

Your guide to the  
Nebraska Library  
Commission  
July 1, 2008–  
June 30, 2009  
Year in Review  
FY2009

# Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Vol. 15 No. 3

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## Final NEBASE Meeting Held



Participants share  
memories of thirty-eight  
years of NEBASE.

### On June 30, 2009, the **Nebraska Library Commission** ceased operation of NEBASE as

Nebraska's regional network for OCLC (Online Computer Library Center). Nebraska OCLC customers now contact OCLC for technical support and BCR (Bibliographical Center for Research) for training, ordering, renewals, and billing questions. The final **NEBASE annual meeting** was held on June 25 in Lincoln.

Library Commission staff and representatives from BCR and OCLC outlined the new processes.

Library Commission Director Rod Wagner opened the meeting by recounting the history of Nebraska's network and the relationship to OCLC, beginning in 1971 when OCLC was the Ohio College Library Center with a focus on cataloging.

Nebraska's involvement with this global cooperative was recapped:

- NEBASE formed in 1976
- Nebraska Library Commission convened nine original member libraries, which grew to 141

- NEUCAT, Nebraska Union Catalog Interlibrary Loan Subsystem
- NEULIST, Union List of Nebraska Serials
- NEON, Nebraska Resource Sharing Group
- FirstSearch Group Subscription
- Passport for Windows
- LVIS, Libraries Very Interested In Sharing
- CatExpress, Cataloging Express Service field test site

The new OCLC organizational structure does not allow for a small network like NEBASE to survive financially.

NEBASE staff and NEBASE Advisory Council members

determined that BCR could best serve NEBASE members for ordering, billing, and training for OCLC products and services. Services have not been eliminated; they will be provided differently.

For more information contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology and Access Services Director, 402-471-4335 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: devra.dragos@nebraska.gov.



**Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Special Projects Librarian.**

### FY2009 NEBASE Advisory Council members 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*



## From the Director...

Last summer the Library Commission, along with the rest of Nebraska state government, was developing its state biennium budget request. State budget requests are due in mid-September, nearly nine months before the start of the next fiscal year. At that time we had fair warning that the budget outlook wasn't optimistic. And by the time the legislature convened in January the economic downturn that unfolded during the latter part of 2008 was taking its toll. At the national level banks and other big business bailouts were making headlines. The news from across the nation brought stories of job losses, home foreclosures and business failures, and speculation about what to expect in the months and years ahead. Many states are struggling with high unemployment and large budget deficits.

Nebraska has fared better than many other states and one of the results from the 2009 legislative session was a 2009-2011 biennium appropriation that avoided major state budget cuts. The Library Commission's state general fund appropriation for the biennium that began July 1 is equal to its fiscal year 2009 appropriation. The Commission will reduce operating expenses in line with the appropriation and will maintain state aid to libraries programs at last year's funding levels.

Non-government funds are increasingly important in supporting Library Commission programs. Private foundations have experienced significant asset losses but continue to be a source for educational and literary causes. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed significantly to library services through its library grant programs and partnership with state library agencies. Closer to home, Nebraska-based foundations are significant and important supporters for the Library Commission and Nebraska libraries.

Libraries are vital community assets and are even more important during an economic downturn. Library services and use have steadily increased over the years but more so during the past year as more people have turned to libraries for help in finding job and career information, access to public computers for personal interests and needs, and for the many resources that libraries provide to Nebraskans of all ages.

**Rod Wagner** ➡

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**Director:** Rod Wagner

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

**Graphic Design:** Reynold Peterson

### Nebraska Library Commissioners:

Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, Chair, term expires 2010; John Dale, Vice-Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2012; Charles Gordon, Fremont, term expires 2010; Carol Spencer, Broken Bow, term expires 2010; Steve Batty, McCook, term expires 2012; and Diane Boyd, South Sioux City, term expires 2012. 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.*

## Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009

State of Nebraska Funds . . . . .	\$ 3,931,764
Federal Funds . . . . .	1,613,181
Cash Funds . . . . .	235,618
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$5,780,563</b>

## Grants Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009

Braille Services (Utah State Library) . . . . .	\$ 3,360
Collaborative Summer Library Program . . . . .	6,039
Continuing Education and Training . . . . .	30,037
Electronic Information Resources . . . . .	486,827
FOLUSA – Friends of Libraries U.S.A. . . . .	20,625
Gates Foundation Grants to Libraries . . . . .	144,734
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation) . . . . .	170,091
LSTA/Library Improvement . . . . .	222,937
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries . . . . .	15,995
Nebraska Center for the Book . . . . .	15,000
Nebraska Library Association & NEMA Conference . . . . .	5,550
Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section . . . . .	680
OverDrive Downloadable Books . . . . .	16,553
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software . . . . .	46,365
Regional Library Systems . . . . .	709,033
Scholarships: MLS, LTA, MEd, BA . . . . .	96,286
State Aid to Public Libraries . . . . .	387,967
Youth Grants for Excellence . . . . .	37,950
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,416,029</b>

**Note:** Grant funds may be paid over more than one fiscal year.

## Thank You, Commissioners



As their terms expire, **Mary Nelson (Holdrege)** and **Patrick Gross (Wayne)** are thanked for their years of service on the Nebraska Library Commission.

The Nebraska Library Commission staff members would like to thank the Library Commissioners who served in FY2009 for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services.

As representatives of the public, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services in accordance with nationally acceptable library standards. Their primary areas of focus involve policy making, relating to the director, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy.

Commissioners are appointed by the

governor and serve three-year terms. 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.nebraska.gov](http://www.nlc.nebraska.gov) and search on Commission Meetings.

Commissioners who served in FY2009 were:

- Mary Nelson, Chair, *Holdrege*
- John Dale, Vice-Chair, *Lincoln*
- Jean Ahrens, *Scottsbluff*
- Patrick Gross, *Wayne*
- Charles Gordon, *Fremont*
- Carol Spencer, *Broken Bow*



## Training Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$25,016 in Continuing Education and Training grants in FY2009. Awarded through a competitive grant process to eight public libraries, institutional libraries, and Regional Library Systems, the funds were used to provide training and continuing education to Nebraska library workers and trustees.

