

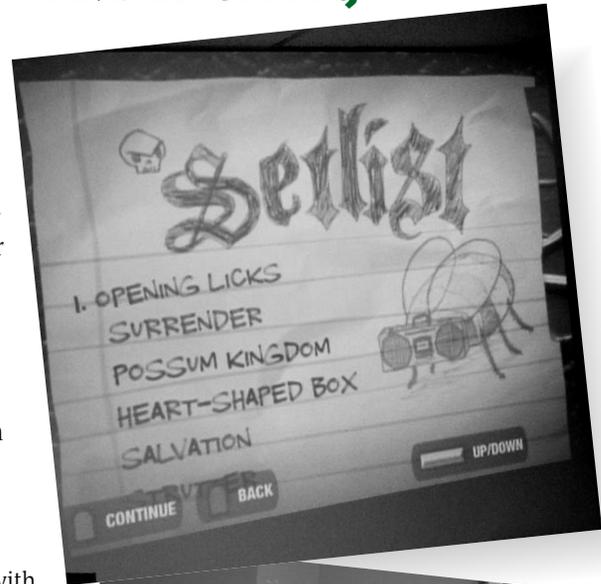
NEBASE Annual Meeting Features Gaming and Social Networking

Do You Know Where Your Patrons Are? Exploring New Spaces@your library®. The Nebraska Library Commission joined librarians and media specialists for this year's **NEBASE Annual Meeting** at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln to explore social networking and gaming in libraries. The meeting featured sessions on MySpace, OCLC's new social networking tools, a gaming panel made up of Nebraska librarians, and an OCLC update with a special look at the new *WorldCat Local*.

The addition of a Gaming Room at the Cornhusker helped participants learn about gaming activities. Library staff experimented with games like Wii Sports—Tennis, Baseball, Golf, Bowling and Boxing; Dance Dance Revolution; and Guitar Hero. This current gaming technology is used by libraries in programming for children and teens.

The meeting also featured a brief tour of the Web 2.0 services being used and investigated by the Nebraska Library Commission. More information is available at www.nlc.state.ne.us/service/index.html. For more information contact Shannon White, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, e-mail: swhite@nlc.state.ne.us. The NEBASE Annual Meeting West is scheduled for October 4. Watch the Library Commission Training Portal, www.nlc.state.ne.us, for details.

Network Services Director Shannon White (at right) straps on a guitar to become the Library Commission's latest "Guitar Hero."



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From the Director... Planning for Nebraska Library Services

Some interesting conversations came about at the public meetings held for the Library Commission's long-range plan. With help from the State Advisory Council on Libraries, the Commission developed a set of questions as conversation starters. The Council used them at their March meeting and the questions were then refined for use at six regional meetings held in April and May. Library representatives and library supporters offered ideas, reflected on the current state of library services, and speculated about library services over the next five years.

As recommended by the advisory council, discussion questions were based on the OCLC-sponsored report, *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources* and the Americans for Libraries Council-sponsored and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded, *Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century*. Some of the most passionate discussion concerned the library brand. Public opinion surveys affirm that the library brand, for many, is books. There were strong feelings from public meeting participants that books are indeed the centerpiece of libraries. But there was solid emphasis that the brand is **books and more**. And, the **more** was considered a combination of the information role libraries perform along with the functions that evolve from type of library—education, literacy, and entertainment.

Public meeting participants ventured interesting and novel ideas about advocacy, including the importance of library supporters and librarians serving in elected offices at local, state, and national levels. And while public opinion surveys indicate high satisfaction with library services, customer service and library facilities can sometimes be judged as "less than satisfactory."

There was no surprise that meeting participants had lots to say about technology. Libraries have a great opportunity to improve customer service by offering an array of online services.

