

Your guide
to the
Nebraska
Library
Commission

N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 1995

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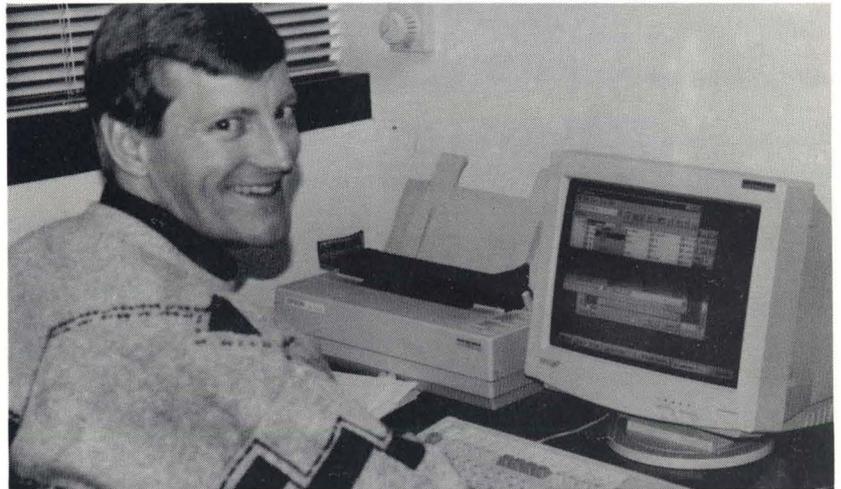
Library Commission Partnership Wins Competitive Award

A customer at the reference desk wonders about levels of residual pesticides in an area that the local Rotary Group plans to convert from agricultural use to a community park.

A local businessperson calls the telephone reference line to request help in identifying concentrations of retirement-age residents in the community.

The regional rural health clinic plans to apply for a grant to improve pediatric service in the five-county service area. Staff from the clinic mention to the librarian that information about potential patients and service providers would really help make the case for the need for services.

A list of numbers (or referral to the agency or agencies that might provide the numbers) would be one way to meet the needs of these library customers. But thanks to an innovative cooperative project, "Nebraska National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Clearinghouse and Metadata Initiative," librarians will be able to offer the option of referral to agencies that can produce a map illustrating the information requested in the above examples. Visual depiction of quantitative information is not a



▲ Steve Jonas, Commission Information Systems Specialist, creating the GIS database.

new idea. Many government agencies have the technology to produce maps that could respond to the questions asked by the library customers illustrated above. In this new cooperative venture, Steve Jonas, Library Commission Information Systems Specialist, serving as principle contact, is creating an index and inventory of Geographic Information System (GIS) datasets owned by government agencies and other organizations in Nebraska. This inventory, when combined with outreach and training, will help to make this government information more accessible to Nebraska library patrons and information seekers around the world.

Collaborating Organizations for the Nebraska partnership include

the following members of the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee: State Agencies—Department of Roads, Game and Parks Commission, Conservation and Survey Division, University of NE, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Administrative Services; Local Governments, Agencies, and Associations—NE Association of County Officials, Scotts Bluff County Surveyor, City of Omaha Public Works; and Federal Agencies—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, contact Steve Jonas, 402-471-4029, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sjonas@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>; or see <http://fgdc.er.usgs.gov/fgdc.html>. ▲

▲ In this Issue:

**Windows '95
arrives at the
Library
Commission**
page 2

**Family-Friendly
Libraries: A
Vision**
page 7

**On the Road
with the
Mobile
Network**
page 9

**News Clips:
News of
Nebraska
Libraries and
People**
page 11

From the Director...

Nebraska Library Legislative Agenda Set

Two years ago a legislative bill was introduced in the Legislature to repeal and replace Nebraska's public library statutes. The bill proposed to update laws that have been in place for many decades, and which have been amended from time to time. Some of these amendments resulted in conflicting provisions, most notably governance provisions for municipal and county libraries. The new bill also offered provisions for creation of public library districts and county library federations. The bill was referred to the Legislature's General Affairs Committee. Despite many public

An attempt will be renewed in the 1996 legislative session to enact changes to Nebraska's public library statutes.

meetings and discussions concerning the features and needs for this legislation, the bill failed to advance.

