

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2006–
June 30, 2008
Biennium in Review
FY2007/FY2008

NCompass

N E W S L E T T E R



Vol. 14 No. 3



International library leadership institute opens with a festive reception.

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Institute Brings Together Nebraska, Latin American Librarians

Librarians from Latin America and Nebraska participated in an international library leadership institute in Nebraska in FY2008. "Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community" was a joint project between the Nebraska Library Commission, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, and the Illinois State Library, with funding provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The goal was to bring together mid-career librarians from the U.S. and foreign countries to explore commonalities and differences. Participants addressed such issues as preservation, technology to improve and enhance skills, and their ability to work with colleagues from other countries and cultures in addressing common challenges.

Librarians from Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, and El Salvador gathered with Nebraska librarians to learn

cross-cultural communication strategies, develop an understanding of librarianship and the world community, focus on leadership issues affecting librarians regardless of country, and build global professional relationships.

Library Commission staff and international librarians spoke at sessions in Lincoln, and the group attended the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association annual conference in Kearney where the international librarians led a program about libraries in their home countries.

A result of the Institute was formation of international work teams. Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library, reported that his team has ventured into the brave new world of MySpace to collaborate on leadership in teen services.

For more information see the institute wiki, <http://thinkout.pbwiki.com>.

"After spending a few days with Central and South American colleagues, I was left with two strong impressions. Librarians have a finger on the pulse of their countries. They understand well the cultural and political nuances impacting good library services. In addition, size doesn't have to matter—libraries are all about service. Fine librarians worldwide are astute at recognizing the services needed by their clientele and pursuing a method for meeting the need. 'Thinking Outside the Borders' proved to be a refreshing reminder that the world can be both big and small at the same time. The physical distances may be great, but within a profession, the issues are very similar." —

Janet Stoeger Wilke,
University of Nebraska
at Kearney

From the Director...

A former Nebraska library colleague recently mentioned her surprise to find that library collaboration is not characteristic of the state where she now lives. There, librarians are largely strangers amongst each other. While they gather together for conferences and other events, they do not interact in the way she was long familiar with in Nebraska. I don't know why Nebraska's culture is different in this respect. Perhaps it stems from cooperative activities and collegial leadership started many decades past. Whatever the basis, cooperative activity contributes to better library services in Nebraska — locally, regionally, and statewide.

We almost take for granted that we will do things better if we seek the help and involvement of others. The Nebraska Library Commission relies on the efforts of thousands of people working in and on behalf of the state's libraries, library systems, and associations. Those connections extend beyond to the thousands of people working in and on behalf of agencies and organizations that align with libraries in many ways. The Nebraska Library Commission's biennial report, presented in this special edition of *NCompass*, reflects many projects, services, events, and activities made possible with the involvement of these many people, libraries, and related organizations.

This "Biennium in Review" special report highlights many of the events and activities of the past two years including familiar activities, along with many new.

On behalf of the Nebraska Library Commission, thank you to the many who have contributed to library services throughout Nebraska and to all who strive to create and improve library services for the benefit of the people of Nebraska.

Rod Wagner



Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008

State of Nebraska Funds	\$7,470,294
Federal Funds	3,148,499
Cash Funds	206,035
Total	\$10,824,828

Grants Made to Local Libraries and Other Organizations July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$ 7,995
Collaborative Summer Library Program	10,771
Continuing Education and Training	76,068
Electronic Information Resources	918,953
FOLUSA – Friends of Libraries USA	30,938
Gates Foundation Grants to Libraries	9,447
Incentive Payments: Dollars for Data	11,250
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	438,700
Leadership Institute	22,000
LSTA/Library Improvement Grants	559,610
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	31,990
Nebraska Center for the Book	31,907
Nebraska Library Association	20,546
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	29,718
Regional Library Systems	1,336,856
Scholarships: MLS, LTA, MEd, BA, PhD	143,580
State Aid to Public Libraries	745,623
Public Libraries Special Grants for Storm Damage	5,847
Urban Library Systems	43,936
Youth Grants for Excellence	133,828
Total	\$ 4,609,563

NCompass

Year in Review FY2007 & FY2008 • Vol. 14 No. 3

NCompass is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, 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.

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Nebraska Library Commissioners:

Mary Nelson, Chair, Holdrege, term expires 2009; John Dale, Vice-Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2009; 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.

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

Thank You, Commissioners

The Nebraska Library Commission staff would like to thank the Library Commissioners who served in FY2007/FY2008 for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services. Commissioners are appointed by the governor, and meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board.

For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the

Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners during the biennium were:

Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff
John Dale, Lincoln
Charles Gordon, Fremont
Patrick Gross, Wayne
Mary Nelson, Holdrege
Velma Sims-Shipley, Fremont
Carol Spencer, Broken Bow



Library Commission Pioneers Publishing Effort

The Nebraska Library Commission launched a project in FY2008 to catalog and digitally preserve Creative Commons-licensed works and in some cases, also created and cataloged print versions. The response from the library community has been amazing, even generating discussion on www.BoingBoing.net (the fifth most popular blog on the Internet according to Technorati).

Creative Commons issues licenses allowing copyright holders to grant some or all of their rights to the public while retaining other rights. The intention is to avoid the problems copyright laws create for the sharing of information.

To find out more about this project, see the Library Commission and BoingBoing posts through the links at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/2008/02/nlc_tries_creative_commons_1.html and www.boingboing.net/2008/02/20/library-starts-to-in.html. To learn more about Creative Commons, see <http://creativecommons.org/>.