This year the funding allowed library personnel to attend national and regional library meetings, sponsor a library colloquium, provide "Every Child Ready to Read" training, and bring in speakers to address such topics as library governance,

ethical dilemmas, the future of prison libraries, and managerial and leadership issues.

The grants are an important part of the Library Commission's commitment, established in its 2008-2012 LSTA Five-Year Plan, to provide Nebraskans with enhanced library and information services provided by qualified library workers.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [laura.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:laura.johnson@nebraska.gov).



## Library Commission Staff Transitions

### Arrivals

- **Emily Dust Nimsakont**, Cataloging Librarian
- **Kathryn Brockmeier**, Research Analyst/Special Projects Associate

### Departure

- **Jenna Smith**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation/Studio Support Clerk

### Reassignment

- **John Felton**, from Research Analyst to Planning and Data Services Coordinator

### Employee of the Year

- **2009 - Annette Hall**, Volunteer Services Coordinator



Annette Hall

## Library Improvement Grants Funded

The Library Commission awarded Library Improvement grants totaling \$176,552 to twenty-three library entities in FY2009. They were selected through a competitive grant process from thirty applications requesting \$357,000. The grants are intended to facilitate development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries.

Funding is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is administered through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Libraries are required to supplement the grants with local funding.

Among the projects funded this year were an open source Integrated Library System pilot project, photo digitization, Spanish and computer lessons, and creation of disaster preparation programs, teen areas, and a portable computer lab.





## Internship Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association awarded internship grants to ten public libraries in June. The grants are part of the *Cultivating Nebraska Librarians 2.0: Building 21st Century Skills* initiative.


Student interns learned about library work as they helped with day-to-day operations and worked on special projects. They led Summer Reading Program activities, conducted technology training sessions for senior citizens, helped with One Book One Nebraska book discussion activities, helped develop and update library Website/MySpace/Facebook/Blog pages, created young adult library programs and spaces, sorted and preserved archival materials, and worked on publicity materials.

Funding for the grants was provided through the generosity of a Nebraska charitable foundation that wishes to remain anonymous.

"The Nebraska Library Commission appreciates the foundation support that has made possible the library internships, internships that offer a service and learning opportunity beneficial to the interns and their library workplace," said Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.

The following libraries received internship grants:

- Ainsworth Library Foundation
- Atkinson Public Library
- Bassett, Rock County Public Library
- Blair Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Orleans, C.B. Preston Memorial Library
- Ponca Carnegie Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Ulysses Township Library
- Verdigre Public Library

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov) 

## Commission Allocates State Aid to Libraries

The Library Commission paid \$388,174 in direct state aid to Nebraska public libraries (including Dollars for Data and other special incentive awards) in 2009. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using *Bibliostat™ Collect*, and local funding must be equal to or greater than that of the previous years.

• **Direct State Aid.** This year, 171 Nebraska libraries earned state aid payments and seventy-eight libraries earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of enhanced or excellent accreditation status. Libraries are accredited at one of three levels: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level represents increased expectations regarding funding, hours open, and programs and services offered. The Library Commission paid an additional \$675 to each library with excellent accreditation and \$225 for enhanced status.

• **Incentive Payments.** Additional direct state aid payments based on the amount of funds received from another public entity were made to eighty-five libraries. A total of \$32,718 was distributed during

2008 as one-percent incentive aid payments for those libraries.

• **Dollars for Data.** The Library Commission awarded Dollars for Data payments of \$250 each to forty-three unaccredited public libraries that submitted the 2006-2007 Public Library Statistical Survey using *Bibliostat™ Collect*. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services ([www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov)) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since this is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines ([www.nlc.nebraska.gov/libdev/accred.html](http://www.nlc.nebraska.gov/libdev/accred.html)), these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.


For more information contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 401-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [john.felton@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.felton@nebraska.gov) or Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [richard.miller@nebraska.gov](mailto:richard.miller@nebraska.gov) 

## Youth Grants Awarded

Youth Grants for Excellence totaling nearly \$40,000 were awarded in FY2009 to twenty-five public libraries and two Regional Library Systems. The Library Commission awards the grants annually to give Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions. It is expected that the funding will provide a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds.

Among the projects funded this year were programs for preschoolers,

drawing and writing programs, creation of teen spaces and discussion programs, young adult audio book purchases, craft days, mystery and gaming club for upper-elementary students, activities using Golden Sower books, arts workshops, and infant and toddler storytimes.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [sally.snyder@nebraska.gov](mailto:sally.snyder@nebraska.gov) 

## Gates Foundation Grants Assist Nebraska Libraries

Activity on the Library Commission's \$238,662 **Staying Connected** grant awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation concluded in FY2009, with work focusing on hardware upgrades and replacement, Internet connectivity, training, and technical support.

Fifty-one libraries received Wi-Fi routers, mobile computers, and books, and now provide wireless access within the library, enabling better use of space within the library, and the ability to offer a new service to customers.

Fifty-three training sessions were offered statewide during the grant period, resulting in 828 library staff receiving training.

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Connectivity Upgrade grants to nine Nebraska public libraries in FY2009 to provide increased connectivity speed for library public access to the Internet. These libraries either had no current Internet access or dial-up access only. The grants provided each library a computer and monitor, wiring (if needed), payment for labor involved in making the library Internet-ready, and funding to cover the costs of two years of connectivity. This two-year connectivity funding is provided by the Nebraska Library Commission as part

of the matching funds for the Gates Foundation funding.

### Opportunity Online Hardware

grants, the latest and last round of hardware grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which focus on sustaining library technology services, arrived in Nebraska in July. Thirty-seven Nebraska libraries became eligible for partial funding for 122 computers.

To emphasize the need for ongoing local funding to update computer hardware, the two-phase grants require matching funds for

the hardware component while providing free advocacy training, *Turning the Page: Building Your Library Community*, to help libraries raise those funds. The program is focused on helping libraries serving populations most in need and which are vulnerable to having their technology services become obsolete.

The Nebraska Library Commission is acting as the intermediary on behalf of the Foundation and will verify completion of requirements and disperse the funds.

For more information contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Special Projects Librarian, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [christa.burns@nebraska.gov](mailto:christa.burns@nebraska.gov).