Earlier this year a new bill (LB 590) was introduced to repeal and replace Nebraska's public library statutes. A companion bill included provisions permitting the establishment of public library districts. These bills were drafted in an

attempt to accommodate concerns expressed in the earlier legislative proposals. The public library district bill failed to advance from committee, largely due to concern that districts would remove control from local governments and place control in the hands of an independent governing board. LB 590 did advance from committee, but was among many bills not enacted before the Legislature's adjournment. The bill remains for action in 1996.

An attempt will be renewed in the 1996 legislative session to enact changes to Nebraska's public library statutes. The new strategy will be to leave municipal public library statutes in place, with an exception that local governments be given flexibility to enlarge the number of members serving on public library boards. A primary focus will be removal of conflicting provisions for governance of county libraries, making it clear that appointed library boards will govern county libraries. In addition, a mechanism will be offered to permit citizens to initiate and vote on formation and participation in a county library service arrangement.

While the 1994 and 1995 public library legislative proposals were far more ambitious, the 1996 version includes significant features that help Nebraska's local governments and citizens promote interlocal cooperative public library service arrangements. Let's hope that this third try is successful and that the statutory changes are helpful in extending public library service to many more Nebraska citizens. ▲

Rod Wagner

Windows '95 has Arrived at the Nebraska Library Commission

In October the Library Commission held an Open House to celebrate launching Windows '95.

The Commission staff computers have been moved to this new environment. At the open house, the computer team gave the staff a "taste of things to come," with computers loaded with Win95 for staff to sample, a cake decorated in Win95 style, lots of Win95 books, videos, and "Start Me Up" by the Rolling Stones playing in the background. The staff enjoyed the "taste" and now the Commission is deep in Win95 training. Wish us luck in our new endeavor. ▲



▲ Above, a sampling of Win95 books and software; ▼ Below, Dennis Klebe and Doreen Kuhlmann at the open house.



Compass

NEWSLETTER

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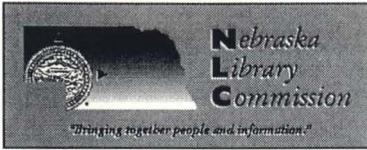
What's New on Our Home Pages

Nebrask@ Online

The State of Nebraska at your Fingertips

New additions to the Nebrask@ Online Home Page:

Nebraska Supreme Court and Nebraska Court of Appeals Weekly Releases are available for \$4 per court release at "Legal Net," under "Nebraska Appellate Court Access" on <<http://www.nol.org/>>.



New additions to the Library Commission Home Page:

Announcing the FirstSearch Trial is available at "Our Services," "Network Services," under "NEBASE."

A Nebraska Public Library Technology Assessment is available at "Our Services," under "Network Services."

Nebrask@ Online Embarque Software Information is available at "Our Services," under "Network Services."

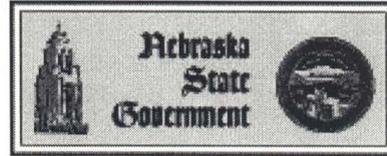
To the Future.../Our Favorite Internet Sites (The web page created for the NLA/NEMA Conference) is available at "Nebraska Library Resources," under "Our Favorite Internet Sites."

Creating the Climate for the Information Age: The NE State-wide Telecommunications Infrastructure Plan is available at "Our Services," "Network Services," "Community Information Technology," under "Nebraska Resources and

Communities."

The Report on Internet Public Access Teleconferences is available at "Library News," under "Library Hot Topics."

All of the above new resources are available on <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>>.



New additions to the Nebraska State Government Home Page:

Nebraska Job Service Information, sponsored by LincNet (Lincoln's online community resource), is available at "Nebraska Department of Labor" on <<http://www.state.ne.us/>>. ▲

New Library Construction Projects Launched

A number of libraries in Nebraska are in the process or just completing construction projects to improve their facilities. Newman Grove held a ground breaking

ceremony on July 30 for the construction of an addition to their library building. Cedar Rapids Public Library held an Open House on August 5 to celebrate the expansion and remodeling of their building. Several months of construction resulted in more space and a lighter, brighter atmosphere.