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



Comments across a variety of blogs include:

"With the recent debates over copyright and intellectual property management, Creative Commons licenses have cropped up as a way for original content creators to share their pieces with the rest of the world via the Web. It looks like a pioneering state library in Nebraska is sharing CC books through their Website, and even printing some copies when the license allows." ...Monica

"That's a fantastic idea. So obvious when someone else does it first. I've just asked our library (Emory University) to do the same with Cory's and Lessig's CC-licensed books." ...Jazzmodeus

"Congratulations to the Nebraska Library Commission for spearheading an initiative to add Creative Commons-licensed book editions to the library collection." ...Timothy Vollmer

Library Commission Staff Transitions

Arrivals

- **Linda Jensen**, Staff Assistant
- **Laura Johnson**, Continuing Education Coordinator
- **Michael Sauers**, Technology Innovation Librarian
- **Marjorie Harrison**, Panhandle Regional Library System Coordinator
- **Jenna Smith**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation/Studio Support Clerk
- **John Felton**, Research Analyst
- **Anna Walter**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor

Departures

- **Cherie Longmuir**, Panhandle Library System Coordinator
- **Belinda Fanning**, Library Technician
- **Cynthia Taylor**, Research Analyst
- **Sarah Follett**, Talking Book and Braille Service Library Readers Advisor
- **Shannon White**, Network Services Director
- **Kit Keller**, Planning and Data Services Coordinator

Reassignments

- **Devra Dragos**, from Cataloging Librarian to Network Services Director
- **Sally Snyder**, Administrative Assistant III to Senior Librarian
- **Jennifer Wrampe**, Library Technician to Staff Assistant I
- **Allana Novotny** from Librarian to Senior Librarian, Network Services
- **Dave Eckmann**, Office Clerk III to Library Technician

Employee of the Year

- **2007 - Sally Snyder**, Children's Services Coordinator
- **2008 - Susan Knisely**, Online Services Librarian



Sally Snyder




Susan Knisely

Library Commission Facilitates Health Information Partnerships

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

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

- *Go Local* initiative created an online database linking consumers to information about local health services. Links include Websites from Nebraska hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, support groups, and health screening providers.
- Omaha Public Library partnership with *Ted E. Bear Hollow* provided resources to grieving children, parents, and caregivers. Healing Hearts Kits with books and other resources were created and available for checkout. Library staff received training, and special programming was created to help support and educate grieving families.
- Omaha Public Library and Douglas County Public Health Department information campaign educated young adults about sexually transmitted diseases. A brochure written for people with low literacy skills was created and distributed through health clinics, coffee shops, record stores, and other after-school spots.
- Grand Island Public Library distributed free health education materials in English and Spanish during *Family Fun Day in the Park*. The materials promoted healthy activities to the city's diverse population.

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

Libraries Offer Digital Download Service

Twenty-five Nebraska libraries began offering customers the option to download digital audio books, eBooks, music, and video in FY2008 with the help of a \$60,000 contribution from the Nebraska Library Commission.

Available in a variety of popular genres including fiction, suspense, young adult fiction, business, and language learning, the digital books are checked out for a limited time period and downloaded to the customer's device. They are automatically returned to the collection when the checkout time expires.


Using OverDrive, a popular digital download service, the group is mitigating steep start-up costs by sharing content and a customized Digital Library Reserve Website. To facilitate participation in this group by as many libraries as possible, including those that might not otherwise be able to afford it, the Nebraska Library Commission's contribution to the project

covered costs to set up the Website, purchase initial content, and pay a yearly maintenance fee. The Library Commission

will pay the maintenance fee each year; participating libraries will pay annual participation fees that will go toward purchasing Overdrive content.

Libraries will receive staff training plus posters, bookmarks, business cards, and logos to put on their Websites.

For more information about Nebraska's shared OverDrive collection, contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services


Director, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, email: ddragos@nlc.state.ne.us, or Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us, or see the Library Commission's Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/pricing/overdrive.html. 



Library Improvement Grants Awarded

The Library Commission funded library improvement grants totaling \$535,169 during the past two years to libraries and library service organizations. The Library Commission distributes federal funds administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that supports museums and libraries. Formerly called Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, the funds are awarded through a competitive grant process, and are intended to augment local library programs and services by supplementing local funding. (Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.)

Computer servers and workstations, laptops, self-checkout systems, scanners, printers, copiers, and software were among the items purchased with the grant monies. Funds also were used to provide WiFi access, digitize microfilm and newspaper collections, conduct a space needs study, and create a young adult space.

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. 

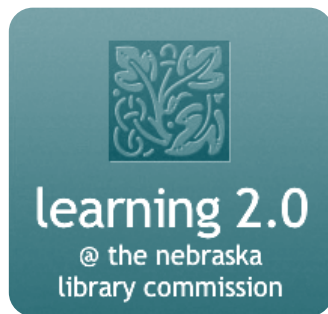
Library Commission Staff Explores New Technologies

The Nebraska Library Commission conducted a Learning 2.0 staff development program in FY2008 to provide staff members the opportunity to explore new technologies.

Learning 2.0 consisted of self-discovery exercises that staff completed each week, recording their observations on blogs they set up. In addition to blogging, participants explored Flickr, RSS and newsreaders, image generators, Library-Thing, tagging and social bookmarking, wikis, YouTube, and more during the nine-week program.

Library Commission staff members who participated in Learning 2.0 felt it was a worthwhile experience:

"I did really enjoy the chance to learn new things, even, and especially since I



had to work for everything I learned. It gives me a little more patience and confidence in approaching new applications."

– FuzzyLogic

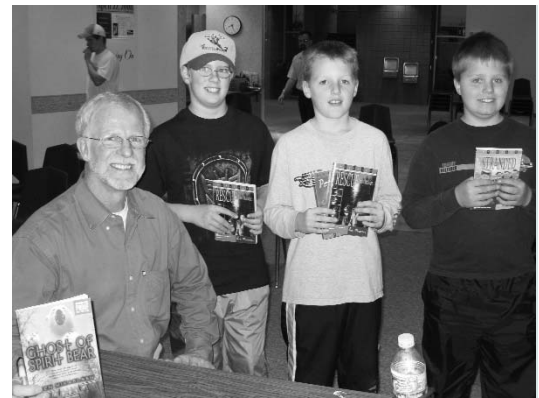
"It was awfully helpful that someone put together a time frame and curriculum for this kind of

learning. I don't think I would have gotten to it any other way."

– More Humor Please

For more information contact Susan Knisely, see contact information on page 4.

Ed Note: The Nebraska Library Commission now offers Nebraska Learns 2.0 for Nebraska library staff and supporters, see <http://12ne.blogspot.com/2008/09/home.html>.



Ben Mikaelson (l.) with three young readers.

Mikaelson Encourages Students to Believe in Themselves

Author Ben Mikaelson spoke at twelve schools and public libraries across Nebraska in FY2008 on a visit sponsored by the Library Commission in cooperation with the Regional Library Systems.

