



National Summer Library Program Group Meets in Omaha

▲ In this Issue

From the Director
page 2

Introducing NCampus
page 5

**BCR Welcomes
Nebraska Libraries**
page 11

**News of Nebraska
Libraries and People**
page 15

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) held its annual meeting in Omaha in April. Attendees numbered eighty-eight, with twenty-seven people attending for the first time. Nebraska representatives included Sally Snyder, the Library Commission's Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services who currently serves as CSLP President; Karen Drevo, Norfolk Public Library, Vendor Committee Chair; Beth Trupp, Gering Public Library; and Carrie Trutna, Wahoo Public Library.

Business conducted during the meeting included selection of children's and teen slogans for 2011. The topic is world cultures/world travel, and the children's slogan selected is "One World, Many

Stories." The teen theme is "You Are Here."

Officers will change in June, and the group's 2010 annual meeting will be held in Tacoma, Wash.

Currently, forty-seven states plus the District of Columbia belong to CSLP, a consortium working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials to public libraries at the lowest cost

possible. New Hampshire will join the organization next year.

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



Sally Snyder (standing), conducts the national meeting in Omaha.



**Sally Snyder, 2009
Collaborative Summer
Library Program President**



**Promotional materials
from the 2009
Collaborative Summer
Library Program**



Nebraskans Invited to Nominate Books for the 2009 Book Award

The 2009 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), will recognize and honor books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relate to Nebraska.

Books published in 2008, as indicated by the copyright date, are eligible for nomination. They must be professionally published, have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and be bound. Books may be entered in one or more of the following categories: Nonfiction, Fiction, Children/Young Adult, Cover/Design/Illustration, Anthology, and Poetry. Certificates will be awarded to the winners in each category. Award winners will be presented at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Annual Book Festival in downtown Lincoln on November 14.

The entry fee is \$40 per book, per category entered. **Deadline for entries is June 30, 2009.** Entry forms are available from the Nebraska Library Commission home page, www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/ncbawards.html, or contact Maria Medrano-Nehls, Nebraska Library Commission Administrative Secretary, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us for print information. Enter by sending the entry form, three copies of the book, and the entry fee to NCB Book Awards Competition, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. ◆◆

NCompass is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 (in Nebraska only). Fax: 402-471-2083. Home Page: www.nlc.state.ne.us. ISSN: 1075-9719.

Director: Rod Wagner

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

Graphic Design: Reynold Peterson

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

From the Director...

Gov. Dave Heineman presented his State of the State address in late January, which included recommendations for the State of Nebraska's 2009-2011 biennium budget. Perceiving a continuation of the economic downturn, Governor Heineman proposed a lean budget in line with state tax revenue projections for the budget period. For many state agencies, the governor's budget recommendations were based on current or reduced state appropriation levels. The Library Commission's biennium appropriation would remain at current state funding levels, based on the governor's recommendations.

The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee presented its biennium budget recommendation to the full legislature in April, with budget debate taking place in May. The governor accepted the legislature's budget, with the Commission's proposed funding the same as the current year state funds appropriation amount. That is not surprising, given that the Revenue Forecasting Board recently further reduced its revenue forecast for the biennium. The recommendation for the Library Commission was in line with recommendations for many other state agencies.

The budget relies heavily on more than \$500 million in federal stimulus funds and money that has accumu-

Nebraska Library Commissioners: Mary Nelson, Chair, Holdrege, term expires 2009; John Dale, Vice-Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2011; Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, term expires 2010; Patrick Gross, Wayne, 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.

lated in the state's cash reserves. The bill is posted on the legislature's Website at <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Slip/LB315.pdf>. Details for the Library Commission can be found on page 41.

The Library Commission's budget hearing was held before the committee in March. I testified that the Commission's first priority was funding to maintain current staffing, and noted agency expenses that will increase during the biennium such as scheduled office space lease costs and Department of Administrative Services fees. Dave Oertli, director of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, presented information about the transition to digital talking books and the Commission's state funds request for equipment, memory cartridges, and mailers needed for the transition. Robert Nazarene, a Talking Book customer, also spoke on behalf of the Commission's funding request for digital talking book transition expenses. Jenni Puchalla, Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Legislative Committee Chair, testified on behalf of NLA and its support for the Commission's budget request. It is anticipated that the Library Commission will use federal funds to offset a portion of the state funding shortfall.

Rod Wagner ◆◆

Students Win State Writing Contest



Letters about Literature contest winners receive the National Library Week Proclamation from Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy (right).

Young Nebraska writers were presented with Letters About Literature awards by Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy at a proclamation-signing ceremony for National Library Week, April 12-18, 2009.

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program sponsored by The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores. The Nebraska competition is coordinated by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers.

Students across the country participate in the annual contest, writing a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. They select authors from any genre, fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Winners are chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle school, and secondary.

The Nebraska winners were honored at a luncheon and received cash prizes, gift certificates, and gift cards to Target

Stores and Lee Booksellers. The Nebraska winners advanced to the national competition, with a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C., for themselves and their parents.

For more information including scans of the winning letters, see www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on Letters about Literature.

Winners:

- **Ashley Bowen**, Bellevue, for *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter
- **Maggie Vinton**, North Platte, for *13 Little Blue Envelopes* by Maureen Johnson
- **Drew Harsin**, Blair, for *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

Alternate Winners:

- **Chloe Schwarting**, Bellevue, for *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- **Katie Cosman**, North Platte, for *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
- **Kayleigh Doll**, Blair, for *By the Light of the Moon* by Dean Koontz

Commission Awards Library Improvement Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission has announced the recipients of the 2009 Library Improvement grants. The grants are awarded through a competitive grant process to facilitate development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries.

Grant funds are provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and are administered through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Libraries are required to supplement the grants with local funding. Thirty grant applications were submitted with requests totaling over \$357,000.

This year \$176,552 will be used for a portable computer lab, photo digitization, Spanish and computer lessons, disaster preparation programs, an automation system, microfilm reader, audio books collection, Teen Zone AV and games, accessible computer desks, open source Integrated Library System pilot project, Panhandle Library System rotating DVD collection, and laptop computers.