The Holdrege Public Library System held an Open House on October 12 in celebration of the renovated basement meeting room and newly installed elevator. The Eastern Township Library in Crofton also began a similar project. Auburn, David City, Elkhorn, Papillion, and Superior are in the process of constructing new library buildings. Most of these projects involve federal funding provided by the Library Commission through

the Library Services and Construction Act, Title II, Public Library Construction and Technology Enhancement.

NOTICE: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Economic and Community Development Office supports local efforts to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities in rural areas and towns with a population of 20,000 or less. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian Tribes, and not-for-profit corporations and can be used for library facilities (as well as other public buildings). For more information, contact Denise M. Brosius-Meeks, 402-437-5556. ▲



▲ The Cedar Rapids Public Library building, expanded and remodeled.
◀ ADA accessibility is achieved through a new elevator at the Holdrege Public Library System.

Meet the Voice of the Nebraska Library Commission

The voice of the Nebraska Library Commission is Mary Geibel. Mary has been the Library Commission's Secretary/Receptionist for 11 years. She maintains

The advent of personal computers gave Mary the opportunity to embrace the new technologies that affect her work.

the print and electronic directory of Nebraska Libraries, answers the main switchboard, routes calls and patrons to staff, does word processing, assists with agency mailings, handles quick-copy jobs, maintains staff schedules, proofreads agency publications and much more.

Mary moved to Lincoln in 1983 from her hometown of Ogallala, NE to attend the Lincoln School of Commerce. After completing a WordProcessing/Secretarial program, Mary began work at the Library Commission. Mary and John, her husband of eight years, moved to a new house last year and

added Sean Wesley, who just turned one, to their family. Mary's favorite pastimes are movies, camping, reading, and enjoying her son.

After Mary's arrival at the Library Commission, the advent of personal computers gave her the opportunity to embrace the new technologies that affect her work. She's enjoying the switch to Windows '95 and uses an Internet Listserv to communicate with paraprofessional librarians. Active in the NLA Paraprofessional Section since 1987, Mary enjoys learning all she can about computers, but mostly she enjoys helping customers. ▲



Introducing Kay, a Fifteen-Year Veteran of the Library Commission

Meat Kay Goehring, a 15-year veteran of the Library Commission. She is a Nebraska native from Bertrand, NE with two sons, two step daughters,

While a student at Nebraska Wesleyan, Kay toured the Nebraska Library Commission and determined this was exactly where she wanted to work someday.

a gaggle of grandchildren and a dog named YoYo. Kay serves as a Reader's Advisor for the Talking Book and Braille Service. Kay was widowed in 1992 when her husband Bruce died of a rare disease. She met Bruce through enrolling him in the Talking Book Service in 1985. They were married three and a half years at the time of his death.

Kay came to libraries through volunteering at Pershing Elementary School, where her children attended. Working with another mother who was a student in the Wesleyan Library Science program led her to enroll. During the five years she worked at Nebraska Wesleyan University Library, Kay

added an endorsement to her teaching degree from Hastings College. While at Wesleyan, Kay worked in technical services and supervised a number of student assistants.

While a student at Nebraska Wesleyan, Kay toured the Nebraska Library Commission and determined this was exactly where she wanted to work someday. Her wish came true and the rest, as they say, is history. Kay is a lover of historical fiction and names James Michner as her favorite author. The challenge of helping borrowers find books they will enjoy is what she likes most about being a Reader's Advisor. ▲



Barbara Retires after more than Thirty Years with Nebraska Libraries



Barbara Johnson's name shouldn't be unfamiliar to anyone in Nebraska libraries. She began working at the Library Commission in 1968 as an Institutional

Library Services Consultant. In this position, Barbara worked with all Nebraska institutions to implement the newly created federal Library Services and Construction Act. From there she moved on to direct the film service. As a member of the Library Development team, her responsibilities include working with statistical reports, accreditation, and state aid. Barbara says that statistical report compilation has always been needed and nobody else volunteered. Barbara took on this task because of her interest in logic and numbers.