Rescue Josh McGuire by Mikaelson was chosen as the One Book for Nebraska Kids 2007 title and has received numerous states' Reader's Choice awards, including the Intermediate Division Nebraska Golden Sower award in 1995.

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

Brainstorming Generates Ideas for the Future

The Library Commission hosted the *Nebraska Libraries Future Search Conference* in FY2008 with over eighty invited participants from inside and outside the library profession to bring fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and foster direction, partnerships, and collaboration.

It was a follow-up to *Nebraska Information Partnerships*, a statewide conference sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission in 1991 that brought together people representing libraries and other organizations to envision goals and directions for Nebraska library services.

A report of the conference is posted on the Nebraska Libraries Future Search Wiki at www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/fs/Future%20Search%20Conference.ashx. Brainstorming sessions during the conference produced a variety of ideas and suggestions for action (suggestions

do not necessarily reflect consensus or "common ground" agreement of participants as a whole).

Local community libraries and library groups are exploring these ideas and, in some cases, initiating action to address library service needs for specific target populations. Efforts were under way at the Nebraska Library Commission on a number of these initiatives. **What's Next?** section on the Wiki makes it easy to share information about activities that fit with the ideas generated at the conference. For information about some of these efforts, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/fs, click on What's Next in the navigation bar on the left side of the page. For more information contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us.

Continuing Education Info Available Online

In FY2007, Nebraska library staff members began to access Nebraska Library Continuing Education (CE) information online to track credit hours for Public Librarian Certification. See the Nebraska Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on CE Record Review, or www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/lookup.asp, and enter name and password. For more information or to receive a password, contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us.

State Aid, Incentive Payments Awarded

The Library Commission paid \$756,873 in direct state aid to Nebraska public libraries (including Dollars for Data) from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using Web-based Bibliostat™ Collect, and local funding must be equal to or greater than that of the three previous years.

Seventy-four Nebraska libraries earned incentive 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 \$800 to each library with excellent accreditation and \$350 for enhanced status.

One hundred fifty-three libraries received additional direct state aid payments based on the amount of additional funds received from another public entity. A total of \$60,944 was distributed during the biennium as 1% incentive aid payments for those libraries.

For more information, contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 4. ❖

Library Commission Creates Book Club Wiki

In support of Nebraska book groups, the Library Commission created a book club wiki at nebookclub.pbwiki.com that combines the titles of all Nebraska libraries willing to loan book club kits, and provides the added benefit of allowing librarians to discuss with each other why a book is a good or bad choice for book club discussions. Librarians can view in one place the more than eighty kits currently available for loan and share their book club opinions and experiences with their peers. ❖

Nebraskans Participate in National Library Legislative Day

Nebraska library representatives attended National Library Legislative Day activities in Washington, D.C., in FY2007/FY2008.

Participants received briefings on library-related issues, and the Nebraska groups visited each of the state's five Senate and House of Representatives offices to discuss legislative issues of special importance to Nebraska's libraries. Key topics included Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) appropriations, E-rate funding policies, the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act, copy-

right, and privacy issues.

In FY2008 the group attended the Nebraska Breakfast, a weekly gathering hosted by the state's congressional delegation. Nebraska participants during the two years were Patricia Gross, Gering High School; Judy Henning and Pamela Springer, Nebraska Educational Media Association; Beth Goble and Jenni Puchalla, Nebraska Library Association; and John Dale and Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5. ❖



From left: Beth Goble, Pamela Springer, Brad Schweer (Legislative Assistant to Rep. Lee Terry), John Dale, Rod Wagner attend 2007 National Library Legislative Day.



Nebraska library representatives visit Congressman Lee Terry's office, (l. to r.) Patricia Gross, Michael Brzica (Legislative Counsel for Congressman Lee Terry), Jenni Puchalla, Pamela Springer, Rod Wagner, and Judy Henning.

Library Commission Prepares LSTA Plan

Ensuring that Nebraskans have access to enhanced library and information services and Nebraska libraries have appropriate technology to deliver online information services are key goals of the Nebraska Library Commission's five-year plan completed in FY2007.

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

The plan identifies goals and activities to improve access to library and informa-

tion services. It was developed based on emerging issues and trends, evaluation of the 2003-2007 LSTA Plan, and input from the library community, the State Advisory Council on Libraries, Commission members and staff, and regional public meetings held to solicit ideas about libraries and library services.

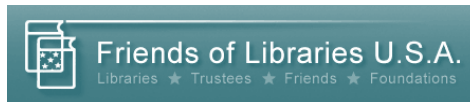
To see the 2008-2012 Five-Year Plan or the 2003-2007 Evaluation Report, visit the Library Commission's Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on About the Commission on the left, then click on Planning & Evaluation.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5. ❖

Library Commission Supports Library Advocacy

The Nebraska Library Commission purchased membership in Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) for all Nebraska public libraries in FY2007/FY2008 to allow library staff, Friends groups, trustees, and foundations to take advantage of FOLUSA's services to enhance fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness.

FOLUSA is a national organization of approximately 2,000 Friends groups, Boards of Trustees, Foundations, and individual members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. Membership provides Nebraska's public libraries with subscriptions to a publication of best practices, discounts on library resources, and global networking opportunities.



Sally Reed, executive director of FOLUSA, led workshops in Nebraska and online during the biennium to help ensure that Nebraska Friends groups are active, excellent fund raisers, and work in partnership with community decision makers for library funding, referendums, and/or bond issues.

For more information see www.folusa.org, the Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on FOLUSA, or contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5. ➡

State Advisory Council Focuses on Advocacy

The focus of the State Advisory Council on Libraries' work was the Library Services and Technology Act Plan for 2008-2012 during FY2007 and Library Advocacy during FY2008. Among the topics covered during FY2008 were assessment, marketing, and customer service. Chairs during the biennium were Dr. Rebecca Pasco from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Marty Magee from the National Network/Libraries of Medicine.

The State Advisory 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 Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on State Advisory Council or contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5.