Thanks to all who participated in the various meetings and discussions for the Library Commission's long-range plan. The participation and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Rod Wagner



Talking Book Librarians Plan Digital Transition

The 2007 National Library Service Western and Midlands conference, *Mission: Possible—Going: Digital*, brought together talking book librarians and staff from the Library of Congress in Scottsdale, AZ, to advance plans for circulating talking books on flash memory (to be used with digital talking book players). The move from audiocassettes to a digital format is scheduled to begin nationwide in 2008. Throughout the transition (for years and into the foreseeable future), talking books will continue to be offered on audiocassette. The demand for digital books and players is expected to exceed the initial

supply. The transition will be complete only when every borrower who wants to receive digital books and a digital player has access to them.

The conference also included a discussion of forming partnerships with allied organizations for joint programs and outreach, as well as descriptions of software for production of talking books in the new format according to Library of Congress specifications. For more information contact Dave Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: doertli@nlc.state.ne.us.



Kearney to Host NLA/NEMA Conference

The annual conference of the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA), **Nebraska Libraries: Charting Paths to the Future**, will feature pre-conferences and two days of conference sessions, October 24-26, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney.

A wide array of programming is planned for the sessions. Thursday's opening speaker is Nebraska native Harley Jane Kozak, an author and actress whose screen credits include

Arachnophobia, *The Favor*, and *Parent-hood*. Her books include *Dating Dead Men*, *Dating is Murder*, and *Dead Ex*.

Friday's keynote speaker, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, is Joel Sartore, a *National Geographic* photographer who was recently featured on the PBS documentary, *At Close Range*. Sartore is the author of *Nebraska: Under a Big Red Sky*.

For more information see www.2007nla-nema.info, or contact Sherry Houston, Conference Coordinator, 402-462-1975, 800-569-4961, e-mail: rvlsadmin@inebraska.com.



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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-Shiple, 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.

2007 Nebraska Book Festival Moves to Downtown Lincoln

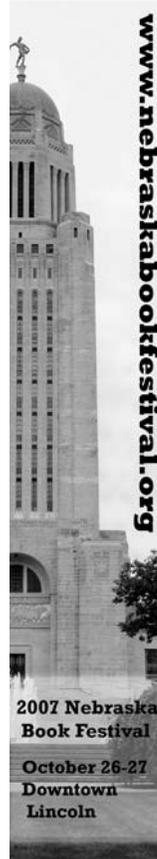
The 2007 **Nebraska Book Festival**, rescheduled for **October 26-27**, is moving to downtown Lincoln where events will be staged at locations along Centennial Mall near 15th and P Streets, including the Museum of Nebraska History, Lincoln Children's Museum, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Journalism and Mass Communications in Andersen Hall. Other downtown locations include the Nebraska State Capitol at 15th and K Streets and the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center at 13th and Q Streets. The locations for the Festival are surrounded by coffeehouses, restaurants, bookstores, theaters, shops, and night spots.

The Warner Chamber in the Nebraska State Capitol will serve as the site for the keynote address on Friday, October 26, at 5:30 P.M. Native American scholar and author Joseph Marshall III will open the Festival with an address focusing on the great Sioux warrior and tactician, Crazy Horse (the subject of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz' biography, *Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Ogallala*, the 2007 One Book One Nebraska selection).

On Saturday, October 27, the Nebraska Center for the Book will announce the winners of the annual Nebraska Book

Awards in a ceremony in the Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda, at 11:00 A.M., to be followed by the annual Book Festival luncheon in the Chez Hay banquet hall in the Noodles and Co. building at 14th and P Streets. Luncheon guests will hear readings by Nebraska Book Award winners.

Nebraska Book Festival Director Michael Cartwright comments, "The 2007 Nebraska Book Festival is shaping up to be a memorable event." The Nebraska Book Festival is sponsored by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Secretary of State, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and University Press. For more information contact Michael Cartwright, Nebraska Book Festival Director, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us, or see www.nebraskabookfestival.org



From left: Beth Goble (NLA president), Pam Springer (NEMA president), Brad Schweer (Legislative Assistant to Rep. Lee Terry), John Dale (Chair, Nebraska Library Commission), Rod Wagner (Director, Nebraska Library Commission).

Nebraskans Participate in National Library Legislative Day

Nebraska library representatives participated in **National Library Legislative Day 2007** activities held in May in Washington, D.C.