Her first library job was at the

Holdrege Public Library where she worked for Hettie Backman. Barbara considers Hettie her mentor in the library profession and the reason she pursued her library degree. Barbara received her bachelors degree from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln with a major in philosophy and a minor in history. Her MLS is from the University of Denver. Barbara is an avid documentary fan and enjoys reading mysteries. She especially enjoys the works of Rex Stout, Ellis Peters and Harry Kemelman, and plans to devote more time to these pursuits upon retirement effective 12/31/95. ▲

Barbara says that statistical report compilation has always been needed. She took on this task because of her interest in logic and numbers.

Because of Bruce, the Mail Always Goes Through



Bruce Oorlog has been with the Library Commission since July 1994. He is responsible for distributing, receiving, and processing the postal and interoffice

mail. Bruce provides courier service to other state agencies from the Library Commission and also assists with shelving books for the Talking Book and Braille Service. Bruce previously worked with the NE Department of Administrative Services, Department of Revenue, and the Department of Education.

Born in South Dakota, Bruce considers himself a Nebraska native, raised in Hartington and living in Valley and Sterling before landing in Lincoln. A self-admitted "sports freak," Bruce's favorite hobby is sabermetrics, which is the mathematical and statistical analysis of the game of baseball. He is currently using his home computer to develop a statistical biography of the more

than 14,000 players who have been in baseball this century. He describes this as a "work in progress."

Bruce is a graduate of Southeast High School in Lincoln and attended the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, studying business administration. He is the youngest of four sons. He became an uncle before entering junior high and says he can't comprehend the possibility of becoming a great uncle within the next few years. When asked about his job at the Library Commission, Bruce says he likes being able to contribute to an organization that plays such a vital role in helping people expand their knowledge of the world around them. ▲

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NLA/NEMA Convention Awards

"Toward the Next Century: Libraries and Media Centers in an Electronic Age"

Dee Yost, Republican Valley Library System Administrator, was awarded the 1995 Meritorious Service Award

from the Nebraska Library Association (NLA), at the annual NLA/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) Convention in October. This is the Association's highest honor, and was presented to Yost during the Awards Luncheon.

Centennial Medals of Honor were awarded to the following NLA Centennial Committee members: Dee Yost, Ron Norman, Sharon McCaslin, Shirley Flack, Gretchen Holten, and Jan Kruse, and subcommittee chairs: Kate Marek, Judy Grandstaff, Alan Gould, Kathy Tooker, Lauren Riedesel, Joie Taylor, Verne Haselwood, Dorothy Willis, and Gail Latta.

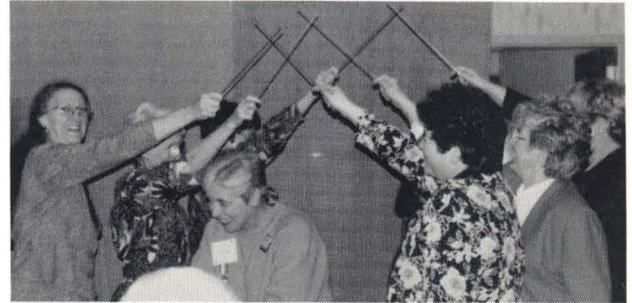
The School, Children's, and Young People's Section (SCYP) of the Nebraska Library Association awarded the 1995 Mad Hatter Youth Service Award to Beth Trupp of Gering Public Library. The Mad Hatter Award recognizes a librarian

who has demonstrated outstanding service to children through innovative programming, service to the community and professional contributions to the field of librarianship.

Kate Marek, Southeast Library System Administrator, was named Mentor of the Year for having a significant impact on the professional development of librarians. Thomas Tollman, University of Nebraska—Omaha, received the NLA College and University Distinguished Service Award. Fern Heim was awarded the Trustees Citation. Roberta Lawrey, former director of the Edith Abbott Memorial Library in Grand Island, won the Excaliber Award for exceptional public library service.

Dorothy Knee and Betty Swenson, University of Nebraska Medical Center, were named Paraprofessionals of the Year.