State Advisory Council members in FY2007 and FY2008 were:

- Patty Birch**, North Platte Senior High
- Janice Boyer**, University Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Nancy Cantin**, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center
- Deb Carlson**, Scottsbluff Public Library
- Kathy Ellerton**, Northeast Library System, Wayne

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

Youth Grants for Excellence Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$114,075 to thirty-three libraries and the Regional Library Systems in FY2007/FY2008 to assist in improving services to children and young adults, and to provide continuing education opportunities for library staff who serve them. (Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.)

Youth Grants for Excellence are designed to encourage new approaches to address problems and needs of children and young adults. The funding is intended to provide a foundation for ongoing (rather than one-time) services, which can be continued with community support or through a reallocation of library funds.

Among the funded projects during the biennium were a summer book discussion for middle schoolers; preschool story-times and programs; books for parents of newborns; programs on robotics, building rockets, and geocaching; homework areas; teen spaces; a Teen Tech Club; advisory boards; father/son book club; chess club; teen events using anime (Japanese animated media); graphic novels; audio books; *Gaming Days*; *Family Reading Night*; a science fair; and art contests.

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



Ask A Librarian

Chat With a Librarian

Help using the Library Commission's online catalog now is a chat away. The Library Commission staff are available through a chat option in specific locations where searchers may need help. A search of the online catalog at www.nlc.state.ne.us/m3 now returns a chat box and users are able to chat live with a librarian for assistance during the hours the Library Commission is open. ➡

Libraries Receive Dollars for Data

Forty-nine Nebraska libraries received Dollars for Data payments in FY2007/FY2008. The Library Commission provided the \$250 payments to unaccredited public libraries that complete the annual Public Library Statistical Report online using Bibliostat™ Collect.

The purpose of this incentive program is to encourage the state's unaccredited libraries to take a step toward accreditation by reporting their data online. The result has been a more accurate picture of library services and funding in the state. This allows for more reasonable guideline expectations based on broader input from libraries. This funding is intended to provide enhanced services, not to replace local funds.

Online provision of public library data is an important step in a library's ability to become accredited. Accredited libraries are eligible for larger direct state aid payments and competitive grant programs offered by the Library Commission.

In the three years since Dollars for Data incentive payments began, the response rate to the annual statistical survey has increased, previously ineligible libraries have received direct state aid, and the aggregate data about Nebraska public libraries is more complete.

For more information see the Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on Dollars for Data, or contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: jfelton@nlc.state.ne.us.

Library Commission Supports Summer Reading Program

The Library Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program in FY2007/FY2008 by providing training sessions and materials. The FY2007 theme was "Get a Clue @ your library®" and "YNK (You Never Know @ your library®)" as the teen theme. "Catch the Reading Bug @ your library®" and "Metamorphosis @ your library®" were FY2008 themes.



Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator, provided workshops co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems throughout the state featuring programming ideas, book reviews, craft ideas, and in FY2007 a presentation by Nebraska children's author N. L. Sharp. In FY2008



participants learned about best reads, and Marci Retzlaff of Norfolk Public Library shared ideas for storytime and lap-sit programs, and programming for older kids including crafts, reader's theater, games, and songs. The Library Commission supplied book and video lists, and circulated videos that complemented the theme. Additional materials were available through the Library Commission's Website.



Twenty-eight teens and children participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service.

As a member of the Cooperative Summer Library Program

(CSLP) consortium, the Library Commission contributes funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials. The advantages of membership in CSLP include quality materials at lower prices, a wider range of selections, broader sharing of creative ideas, and less time invested at the state level on this annual program. By combining resources, libraries from several states develop and purchase posters, reading logs, bookmarks, certificates, and reading incentives at significant savings. Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator Sally Snyder served as president of CSLP in FY2008.

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



Nebraska librarians attend a Summer Reading Program workshop.

Nebraskans Participate in One Book One Nebraska

The Nebraska Library Commission again supported statewide efforts for One Book One Nebraska in which citizens across the state were encouraged to read and discuss the same book.

The FY2007 selection was Mari Sandoz's *Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas*, and the FY2008 book was *Restoring the Burnt Child*, by Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn. The program's goals include promoting literacy, exploring Nebraska's rich history, understanding the writing process by focusing on one author's perspective, encouraging reading as a way to build community, and increasing library attendance and support.

Gov. Dave Heineman launched the statewide initiatives with proclamations encouraging all residents of Nebraska to participate by reading the book, joining community book discussion groups, and participating in local community events.

The Library Commission provided marketing assistance for the project and facilitated library loan of book club kits and program scheduling. In 2008 the University of Nebraska Press allowed the Nebraska Library Commission to reproduce Kloefkorn's book in audio CD and large-print manuscript formats. The



author recorded the book at the Nebraska Library Commission studios.

Ann Stephens, director of Fremont's Keene Memorial Library, said her library held a number of events in FY2007, including a book discussion led by representatives of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, Midland Lutheran College library, and the Rosebud Lakota Nation; a presentation by Nebraska public broadcasting pioneer Ron Hull; and a photography exhibit created by the Sandoz Center. "The One Book One Nebraska activities held at Keene Memorial Library provided a real opportunity for the library to engage the community on a different level through focusing attention on one book and one author," said Stephens.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press. The FY2007 celebration was organized under the leadership of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College.

For more information see www.onebookonenebraska.org.



Nebraska librarians gather at Bellevue University for a discussion of Open Source software.

Library Commission Explores Shared Catalog System

The Library Commission hosted a symposium in FY2008 to explore how Open Source software is being used for Integrated Library Systems (ILS). Among the advantages of a shared system is that libraries with few or no technical staff can avoid managing their own individual catalogs. Symposium participants learned that users can change Open Source software to fit their needs, in contrast to commercial software. Open Source software typically is free, but there are costs in the long run.

Presentations by representatives for Equinox and Koha software explained how Open Source software can be used to create Library Systems that can be upgraded, changed, and "patched." The code in Open Source software is developed under a license that allows users to modify and redistribute it. Libraries using the software steer its development.

Librarians from Georgia, Michigan, and Kansas described their experiences in creating shared catalogs, including one that integrated more than 275 libraries with an Open Source library automation system. Said Ruth Dukelow from the Michigan Library Consortium, "It's like the difference between renting and owning."