Legislative Day participants received briefings on library-related issues and visited Congressional offices to meet with senators, representatives, and staff.

Key issues discussed were the Library Services and Technology Act and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries funding, E-rate, telecommunications, copyright, government information, and privacy issues. Also during this time states had representatives in Wash-

ington for the annual Idea Exchange, hosted by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Michael Cartwright, Director of the Nebraska Book Festival, represented the Nebraska Center for the Book.

National Library Legislative Day was sponsored by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the District of Columbia Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, and the American

Library Association.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665, e-mail: rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us

Nebraska Astronaut READ® Posters Available

Nebraska native Clay Anderson, currently aboard the International Space Station, describes his experience in space as "the ride of my life." Anderson, born in Omaha and raised in Ashland, is the first native Nebraskan to fly in space (and the first to walk in space). When he returns to earth, he plans to visit classrooms and other groups to encourage youngsters to pursue their dreams. In a recent broadcast from space, Anderson reflected on the fifteen times he applied to the astronaut program before being accepted. "Don't ever give up...You can be whatever you want to be. You just have to set your mind to it...and go get it," he said.

Anderson generously posed for READ® posters and bookmarks for Nebraska libraries and school media centers to use to promote books and reading. Upon request, the Nebraska Library Commis-

sion will send Nebraska libraries and school media centers a CD with the posters and bookmarks. They can be printed at a local print shop or quick-copy shop. One hundred and fifteen CDs have already been distributed. To use this promotional tool with your customers, contact Alyssa Bundy, Nebraska Library Commission Student Intern, e-mail: abundy@nlc.state.ne.us



Space Station Broadcasts from Clay Anderson are available at www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/index.html, search on Clay Anderson video.

Accreditation Applications Sent to Libraries

Letters of application for accreditation were mailed on July 15 to libraries scheduled to renew their accreditation, and to unaccredited libraries. The 2004 revised version of the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html, are now fully implemented.

To qualify as an Essential Accredited library, it's necessary to meet all twenty-six Essential Guidelines. To qualify for Enhanced Accreditation, a library must meet all twenty-six of the Essential Guidelines and any eighteen of the Enhanced Guidelines. To qualify for Excellent Accreditation status, a library must meet all Essential and Enhanced Guidelines and any fourteen of the sixteen Excellent Guidelines.

Fifty-one libraries are scheduled to renew accreditation certificates this year. Library Commission staff reviewed statistical data, and libraries with potential problems with meeting specific guidelines were sent letters in mid-June. Unaccredited libraries are eligible to apply for accreditation if the library's annual statistics for 2005/2006 were submitted by March 1, 2007. For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us.

Check Your Record

Nebraska library staff can now access the Library Commission's Continuing Education (CE) database to keep track of how many CE credit hours have been earned toward public librarian and public library board certification.

For librarian certification, see the Nebraska Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on CE Record Review; for public library board certification, search on Public Library Board Certification. For passwords, e-mail: ljensen@nlc.state.ne.us. For questions or problems with passwords or CE records, contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us.

Saving Nebraska's Treasures Aired in July

The *Saving Nebraska's Treasures* television program aired on NET Television this summer. This program provided practical and effective methods to help ensure that Nebraska's artifacts, photographs, books, and documents will survive into the future. The Saline County Historical Society and the David City Public Library were among Nebraska institutions featured in the television program. The Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) partnered on a 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, to produce the show and accompanying training.

Free distance learning workshops on preventive conservation are underway. Museum, historical organization, and library staff and volunteers are invited to join the general public at sites across Nebraska. It is not too late for Nebraska libraries and other cultural/educational organizations

to serve as local hosts for the remaining satellite-delivered (or Web-based streaming video) workshops. Workshops are scheduled for 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. CT. Contact the Nebraska State Historical Society, 402-471-3272, e-mail: treasures@nebraskahistory.org now