The NEMA Sound Off for Media Award was presented to Marilyn Scahill of Grand Island Public Schools. The NEMA Meritorious Award was given to Jerry Ingram of Chadron State College. The NEMA Distinguished Service Award went to LaJean Price of Lincoln Public



▲ Centennial Medal of Honor Winners exit under the card file rod honor guard.
◀ Ron Norman, Nebraska Library Commission Chair, presents Dee Yost with the Meritorious Service Award.

Schools. NEMA Presidential Awards were presented to Debbie Smith and Sue Divan, conference arrangement local chairs, Deb Levitov and Terry Zimmers for editing and publishing the NEMA News, and Penny Urwiler, scholarship chair.

The winners of the Nebraska Library Commission drawing are: Kathy Thomsen, Kay Paulsen, Deb Nerud, Sharon Mason, Dee Yost, Pat Hughes, Marsha Greenhill, and Bruce McClay. ▲

Library Services and Technology Act Advances

Legislation to replace the federal Library Services and Construction Act has advanced with passage of House and

Senate bills. Both House and Senate versions of a new Library Services and Technology Act include key provisions proposed by a coalition of library-related organizations. The bills are consistent with Congressional efforts to consolidate pro-

grams, reduce spending, and transfer authority to the states. If enacted, the new program would replace the current Library Services and Construction Act. The new program would place an even greater emphasis on technology, but permits flexibility in directing funds toward state priority areas.

Congressional staff have begun work in preparation for House-Senate conference sessions to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions. One of the

major differences concerns federal program administration. The Senate bill places federal administration under an Institute of Museum and Library Services, while the House bill places administration under the U.S. Department of Education, which administers current federal library programs. Current updates on federal library program actions can be found on the American Library Association's Web server: <<http://www.ala.org/>>. ▲

Special Report...

Family-Friendly Libraries: A Vision

In the current controversy surrounding the Family-Friendly group and the resulting attention to public libraries, we find ourselves involved in a discussion of intellectual freedom issues which are valuable and fundamental to the concept of a library. The ideal of freedom of expression and free access to information must be celebrated and continuous discussion is important. But the current importance of libraries to families and their potential for strengthening families should not be overlooked. This is an opportunity to innovate services that are truly family-centered and to reach out to all the families in your community.

Below are examples of "family-friendly" libraries. I invite you to add your own ideas for services and activities appropriate to your community and to spend the coming year bringing them to reality.

A family-friendly library is a library where all family members are welcome, where an effort is made to offer activities that will appeal to all members and bring them together for reading, discovering information, discussing books and ideas, and other activities that stimulate communication and appreciation. Lincoln City Libraries offers the "Reading-Together Program" in which parents and children read the same books and spend time discussing them. Parents find out what their children are reading and have input into the ideas they absorb from their reading experiences. Family video programs and programs that encourage parents to read to their children are other services a family-friendly library might offer.

A family-friendly library believes and acts on the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." In a time when most parents work, latchkey children or unsupervised children are not turned away from the library and the safety of a child is considered above the sanctity of closing hours.

A family-friendly library does not seek to stifle a child's curiosity or to throw up barriers before a child struggling to understand a complex world. Children have access to all library materials and only the parent has the right to say what their child may or may not read.

A family-friendly library supports family literacy, seeking alliances with other agencies involved in teaching and supporting parents. Literacy classes are held in the public library simultaneous with book appreciation activities or storytimes for children. Libraries may also offer programs on parenting, reading to and with children, and other topics appropriate for a lifelong learning center. In Scottsbluff, children attend a story-time while their parents attend literacy classes. In Aurora, special programs were provided for the children of Adult Basic Education students. In Lexington, special weekly programs will bring children and parents

together for recreational literacy activities.

Since most parents must work in today's economy, a family-friendly library makes an extra effort to reach children and parents beyond the library walls. In Holdrege, special collections of children's books were placed in the offices of health-care providers. Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, placed rotating collections of parenting and children's books in the local Women, Infants, Children Center. In the family-friendly library, special effort is made to include children in daycare for story-times and other activities. In Wayne, older adult volunteers read to children in daycare centers and homes. In Lincoln and Central City, "treasure bags" (kits of books and materials for presenting a story program) are checked out by daycare centers, and training in effective book sharing techniques is offered for care providers.