*"The major success for this past year was the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant... brought more library traffic, as the patrons who want to use the computers also check out our collection while they are here."*  
— Grant County Library in Hyannis

# ALTAFF



Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations  
A division of the American Library Association

## ALTAFF Strengthens Advocacy Groups

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner has been named to the board of the newly formed Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, or ALTAFF Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) joined forces in FY2009 to create this expanded division of the American Library Association (ALA).

ALTAFF helps trustees and Friends work together at all levels to promote libraries. Bringing together the two groups extends the association's advocacy efforts, boosting membership and revenues. The goal is to harness the power of hundreds of thousands of library advocates so that libraries can thrive even in times of economic distress. Sally Gardner Reed, formerly the executive director of FOLUSA, is executive director of ALTAFF.

The Library Commission supports membership to ALTAFF for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness.

For more information see the ALTAFF Website at [www.ala.org/altaff](http://www.ala.org/altaff) or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rod.wagner@nebraska.gov](mailto:rod.wagner@nebraska.gov).

## About the BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to

ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

## Commission Assists Center for the Book



Scott Scholz (seated), Talking Books Circulation Manager, demonstrates recording functions.

### Commission Hosts Tajikistan Librarians

Library managers from Tajikistan spent a day at the Library Commission in November to learn about Commission programs and activities. Their visit was part of the three-week Community Connections Institute sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Educational Administration, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The group received a tour of the Library Commission facility and overview of the state library's role and mission by Director Rod Wagner. Commission staff presented information on library accreditation, grant processes, Basic Skills, network services, Summer Reading Program, library marketing, Nebraska Center for the Book, Talking Book and Braille Service, government information services, and the Librarians for the 21st Century recruitment grant.

The Tajikistanis were particularly interested in learning about funding sources, the Library Commission's governing authority, and how grants are awarded. The day concluded with a dinner at which hosts and visitors agreed on the value of meeting colleagues from other countries and sharing information about their common purpose of offering quality library services. Video of a presentation by the Tajikistan librarians can be viewed at <http://blip.tv/file/1438229>.

For more information contact Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Director, 402-471-4017 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [beth.goble@nebraska.gov](mailto:beth.goble@nebraska.gov).



The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance in FY2009 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. The Library Commission supported the following projects:

**Nebraska Book Festival.** The festival was held in downtown Lincoln in FY2009. Events featured author readings, exhibits, panel discussions, music, and a daylong series of events for children in grades K-6. The festival was jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and Nebraska Humanities Council.

**Jane Pope Geske Award.** The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries' Archives & Special Collections ([www.unl.edu/libr/libs/spec](http://www.unl.edu/libr/libs/spec)) was honored for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries' Archives & Special Collections includes manuscripts, university records, and rare book collections located in the Don L. Love Memorial Library on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus. Each year the award is a piece of art by a Nebraska artist.

**Mildred Bennett Award.** Dr. Robert Manley was recognized for his significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. His nomination highlighted his more than fifty years as a noted Nebraska historian and teacher, and author of more than twenty-six books. He has made hundreds of public presentations playing guitar, singing folk songs, telling stories of pioneers and

the hard times of the Great Plains, and lecturing about historical events, places, and people.

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

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

**National Book Festival.** Library Commission staff members Mary Jo

Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Sharon Bishop, 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 more than 5,000 visitors during the festival.

**National Idea Exchange.** The Library Commission provided financial assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book President Gary Alkire to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange events in Washington, D.C.

**Letters about Literature.** Six Nebraska students were recognized by Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy for their letters to influential authors. This 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 about Center for the Book activities, contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 4.





## Library Commission Supports Summer Reading Program

The Nebraska Library Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program in FY2009 by providing training sessions and materials. The 2009 theme was *Be Creative @ your library®* and the young adult theme was *Express Yourself @ your library®*.

The Library Commission provided workshops across the state co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Alice Boeckman, children's librarian at Bellevue Public Library, presented a variety of programming ideas at the workshops and Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book talks on titles for preschoolers through young adults.

The Library Commission supplied book and video lists for elementary and teen readers that complemented the themes. Additional materials such as public service announcements, clip art, and manuals from other states were available on the Library Commission Website.

Children and teens also 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 consortium, which consists of forty-seven member states and the District of

Columbia, the Library Commission contributes funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials. The advantages of membership in the consortium include obtaining high-quality materials at lower prices, a broad sharing of creative

ideas, and less time invested on this annual program at the state level. By combining resources, member libraries 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 Cooperative Summer Library Program consortium in FY2009. The group's annual meeting was held in Omaha in April. Business conducted at the meeting included selecting the children's and teen slogans for 2011.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 4. ➡

## Libraries to Explore Open Source Systems

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a \$100,000 grant during FY2009 for a pilot project to create an open source cooperative library catalog system in Nebraska.

Open source software (OSS) can be customized and shared among users, creating a flexible, affordable Web-based option for Nebraska libraries. OSS software replaces the standard model of purchasing software and doing only what the software allows users to do, with free software that allows users to change it to fit their needs. There are no upfront costs with OSS software, but there can be costs in the long run. However, software customization and maintenance costs can be shared by partners using the system.

A group of seven libraries of all sizes (Omaha Public Library, Lincoln City Libraries, St. Paul Public Library, Gretna Public Library, Grand Island Public Library, Bellevue Public Library, and Holdrege Area Public Library) are participating in the Nebraska Pioneer Project, the pilot collaborative effort to test OSS software. The group will use Koha ([www.koha.org](http://www.koha.org)) to build the system.

The partners expect to conduct a scoping study and have a viable product available for testing this fall. Additional Nebraska libraries will be invited to join the partnership at some point in the future.

For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 1. ➡

## NCampus Online Learning Introduced

Students in the Nebraska Library Commission's Basic Skills classes were the first librarians to study at NCampus, the newest addition to the Commission's Web-based services and tools for Nebraska librarians.

NCampus, at [www.ncampus.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.ncampus.nlc.state.ne.us), offers interactive online education using Moodle open source learning management software. Moodle keeps track of participant progress and encourages social learning by offering personal profiles so participants can get to know one another. The software presents

written materials and links to audio and video files. It facilitates class discussion through forums and blogs, and handles traditional written assignments and quizzes.