The Library Commission developed a pilot project to study the feasibility of an Open Source system in Nebraska. Libraries in the pilot project, with the members of the Open Source ILS Task Force, volunteered to explore creating a system configured to suit the specific needs of Nebraska libraries that could grow to accommodate additional participants over time.

For more information contact Susan Knisely, see contact information on page 4.

Library Commission Initiates One Book One Nebraska Kids

The Library Commission began a new program in FY2007 to encourage children across Nebraska to all read and discuss the same book. This ongoing event alternates between upper-elementary and middle school titles. The first selection, *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson, was aimed at fourth to sixth graders. In FY2008 the One Book for Nebraska Teens



selection was *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Book bags containing fifteen paperback copies and one CD of each year's book along with discussion questions, activities, and background information were available

from the Regional Library System offices and the Library Commission.

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

Public Library Data Illustrates Nebraska Library Services

The Library Commission collects statistical data from Nebraska public libraries yearly. The annual public library survey includes questions about staffing, funding, expenditures, library collections, programs, and salaries. This is useful data for planning and evaluation purposes, as well as for communicating with policy-makers and funding sources at the local and state levels.

Some of the information collected through the survey is reported to the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which is made available for nationwide comparison in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau. The national compilation of this data is available in several ways:

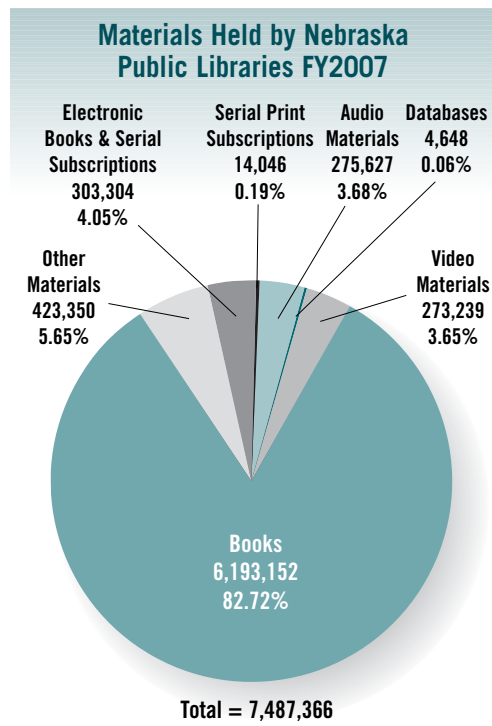
- Public library directors can access Bibliostat™ Connect (<http://connect.informata.com>) to find comparison data and create charts and graphs to illustrate specific library strengths and areas of need.
- The National Center for Education Statistics offers a "Compare Public Libraries" tool (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/compare>)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

Results of the Nebraska survey show that the state's public libraries continue to grow each year. Since 2003, users of electronic resources have increased more than 26%, circulation has increased nearly 6.6%, library visits increased by 18.2%, and total library program attendance increased by 6.88%.

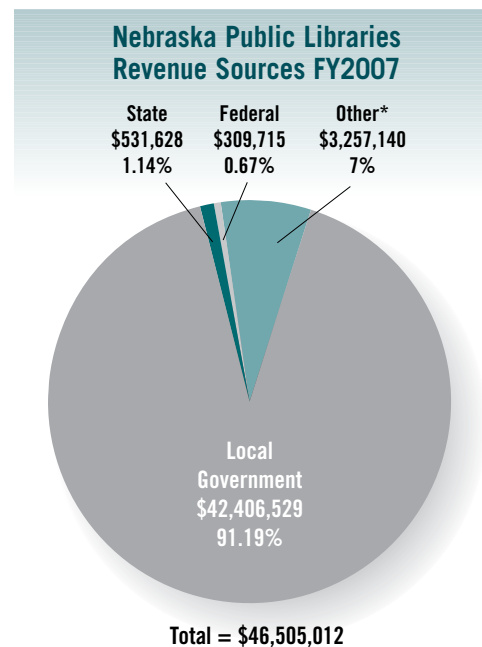
These charts are based on the responses of 217 libraries that submitted the 2006/2007 survey. Of these reporting libraries, 77% meet the state guidelines required for accreditation, and are eligible for direct state aid and state and federal grants.

Highlights from the 2007 Data

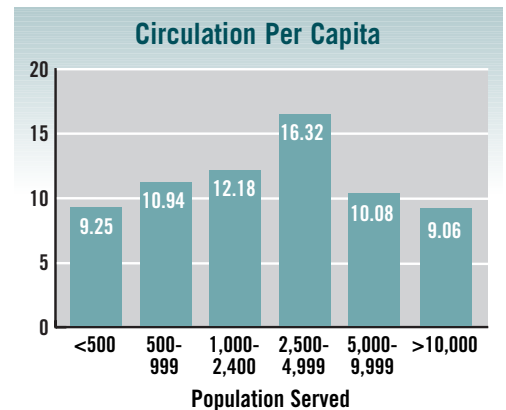
- Nebraska public libraries offered access to 7,487,366 materials.



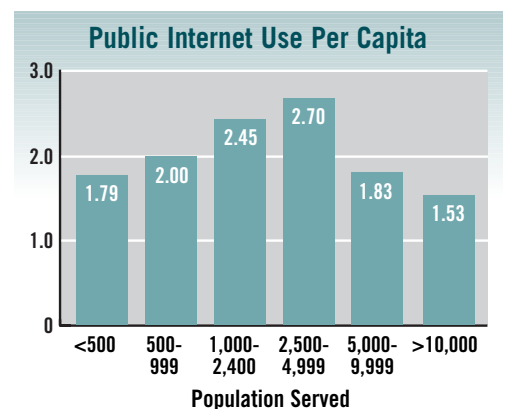
- Nebraska librarians answered 1,061,484 reference questions.
- More than \$756,873 was distributed by the Library Commission to public libraries as either direct state aid or grants.
- Local communities provided nearly 42.5 million dollars to support public libraries.



- More than 13.1 million items were circulated by Nebraska public libraries.



- Libraries provided 1,674 terminals for public access to the Internet.



- Libraries offered 16,183 youth programs attended by more than 422,500 children.
- Libraries reported 2,362,959 users of electronic resources.