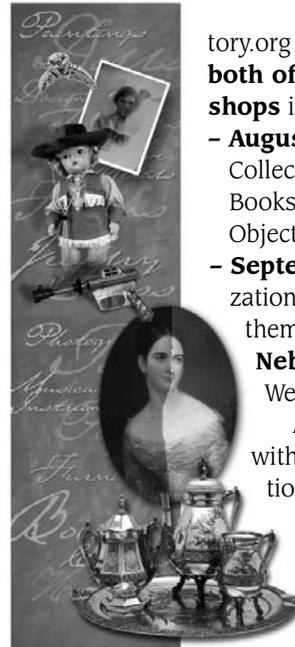
to host one or both of the final two workshops in your community:

- **August 16:** Preserving Your Collections: Paper, Photographs, Books and other Paper-based Objects
- **September 11:** Care and digitization of materials, making them accessible through the **Nebraska Memories** Website.

A complementary Website, with links to practical suggestions to help Nebraskans improve the long-term condition of objects and documents, is available at www.netnebraska.org/extras/treasures/index.htm.

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

SAVING NEBRASKA'S Treasures



Bulgaria—It's More than Jewelry: Become a Partner with a Bulgarian Library

by Rebecca Miller Banner,
ABLE Nebraska Coordinator

If you visited vendors at the last two annual NLA/NEMA conferences, you may have seen Nancy Bolt running a booth sparkling with beautiful hand-crafted jewelry from Bulgaria. The former state librarian for Colorado, Bolt now is an ardent advocate for librarians in Bulgaria and if you bought jewelry from her, you helped support libraries in that country. Ten percent of the gross sales goes to a fund to help Bulgarian librarians improve their professional development.

Nebraska librarians can also help Bulgarian librarians by joining the international partnership—the **American Bulgarian Library Exchange (ABLE)**. Through ABLE, eighteen partnerships have been established between libraries in Bulgaria and libraries in Colorado and Iowa. Now Nebraska is joining the project and your opportunity to connect with a Bulgarian library awaits.

I recently conducted an in-depth evaluation of the project and was impressed by the sense of fulfillment expressed by the partners. Bulgarian librarians stated how much they have learned from their Amer-

(continued on Page 6)

Final 2007 Database Roadshow in August

Five Database Roadshows presented by Library Commission staff this summer marked the tenth anniversary of this annual event. Classes were held in Hastings, Wayne, Lincoln, and Scottsbluff in July, and the final class will be held at Metropolitan Community College's Elkhorn Campus on August 22.

Presentations this year focused on the Wilson Magazines and Biographies databases and WorldCat, in an effort to provide participants with more information about the featured databases and more time for hands-on practice. Partici-

pants at the Elkhorn event are encouraged to bring a list of questions or problems to the class; Library Commission staff will be glad to help answer them during the practice sessions.

The August 22 class will be held from 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. For more information contact Jeannette Powell, 402-471-7740, 800-307-2665, e-mail: jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us. To register online, see the Library Commission home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Library Training and search on "Database Roadshow."



Participants search online resources at the Database Roadshow at Hastings College.

Great Plains Great Books on NET Radio

How did it feel to be a young Jewish bride homesteading on the North Dakota frontier? Ever wonder how the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally got its start? Want to tempt your taste buds with the culinary delights along Route 66? These experiences and many more can be yours through **Great Plains Great Books**, a series of ten short pieces that will air on NET Radio beginning August 14. Each of the four-and-a-half minute stories will air three times during the week: Tuesday afternoons during "All Things Considered" at 4:44 P.M. CT, Friday mornings during "Friday Live" (9:00-10:00 A.M. CT) and Saturday afternoons during "Weekend America" (12:30 P.M. CT).

NET Radio is partnering with the Plains Humanities Alliance (PHA), Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to present insightful radio essays about the rich and varied cultures and people of the Great Plains,

as revealed in some of the greatest books about the region, taken from "Great Books of the Great Plains," the PHA's annotated and edited list of essential Plains books in the humanities.

Not reviewing books, but featuring provocative, offbeat ideas and insights, each program encourages listeners to re-evaluate what they think they know about the Plains. Rather than simply narrating histories of the various states, or reading literature by Plains natives, the series will help people see a place we may take for granted in a different light, and so better understand its diversity and value.