This year's recipients are:

- Alliance Public Library
- Beemer, Karlen Memorial Library
- Bennington Public Library
- Blair Public Library
- Clay Center Public Library
- Fremont, Keene Memorial Library
- Holdrege Area Public Library
- Hooper Public Library
- Kearney Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Nebraska Pioneer Project
- Neligh Public Library
- Ogallala, Goodall City Library
- Ord Township Library
- Panhandle Library System
- Pierce, Lied Pierce Public Library
- Ponca Carnegie Library
- Randolph, Lied Randolph Public Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Sutton Memorial Library
- Verdigre Public Library
- Wahoo Public Library
- York, Kilgore Memorial Library

"Me?"

I'm just waiting for the first of my 13 Little Blue Envelopes, in whatever form, to appear on my doorstep."

– **Maggie Vinton**

Keep Up With the Library Commission on *NCompass Live*


Nearly 230 people have attended *NCompass Live* sessions since the premier broadcast of the Nebraska Library Commission's live weekly online event in January. The recordings have been viewed 125 times.

Attendees have told Library Commission staff that *NCompass Live* has been "very helpful and informative" and that they have "enjoyed it and learned from it." The sessions are broadcast with live video of the presenters, which has become a very popular part of *NCompass Live*. As one attendee commented, "We REALLY enjoyed the presentation and being able to SEE those we've talked to on the phone and read about!"

The range of topics covered on *NCompass Live* has been a great draw for library staff across the state. Sessions have covered Bibliostat™ Collect, Talking Books, Health Resources, Library Accreditation and Certification, Public Access Computers, Summer Reading Programs, and more. *NCompass Live* covers Library Commission activities and library topics presented by staff and guests.

The free one-hour sessions are offered every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Central Time using Centra Live eMeeting software; participants access them from their own computers via the Web. Sessions are recorded for anyone who may want to see them again or who cannot attend at the scheduled time.

Check out *NCompass Live* at www.nlc.state.ne.us/ncompass/ncompasslive.asp for the schedule, archived sessions, and to register for an upcoming session.

For more information or to suggest a topic for a future session, contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission OCLC Member Services Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665; e-mail cburns@nlc.state.ne.us. 

Nebraska Book Festival Set for November


Nebaska Writers: *Cultivating Creativity, 2009 Nebraska Book Festival*, will be held November 14 at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P Streets in Lincoln. The festival will include a variety of literary activities. An awards luncheon (at Chez Hay, 14th and P Streets) will honor the winners of the Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, and Nebraska Book Awards. A selection of Nebraska writers will read from their 2009 works, along with readings from the winners of the Nebraska Book Awards. **Writers Workshops** will be offered free of charge.

Teresa Lorensen of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation will lead a book discussion of Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*, this year's enormously popular

One Book One Nebraska selection (www.onebookonenebraska.org).

A Conversation with Three Poets will give Nebraska poets Ted Kooser,

Bill Kloefkorn, and Don Welch the opportunity to share insights on reading and writing poetry. They will talk about how they have supported each other's work through the years as an informal writing community. Additional Nebraska author activities and plans for vendors are in the works. The Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

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

Noted Nebraska Writers to Appear at the 2009 Nebraska Book Festival:

William Kloefkorn
Ted Kooser
Don Welch
JV Brummels
Sean Doolittle
Michael Forsberg
Harley Jane Kozak
Loren Eiseley Society Readers
Mary Pipher
Hilda Raz
Joe Starita
Stephanie Grace Whitson

Highlights from Computers in Libraries Conference


by Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian

I attended **Computers in Libraries 2009** in Crystal City, Va., during the last week of March.

As in the past, I came back both exhausted and energized, with a long list of ideas and suggestions that will take me months to get through. I took my new FlipVideo camera and recorded more than sixty clips from the conference. So, instead of presenting text about what happened, I'd like to point you to



my 11.5-minute video of conference highlights. This way, you can get a true feeling of what went on at this amazing conference. (Warning: At one point there is a single word of adult language.) The video can be found at <http://blip.tv/file/1971474>.

Ed. Note: For more information about the conference, see the Website at www.infoday.com/cil2009/default.asp. 

Public Library Staff and Trustees Meet

The Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) held Spring Meetings this year at Wahoo Public Library, Bridgeport Public Library, and Lexington Public Library. The meeting included programs on:

Legalities of Public Library Policies and Procedures

Adam Prochaska, Attorney at Law, Lincoln, shared information about how library policies and procedures can help define how the library works, and serve as an “insurance policy” to help troubleshoot, and to forestall and deal with problems. He provided examples of how the absence of written policies (with an appeal process in place) can hamper library staff dealing with problem customers and other issues. He provided a very comprehensive handout for trustees to use as they develop and refine their policies.

Prochaska made the point that Internet policies should be posted at public access computers, and other library policies should be available in print for review upon request and on the library Website.

He pointed out that any policy that restricts an individual’s fundamental rights (religion, speech) must pass the strict scrutiny test. Strict scrutiny includes:

- Compelling interest—the reason for the policy must be so important that it outweighs even the most basic or valued freedoms that it impacts
- Narrowly Tailored—restriction is narrowly tailored to meet the objective
- Least Restrictive—the action is the least restrictive alternative

It was stressed that policies must be applied to everyone equally. One example is that a “shoes-required” policy for homeless people must also be applied to children running around barefoot. It was also suggested that every library have a policy that specifies step-by-step what staff should do if presented with a subpoena.

Prochaska pointed to library policies online that can be used for

comparison purposes, including www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/neboardmanual/nebraskalibraryboardmanual.11.2006.pdf and ww.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/otherpolicies/guidelinesdevelopmentimplementation.cfm. He recommended using the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Manual (www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/iftoolkits/ifmanual/intellectual.cfm) as a resource in policy development.

A workshop on policies and procedures is planned for the October NLA Conference. Any library that would like to have a policy reviewed during this session should send the policy to aprochaska@hslegalfirm.com.

Nebraska Pioneer Project

The meeting also included a program on Nebraska’s Open Source Integrated Library Systems Statewide Project presented by Greg Mickells, Assistant Library Director, Lincoln City Libraries.