NCampus allows the Nebraska Library Commission to offer high-quality, structured continuing education classes via the Web to librarians who have difficulty traveling or finding time to attend classes.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 3. ➡




## Fortenberry Bill to Amend Consumer Product Safety Act

A bill introduced by Nebraska Rep. Jeff Fortenberry would amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) to exempt books from the lead limit specified in the act. The bill, H.R. 1692, was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in March. The American Library Association issued a statement supporting the bill.

The CPSIA attempts to protect children from the danger of toys made with lead-based paint. However, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) misinterpreted the law to apply to ordinary books for children, meaning that all books for children age 12 and younger would have to be tested for lead content. The legislation is retroactive, so public, school, academic, and museum libraries would be required to test all books or remove them or ban children under age 12 from visiting their facilities as of February 2010.

The law was scheduled to go into effect this year, but the CPSC issued a one-year stay of implementation for enforcement of the new lead limits in children's products.

H.R. 1692 removes the pre-1985 provision and states that the CPSIA was not intended to apply to ordinary books printed by conventional publishing methods. It also states that tests have shown lead content of books at non-detectable levels and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that there is little risk to children from ordinary books.

For more information see <http://fortenberry.house.gov/> or contact Jenni Terry, ALA Washington Office, e-mail: [jterry@alawash.org](mailto:jterry@alawash.org) or Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5. 

## Libraries Valued in Economic Downturn

Library use rose during FY2009 in response to the widening economic crisis, and the Library Commission provided Nebraska libraries suggestions for how they could help job seekers during these tough times. Commission staff also identified potential American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs libraries could be eligible for, and urged libraries and their



Lincoln youngsters rally in response to news about plans to close the Lincoln City Libraries South Branch.

supporters to become strong advocates for libraries as practical and vital resources in their communities during an economic downturn.


The Library Commission identified potential sources of stimulus funds for libraries, such as the \$234,000,000 Education Block Grants and \$52,100,000 in the Governor's Block Grants allocated for Nebraska. Other possible sources are \$7.2 billion allocated nationwide for broadband, \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and an additional \$130 million for the U.S.D.A. Rural Community Facilities Program.

Omaha Public Library reported a 5 percent increase in circulation and a

ten percent increase in computer usage during the first half of FY2009. Hastings Public Library had a 6.6 percent increase in circulation and an 18 percent increase in summer

reading program participation. The surge in library visits nationwide was covered in major media outlets, noting that customers were using libraries for job searches, resumes, accessing online job listings, and entertainment.

Commission staff reiterated the crucial role local library staff and supporters play in educating local officials about how investing stimulus funds in public and school libraries can be essential to economic recovery. Libraries are America's great information equalizers—the only place where people of all ages and backgrounds can find and freely use a diversity of resources, along with the expert guidance of librarians. In times like these, shortening library hours or cutting programs and services hurts those who have the least access to such resources outside the library.

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

## Library Commission Helps Build Websites


The Nebraska Library Commission joined Plinkit Collaborative in FY2009. Plinkit is a Web-authoring tool that makes it easy for small public libraries to develop attractive, professional-looking

Websites. Library Websites are created and edited through the Web, using templates, built-in text editors, and other features that make it easy for library staff to keep their Website content current.



Panhandle Library System will be the first in Nebraska to use Plinkit. Once the site has been set up, Nebraska public libraries that do not have a Website will be invited to request this new service, and later

the service will be offered to all public libraries.

For more information see [www.plinkit.org/about/plinkit-features.html](http://www.plinkit.org/about/plinkit-features.html) or contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 1. 



## Commission Supports Statewide Reading Programs

Since 2002, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of libraries hosting community-wide reading programs. Nebraskans were invited to read *A Lantern in Her Hand*, by Bess Streeter Aldrich, for the **2009 One Book One Nebraska** celebration.

The 2009 reading celebration is hosted by the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, [www.bessstreeteraldrich.org](http://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org). Libraries across Nebraska are joining the Foundation and other literary and cultural organizations in planning activities and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this story.

Library Commission staff participated in several promotional activities, including an *NCompass Live* session by Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Director Teresa Lorensen, Library Commission Director Rod Wagner, and Library Commission Communications Coordinator Mary Jo Ryan. The 41-minute session focused on creating a successful local reading promotion using *A Lantern in Her Hand*. Included were brainstorming strategies for reading and discussing the book, and tools to



help engage communities in local activities to encourage them to come together through literature to explore this classic work. Access the session at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=8967](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=8967).

The **One Book for Nebraska Kids 2009** selection is *The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages, and is aimed at readers in grades 4-6.

The Nebraska Library Commission distributed book bags containing paperback books through Regional Library System offices and the Library Commission Reference Department. Discussion questions, puzzles, and background information are available at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/obonk.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/obonk.html).

For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 4.

## Nebraskans Attend Legislative Day

Nebraska library representatives attended National Library Legislative Day activities in Washington, D.C. Participants received briefings on library-related issues and visited the state's Senate and House of Representatives offices to discuss legislative issues of special importance to Nebraska's libraries. For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 5.



Back row from left to right: Brenda Ealey, Administrator, Southeast Library System (Lincoln); Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE); Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission (Lincoln); Jenni Puchalla, Chair, Nebraska Library Association Legislative Committee (Lincoln); Kathleen Tooker, Executive Director, Eastern Library System (Omaha); Jean Ahrens, Commissioner, Nebraska Library Commission (Scottsbluff); Front row from left to right: Carol Spencer, Commissioner, Nebraska Library Commission (Broken Bow); Robin Schrack, President, Nebraska Educational Media Association

## Libraries Promote 'See to Read'

For the second year, the Nebraska Library Commission and the state's libraries partnered with the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision to promote See to Read @your library®.

One out of five Nebraska children enters kindergarten with an undetected vision problem and about 20% of school-aged children struggle to read, largely because their vision interferes with their ability to read. Children who lack good basic visual skills often struggle in school unnecessarily, and teachers and parents often fail to make the connection

between poor reading and a child's vision.

The goal of See to Read is to bring awareness to parents, family members, friends and educators about the link between vision and reading. Libraries distributed 20,000 newsletters during the summer to educate parents as part of a multi-dimensional campaign that also included radio PSAs.

For more information see [www.nchildrensvision.org/SeetoRead.html](http://www.nchildrensvision.org/SeetoRead.html) or e-mail [nfcv@assocoffice.net](mailto:nfcv@assocoffice.net).