Tune in this summer and fall to NET Radio for Great Plains Great Books—and listen online, at netNebraska.org/radio.

Funding for the series was provided in part by the Cooper Foundation, TierOne Charitable Foundation, Woods Charitable Fund, and the Jim and Elaine Wolf Foundation.



Windmill Project Launched

The Center for Rural Affairs launched a statewide arts and tourism project, *Winds of Life: Windmills across Nebraska*, and Gov. Dave Heineman declared 2007 as the "Year of the Windmill." Windmills were essential to the sustainability of early Nebraska settlement and today, remain a symbol of the life and culture they enabled. This statewide arts project calls on Nebraskans to rekindle interest in the revitalization of rural Nebraska by uniting artists, communities, libraries and other organizations, and corporate sponsors to create works of art depicting windmills, as well as supporting events.

Activities include literary events such as collecting oral histories about windmills or holding windmill poetry or short story contests, readings, windmill art contests, or other windmill-themed activities.

The Nebraska State Fair (August 24 through September 3) will feature several **Winds of Life** activities, including special exhibits of photography and quilts. Activities related to windmills (including historic accounts, displays, and activities for kids) will take place at the Train Depot at the State Fair.

Another special project merges the poem, "Platte Valley Homestead," by Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, with the calligraphy skills of Arthur Pierce to produce a framed piece of art.

For more information contact Julie Paschold, 402-528-3750, e-mail: jpaschold@gmail.com, or see www.windsoflife.com.

Nebraska Library Commission to Fund Internships

The Library Commission is offering grants to libraries for student internships, funded by a grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Librarians for the 21st Century initiative. These internship grants are intended to introduce promising high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries, by providing a \$1,000 stipend for each student to finance approximately one-hundred hours spent working with library staff on a variety of projects and activities.

Eligible organizations can apply for internship funding in connection with their grant applications in the **Youth Grants for Excellence** and/or **Library Improvement Grants (formerly LSTA Grants)** grant cycles. Applications for internship projects can also be submitted independent of other Nebraska Library Commission grant funding. Eligible entities include:

- ~ Accredited Nebraska public libraries
- ~ Eligible institutional libraries
- ~ Other organizations in partnership with an eligible entity for purposes of submitting a grant application for a collaborative internship project.

To apply for internship funding, see the Library Commission Website Announcements, www.nlc.state.ne.us.

Legislature Retains Library Commission Funding, Programs at Current Levels

The state biennium budget was among the last actions of the 2008 legislative session that ended on May 31. State funding for the Library Commission for the 2007-2009 biennium is nearly the same as for 2005-2007, with funding increases made for employee salaries and benefits. State appropriations for agency operating expenses and state aid programs were left at current biennium funding levels. For more information contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, see contact information on page 3.

Library Commission Grant Deadlines Approach

The Nebraska Library Commission annually awards grants to Nebraska libraries and library organizations, financed with funding made available through the Nebraska Legislature and the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the national Library Services and Technology Act.

The following grant deadlines are approaching:

Youth Grants for Excellence

Funds are available for innovative projects to serve children in accredited public libraries. Children's librarians, young adult librarians, or librarians whose responsibilities include children's services are eligible to apply. Schools or other service agencies may be involved through collaborative planning and programming with public libraries. This year, **funding for high school or college student internships** will be available as part of this process (see article at left).

> *Applications Available:*

August 17, 2007

> *Applications Due:*

October 19, 2007

> *Recipients Announced:*

December 5, 2007

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us.

Library Improvement Grants (formerly LSTA Grants)

Funds are available for accredited public libraries, regional library systems, and state-operated institutional libraries to improve library and information services to Nebraskans. This year, **funding for high school or college student internships** will be available as part of this process (see article at left).

> *Applications Available:*

October 1, 2007

> *Applications Due:*

December 28, 2007

> *Recipients Announced:*

March 1, 2008

For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us.

Bulgaria *(continued from Page 4)*

ican partners about new library developments and becoming a proactive community center. American librarians told me how much they enjoy learning about a different perspective to a shared profession.