This data can be invaluable for librarians and library board members as they strive to improve public library services in Nebraska. Public library directors are encouraged to access this data through Bibliostat™ Connect for assessment, planning, and communication.

For more information contact John Felton, see contact information on page 8.

* Other represents fines, fees, donations, grants, fundraisers, etc.

Library Commission Supports Nebraska Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance in FY2007/FY2008 to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book.

Among the projects supported by the Library Commission during the biennium were:

Nebraska Book Festival. The festival was held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in FY2007 and downtown Lincoln in FY2008. The events featured author readings, exhibits, panel discussions, music, and a day-long series of events for children in grades K-6. Festivals were jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Jane Pope Geske Award. The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) Department of English was honored in FY2007 for its long-term contribution to the promotion and advancement of English literature. The FY2008 honoree was The Plum Creek Literacy Festival, hosted annually by Concordia College, for its exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska. Each year the awards are a piece of art by a Nebraska artist.

Nebraska Book Awards. Fourteen books were honored during the two years

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

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

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Sharon Bishop and Linda Trout of the Nebraska Center for the Book and volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, D.C., to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of States in Washington, D.C., greeting nearly 10,000 visitors during the biennium.

National Idea Exchange. The Library Commission provided financial assistance for Linda Trout and Mike Cartwright to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange events in Washington, D.C.

Letters About Literature. Eleven Nebraska students were recognized by Gov. Dave Heineman for their letters to influential authors. The annual national reading/writing contest invites young readers to write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 4. ➡

Training Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$76,069 in Continuing Education and Training grants in FY2007/FY2008. Awarded through a competitive grant process, public libraries and Regional Library Systems used the funds to provide continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel and trustees. This training helped equip library personnel with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary

to provide quality library and information services to their customers. (Grant funds may have been paid over more than one fiscal year.) The grants allowed librarians to attend conferences, create online catalogs, redesign Websites, and bring speakers to Nebraska to present workshops.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 5. ➡

Committee Advises on NEBASE Services

NEBASE is the consortium of Nebraska libraries that facilitates access to Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) services, with the Library Commission serving as network manager. More than 60,000 libraries worldwide use OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalog, lend, and preserve library materials.

The Nebraska network includes 141 libraries of all types and sizes: academic, research, public, school, medical, law, and special. In addition 1,028 libraries of all types access OCLC databases provided by the Library Commission. Since its inception, NEBASE has pioneered the implementation of OCLC products and services for these libraries, including the Interlibrary Loan Subsystem, FirstSearch Group Subscription, Cataloging Express Service (CatExpress), and Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC).

In addition to OCLC-based services, NEBASE coordinates related state network services that promote cooperative resource sharing among libraries. NEBASE sponsored the development on microfiche of NEUCAT, the Nebraska Union Catalog, and NEULIST, the Union List of Nebraska serials.

The NEBASE Advisory Council serves as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE and its members. Delegates are elected to three-year terms by NEBASE members. They advise NEBASE on policy matters and represent the interests of member libraries.

NEBASE Advisory Council members during FY2007/FY2008 were:

Academic Library

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

Public/Special/School Library

Greg Mickells, Lincoln City Libraries

Selective/CatExpress Library

Barbara Miller, Plattsmouth Public Library

Ex-Officio

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

Nebraska Memories Project Continues to Grow

The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project continued to grow during the biennium as a result of two projects aimed at helping libraries with limited staff, equipment, or funding to participate.

The first initiative gave libraries the ability to add their materials to the collection without



Gibbon Public Library, 1913

learning metadata schemes or taking digitization training. A training session using "EZ Metadata forms" was made available online at the Library Commission Website, and resulted in the project growing to 3,017 items with thirteen participants in FY2008.

A \$2,300 grant from the Nebraska State Records Board allowed the Library Commission to purchase a laptop computer to accompany a portable scanner and storage drive for "Nebraska Memories on the Road," the newest phase of the project. The new equipment enables Library Commission staff to visit potential participants to explain the project, assist with selection of materials, and scan and complete metadata onsite.

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

For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 4, or Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Director, 402-471-4017 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

Library Commission Opens New Lines of Communication

The Nebraska Library Commission initiated new ways to communicate with Nebraska library staff and supporters in FY2007/FY2008.



Blog. The Library Commission blog offers timely conversations about activities, events, issues, and topics related to Nebraska library services. These short, interactive posts include links to further information. Among the categories on the blog are Books & Reading, Education & Training, Information Resources, Library Management, Technology, and Youth Services. Access the blog by clicking the icon on the left side of the Library Commission home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us or directly at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blog.



RSS Feeds. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) alerts users when new information has been posted on the Library Commission Website in Announcements, Publications, Podcasts, or Blog. By subscribing to an RSS feed, users know when new information is available without visiting the Website. To subscribe, click the orange and white icon on the right side of the

Nebraska Library Commission home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us.

Now Hiring @ your library®. This section of the Library Commission Website provides access to information about library education options, scholarships, job openings, careers, mentoring, and recruiting.

Twitter. In FY2007 Library Commission reference staff began adding questions they answer to a Twitter page at http://twitter.com/NLC_Reference. Twitter is a popular "microblogging" tool that allows users to write brief comments that can be viewed by anyone or by a restricted group.

The Library Commission achieved its 1,000 tweet (post) in FY2008, and reference librarians report that using Twitter has been a great way to share information about sources and a good tool to recruit people to the world of reference librarianship.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 4.



Libraries Receive Telecommunications Discounts

During the biennium libraries in Nebraska received \$229,254 in discounts on telecommunications costs through the Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Discount (E-rate) program.

Discounts ranged from 20% to 90%, with eighty of the state's libraries participating, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. All received telecommunications discounts, and thirty-five also received discounts on Internet services. Sixty-two of the eighty libraries participating in the E-rate program had either a 60% or 70% discount on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills. The E-rate program also provides discounts on telephone lines and internal connections including network cabling, hubs, routers,

or servers plus maintenance on those connections.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the locale's level of need. The Nebraska Library Commission provides education and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate application. Training sessions were held at five sites during the past two years.

For more information about the program, see www.universalservice.org. For more information about E-rate participation in Nebraska, contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 4.