The family-friendly library seeks to present strong adult role-models for children and young adults. In Niobrara, the public library offers a mentoring program, pairing young adults with adults with matching interests. The Norfolk Public Library sponsored a youth literature festival providing the opportunity for children and young adults to meet and interact with admired authors. The family-friendly library knows that the parent is the most important example in their child's reading development, supporting parents by providing child care while parents attend library programs or select their own materials. The library also displays books on parenting and strives to establish relationships with the parents of the children they serve.

Finally, the family-friendly library is aware that families come in many forms and that the important thing for children is to be cared for by supportive, caring adults, whether married, remarried, never-married, divorced, or gay. Library programs are designed to reach out to children from nontraditional settings. Kearney Public Library and Information Center provides programs and special events for home-schoolers. In Grand Island, volunteers make hospital visits to new mothers, including teen single mothers, to raise awareness of the ongoing importance of books and the library in their children's lives. Bellevue Public Library is collaborating with their local hospital to prepare programs and materials on life skills for at-risk youth.

These programs and the philosophies behind them are only a sample of what libraries do and what they can do to enrich families. As these ideas act as a springboard for the development of creative services for families in your community, please share your ideas for services and activities: 402-471-4006, or 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Mary Jackson

The ideal of freedom of expression and free access to information must be celebrated and continuous discussion is important.

Special Report...

Websites: A Sample of Internet Information

The Internet World Wide Web can be a powerful resource for librarians. Below is a sample of information that can be found on the Internet:

Civil War:

The American Civil War Home Page at <http://cobweb.utcc.utk.edu/~hoemann/cwarhp.html>
Civil War Information, Documents, and Archive at <http://www.access.digex.net/~bdboyle/cw.html>
Civil War Archive at the Library of Congress at <http://rs6.loc.gov/cwphome.html>
Letters Home from a Soldier in the U. S. Civil War at <http://www.ucsc.edu/civil-war-letters/home.html>

Television Broadcasting:

NBC at <http://www.nbc.com/>
PBS at <http://www.pbs.org/>
CBS at <http://www.cbs.com/>
FOX at <http://www.foxnetwork.com/home.html>

News:

CNN at <http://www.cnn.com/>
National Public Radio at <http://www.npr.org/>
USA Today <http://www.usatoday.com/>

General Reference:

AT&T Toll Free 800 Directory at <http://www.tollfree.att.net/dir800>
CityNet at http://www.city.net/countries/united_states/
Recipe Archive Index at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~amyl/recipes/index.html>
GardenNet at <http://www.olympus.net/gardens/ArdentGardener.htm>
The Electronic Embassy at <http://www.embassy.org/>

Genealogy:

National Genealogical Society at <http://emcee.com/NGS/>
Genealogy WWW Pages at <http://www.tic.com/gen.html>
Brian's Genealogy Hotlist at <http://www.sfo.com/~genealogysf/hotlist.html> ▲

Annie Sternburg

Focus Groups Aid Planning Efforts

Recent focus groups, sponsored by the Library Commission and the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, provided the opportunity for public librarians in Omaha, Lincoln, and Columbus to assess the Consumer Health Information Resource Services (CHIRS) program. The State Advisory Council on libraries also discussed this topic at their September meeting.

The CHIRS program began in 1985 with the single objective of providing health information to all Nebraska residents, regardless of location. CHIRS has grown dramatically in the past ten years from an average of 28 to more than 70 CHIRS requests per month. The

focus groups provided a good opportunity for the CHIRS staff to hear from the librarians that regularly use their services. Overwhelming unanimous support was expressed for CHIRS. Faced with many health questions every day, public librarians rely on the CHIRS program as a critical backup to their traditional medical references.