## Motion Picture License Purchased

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries in FY2009 at a cost of \$15,995. All Nebraska public libraries are covered by the license between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA. With this license, motion pictures may be shown as part of various library services and programming at the library through September 2009.


For more information see Announcements at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) or contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 4.

## OverDrive Celebrates One Year

Nebraska OverDrive, which allows participating libraries to offer their customers the option to download audio books, celebrated its one-year anniversary in March.

Coordinated and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, the service grew significantly during its first year. At the end of the year there were thirty-five OverDrive libraries, the number of titles had grown from 500 to 1,351, the service had expanded to offer MP3 audio books, and there were 17,522 checkouts during the first year.

The Library Commission funded setup of the shared Website and pays an annual maintenance fee for the group. New libraries may join by paying a one-time \$500 fee, and an annual fee based on their population served.

For more information see the OverDrive Libraries Website at <http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [susan.knisely@nebraska.gov](mailto:susan.knisely@nebraska.gov). 



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. They met four times during FY2009 in Chadron, Omaha, Grand Island, and Elmwood. Patricia Gross served as chair this year.

State Advisory Council members during FY2009 were:

**Robin Bernstein**, Feeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University  
**Patty Birch**, North Platte Senior High School  
**Pam Bohmfalk**, Hastings Public Library (NLA Liaison)  
**Janice Boyer**, Criss Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
**Deb Carlson**, Scottsbluff Public Library  
**Ceri Daniels**, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP  
**Kathy Ellerton**, Northeast Library System  
**Steve Fosselman**, Grand Island Public Library

**Joan Giesecke**, Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Cindy Gitt**, Holdrege Area Public Library  
**Patricia Gross**, Gering Public School  
**Gretchen Healey**, Omaha, Nebr.  
**Karen Hein**, Library Media/Library Science Education Programs, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
**Theresa Jehlik**, Omaha Public Library  
**Diana Johnson**, Stromsburg Public Library  
**Pat Leach**, Lincoln City Libraries  
**Marty Magee**, National Network/Libraries of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
**Trine McBride**, Ord Township Library  
**Rebecca Pasco**, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
**Kristen Rogge**, Johnson, Nebr.  
**Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith**, Schuyler Public Library  
**Ellen Weed**, Norfolk Regional Center  
**Glenda Willnerd**, Lincoln Public Schools (NEMA Liaison)  
**Frank Zimmerman**, Auburn, Nebr. 


## NCompass Live Debuts

*NCompass Live*, a weekly online session covering Library Commission activities and library topics, debuted in January. At the end of the fiscal year, more than 230 people had attended the live sessions, and recordings had been viewed 125 times.

Topics included *Bibliostat*<sup>TM</sup> *Collect*, Talking Books, health resources, library accreditation and certification, public access computers, and summer reading programs.

The free one-hour sessions are broadcast live with video of the presenters; participants access them from their own computers via the Web. Sessions are recorded and may be viewed at any time.

See [www.nlc.state.ne.us/ncompass/ncompasslive.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ncompass/ncompasslive.asp) for the schedule, archived sessions, and to register for an upcoming session.

For more information or to suggest a topic, contact Christa Burns, see contact information on page 5. 

Nebraska OverDrive Libraries

Download Audio Books

Browse a dynamic digital collection of audio books!  
 Check out and download best-selling titles to your PC, then transfer to a portable device or burn some titles to CD and enjoy anytime, anywhere.

my library, anytime

[nebraska.lib.overdrive.com](http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com)  
 powered by OverDrive

## Library Commission Funds Continuing Ed.

The Nebraska Library Commission continued its commitment to support improved library service in the state by providing numerous continuing education opportunities for library personnel. During FY2009, 3,831 library workers attended 350 continuing education events presented by the Library Commission.

Included were Basic Skills classes on Public Library Administration and Public Services held at nine sites across the state and online. 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 Basic Skills classes or have formal education or training covering equivalent subject matter.

New in FY2009 was *NCompass Live*, a series of weekly webinars on topics that included *Bibliostat™ Collect*, downloadable digital talking books from the Library of Congress, free health resources, the Nebraska library accreditation and librarian certification program, leading a book group, and the Library and Information Services Associate of Arts degree offered by Nebraska community colleges.


Also new was the daylong Library Camp, an “unconference” where librarians came together and discussed matters of interest to them, including using Web 2.0 tools for marketing and “cheap and free technology.”

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 Library Commission continues to encourage continuing education and professional development for Nebraska library staffers. Continuing education grants were awarded for educational programs and to help underwrite costs to attend regional and national conferences. Continuing Education Coordinator Laura Johnson provided information about

free webinars on the Library Commission Blog. The Library Commission encouraged modifications to the Library and Information Services education program offered by the state’s community colleges, now available throughout the state through Central Community College.

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

- Ten Database Roadshows at five locations around the state with hands-on practice, featuring enhancements and upgrades to the new NebraskAccess Website, eLibrary interface, Wilson databases, and new databases added to FirstSearch.
- Two NEBASE annual meetings and NEBASE Hour sessions.
- Workshops at four locations on using Return on Investment (ROI) information as a communication and development tool. The workshops examined the formula for calculating ROI, which libraries and other non-profit entities have adopted to communicate the economic and social value of their institutions.
- Colloquium events that focused on Librarian 2.0 and “Asking the Right Questions,” coordinated and arranged for by the Eastern and Southeast Library Systems.
- Four daylong sessions across Nebraska on WebJunction and Technology Planning overview sessions for public libraries. (WebJunction is an online community where library staff meet to share ideas, solve problems, and take online courses.)
- Classes on Web 2.0 topics including creating Web pages with XHTML, Cascading Style Sheets, blogging, and RSS.
- Workshops on assigning Library of Congress call numbers, MARC 21 bibliographic records, cataloging sound recordings, summer reading program, automation vendors, and library governance. 

## Committee Advises TBBS 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. Membership consists primarily of library users, but may include librarians, educators, health care workers, and others who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities.