Partners use e-mail to share information about budgeting, patron services, technical services, lobbying, interacting with local and national government, building maintenance, and a multitude of other professional activities. They also chat about the weather, local community events, traditions, holidays, food, and what the family is doing. They send books and materials to each other. They organize joint programming events—one partnership planned a Read-a-Thon that involved the mayors of both cities and was broadcast in real time over the Internet.

Many partners have cultivated a relationship over several years and become close friends. They write regularly, send

photos, and even travel to visit each other. The partners told me that becoming friends with someone from another country has been a very enriching experience, both professionally and personally.

To be a partner, you must be flexible, willing to work through communication glitches, and open to learning about a new culture. Learning Bulgarian is not required, as all the Bulgarian partners must be able to communicate in English. However taking the initiative to learn a few words is greatly appreciated! Curiosity and friendliness are the key components of a successful partnership.

To learn more, visit the ABLE website at www.able.bg, and attend the presentation about ABLE and Bulgarian libraries at this year's NLA/NEMA conference in Kearney. To become a partner library, contact ABLEpartners@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon!



Photo courtesy of Gates Foundation

Reflections on a Year of Flickr

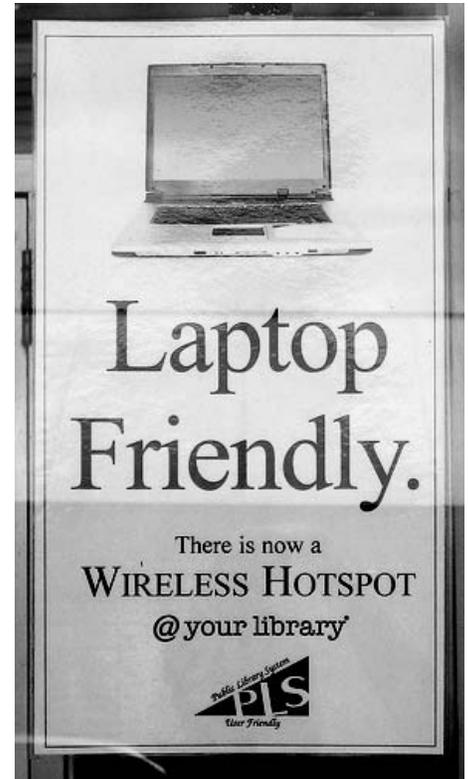
It has been almost a year since the Nebraska Library Commission created a **Flickr** account (www.flickr.com/photos/librarycommission), an online cooperative storage, sorting, searching, and sharing photo site. This article reflects on how the account has grown. Here's what we've learned during the first year with Flickr.

STATISTICS

- Uploaded 601 photos and screenshots; viewed 7,197 times
- Created two Flickr groups: Nebraska Libraries (www.flickr.com/groups/nelibraries), with 16 members and 83 photos, and Pets of Nebraska Librarians (www.flickr.com/groups/petsofnelibrarians), with 40 members and 81 photos
- Offered eight Flickr training sessions at five Nebraska locations

What's the most popular photo in our account? Judging by Flickr's "interestingness" criteria, it is a photo of the "Laptop Friendly" sign in Holdrege Public Library's front window, www.flickr.com/photos/librarycommission/521630871. After being posted to the Library Commission Flickr account and added to the Library Signage group, www.flickr.com/groups/librariansignage, this photo was pointed to by several librarian bloggers who publicly praised the sign, drawing traffic to the photo in Flickr. As a result, it has been viewed 346 times, and six Flickr users count it as a "favorite."

The Commission's Flickr activity helps staff explore how libraries can use Web 2.0 tools to connect with customers and promote services, providing first-hand experience using these tools and demonstrating how they work. Nebraska librarians are uploading pictures related to libraries, sharing success stories, and shining the spotlight on best and worst practices. Experience with Flickr has demonstrated that library content uploaded to Flickr is noticed by non-librarians, including a former Nebraska resident who discovered a picture of his hometown library and reminisced on his



personal blog about going there as a kid to check out books on Babe Ruth and dinosaurs. The Nebraska Libraries Flickr group includes at least two members who are not librarians, but who live in Nebraska and share pictures of Nebraska libraries.