Mickells spoke about the option of open source software (OSS) for cooperative library catalogs. Open source software replaces the standard model of purchasing software and doing only what it allows you to do, with free software that allows you to change it to fit your needs. However, as it has been said, OSS is not free as in beer, but free as in kittens. There may be no upfront costs, but that doesn’t mean there will be no costs in the long run. However, software customization and maintenance costs can be shared by partners using the system. This dynamic, flexible, affordable, Web-based option will be tested in Nebraska in the near future. Mickells described the pilot collaborative effort in Nebraska and the activities under way through the **Nebraska Pioneer Project**, including:

- A core group of seven libraries of all sizes (Omaha Public Library, Lincoln City Libraries, St. Paul Public Library, Gretna Public Library, Grand Island Public Library, Bellevue Public Library, and Holdrege Area Public Library) has been formed. This partnership

(continued on page 14)



Introducing NCampus

Twenty students in one of the Nebraska Library Commission’s Basic Skills classes are the first librarians to study at NCampus, the latest addition to the Nebraska Library Commission’s array of Web-based services and tools for Nebraska librarians. These pioneers are enjoying the new look and feel of online instruction and report liking the format very much.

NCampus, located at www.ncampus.nlc.state.ne.us, offers interactive, online continuing education using learning management software called Moodle, an open-source product created in Australia and now used worldwide. The software not only keeps track of participant progress, it encourages social learning by offering personal profiles so participants can get to know one another. The software presents written materials to the students and links to audio and video files. It facilitates class discussion through forums and blogs, and also handles traditional written assignments and quizzes. Instruction is asynchronous—lessons are designed so that students can interact with instructors, other students, and materials, but need not be in direct contact at the same time.

Through this software, the Nebraska Library Commission can offer high-quality, structured continuing education via the Web to librarians who have difficulty travelling and finding time to attend classes.

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



Nebraska Library Commission

NebraskAccess

Your Information Connection Across Nebraska

nebraskaccess.ne.gov

Rep. Fortenberry Introduces Bill to Amend Consumer Product Safety Act

Nebraska Rep. Jeff Fortenberry introduced a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) to exempt ordinary books from the lead limit within the act. The American Library Association (ALA) released a statement supporting Rep. Fortenberry's bill, calling it "a welcome step toward ensuring libraries will not be adversely affected by the law."

In August 2008, Congress passed CPSIA to protect children from the dangers of toys made with lead-based paint. However, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) misinterpreted the law to apply to ordinary books for children, which means that all books for children age 12 and younger would have to be tested for lead content. The legislation is retroactive, so every book would have to be tested. Public, school, academic, and museum libraries would be required to test all books or remove all their children's books or ban all children under age 12 from visiting their facilities as of Feb. 10, 2010.

The law was set to go into effect in February of this year, but in late January the CPSC issued a one-year stay of implementation for enforce-

ment of the new lead limits in children's products.

Rep. Fortenberry's bill, H.R. 1692, removes the pre-1985 provision and states that CPSIA was not intended to apply to ordinary books published on paper or cardboard, printed by conventional publishing methods, intended to be read, and lacking inherent play value. H.R. 1692 also states that testing has shown that finished books and their component materials contain total lead content at levels considered non-detectable, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that there is little risk to children from lead in ordinary books.

"We are grateful for this bill since it supports what the ALA, libraries, teachers and parents know to be true—books are safe and should not be regulated by this law," ALA President Jim Rettig said.

For more information see <http://fortenberry.house.gov/> or contact Jenni Terry, ALA Washington Office; e-mail: jterry@alawash.org or Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us.

Nebraskans Attend Kansas Unconference

by Emily Nimsakont, Nebraska Library Commission Cataloging Librarian

This year, members of the Nebraska Library Association's Technical Services Roundtable took to the road for their spring meeting, traveling to Manhattan, Kan., to attend the first unconference of the North American Serials Interest Group. Nebraska's libraries were well-represented, with nine out of thirty-nine total attendees coming from Nebraska.

After a tour of the library and an introductory session, the attendees spent the day in break-out sessions,

discussing a variety of topics including serials cataloging, electronic resource management, the serials acquisition process, and professional development opportunities. Group leaders were designated for the various sessions. However, in true unconference fashion, their job was not to present to the groups, but to facilitate informal discussions guided by the interests of the participants. The day ended with a wrap-up session, during which the participants agreed that the day was a success, providing them with a great opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas.

Database Roadshow Planned for Summer

This year the Library Commission's twelfth annual Database Roadshow is all about change. There have been a number of enhancements and upgrades to both the NebraskAccess Website and the databases since last year's Roadshow. Instead of focusing on a subset of the databases as in the past two years, participants will learn about changes and enhancements affecting many of the subscription services. The ever-growing list of changes includes:

- New NebraskAccess Website
- New eLibrary interface
- Enhancements to Wilson databases
- New databases added to First-Search

Join us and embrace all of these great changes! As in past years, there will be time for hands-on practice during each session.

Roadshow locations include:

- July 15 - Wayne, Wayne State College
- July 21 - Lincoln, Nebraska Library Commission
- July 23 - Columbus, Central Community College
- July 28 - Scottsbluff, Western Nebraska Community College
- Aug 5 - North Platte, North Platte Community College
- Aug 12 - Papillion, Sump Memorial Library

For an agenda and to register, see the Nebraska Library Commission's Library Training portal, www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp, and search on Roadshow.

For more information contact Allana Novotny, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Librarian, 402-471-6681 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: anovotny@nlc.state.ne.us.

Dollars for Data Payments Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded Dollars for Data payments of \$250 to forty-three unaccredited public libraries that submitted the 2006-2007 Public Library Statistical Survey using Bibliostat™ Collect.