Library Commission Funds Continuing Education

During the past two years, the Nebraska Library Commission continued its commitment to supporting improved library service by providing numerous continuing education opportunities for library personnel throughout the state.

Included were twenty-four sessions of Basic Skills classes on Collection Development, Organization of Materials, Public Service, and Public Library Administration. The Basic Skills series is coordinated by the Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems. Librarians participating in the Nebraska Librarian Certification Program must successfully complete the Basic Skills classes or have formal education or training covering equivalent subject matter.

The Library Commission again negotiated a statewide license for Nebraska library staff to participate in the College of DuPage satellite teleconferences free of charge. The programs examined challenges librarians face in the world of Web 2.0; issues concerning today's multigenerational workforce; facilities, budgets, staffing, and leadership in an era of change; popular trends impacting libraries; the best Websites to assist librarians; issues facing library education programs; reaching and engaging library users; and changing roles of libraries in the digital age.

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

- Workshops on grant writing, digitization, cataloging, copyright, Dewey Decimal classification, open meetings law, summer reading program, gaming, mentoring, and graphic novels.
- Classes on OCLC-related products.
- Eleven Database Roadshows around the state featuring discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice with NebraskAccess, the gateway to the statewide databases funded by the Nebraska Library Commission.
- Classes on Web 2.0-related topics including blogging, RSS feeds, podcasting, Flickr, instant messaging trends, Websites, and wikis.
- Eight Gates Foundation-funded workshops on technical support and the Social Web.
- Children's Services videoconferences presented through the statewide video-conference system.
- Workshops at nine locations on bringing Hispanics/Latinos into the library and how to serve them better, sponsored by WebJunction and the Gates Foundation.
- Four NEBASE annual meetings around the state and thirty-five NEBASE Hour sessions on such topics as introduction to WebDewey and how to track activity with OCLC usage statistics.
- Several Colloquium events explored library issues and trends, coordinated and arranged for by the Eastern and Southeast Library Systems.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 5. ➡

Motion Picture License Purchased

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures and videos in Nebraska public libraries, at no cost to public libraries. With this license through Movie Licensing USA (which provides Public Performance Site Licensing to schools and libraries on behalf of major

motion picture studios), movies and videos may be shown as part of library programming in the library. An unlimited number of films can be shown throughout the year.

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



The new Nebraska Public Documents Website offers information not widely available until now.

Historical Public Documents Website Debuts

A collection of digitized historical reports of Nebraska officers and state agencies debuted online in FY2008, giving students, scholars, and the public access to materials previously not widely available due to their fragile condition. The Nebraska Public Documents Website at <http://cdrh.unl.edu/nebpubdocs/> includes keyword searchable reports from 1891 to 1929.

The Website is a collaborative project between the Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, and Nebraska State Historical Society. A Nebraska State Records Board grant assisted with funding.

In this first phase of the project, the Nebraska State Historical Society, using grant funds from the Library Commission, purchased microfilm of the Nebraska Public Documents collection created by New York Public Library in the 1990s. The UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities contracted with the OCLC Preservation Service Center to digitize the microfilm from 1891 through 1929. A template for enhancements and search applications was created for the Website.

The project partners plan to raise additional funds to complete digitization of the microfilm to provide access to Nebraska state government reports through 1956. If funding allows, earlier print volumes in the collections of the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska State Historical Society also will be digitized.

For more information contact Beth Goble, see contact information on page 12. ➡

TBBS Committee Advises Staff

The advisory committee for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service represents the needs of borrowers and makes recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. During the biennium the committee focused on promoting the service, provided input into the loan policy regarding digital players and books set to arrive in 2009, and hosted sessions at the Visually Impaired Peer Support state convention.

Committee members for FY2007/FY2008 were:

Carolyn Bennett, Beatrice
Joan Davis, North Platte
Robert Deaton, Lincoln
Brenda Elson, Omaha
Marjorie Harrison, Gering
Ana M. Kalin, Lincoln
Robert Kalin, Lincoln
Sandra Kelsey, Fremont
Nancy Larimer, Lincoln
Nancy Olman, Hastings
Ryan Osentowski, Lincoln
Kay Paulsen, Lincoln
Shirley Schmidt, Columbus
Mike Steinmeyer, Hebron
Mary Trenerry, Omaha
Avis Wiest, Ogallala

Talking Book Service Begins Move to Digital Technology

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service converted its studios for digital recording in FY2007, as the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped began a nationwide move from analog tape to digital audio technology. The transition is expected to take four to six years, depending on federal funding, and will mean an overall cost savings that will be redirected to other facets of the talking book program.

Library Commission staff members David Oertli and Scott Scholz attended a national conference where plans for the conversion were finalized. They participated in a preconference on best



practices in local digital recordings and ways for talking book network libraries to share locally produced digital books and magazines.

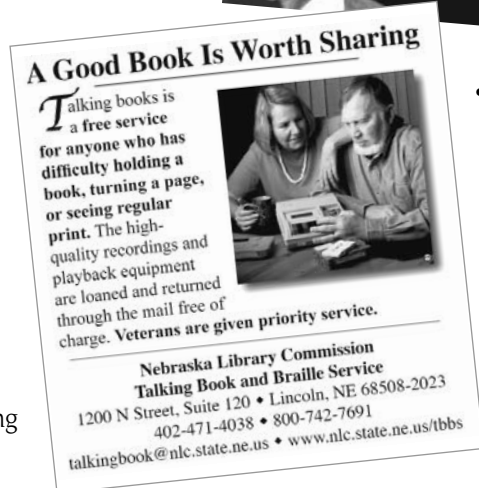
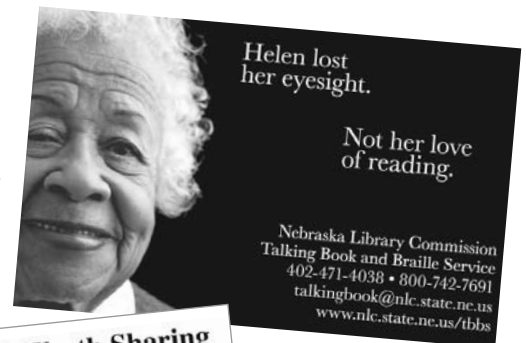
For more information contact Dave Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691; e-mail: doertli@nlc.state.ne.us or talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us.