The Commission Flickr site also received publicity via the *USA Today* Tech Space blog. Nebraska native and *USA Today* blogger Angela Gunn pointed readers to a photo set featuring 278 mapped images of Nebraska public libraries, www.flickr.com/photos/librarycommission/sets/72157594548710313. She points out to a national audience that not all communities are able to support huge public libraries, "The collection's a pretty amazing document, and if you aren't familiar with how small towns squeeze in their libraries, it's likely to be eye-opening. (Seattleites and other folk accustomed to high-profile library construction and 'starchitectural' edifices are especially invited to browse)," blogs.usatoday.com/techspace/2007/04/words_and_pictu.html.

For more information contact Susan Knisely, Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, e-mail: sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us.

Technology Workshops Scheduled

The Nebraska Library Commission is sponsoring two-day workshops across the state to help libraries manage their public access computers and learn about innovative technologies. These workshops are offered at no cost to participants through grant funding from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Staying Connected** project. Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian Michael Sauers will facilitate the sessions for library staff and board members from accredited and unaccredited public libraries, whether or not they received a Gates Foundation grant or participated in any earlier Gates-funded activities.

The two-day workshops will be available at six Nebraska sites and participants can attend one or both days of the workshops. Participants will be offered reimbursement for mileage (if traveling at least sixty miles one-way) and lodging (if attending both days).

- > **August 28 & 29** — Scottsbluff, Harms Technology Center, Western Nebraska Community College
- > **September 13 & 14** — Omaha Public Library, W. Dale Clark Library
- > **September 19 & 20** — Kearney, Educational Service Unit 10
- > **October 11 & 12** — Seward Memorial Library
- > **November 8 & 9** — Norfolk, Northeast Community College
- > **November 14 & 15** — North Platte Community College, North Campus

For detailed information about the training and to register, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/gates/gatestechtraining2007.html.



News of Nebraska Libraries and People

■ New library directors include: Brady Public Library, **DeeAnn Birkel**; Crete, Doane College Perkins Library, **Donna Jurena**; Guide Rock, Auld-Doudna Public Library, **Keron Bailey**; Harvard Public Library, **Jaime Porter**; Omaha Public Library, Benson Branch, **Theresa Jehlik**; O'Neill Public Library, **Rebecca Cemper**; Shelton Township Library, **Jodi Fletcher**; Scottsbluff, Western Nebraska Community College, **Valetta Schneider**; and Ulysses Township Library, **Kerin J. Bunstock**.



■ A **Columbus Public Library** Board member and his son recently produced and uploaded to YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-oBHCSFbkk) a short video promoting the library. It features a “pop-up book” theme and shows what can be accomplished with local talent and expertise. The video is one of five finalists in a Thomson Gale contest for amateur videos “professing deep, abiding love of libraries, librarians, and those who depend on them.”



■ Teens at **Omaha Public Library Benson Branch** tied for runner-up out of more than one-hundred entries in a national “Pimp My Bookcart” contest sponsored by Overduemedia.com (www.overduemedia.com/blog.aspx?post=745). The teens

“retro pimped” their bookcart into a Hippie Volkswagon bus.



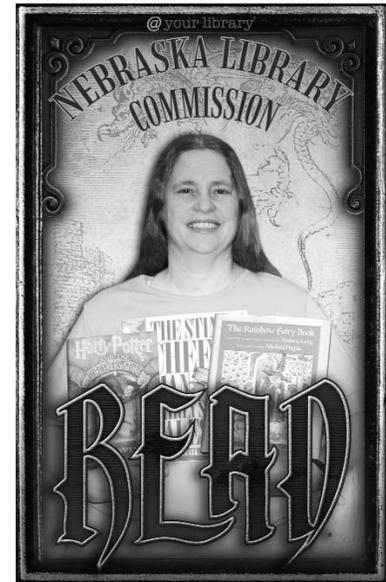
■ **Omaha Public Library's Tabloid Annual Report** takes a lighthearted approach to delivering information about library activities and programs. With headlines like “Willa Gone Wild!” and “Scarily Smart Babies,” this report gets noticed.

