail: NowHiringAtYourLibrary@nlc.state.ne.us.

IMLS Recruitment Scholarship Recipients

The Library Commission has awarded \$71,000 in state funds and \$17,000 in federal funds for scholarships in connection with the Librarians for the 21st Century initiative. Scholarships have been awarded to students working on Master's, Bachelor's, and Library Technical Assistant degrees. Scholarship recipients are:

Master of Library and/or Information Science

Duane Abbott – Omaha
 Patsy Arnold – Grand Island
 Kelly Irene Dick – Lincoln
 Marcia Dority Baker – Lincoln
 Sarah Gardner – Bellevue
 Martha Grenzeback Harnik – Omaha
 Mary Gubbels – Papillion
 Shawn Hartman – Chadron
 Katherine Hutfless – Omaha
 Dianne Keiter – Kearney
 Kathryn Kelley – Lincoln
 Laura Kelsay – Omaha
 Mo Khamouna – Curtis
 Heather Kline – Lincoln
 Karen McCoy – Lincoln
 Sandra Meyer – Atkinson
 Mary Mollner – Omaha
 Robert Overkamp – Lincoln
 Misty Prochaska – Lincoln
 Sam Shaw – Lincoln
 Mary Anne (MeMe) Smith – Columbus
 Beth Steffensmeier – Omaha
 Erin Willis – Lincoln
 Haishu Zhu – Lincoln

Master of Education in School Library Media

Beth Foulks – Ponca
 Leila Koetter – McCook
 Sara Kraus – Stuart
 Courtney Pentland – Bennington
 Darla Reinwald – Lincoln

Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or Media

Katy Willis – Omaha
 Sarah Van Raden – Omaha
 Lisa Voss – Lincoln

Library Technical Assistant

Stacy Cook – Omaha
 Dianne Cooper – Scribner
 Deb Covey – Maywood
 Lisa Guthals – Nebraska City
 Lori Juhlin – Norfolk
 Dallas Keffer – Plattsmouth
 Tawnya Lynch – Omaha
 MaDonna McCray – Fullerton
 Leslie McPeck – Omaha
 Maria Medrano-Nehls – Lincoln
 Barb Miller – Plattsmouth
 Jedidiah Miller – Norfolk
 Dawn Weber – Gordon
 Evis Zamora – Plattsmouth



NLA/NEMA Annual Conference October 25-27

“Libraries: Vital, Vibrant, Visionary,” the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) Annual Conference, will be held at the Omaha Qwest Center, October 25-27. A great variety of conference sessions, exhibits, and events are planned. Wednesday events include a **free** “Blockbuster Marketing with the Hollywood Librarian” preconference featuring Ann Seidl and sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, and a bus excursion to Brownville, sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems. In the late afternoon, a tour of Omaha’s newly remodeled Washington Branch Library will be sponsored by the NLA Diversity Committee. An evening reception at the Joslyn Art Museum, sponsored by the Friends of the Omaha Public Library, will include a screening of the work to date on the documentary film, “The Hollywood Librarian: Librarians in Cinema and Society.”

Thursday’s keynote speaker, Stephen Abram, is Vice President, Innovation for SirsiDynix. Friday’s keynote speaker is Nancy Pearl, former director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library, author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, and the model for the Librarian Action Figure. The Nebraska Library Commission is sponsoring and funding Nancy Pearl’s appearance as part of our annual sponsorship of the Leadership Keynote speaker at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association conference.

For more information see <www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference>, click on 2006 conference.