Talking Book and Braille Service Reaches Out

Efforts to connect individuals with visual or physical impairment with the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service continued in FY2007/FY2008. Recorded books, magazines, and playback equipment remain free to any qualifying Nebraskan.

TBBS outreach efforts included:

- Articles were published in newsletters.
- Ads were placed in 175 Nebraska newspapers, magazines, and organizational tabloids.
- Information packets were distributed to numerous service providers, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, rheumatologists, and nurses, as well as personnel of long-term and assisted-living care facilities, home health care and hospice services, educational organizations, support groups, and nonprofit service organizations.



- Displays were staffed at health care conferences and information fairs.
- Presentations were made to library science students, University of Nebraska librarians, National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, and at the Visually Impaired

Peer Support (VIPS) state convention.

The Library Commission also supplied posters promoting the Talking Book and Braille Service for bulletin boards, and rack cards to libraries, upon request.

For more information, contact Dave Oertli, see contact information above.

Federal LSTA Funding Cut

Federal budget action by the 2007 Congress in late December resulted in a reduction in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Programs appropriation. Nebraska's allocation for the 2008 federal fiscal year was approximately \$58,000 less than the previous year. This was the third budget cut in a row. The reduction was a surprise because both the House of Representatives and Senate had earlier approved an increase in the LSTA State Programs appropriation. A presidential veto of an appropriations bill that included LSTA funding resulted in the December budget compromise.

Library Commission Supports Regional Systems

The Library Commission continued financial support of Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems, providing \$1,336,856 in state and federal funds in FY2007/FY2008. The six nonprofit organizations provided assistance to improve library services through the cooperation of all types of libraries and media centers within each System area.

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

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

Consultation – fundraising, weeding projects, E-rate discounts, reading lists, policy and personnel questions, library statistical reports. System administrators consulted one-on-one with area librarians and through annual meetings, newsletters, Websites, and electronic discussion lists.

Continuing Education – Cosponsored with the Library Commission numerous workshops on grant writing, software, serving Spanish-speaking customers, new technologies, digital photography, blogs, book repair, Flickr, summer reading program, and Database Roadshows. Administrators facilitated Basic Skills classes and arranged for training featuring nationally known speakers.

FY2007/FY2008 Highlights

Northeast

- Awarded seven mini-grants to libraries for such projects as mother-daughter book club, program speakers, and building a teen graphic novel collection.
- Awarded five scholarships for librarians, trustees, and school media specialists to attend the NLA/NEMA Conference.
- Sponsored workshops on cataloging in the digital age, Dreamweaver, library services for children, and Really Good Library Group meetings.
- Administrator Kathy Ellerton taught Basic Skills (Public Library Administration, Public Services, and Collection Development) classes, was appointed to the State Advisory Council on Libraries, and served on committees to revise the Trustee Manual and the NLA bylaws and handbook.

Panhandle

- Marjorie Harrison became Panhandle System Administrator.
- Sponsored Public Librarian Meetings across the region. Participants discussed computer and privacy issues, customer service, adult programming, and more.
- Sponsored Jobalike sessions. Participants met at a library for dinner, networking, and to learn about a particular topic, database, or resource.
- Sponsored the Panhandle Library System Summer Institute.
- Administrators made 186 library visits and handled over 175 requests for information/consulting.

Republican Valley

- Administrator Sherry Houston served on the board of The Nebraska Center for the Book and the Library Commission's Youth Grants committee.
- Revamped Library System Website, software, newsletter, and routing lists.
- Administrator made 150 library visits.

Meridian

- Awarded \$500 Youth Service Grants to Gibbon Public Schools Media Center for the Building Bridges Program and Broken Bow Public Library for the Gaming After Hours Program.
- Sponsored two-day Youth Services Retreat with Northeast and Republican Valley Library Systems focused on serving teens and the summer reading program.
- Facilitated book discussion sets. Ten new sets were added and several were loaned each month.
- Administrator Sharon Osenga taught Basic Skills Public Services classes, and a class on budgeting at the South Dakota Library Institute; she concluded a term as president of the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Southeast

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

Eastern

- Administrator Kathy Tooker served as an NLA Legislative Committee Advisor and on the executive board of the UNO Friends group.

- Held a training day with over seventy school media specialists, and sponsored three technology-related workshops.
- With Southeast Library System, received a Nebraska Library Commission grant for the Youth Services Retreat with activities to motivate and encourage youth services librarians to try new programming ideas.
- With Southeast Library System, received a Nebraska Library Commission grant for the colloquium series featuring Michael Stephens and the creators of *Unshelved*.
- Sponsored the fourth Library Leadership Institute with other Library Systems. ➤



Recruitment Initiative Advances

The Nebraska Library Commission sponsored a mentoring program, Website, media campaign, scholarships, internship grants, and provided displays at career fairs across the state as part of a librarian recruitment effort during FY2007/FY2008.

The efforts were in conjunction with the Library Commission's \$343,682 grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Librarians for the 21st Century initiative, which runs through October 2008. The purpose of the project, "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska's Librarians @ the movies," is to increase the number of qualified professionals and recruit future librarians for employment in Nebraska libraries. It's designed to attract promising high school and college students to the profession.

For more information, see the Nebraska Library Commission's Recruitment Website at www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org or contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 4. ➤

Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008

- ☞ **3,107** Nebraska library staff members attended **446** continuing education events sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, including Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Library & Information Services staff filled **31,272** information requests.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **325,706** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **4,622** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **284** magazine issues and **59** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **78,738** audiocassettes.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **504** audio books and **11** audio magazines from the National Library Service pilot Website.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **18,560** items from other libraries for Nebraska customers.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **903** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission circulated **4,996** items.
- ☞ **168** public libraries were accredited.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **4,502** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than **10 million** holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of NEBASE libraries, are reflected in the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ☞ NEBASE membership included **141** libraries.
- ☞ **6,758** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **131,224**.
- ☞ **1,466** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection and **48,284** federal documents were withdrawn, bringing the total to **49,503**.
- ☞ **1,720** Nebraska state government publications were downloaded or scanned, bringing the total to **2,435**. ☞



Nebraska Library Commission

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