Provision of public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.ims.gov) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since this is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines (www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/accred.html), these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

The Library Commission congratulates the following libraries that qualified for this award:

Ansley Township Library
Arcadia Township Library
Arlington Public Library
Arthur County Library
Bartley Public Library
Bayard Public Library
Beaver City Public Library
Beaver Crossing Community Library
Callaway, Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library
Carroll Public Library
Clearwater Public Library
Culbertson Public Library
Dakota City Public Library

Dalton Public Library
Davenport Public Library
Daykin Public Library
Douglas Public Library
Greeley Public Library
Hay Springs, Cravath Memorial Library
Hayes Center Public Library
Humphrey Public Library
Indianola Public Library
Lewellen Public Library
Madison Public Library
Mason City, Sunshine Township Library
Merna, Brenizer Public Library
Minatare Public Library
Nehawka Public Library
North Loup Township Library
Oconto Public Library
Palisade Public Library
Palmyra Memorial Library
Plymouth Public Library
Rising City Community Library
Sargent Township Library
Shelton Township Library
Snyder Public Library
Stratton Public Library
Sutherland Public Library
Table Rock Public Library
Wallace, Faith Memorial Library
Walthill Public Library
Wauneta Public Library

For more information about Dollars for Data, contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: jfelton@nlc.state.ne.us. ➡

State Aid Awards Made to Local Libraries

The Library Commission paid \$388,174 in direct state aid to Nebraska public libraries (including Dollars for Data and other special incentive awards) in 2009. To be eligible for state aid (with the exception of Dollars for Data), 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.

One hundred and seventy-one Nebraska libraries earned state aid payments and seventy-eight libraries earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of enhanced or excellent accreditation status. 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 an additional \$675 to each library with excellent accreditation and \$225 for enhanced status.

Eighty-five libraries received additional direct state aid payments based on the amount of additional funds received from another public entity. A total of \$32,718 was distributed during 2008 as one percent incentive aid payments for those libraries. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us. ➡

Advisory Council to Meet in Elmwood

The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries set their upcoming meeting for June 26, 9:30 a.m., at Elmwood Christian Church, 311 North 4th Street. The Advisory Council members will tour the Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum.

The Council was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to advise on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs. The members represent a

cross-section of libraries in the state and are appointed by the Library Commission. The 2009 officers are Chair Patricia Gross, Media Specialist, Gering High School; and Vice-Chair Steve Fosselman, Director, Grand Island Public Library. Guests for this meeting are asked to contact Maria Medrano-Nehls at the Library Commission, see contact information on page 2. ➡



The Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum in Elmwood.

Healthy Resources from Uncle Sam

by Marty Magee, National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Are you keeping up? Would you like to improve your community's access to quality consumer health information? Are partnerships in your community an important outreach tool for your library? The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region (NN/LM MCR) wants to be your partner in helping your customers make informed decisions regarding their health.

Coordinated by the National Library of Medicine, the NN/LM MCR (<http://nlnm.gov/mcr>) supports collaboration among over 400 member libraries and information centers in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri.

As your state liaison, I'm just a phone call or e-mail away. I can provide free training for your staff and community members on NLM databases, support collaborations with community-based organizations through funding opportunities, assist with resource sharing and document delivery, provide tools for promoting and advocating for YOUR library, and help you become a member. (It's FREE!)

Our training sessions on NLM's free consumer health databases such as MedlinePlus, Genetics Home Reference, NIH Senior Health, Clinical Trials, and Household Products Database will help you stay current

on health information access and provide resources to share with your community. Our "Health Information" link provides regional and local health resources (<http://nlnm.gov/mcr/resources/>) for helping your customers locate health information.

Do you have a great project for consumer health outreach, but aren't sure if it's fundable? We can help by reviewing your project or grant proposal. We can also help you locate current funding available in the region, and sign you up to receive a daily digest of regional and national grants and scholarships (<http://nlnm.gov/mcr/bhic>). There are many health-related local and state organizations for project collaboration (www.mcmla.org/otherorg.html)—sharing resources and ideas can lead to successful outreach.

Let your administration and community know how valuable the library is by using our tools to increase awareness of libraries and librarians. There is a wealth of information on marketing and promoting your library at <http://nlnm.gov/mcr/advocacy>. While geared to the hospital library setting, libraries of all kinds will find this information beneficial and useful.

And finally, consider having your library become a member of the

(continued on page 14)



New Website for Downloadable Talking Books



National Library Service (NLS) downloadable audio books and magazines can be found at the Website for Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>. Any active reader of the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service is eligible to access downloadable books and magazines.

Until sufficient quantities of Library of Congress digital players become available, Talking Book customers may want to purchase a digital player that can be enabled to play NLS audio books and magazines. Currently, there are three commercial sources for these players:

- **VictorReader Stream**
www.humanware.com/en-usa/products/blindness/dtb_players/compact_models/_details/id_81/victorreader_stream.html
- **LevelStar Icon** www.levelstar.com
- **Braille Plus Mobile Manager**
www.aph.org/tech/pda_info.htm

The Talking Book and Braille Service anticipates receiving its first allocation of Library of Congress digital players by midsummer. Talking Book readers who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces have priority for these new players.

For more information contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: doertli@nlc.state.ne.us or talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us.



Marty Magee (right), National Network of Libraries of Medicine, assists a physician with an information request.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Opportunities for Libraries

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes funding through many federal programs intended to stimulate the economy. Libraries are eligible participants in several of the programs along with many other eligible organizations. For current information about ARRA and Nebraska, see <http://Recovery.Nebraska.gov>.

Libraries might benefit from stimulus funding in the following areas:

Community Facilities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will receive additional funds for low-interest loans and grants to support community facilities projects. Libraries in communities with a population of less than 20,000 can apply. Details can be found on the USDA Website at www.usda.gov; click on Rural and Community Development in the column at the left.

Broadband Services in Rural Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an announcement in April with details about broadband grants in rural areas, see www.usda.gov and search on Community Connect Grant Program. The U.S. Department of Commerce will publicize the requirements and procedures for supporting broadband service improvements in rural areas. Libraries are eligible, but participation will depend on decisions made by the federal agencies on how these funds will be made available and for what purposes.

For more information see www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/04/0135.xml or the Library Commission Announcements, www.nlc.state.ne.us, for FAQs highlighting the broadband sections in the ARRA that are of most interest to the library and education communities.

Energy Projects


The Nebraska Energy Office held public meetings in April to publicize plans for grants and loans made possible as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriations. The Energy Office will receive more than \$40 million for distribution over the next two years to support housing weatherization services for lower income Nebraskans, in addition to the \$2 million annually available for this program.