NEBASE Annual Meetings Held

More than one hundred librarians and media specialists attended the day-long NEBASE Annual Meeting East at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln on August 8. Librarians heard from a number of presenters including Cathy DeRosa, OCLC Vice President of Marketing and Library Services, on the new *OCLC Perceptions Report*. Stacey Aldrich, Assistant Director of the Omaha Public Library, spoke to the group about library futures during her talk, “Proactive Futures: Scouting the Clues to Build the Libraries of Tomorrow.” UNL Assistant Systems Librarian Scott Childers gave a presentation on podcasting and vodcasting. Other topics covered during the meeting were “OCLC News” by Shannon Behrhorst and “OCLC’s WorldCat Collection Analysis” by

Doug van der Zee, OCLC Library Services Consultant. Christa Burns, NEBASE’s OCLC Member Services Coordinator, provided presentations on how to use the new OCLC ILL Deflection and Filtering options and on OCLC Local Holdings Maintenance.

The **NEBASE Annual Meeting West** was Wednesday, **September 27** in Chadron.



Cathy DeRosa (r) provides details from an OCLC study on information-seeking habits and perceptions.

E-Docs Are Popular Web Hit

Since switching from a microfiche distribution program to a digital preservation and alerting program a year ago in July, the Library Commission’s Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse has become the eighth most popular destination on the Library Commission’s Web site. In April 2006, the documents page received 4,506 hits, with most hits referred from Google, followed by other Library Commission pages, the state’s Web site, and other search engines.

With the new procedure, documents are downloaded from agency Web sites using the same selection criteria formerly used for microfiche production. URLs of the e-docs are included in OCLC catalog records created for new Nebraska documents received, making them acces-

sible to anyone using the WorldCat database of library holdings. Lists of downloaded documents with OCLC record numbers are also posted to the Web. Users can access these sites from <www.nlc.state.ne.us/epubs>.

E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers of the EDOCS-L mailing list. Any library using OCLC can download records into a local catalog so users can access the documents with a single click. For more information contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director, 402- 471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>, or Bonnie Henzel, State Documents Staff Assistant, 402-471-6285, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bhenzel@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Blockbuster Marketing with
HOLLYWOOD LIBRARIAN
LIBRARIANS IN CINEMA AND SOCIETY

PRECONFERENCE
Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association
(NLA/NEMA) 2006 Conference
October 25, 2006 • 9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. CT
1316 Jones Street • Omaha, Nebraska

...featuring Ann Seidl, the writer and producer of a documentary film, *The Hollywood Librarian: Librarians in Cinema and Society*. Seidl’s presentation will cover the purpose and progress of this unique film project and look at its implications for library customer service and marketing.

Join us to:

- ◆ Explore the diversity of library staff and the roles that everyone in the library can play in marketing and customer service.
- ◆ Learn about historical and current attitudes toward (and images of) library service careers by analyzing how movie clips and other media present librarians.
- ◆ Explore strategies to increase public awareness of the complex nature of librarianship and how to help library staff redefine themselves, with a focus on professional image and self-esteem.
- ◆ Identify what library staff and supporters can do to promote library services and library service careers.
- ◆ Learn more about Nebraska Library Commission recruitment tools and activities, funded through the federal

Institute of Museum and Library Service Librarians for the 21st Century project.

Cospponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission; the Paraprofessional Section; the Trustees, Users, and Friends Section; the New Members Roundtable; and the Diversity Committee of the Nebraska Library Association.

600 hours C.E. Credit, as issued by the Nebraska Library Commission as part of the Nebraska Public Librarian and Board Certification Program. For more information see the Nebraska Library Calendar on the Nebraska Library Commission home page. <www.nlc.state.ne.us>

This Preconference is FREE of charge!

Tear off/fill out/return to:

Mara Medrano-Nebis
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
FAX: 402-471-2083
e-mail: mmedr@nlc.state.ne.us

Yes, I will attend the **Hollywood Librarian Preconference.**

Please order a vegetarian lunch for me.

Deadline for registration:
October 20, 2006
Register: <www.nlc.state.ne.us/comp/para/2006preconf/2006preconference.html>

Name _____
Library _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Comments _____

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

■ **Library Journal** named Omaha Public Library Director **Rivkah Sass** its **2006 Librarian of the Year**. Rivkah is described as a “risk taker, a change agent, and a library true believer.”