Public librarians requested that CHIRS staff refer customers that call direct back to their local libraries. It was agreed that, ideally, customers will check local resources first. Participants generally agreed that customers could pay a small fee for health information. They cited additional promotional materials for the CHIRS program, annual consumer health resource recommendations from CHIRS staff, and access to electronic health information as high priority needs. ▲

New System To Improve Public Access

For nearly a year, the Library Commission has been in the process of changing automated library systems. Migration from the Assistant to Data Trek's Professional Series will provide staff with a full-MARC system and customers with a faster, more powerful public access catalog. The migration began in December 1994 when the Library Commission sent data from the previous system to Data Trek for conversion. After corrections, the Commission sent data for the final conversion in March.

Throughout this time, staff trained on the system modules: Cataloging, Circulation, Serials and Acquisitions. The final database was received and loaded on our local area network in April. The Library Commission began using the Professional Series for everyday cataloging and circulation in May. Serials and Acquisitions module implementation are currently under staff investigation. Once fully implemented, the new system should enable staff to continue efficient management of our collection of over 78,000 titles and the circulation of approximately 200 items per month. ▲

On the Road with the Mobile Network

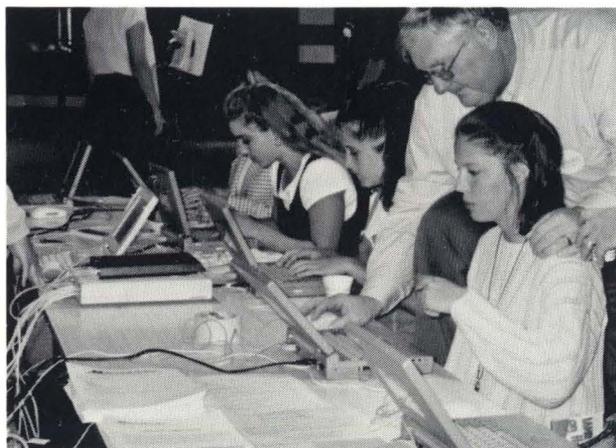
What is the Mobile Network? After Jo Budler, Network Services Director, heard about a mobile computer

network, the Commission set up a similar training tool. The Commission's mobile network consists of two routers, two 28.8k modems, and six laptop computers fitted with ethernet adaptor cards. Estimated cost of the hardware is \$22,380 for the laptops (plus \$750 for ethernet cards), \$1,000 for the modems and \$3,500 for the routers.

One router and modem are set up at the Commission and connected to the Internet. The other router (with a built-in Ethernet concentrator) and modem and six laptops go on the road. At the remote site, staff set up the computers and connect them to the router, using ethernet cables. The modem for the entire mini-network runs off one regular telephone line. One of the laptops is used to dial into its twin at the Commission via an 800 telephone number. This allows six independent computers to run on a single phone line at the remote site.

Vern Buis, the Commission's Computer Services Director, researched mobile networking technology. He cites *PC Magazine* as his primary information source. After the hardware was acquired, Buis set up and configured the network. Buis suggests that organizations interested in setting up a mobile network should have strong in-house expertise in TCP/IP and networking. If this is not available, an outside consultant should be included in the decision-making prior to the purchase of hardware, with plans for contracting for continuing technical support at least until the network is stabilized and the users trained in its use and maintenance.

What do we do with the Mobile Network? The addition of the Mobile Network to the toolbox at the Commission allows us to take various kinds of computer-based training to our customers. This enables us to offer training at locations with no other computer facilities. The "Mobile Net's" maiden voyage was the Continuing Education Workshop held by the Commission in Lexington on July 17th. At that workshop, participants experienced the Internet and



▲ Participants at the Ainsworth Technology Fair use the Mobile Network to find community networking resources.

experimented with FirstSearch.

Since July, the Mobile Net has visited Technology Fairs in Ainsworth and Petersburg, Community Information Technology Workshops in Kimball, Scribner, Beatrice, Holdrege, Broken Bow, and Central City, as well as the NLA/NEMA Annual Conference in Kearney and FirstSearch training sessions in the Panhandle. Many more adventures loom in the future. Watch for the appearance of the Commission's Mobile Net in a community near you and join us for an exciting experience with mobile computing. For more information, contact Jeannette Powell, 402-471-4026, or 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <jpowell@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights

The Library Bill of Rights is a living and vital document, basic to all aspects of library practice and operation. Like many documents representing fundamental principles, the familiarity and institutionalization of the Library Bill of Rights may render it abstract and meaningless to librarians involved in day-to-day library operations. In the coming months, *NCompass* will print a series of articles exploring the applications and possible ramifications of intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights in libraries of all types and sizes. The Library Bill of Rights is printed below:

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services:

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
 2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
 3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
 4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
 5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
 6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- Adopted June 18, 1948 Amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council.
- Affirmed as Nebraska Library Bill of Rights April 3, 1981 by unanimous adoption of Nebraska Library Commission. ▲

Special Report...