The Nebraska Energy Office produced a State Energy Program Plan and will make decisions on how the agency will use funds received through the economic stimulus appropriation. Additional funds include Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for supporting public building projects. Local government entities, including libraries, are eligible to receive these funds. Funds are available through a competitive application process.

The agency administers a low-interest loan program for energy projects. An expansion of this program using ARRA funds is under consideration. The agency's Website includes detailed information concerning the various energy-related funds available; see www.neo.ne.gov/ARRA/recoveryact.htm.

Education

School libraries have a range of possibilities within ARRA, given the amount of funds and many program options available to schools. Local school districts and school administrators are wading their way through the many information sources regarding these options. Information on how the American Library Association is lobbying to have stimulus funds used to keep school libraries up to date is available at www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/?I=58111.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 6. 




Teens' Top Ten Is Great Summertime Reading

Teen Read Week 2009, an initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), will be celebrated Oct. 18-24. This year's theme is Read Beyond Reality @ your library®, which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it.

Teens have so many options for entertainment, it's important to remind them to spend time reading for pleasure: it's free, fun, and can be done anywhere. Research shows that teens who read for fun have better test scores and are more likely to succeed in the workforce. Let teens know about the possibilities that exist within Nebraska library doors, and within the covers of books.

During Teen Read Week, teens will have the opportunity to vote on The Teens' Top Ten, a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in fifteen school and public libraries around the country. Readers ages 12 to 18 can vote online during that week. Summer is a great time to encourage teens to read the nominated books so they'll be ready to make informed decisions when they vote.

For a list of frequently asked questions, the YALSA blog, Teen Read Week wiki, and Teens' Top Ten nominations, see www.ala.org/teenread. Also on the site is a downloadable Teens' Top Ten button for library Websites with a link back to www.ala.org/teenstopten, a guide to promoting Teens' Top Ten, and lists of previous winners. 

Free Summer Reading Program

This year's free summer reading program is called "Be Creative @ your library®." Talking Book borrowers that are nineteen or younger, are invited to sign up for books just right for summertime reading. Everyone who enrolls receives a reading packet. Readers who complete five or more books between June 1 and August 15 will be sent end-of-summer prizes.

Try it now!

Nebraska Library Commission
Talking Book and Braille Service

800-742-7691 • www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs
talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us



Talking Book Advisory Committee Represents Customers

Rebecca Sims, Director of the Thomas S. Power Library at Offutt Air Force Base, was recently

appointed to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service Advisory Committee. Joan Davis, North Platte Public School teacher, and Ana Kalin, library volunteer,

were reappointed to second two-year terms.

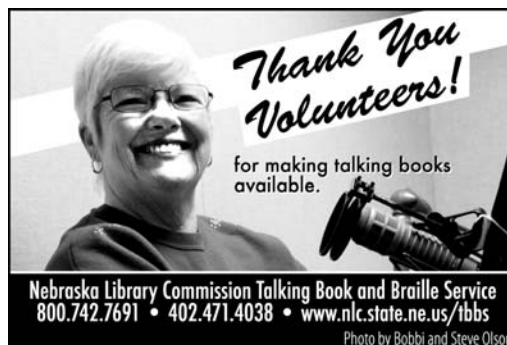
The advisory committee represents the needs of borrowers, and

makes recommendations to staff concerning policies, services, and programs. Membership consists

primarily of library users, but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and others who understand the needs of

individuals with disabilities.

For more information contact Dave Oertli, see contact information on page 8.



Ask a Design Professional Wiki Available

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to work with The Clark Enersen Partners to provide *Ask a Design Professional*, a wiki at www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/askdesignpro for all library staff and supporters in Nebraska. The Clark Enersen Partners is a Nebraska architecture and engineering firm that regularly participates in local, regional, and national library conferences. They have planned and designed libraries throughout the Midwest. For an overview of their qualifications, see their Website at www.clarkenersen.com.

The purpose of *Ask a Design Professional* is to provide answers, or directions to answers, for any question regarding library buildings or sites. No question is off limits—whether it be a shortage of space, a leaky roof, poor heating and cooling, lack of parking, drainage problems, or any other problem. Enter questions into a simple online form and a response should be received within forty-eight hours. We are looking for library staff and supporters to test this resource with real-world questions and problem solving. Please

submit your questions on the wiki and send feedback on the process to Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 4.

This Question-and-Answer service is a result of conversations aimed at developing a shared vision for library and information services in Nebraska. In 1991 the Nebraska Library Commission sponsored Nebraska Information Partnerships, a statewide conference involving nearly one hundred people who were brought together to envision goals and directions for Nebraska library service. In that spirit, a 2008 Nebraska Libraries Future Search event was held June 9-10, 2008 to bring a fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and foster direction, partnerships, and collaboration. One of the ideas from the brainstorming sessions was to have experts make visits to libraries across the state to make suggestions on making physical space more hospitable. The result of this discussion at the Future Search Conference is the *Ask a Design Professional* wiki.

Nebraska Map Mashup Now Available

The Library Commission has developed a "map mashup" of public libraries in the state at www.nlc.state.ne.us/statistics/librarymap.html. Map markers are color-coded to identify libraries by population served, which enables users to visualize how libraries of varying sizes are distributed across the state. Clicking on a marker brings up an information bubble containing brief statistical data, service measures, and legislative district. A Web link within each bubble also connects to the Library Commission's Library Database entry for the selected location. When searching the map, it's possible to filter out individual population ranges so only the libraries pertinent to the user's interest show up. Data for each library is based on the results of the 2006-2007 Public Library Statistical Survey and will be updated as new survey results become available.

BCR Welcomes Nebraska Libraries

Current NEBASE libraries will be moving to BCR (Bibliographical Center for Research) for their OCLC products and services starting July 1, as the result of a recommendation from the Nebraska Library Commission and an agreement between BCR and OCLC.

The move of Nebraska's libraries using OCLC services to obtain those services through BCR is the result of a decision made by the Nebraska Library Commission to dissolve NEBASE as an OCLC network. By obtaining OCLC services through BCR, Nebraska libraries automatically become BCR members and will benefit from BCR's extensive experience working with libraries and their national membership base.