Bennington Public Library, **Lisa Flaxbeard**; Bridgeport Public Library, **Connie Arellano**; Chadron Public Library, **Scott Kinney**; Clarks Public Library, **Barbee Sweet**; Creighton Public Library, **Lisa Ziegenbein**; Elmwood Public Library, **Doris Thomassen**; Kearney Public Library and Information Center,

Matthew Williams; Lincoln City Libraries, Gere Branch Supervisor, **Carol Swanson**; Madison Public Library, **Kathy Stender**; Nebraska Indian Community College–Santee Campus, **Mary Johnson**; Osmond Public Library, **Linda Gutz**; Plymouth Public Library, **Patti Maire**; Rushville Public Library, **Diane Davis**; Verdigre Public Library, **Mary Pavlik**; Walthill Public Library, **Nola Briggs**.

■ **Panhandle Library System** has set up a blog at plssunblog.blogspot.com.

■ **Nebraska libraries** are supporting **One Book One Nebraska** by reading **One False Move**, by Nebraska author Alex Kava, and by facilitating local

discussions. See www.onebookonenebraska.org.

■ **Bob Trautwein**, Director of the **Columbus Public Library**, recently announced the purchase of a new Platte County Bookmobile. The \$108,000 vehicle visits schools and towns in rural Platte County.

■ The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), announced that **Gary Hartzell**, Professor Emeritus of Educational Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is the recipient of **AASL's Crystal Apple**, awarded to the individual who has had significant impact on school libraries and students.

■ **Summer Reading Programs** were a huge success across Nebraska. **Scottsbluff Public Library** had more than 1,400 children registered.

■ **The Nebraska Library Commission** recently hired **Linda Jensen** as Library Development Staff Assistant. ➡

■ **John Dale** was elected chair of the Nebraska Library Commission at the July Commission meeting. **Mary Nelson** was re-elected vice-chair. Commission members include **Jean Ahrens**, **Patrick Gross**, **Velma Sims-Shipley**, and **Carol Spencer**.

■ **Devra Dragos**, Cataloging Librarian for Information Services, was named the Library Commission's **Employee of the Year** and **Scott Scholz**, Talking Book and Braille Service Circulation Coordinator, was selected as **Supervisor of the Year**. Congratulations Devra and Scott!

■ New library directors include Axtell Public Library, **Vicki Casper** (also serves as Hildreth Public Library Director);

‘Saving Nebraska’s Treasures’ Holds Clinics

The Nebraska Library Commission is partnering with the Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications on a \$249,837 grant 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. The grant, which runs through November 2007, was one of seven awarded from a pool of 132 applicants.

The goal is to create more awareness of the importance of

preserving Nebraska’s cultural heritage and to educate families, museum workers, and librarians about how to slow the deterioration of artifacts, photographs, and documents. This is expected to impact how heritage collections in the state’s museums and libraries are handled, and increase participation in the Library Commission’s Nebraska Memories project.

To date, three heirloom health clinics have been held in which preservation evaluations were filmed. An “Antiques Roadshow”-style program will be created and

broadcast on NET. Television viewing sessions will be hosted by local libraries. Contact the Library Commission to volunteer as a viewing site. Library Commission staff will also develop and deliver one of several in-depth training workshops for library and museum staff and volunteers via distance learning. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 7. ➡

Customizable NebraskAccess Business Cards Available

New NebraskAccess passwords have been e-mailed to library directors and school media specialists, and customizable NebraskAccess business cards are available to assist in distributing these new passwords to library customers. For more information see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/businesscard.html>.

Although passwords are officially scheduled to change on October 1, new passwords are already active and will remain in effect through March 31, 2007. Libraries are encouraged to begin using, promoting, and distributing new passwords immediately. Old passwords will continue to function through September 30. For more information contact Susan Knisely, Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us>.



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Nebraska Library Commission

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