During FY2009 the committee focused on outreach through specific channels, such as the Nebraska Educational Media Association, along with direct mailings to school media specialists and the Learning Disability Association. The committee helped staff consider the elements needed to promote the new digital books and players, questions borrowers and potential borrowers have about this new format, and its strengths in attracting new borrowers. The group also offered suggestions for balancing the needs of established borrowers with those of new borrowers during the multi-year transition away from cassettes to digital books and players.

The committee considered how to present Library of Congress direct downloads (the BARD service) to borrowers who have computer skills, since BARD users typically negotiate a learning curve. Most recently, the Advisory Committee expressed a special interest in service to students and classrooms.

TBBS Advisory Committee members this year were:

**Joan Davis**, North Platte  
**Robert Deaton**, Lincoln  
**Brenda Elson**, Omaha  
**Marjorie Harrison**, Gering  
**Ana Kalin**, Lincoln  
**Robert Kalin**, Lincoln  
**Nancy Larimer**, Lincoln  
**Shirley Schmidt**, Columbus  
**Rebecca Sims**, Offutt AFB  
**Mary Trenerry**, Omaha 



## Talking Books Begins Transition to Digital Technology, Conducts Outreach

Beginning in FY2009, talking book readers had the option to download digital books from a Library of Congress Website rather than receive cassettes through the mail.

Customers will be loaned free digital players for the new books from the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service in the same way they are loaned free cassette players.

The option was the latest step in the nationwide move from analog tape to digital audio technology. The move to digital became necessary with the obsolescence of audio cassettes.

This new format offers improved sound quality and ease of navigation within a book. Staff selected several thousand digital books offered by the Library of Congress through the National Library Service Retrospective Collection Website. The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service previously converted its studios for digital recording, and this year acquired software to add navigation markers within the sound files of locally recorded Nebraska books.

Staff updated several catalogs in FY2009—*Nebraska Magazines on Cassette*, *Westerns and Pioneer* and *Books for Young People*, which is aimed at books for preschool

through eighth-grade students. They also updated the *Descriptive Video Collection* online catalog.

A variety of outreach strategies were implemented during FY2009,

including placing ads and articles in several Nebraska magazines and newspapers, and distributing PSAs to Nebraska radio stations. Staff members made presentations to consumer groups, support groups, community organizations, and at a retirement center. They staffed displays at several diabetes fairs, and made presentations to library science and special education graduate students. Packets were mailed to school media specialists, diabetes educators, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and to optometrists who specialize in patients with low vision.

Several presentations were made on *NCompass Live*, the Library Commission's weekly online event.

Volunteers were recognized by staff members at a reception during National Volunteer Week. Five and ten-year volunteers were honored at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Volunteer Recognition Event.

For more information contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: david.oertli@nebraska.gov.

## NebraskaAccess

Your Information Connection Across Nebraska

nebraskaccess.ne.gov

### New NebraskaAccess Website Introduced

NebraskaAccess, the portal to information databases for Nebraskans since 2003, was expanded and redesigned in FY2009. The site provides access to evaluated Websites; government publications; Nebraska historical resources; more than 4,500 full-text magazine, journal, and newspaper articles; biographical and business information; genealogical resources; and more.

The Library Commission provides access to these resources with funding from the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information contact Devra Dragos, see contact information on page 1.

### Series Website Assists Librarians

The Nebraska Library Commission's Books in Series page was one of the heaviest visited sections on NLC's Website this year. Staff have received thank-you notes and e-mails from customers around the country since the section began in 2003, and many users have submitted additional series lists to be included in the database.

Located at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/booksinseries/index.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/booksinseries/index.html), Books in Series allows librarians and customers to search by author, series name, or book title. It is especially helpful when searching voluminous series such as *Star Wars* or *Star Trek*.

For more information contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, 402-471-4015 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov](mailto:lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov).

## Commission Supports Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$709,033 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's six Regional Library Systems in FY2009. The nonprofit organizations worked 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** – Among items loaned were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, Wii gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, storytelling kits, iPods and MP3 players, laminator, binding system, Spanish kits, DVD players, dies for cutting machines, and scanners.

**Consultation** – System administrators consulted on numerous topics with member libraries, including weeding, collection development, filing for E-rate discounts, personnel policies, automation systems, interlibrary loan, computer security, censorship, and *Bibliostat™ Collect*. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, Websites, flyers, e-mail, listservs, and annual meetings.

**Continuing Education** – The Systems co-sponsored with the Library Commission workshops on leadership, summer reading program, library ethics, intellectual freedom, vod and pod casting, and Library Thing. They facilitated meetings for public library directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and contracted with Theresa Dickson and Pat Wagner for sessions at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association conference. Administrators taught Basic Skills courses and arranged for national speakers, and co-sponsored sessions at the Nebraska Library Association conference and preconference sessions on book genres and "Political Influences: How You Can Be Effective."

### FY2009 Regional Library System Highlights:

#### Eastern

- Wrote grant and sponsored fall and spring colloquiums with Southeast Library System.
- Executive Director Kathy Tooker presented at University of Nebraska at Omaha library science classes and participated in National Library Legislative Day.
- Facilitated 117 continuing education hours for librarians in the System area.
- Kathy Tooker visited libraries, boards of trustees, foundations, and city councils, and was a reviewer for the Library Commission's youth services grants.

#### Meridian

- Presented or co-presented at several workshops, including Theresa Dickson, the Leadership Institute reunion, and summer reading program.
- Administrator Sharon Osenga taught two Basic Skills courses.
- Awarded \$250 youth services grants to member libraries and media centers for acquisition of children or teen materials.
- Loaned gaming equipment, book discussion sets, and Accu-Cut machines; raffled ten audio book sets for System libraries.

#### Southeast

- Consulted on wide-ranging topics, including Wi-Fi, fund raising, joint facilities, children's services, personnel policies, NebrasKard, computer troubleshooting, and county funding.
- Facilitated nine Conversations Among Small Town Librarians (CASTL) meetings at locations in the System area.
- Administrator Brenda Ealey and Administrative Assistant Jenni Puchalla worked with corrections librarians to help establish policies and procedures, and Brenda Ealey was interviewed on KZUM radio during Banned Books Week.
- Brenda Ealey received the Meritorious Service Award at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association conference.