"BCR has a history of providing some services to Nebraska libraries, and we're pleased to expand that relationship into other areas," said Brenda Bailey-Hainer, BCR's President and CEO. "Our newest members will benefit from our long-standing relationship with OCLC in providing quality training and service."

Devra Dragos, the Library Commission's Director of Network Services, said of the move: "The Nebraska Library Commission was

pleased with responses from BCR to its concerns over NEBASE members' needs for billing, support, and training. We believe working with an experienced regional organization will provide members the same level of service that they had with NEBASE."

To assist with the move to BCR, Regan Harper, BCR's Director of Training and OCLC Services, who is heading up the transition team, will meet with Nebraska libraries at the **final NEBASE meeting on June 25 at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.**



BCR is the nation's oldest and most established multistate library cooperative. Since 1935, the BCR team has helped libraries learn new skills, reach customers, increase productivity, and save money. It is headquartered in Aurora, Colo.

For more information contact Brandie Baumann, BCR Communications Coordinator, 800-397-1552; e-mail: bcrpress@bcr.org or info@BCR.org, or visit www.BCR.org, or contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: ddragos@nlc.state.ne.us ☛

Final NEBASE Meeting Set for June

Please join Library Commission staff on Thursday, June 25, for the final NEBASE meeting at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. In addition to NEBASE staff, representatives from BCR and OCLC will speak about upcoming changes.

As announced earlier, on June 30, 2009 NEBASE will cease to exist as the Nebraska regional network for OCLC. After that date, Nebraska

OCLC members will go to OCLC for technical support and BCR for training, ordering, renewals, and billing questions.

For an agenda and to register, see the Library Commission's Library Training portal at www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp and search on NEBASE. For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information above. ☛

Nebraskans Attend MPLA Conference

by Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Director

Wichita hosted the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA)/Kansas Library Association joint conference this spring. MPLA meetings are a great opportunity to meet librarians from other states and see how other library associations organize conferences. I had the pleasure of riding with Barbara Hager, Julie Beno, Brenda Ealey, and Becky Baker in vans provided by Southeast Library System and the City of Seward.

Six morning preconferences were offered, including one I attended on XML for libraries, and a very popular one on library security called "Black Belt Librarians," attended by several of the Nebraska folks. We laughed at retired librarian Will Manley's funny library stories at his keynote address, "Snowballs in the Bookdrop," and shared a laugh with keynote speaker Brad Meltzer, who survived twenty-four rejection letters for his first book and went on to become a best-selling author of legal thrillers.

Additionally, there were over 130 sessions, luncheons, and business meetings offered. Topics include gaming, fostering community engagement, evaluating Websites for accessibility, promoting Constitution Day with poster contests, and many, many more. A highlight for me was the State Librarian's Luncheon titled "The Library: Jewel of the Community." We had tiaras to wear, prize drawings for jewelry, and a talk by Kathy Patrick, author of *The Pulpwood Queen's Tiara Wearing, Book Sharing Guide to Life*. Another great session was "May I Please Blow Up this Reference Desk? The Ten Social Trends that Should Change the Way Libraries Can and Should Do Business," by Tracie D. Hall.

Handouts and photos from many of the sessions are available on the MPLA Website at www.mpla.us/conference.html. For more information contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director, 402-471-4017 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us ☛

NEBASE: Nebraska's OCLC Connection



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Gates Foundation and OCLC Will Develop Campaign

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made a \$5 million grant to the OCLC library cooperative to develop a public information campaign to help public library leaders heighten awareness of the needs of local libraries and increase support for the services they provide during these challenging times. Working on design and implementation with Leo Burnett USA, a Chicago-based marketing communications agency, OCLC will pilot the campaign in select areas of Georgia and Iowa starting this summer. OCLC will make available community awareness campaign materials and other guides to assist library leaders throughout the country in their efforts to strengthen support for local libraries.

The current economic crisis has led to dramatic increases in library use across the nation, as people rely on libraries for free computer and Internet access to conduct job searches, access government services, learn new workforce skills, and use other resources they can no longer afford at home. The tightening economy has also put library funding — 80 percent of which comes from local sources — at risk. Many library systems predict deep state and local funding cuts in 2009, a growing burden for the roughly half of all libraries struggling against declining or flat budgets. To assist libraries with these challenges, the campaign will use advertising, direct marketing, online engagement, public relations, and grassroots community initiatives to heighten awareness of the need for increased library support.

For more information see www.oclc.org/news/releases/200924.htm.

Happy One-Year Anniversary, Nebraska OverDrive

by Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian

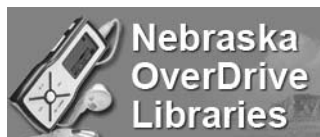
The Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Website, <http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com>, celebrated its one-year anniversary in March. The Nebraska Library Commission coordinates and supports Nebraska OverDrive libraries, which offer their customers the option to download audiobooks to their computers or portable devices. Digital books may be checked out for a limited time period and are automatically returned to the collection when the checkout time expires. Libraries do not need to purchase additional equipment to provide this service to customers.

The first year was a great success, as the following statistics show:

- Our group contained twenty-five libraries on opening day; on our one-year anniversary, we had grown to thirty-five.
- We opened with just under 500 titles; on our one-year anniversary, we had 1,351 titles (1,392 copies).
- When we first went live, there were no iPod-compatible MP3 audiobooks available to purchase through OverDrive; on our one-year anniversary, we owned 116 OverDrive MP3 audiobooks.
- There were a total of 17,522 checkouts and 6,754 holds placed by 2,099 unique library patrons

during our first year of operation.

- During our first year, our top ten circulating titles (along with the number of circulations) were:
 - 1) *1st to Die* (70)
 - 2) *24 Hours* (68)
 - 3) *7th Heaven* (67)
 - 4) *2nd Chance* (66)
 - 5) *Twilight* (65)
 - 6) *That's Not in My American History Book* (63)
 - 7) *Back to the Bedroom* (63)
 - 8) *The Friday Night Knitting Club* (62)
 - 9) *The Appeal* (60)
 - 10) *The Bad Place* (56)



New libraries may join the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries group by paying a one-time \$500 setup fee, along with an annual

participation fee based on their population served. The official subscription term is October 1 through September 30. New libraries can be set up quarterly—in January, April, July, and October—but participation fees will not be prorated for libraries joining midterm. Libraries interested in an October 2009 setup should submit their orders by August 31.