■ **Dave Eckmann** began work as Library Technician in Information Services with the Nebraska Library Commission Reference Team in July. He transferred from the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. He replaces **Belinda Fanning**, who resigned to pursue a master's degree.

■ **Marjorie Harrison** has been hired as the **Panhandle Library System Coordinator**. Most recently she served as director of the Romeo District Library in Washington, MI. She held previous positions as a county library director, regional system director, assistant library director, and adult services department head, after receiving her MLS degree from Wayne State University in Michigan.

■ Native Nebraskan **Alice Hagemeyer** was one of four people awarded an American Library Association honorary membership at the summer ALA conference in Washington, D.C. Hagemeyer founded the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA) and worked

with the District of Columbia Public Library, eventually serving as Librarian to the Deaf Community.



■ **Sally Snyder**, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, has been chosen 2007 **Employee of the Year**. In twenty-three years with the Library Commission, Sally's contributions to promoting programs for children and youth are notable. She is a true advocate of early childhood education, promoter of reading skills, and frequent program presenter on reading topics for children and teens.

■ The Nebraska Library Association has announced the **2007 Golden Sower Award** winners, see www.goldensower.org/winners/winners.htm for the list of winners, who will attend the NLA/NEMA conference in October to receive their awards.

■ **Library Commission Cataloging workshops** are being scheduled across the state, including Basic Serials, Cataloging Video Recordings, Cataloging Sound Recordings, Understanding MARC 21 Bibliographic Records, Copy Cataloging with AACR2, and Assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings. For dates and locations, see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, Library Training portal.



Nebraska Library Commission

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Message from FOLUSA Director Sally Reed

As a follow-up to the workshops she presented here in April, Sally Reed, executive director of **Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA)**, sent the following letter to Nebraska librarians, expressing hope that after her visit more Nebraska librarians will use all the resources available to them as members of FOLUSA.

"I hope Nebraska librarians are enjoying the bimonthly edition of our newsletter, *News Update*. This newsletter was cited as our #1 member benefit when we surveyed our members last year. It's full of great ideas for marketing, fundraising, and programs. We also include an article of special interest to Trustees and Foundation members in each issue, so I hope you are passing it along.

Also, you can get the current and archived editions in our Friends Zone (see below). I hope you're checking out our Website at www.folusa.org. As members, you have access to a special username

and password (contact Reference/Information Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, 800-307-2665, 402-471-4016, e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us) that will take you into the Friends Zone. You can pass this username and password out to all your support groups! This area can provide you with rich resources to help you work effectively with your Friends, start a group if you don't have one, or help to revitalize the one you have.

Here is a listing of the free toolkits available in the Friends Zone:

- > *Toolkit 1: Starting a New Friends Group, or Revitalizing the Group You Have*
- > *Toolkit 2: School Media Center Friends Groups: A Prescription for Success*
- > *Toolkit 3: Friends and Libraries: Working Effectively Together*
- > *Toolkit 4: Incorporating and Tax Exempting Procedures for Friends*
- > *Toolkit 5: Expanded Model Friends Cooperative Network*
- > *Toolkit 6: Effective Meetings for Library Boards of Trustees*

In addition to these toolkits, members are entitled to enter FOLUSA contests and also avail themselves of the various special offers that our corporate sponsors make available to our members. We also have copyright-free radio Public Service Announcements that you can use and personalize. The scripts for these are also in the Friends Zone. We continually add more resources and special offers to this site so I hope you'll check regularly.

Finally, though we provided all your libraries with a copy of *Making Our Voices Heard: Citizens Speak Out for Libraries*, this publication is also available for downloading in the Friends Zone.

We work hard to provide our members with a wide array of benefits to work effectively in support of libraries. But, of course, they aren't benefits if folks don't use them! Librarians can call us anytime for advice or information at 215-790-1674 or visit our Website at www.folusa.org. ❖