#### Panhandle

- Provided four Jobalike sessions and 11 public librarian meetings in the region for networking and sharing of ideas.
- Administrator Marjorie Harrison made 94 library visits and handled 166 requests for information or consultations from 118 individuals or member libraries.
- Facilitated a tour of the system area by author Natasha Friend, and participated in Cradle Catchers reading promotion for mothers of newborns.
- Helped libraries improve their collections by assisting with weeding and collection development projects, adding materials to the professional resources collection, routing professional journals, and created a rotating DVD collection with a grant from the Library Commission.

#### Republican Valley

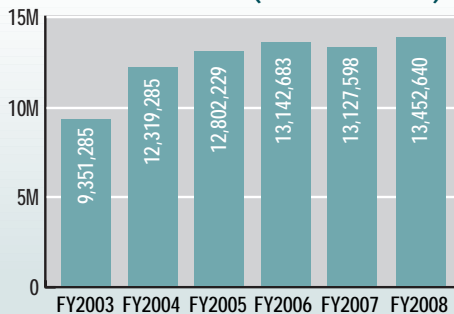
- Held four Valley Visits at several locations in the System area.
- Loaned 26 book sets with study guides, numerous magazines and professional development guides, and a Wii game to member libraries.
- Administrator Sherry Houston made 58 library visits.
- Sherry Houston served as treasurer of the Nebraska Center for the Book board and chaired its Funding/Membership committee.

#### Northeast

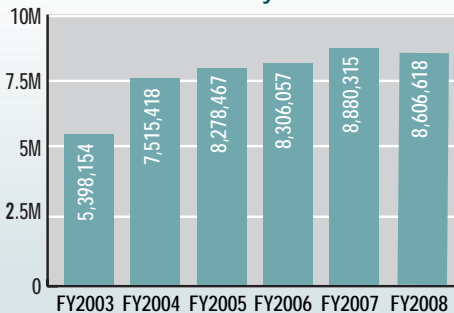
- Administrator Kathy Ellerton taught/co-taught two Basic Skills classes and presented a session at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association conference, "Teen Technology 101: Facebook, YouTube and MySpace."
- Sponsored a TARGET meeting for directors of small libraries.
- Kathy Ellerton met with Library Technical Assistant (LTA) students twice to educate them about the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.
- Sponsored System annual winter workshop, this year titled "Have an Arctic Blast!@your library®."
- Kathy Ellerton was appointed to the State Advisory Council on Libraries and was a member of the review team for the Library Commission's continuing education grants.

## Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey—2003-2008

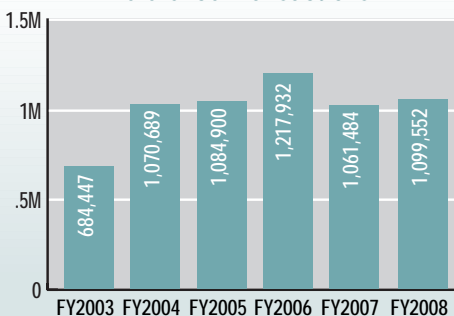
### Annual Circulation (Items Borrowed)



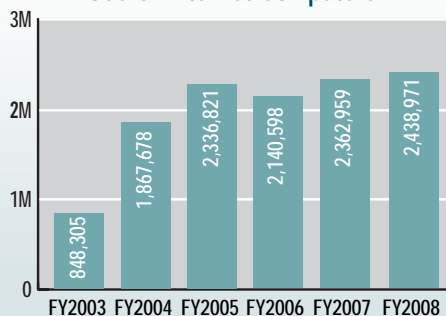
### Total Library Visits



### Reference Transactions



### Use of Internet Computers



## The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

Each year the Nebraska Library Commission collects statistical data from public libraries in the state. This same activity is repeated in each of the other states and the District of Columbia. The national survey shares a uniform series of questions that results in an annual census of U.S. public libraries. The national data can be accessed through several sources, including:

- *Bibliostat™ Connect*, an online subscription service from Baker & Taylor that provides the means to produce customized comparisons of libraries based on data elements such as population served, circulation, reference transactions, library visits, Internet usage, programs offered, and other statistics. (<http://connect.informata.com/>)
- The library statistics section of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Website at <http://harvester.census.gov/imls/publib.asp> provides the data files from the survey, which now include fiscal year 2007. Use the *Compare Public Libraries* tool to create a report comparing one library to others in the country.
- A new source of federal information is [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov), which is being developed as a one-stop shopping source for data collected by the U.S. government. Raw data from the *Public Library Survey* can be found by selecting Institute of Museum and Library Services in the agency list.

Results of the 2007-2008 Public Library Statistical Survey for Nebraska provide a view of the status of library service in the state. The FY2008 survey received data from 222 libraries, which is about 82 percent of the 272 public libraries in Nebraska. A notable trend evident from this report is the prominent role played by electronic resources. The percentage of collection funds spent on materials in electronic format increased at twice the rate of funds spent on print resources compared to the FY2007 report. Collections of e-books and electronic serials increased in size by double-digit percentages. Almost 6 percent

more Internet computers are available since last year, and usage of these computers increased by 3.2 percent.

There are many signs that library usage continues to increase. The number of registered borrowers is up by 6.3% this year and those customers borrowed 2.5% more materials and engaged in 3.6% more reference transactions. Library programs increased by 7.2% and attendance rose by 8.7% over 2007. Despite these increases, the number of in-person visits reported declined. Still, with 8,606,618 visitors, libraries are in no danger of losing the status as the most well-attended attraction in the state. In fact, Nebraska's library users could fill the University of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium 106 times.