For more information contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us or Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 11.

The **State of Nebraska Facebook** page (www.facebook.com, search on State of Nebraska) recently announced, "The Nebraska Library Commission has a live help desk for all kinds of questions! Are you trying to find resources for more online government? Or maybe your child needs help on a report about Nebraska? Visit the Nebraska Library Commission's Reference Desk: www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/needhelp.html."





Library Commission 2009 Grants Scheduled

Dates have been announced for three grant programs, financed with funding made available through the Nebraska Legislature and the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Youth Grants for Excellence

are designed to encourage creative thinking, risk-taking and new approaches to address problems and needs of children and young adults. Grant awards enable youth librarians to begin needed programs and try new projects. Applications will be available August 14. Completed applications are due October 2, and grant recipients will be announced November 20.

Library Improvement grants facilitate growth and development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes. Applications will be available October 1. Completed applications are due December 4, and grant recipients will be announced February 16, 2010.

Continuing Education and Training Grants assist Nebraska libraries in providing improved library services to their communities through continuing education and training for library personnel and supporters. Applications will be available November 3. Completed applications are due December 17. Grant recipients will be announced January 15, 2010, in time for the recipients to register for spring and summer conferences.

For more information about the grants, see the Nebraska Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html or contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 7.

The Learning Continues

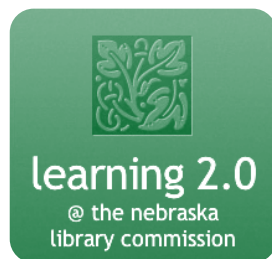
by Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian

The Nebraska Library Commission introduced the Nebraska Learns 2.0 online learning program in October 2008 and it ran through January of this year. It was great fun, and we've received so many inquiries about repeating the program that we knew we had to do something. So without further ado, here it is—the second edition of Nebraska Learns 2.0!

Although we've made some changes to Nebraska Learns 2.0, the goal of the program remains the same: to encourage participants to experiment with and learn about new and emerging technologies that are reshaping the way people, society, and libraries access information and communicate with each other.

Nebraska Learns 2.0 will continue to be a self-discovery program that encourages participants to take control of their own learning and to utilize their lifelong learning skills through exploration and play.

This time around, instead of being required to do 23 Things in sixteen weeks to earn CE credit, participants will be offered the opportunity to do a new Thing each month. (In Nebraska Learns 2.0 parlance, a "Thing" is essentially a lesson.) You



will have all month to complete that Thing and receive one CE credit. If you're busy one month, or taking a monthlong vacation, that's OK—just skip that month's Thing and participate again the next month. You're

always welcome to go back and do Things you missed. However, CE credit will only be awarded for completing the current month's Thing during that month. Once again, this program is open to all Nebraska librarians, library staff, library

friends, library board members, and school media specialists.

The first new Thing was posted on May 1. If you don't already have a blog, you will need to set one up. Also, this time around we are requiring that all participants sign up. All of the details can be found on the blog for this new, ongoing, Nebraska Learns 2.0 program:

- Nebraska Learns 2.0 blog URL: <http://nelearns.blogspot.com/>
- The post that explains how to participate: <http://nelearns.blogspot.com/2009/03/participate.html>

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

Public Library Staff and Trustees Meet

(continued from page 5)

will be formalized through inter-local agreements, currently under way.


- Koha (www.koha.org) has been selected as the software to use to build the system.
- The partnership wrote a \$100,000 grant and received funding through the Nebraska Library Commission's IMLS-funded Library Improvement grant process.
- The next step is a scoping study.
- The partnership expects to have a viable product available for testing by September.
- Additional Nebraska libraries will be invited to join the partnership at some time in the future.

Colorful Lives: Managing Patrons with Mental Illness

Wanda Butts, Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, stressed that we may all encounter customers with mental illness. This "brain disease" is not preventable or curable, but can be managed with treatment, support, and often, medication. Library staff were encouraged not to fear the mentally ill—ninety percent of people with mental illness are not violent or dangerous—and to try not to confuse the psychotic with the psychopathic. Participants agreed that the best course of action is to keep customer service and tolerance foremost in library staff interactions with all

customers. She stressed that resources are hidden, and suggested the National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org) as a resource to help people learn about mental illness from those who have experienced it themselves or through family members.

Using Skype in the Library as a Communication Tool


John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, explained how Skype software (Skype.com) can be installed on any computer with a broadband connection to the Internet for free two-way communication. For audio communication, a microphone headset transforms the computer into two-way audio device. Skype offers free calls, video calls (Webcam required), and Instant Messaging over the Internet, and low-cost calls to phones anywhere in the world. Free conference calls can be conducted with people using Skype and others using land-line or mobile phones. A demonstration of the system featured a virtual visit with Seyfarth's grand daughter. Library programming possibilities were discussed, including ways to set up a computer workstation with Skype and offer it to the public to use in the library. 

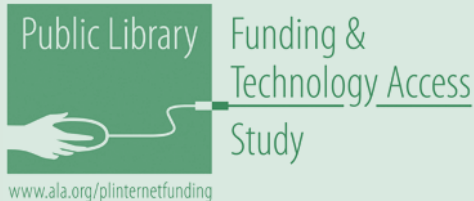
Healthy Resources from Uncle Sam

(continued from page 8)

NN/LM, if you haven't already joined. Free membership provides access to numerous resources, people, and tools to keep library staff current on consumer health information and access. Members are eligible for funding for health information access and other projects, access to free training on NLM databases, opportunities to partner with health sciences libraries or health-related organizations, promotional items, and more. Visit <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/services/network/index.html> for information on joining.

Another site you might like to explore is the revamped <http://healthfinder.gov>, a government-provided consumer Website presented in an easy-to-read format with simple navigation. Available in English and Spanish, this prevention and wellness information is provided to library customers who are looking for a user-friendly health information site.


For more information contact Marty Magee, National Network/Libraries of Medicine, 402-559-7076 or 800-338-7657; e-mail: mmagee@unmc.edu. 



Study: High Library Customer Demand for High-Speed Internet Access

With growing demand for public Internet services and Wi-Fi access, nearly sixty percent of U.S. public libraries report Internet connection speeds are insufficient to meet patron demand at some point in the day, according to the *2008-2009 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study*.

U.S. public libraries play a key role in ensuring all people have access to the online resources they need to search and apply for jobs, do school assignments, develop small businesses, access government forms, and more. This is particularly important for the forty-three percent of Americans who do not have high-speed Internet access at home (Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2008).

More than three-quarters (76.4 percent) of all public libraries also provide Wi-Fi access, up from 65.9 percent one year ago. Seventy-five percent of libraries report that wireless and desktop computers share the same network, which diminishes the effective access speed to the Internet. Connectivity data from the *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study* is available at www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0809report.cfm. The complete study, funded by the American Library Association and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will be released in September. 

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- New Library Directors include: Comstock Township Library, **Laura Miller**, Township Clerk; Fairbury Public Library, **Karen Fox**; Lincoln, BryanLGH College of Health Sciences, **Anne Heimann**; Milligan Public Library, **Darlene Slezak**; Norfolk Public Library, **Mike Caldararo**; Omaha, National Park Service Midwest Regional Office, **Tom Richter**; Omaha, Kaplan University, **Elzbieta Ciborowski**; Omaha School of Massage Therapy, **Jane Romack**; Palmyra Memorial Library, **Cindy Mumford**; Rushville Public Library, **Quiteris "Teri" Whipple**; and Valparaiso Public Library, **Maria Cadwallader**.
- **Norfolk Public Library's Fifteenth Annual Literature Festival** is set for July 25 at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. For more information contact Karen Drevo, 402-844-2108 or e-mail: kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us.
- **LaVista Public Library** recently added six new computers to their children's area.
- **The American Library Association's Kids! @ your library®** campaign toolkit at http://wikis.ala.org/alsc/index.php/Program_Ideas includes programming specific to the 2009 Summer Reading collaborative themes "Get Creative" and "Express Yourself" @ your library®.
- The **Meridian Library System** office recently moved to 3423 Second Ave., Suite 6, in Kearney.
- **Michael Straatmann**, of Lincoln, has been named Executive Director of the **Nebraska Library Association**. He brings a wide range of organizational, event planning, and technological skills to the position and recently completed a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia distance education program.
- **Fairbury Public Library** held a 100th Birthday Open House in April to celebrate 100 years of service.



- The **Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries** held a "Wine & Wii Game Night and Silent Auction" fundraiser this spring, with more than 150 attending, they raised more than \$9,000 in ticket and auction sales.
- **Ted Kooser** and **Bob Hanna** celebrated their birthdays this spring in Valentine by conducting fund-raising activities for the **Valentine Public Library**. They held a writers' workshop and watercolor workshop, respectively, and Kooser gave a poetry reading for the general public.
- The **Nebraska Library Commission Reference Service** had the busiest month ever in March, with 1,737 reference requests, exceeding the previous record of 1,711 in January 2008.
- **Scribner Public Library** recently received sixty-one new, signed books valued at \$11,000. The city administrator, **Al Vacanti** (a former fund-raiser), sent letters to contacts requesting the books and an autographed poster from Eric Carle.
- The **University of Nebraska at Omaha's Criss Library** hosted the NASA Apollo 11 Anniversary Exhibit through May 30.
- **Minitare Public Library** recently received a grant from **Experience Works** to employ a twenty-hour-per-week employee. This senior community service program recently received an infusion of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- The Nebraska Library Commission has programming resources for

2009 One Book One Nebraska, including copies of the video biography, "A Video History of Bess Streeter Aldrich" and book club kits with multiple copies of the book. Contact Reference and Information Services at 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us.

- Local schoolchildren presented the timeline of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library/Foundation for the **Atkinson Public Library**.
- The **Nebraska Genealogy Society** held a special **Librarians' Day Preconference** as part of its annual meeting this spring in Scottsbluff. Librarians were introduced to the basics of genealogy research and provided training on using HeritageQuest, a free NebraskaAccess online database provided to all Nebraska libraries by the **Nebraska Library Commission**.
- The **Tilden Library Foundation** is hosting the "New Beginnings" traveling art show from Prairie Winds Art Center of Grand Island through the end of June.



- **Omaha Public Library** has a special children's library card, designed by Nebraska artist Preston McDaniels (illustrator of *A Perfect Snowman* fame).
- The **See to Read Foundation** is collaborating with Nebraska libraries to share information to ensure that Nebraska 3-year-olds get free vision assessments. Complimentary copies of the *See to Reader* newsletter were sent to Nebraska public libraries in May.

See to Read





Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium • 1200 N Street • Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
34-00-00

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE OF
NEBRASKA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Libri Grants Due August 15
www.librifoundation.org/apps.html

A Compass

Golden Sower Winners Announced

The Golden Sower Committee is pleased to announce the 2009 award winners and honor books:

Primary Winner

If I Built a Car, by Chris Van Dusen

Primary Honor Books

Fancy Nancy, by Jane O'Connor,
illustrated by Robin Preiss-Glasser

Library Lion, by Michelle Knudsen,
illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Intermediate Winner

Satch & Me, by Dan Gutman

Intermediate Honor Books

Room One: A Mystery or Two,
by Andrew Clements

Rules, by Cynthia Lord

Young Adult Winner

Twilight, by Stephenie Meyer

Young Adult Honor Books

Heat, by Mike Lupica

Life as We Knew It,
by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Unfortunately, none of the winning authors will be able to attend the 2009 Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference in October. However, if the details can be worked out, conference organizers will attempt virtual visits with Chris Van Dusen and Dan Gutman during the Golden Sower Award session on Friday, October 30, according to Kathy Schultz, Golden Sower Award Committee Chair.

The Golden Sower is Nebraska's Children's Choice Literary Award, voted on by young readers statewide. It is sponsored by the Nebraska Library Association's School, Children's and Young People's Section.

For more information see www.nebraskalibraries.org/goldensower.