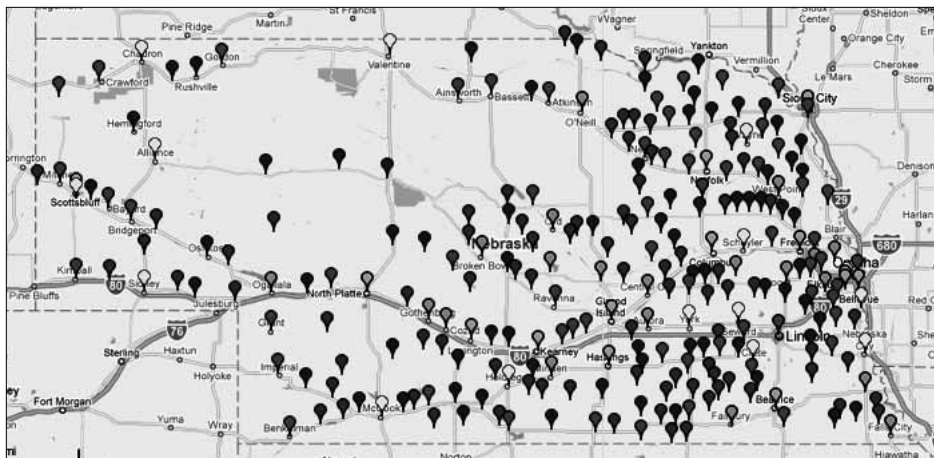
### Some interesting facts about Nebraska public libraries:

- 58% serve populations under 1,000
- 86% provide free Internet access
- 57% have wireless Internet access in the building
- Nearly 96% of Nebraska's counties have at least one public library
- Nebraskans borrowed 13,452,640 items in 2007-2008, a 9.2% increase since 2004
- 2,438,971 people used library Internet computers, which is a 31% increase in use since 2004
- Over 19% of the state's public libraries have Main Street in their address

For more information contact John Felton, see contact information on page 4.

	2007	2008	% Change
Registered Borrowers	936,745	995,391	6.26%
Circulation	13,127,598	13,452,640	2.48%
Reference Transactions	1,061,484	1,099,552	3.59%
No. of Internet Computers	1,674	1,773	5.91%
Use of Internet Computers	2,362,959	2,438,971	3.22%
Programs Offered	20,828	22,335	7.24%
Program Attendance	514,257	559,101	8.72%
Library Visits	8,880,315	8,606,618	-3.08%
Number of Books Held	6,193,152	6,229,052	0.58%
Number of Electronic Books	303,002	370,525	22.28%
Total Library Materials	7,487,366	7,590,905	1.38%
Print Materials Expenditures	\$4,750,873	\$4,843,490	1.95%
Elec. Materials Expenditures	\$768,528	\$798,529	3.90%
Hours Open	430,846	435,541	1.09%
Local Government Revenue	\$43,703,830	\$43,268,437	-1.00%






## Library Commission Creates Interactive Library Map

The Library Commission developed a “map mashup” of public libraries in the state at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/statistics/librarymap.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/statistics/librarymap.html) in FY2009. Map markers are color-coded to identify libraries by population served, enabling users to visualize how libraries of varying sizes are distributed across the state. Clicking on a marker brings up an information bubble containing statistical data, service measures, and legislative district. A Web link within each

bubble connects to the Library Commission’s library database entry for the selected location. When searching the map, it’s possible to filter out population ranges so only the libraries pertinent to the user’s interest are visible. Data for each library is based on the results of the 2007-2008 Public Library Statistical Survey.

For more information contact John Felton, see contact information on page 4. 


## Libraries Receive Telecommunications Discounts

Nebraska schools and libraries received \$10.2 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during FY2009 through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program. In Nebraska, 811 applicants (and 1,624 requests) were funded as part of the \$76.8 million awarded nationally to libraries and library consortia. Nebraska libraries received \$328,963 in discounts.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate application. Discounts ranged from 20 to 90 percent, with eighty-eight of the state’s public libraries participating, including the Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. All received telecommunica-

tions discounts, and forty of these libraries also received discounts on Internet services. Sixty-seven of the eighty-eight libraries participating in the E-rate program had 60 to 70 percent discounts on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills.


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 local level of need.

For more information about the program, see [www.universalservice.org](http://www.universalservice.org); for more information about E-rate participation in Nebraska, contact Christa Burns, see contact information on page 5. 

## Nebraska Learns 2.0 Continues

The Nebraska Library Commission introduced Nebraska Learns 2.0 statewide in FY2009 to encourage participants to experiment with new technologies that are reshaping the way people and libraries access information and communicate with each other.

In the fall, 165 participants began the program and during the ensuing weeks wrote 2,383 blog posts and left 2,257 comments on the Nebraska Learns 2.0 blog. Eighty-three people finished all 23 Things by the deadline and earned 15 continuing education credits. In response to many requests, a second edition of the program debuted in May.

For more information see the blog at <http://nelearns.blogspot.com> or contact Susan Knisely, see contact information on page 10. 

*“Now, after completing the program, I am thinking about taking more classes, maybe even going back to school.”* – Nebraska Bookworm

*“It’s gotten me thinking about going back to school and getting an MLS.”* – Anj

*“I can’t even begin to explain the amount of confidence you have given me in the world of technology.”* – bksrgr8

*“When I first started this class I was really nervous. . . . Upon completing each ‘Thing’ my confidence grew. Before long I could hardly wait to learn the next ‘Thing.’”* – VC’s Blog

*“As a learning tool, this has been awesome—I have seen so much interaction and mutual assistance among my staff during our journey to Thing #23.”* – plmeanderings



# Nebraska Library Commission

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*November 14, 2009*  
[www.nebrskabookfestival.org](http://www.nebrskabookfestival.org)

## NCompass

### Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009

*The Nebraska Library Commission Reference Service had the busiest month ever during FY2009 when staff members responded to **1,737** reference requests in March 2009.*

- ☞ **3,831** Nebraska library staff and board members attended **350** continuing education events sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, including 144 who participated in Basic Skills sessions and 83 who completed Nebraska Learns 2.0 "23 Things" Online Training (with 2,383 blog posts and 2,257 comments).
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guests broadcast **23** *NCompass Live* sessions.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Library & Information Services staff filled **15,685** information requests.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **152,980** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **4,285** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **138** magazine issues and **36** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **36,264** audio cassettes.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **1,991** audio books and **46** audio magazines from the National Library Service pilot Website.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **9,642** items from other libraries for Nebraska customers.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **430** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission circulated **2,157** items.
- ☞ **174** public libraries were accredited.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **2,841** customers onsite.
- ☞ Nebraska library customers downloaded **22,610** OverDrive audio books.
- ☞ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than **10.7 million** holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of Nebraska libraries, are reflected in the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ☞ NEBASE membership included **141** libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **4,093** items.
- ☞ **1,983** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **154,165**.
- ☞ **587** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **49,899**.
- ☞ **939** electronic state documents were added, bringing the total of state e-docs to **3,374**.