Ten Grantwriting Tips

In these days of tighter budgets, many librarians are looking for additional sources of funds for library projects. Writing applications for grants can be time-consuming and a little intimidating. Focus on funding organizations that are interested in your project and how it will benefit the community, rather than the total number of pages included in your application. Well-written, concise applications are often preferred. The following ten tips can help you write your application, whether it is for a Library Commission sponsored grant program or one from another source.

Follow the directions included with the grant information carefully. Many grants are denied based on a simple misunderstanding of procedures.

1. Develop clear, client-centered goals and sets of activities to achieve those goals.
2. Relate each budgeted expenditure to a specific goal and activity. This will clearly indicate how you plan to use the grant funds to achieve the goal(s).
3. Involve your board and staff in planning the project. You may wish to include one or more representative patrons in the planning, depending on your project.

4. Follow the directions included with the grant information carefully. Many grants are denied based on a simple misunderstanding of procedures.

5. If you have a question, call the granting organization and ask. They will be happy to clarify things for you.

6. Develop an easy to read and attractively presented application.

7. If your project includes cooperation with other local agencies or groups, include support letters from those agencies.

8. Make sure the language describing the project consistently focuses on the benefit to the user rather than to the internal workings of the library.

9. Ask someone to read your application prior to submitting it. Their constructive comments can help make your application stronger.

10. If you do not receive a grant the first time, try again. If the larger organizations are not interested, look closer to home and divide your project into smaller steps if necessary. Several local organizations might each fund a portion of your project. ▲

1995 Summer Reading Program Report

Twenty-four thousand Nebraska children enjoyed games,

excursions, special events and reading through participation

in the statewide summer reading program. The 1995 summer theme, *Adventure begins at Camp Read-a-Lot*, encouraged children to read more than 500,000 books on outdoor adventure, camp crafts and other varieties of summer fun.

Summer reading experiences encourage children to maintain their reading skills during the summer months without formal reading instruction and to return to the classroom more ready to learn. Virtually every community in Nebraska with a public library offers a summer reading program, lasting from one week to two months. The summer reading theme for 1996 is *Peer-Amid Books*. Delores Feekin, Crete Public Library, is writing the manual. ▲

Children's Advisory Board Meets

The Library Commission Children's Advisory Board met in September via interactive

video. The group discussed continuing education for children's librarians. Concern was expressed about the fact that many children's librarians are only able to attend one continuing education event each year. To address this issue, Karen Drevo, Norfolk, and Sara Lee, Central City, volunteered to work with Mary Jackson on a revision of the current "Guidelines for Young People's Library Service in

Nebraska," approved in 1988. The revision will be submitted to other state library groups for feedback and approval. The 1997 Summer Reading Program and school/public library cooperation were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 1996 via interactive video. Complete minutes for the meeting and membership list of members are located on the Nebraska Library Commission Homepage at: <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/child.html>>, or request a print copy from Kit Keller, 402-471-3216, or 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <kkeller@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Paraprofessional Section Annual Meeting

The Fall 1995 meeting of the Paraprofessional Section of the

Nebraska Library Association featured Dr. Gary Moulton, Center for Great Plains Studies and editor of the *Lewis and Clark Journals*. His presentation featured a slide show and detailed account of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Pegg Noyes from the Employee Assistance Program, spoke on "The Power of Positive Thinking." She gave an inspiring talk about how

attitude influences life. The group completed an "Outlook Awareness" questionnaire to assess attitude.

The new officers for 1995-96 are President: Mary Heater, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Vice President/President-Elect: Judy Winkler, Nebraska Library Commission; Secretary: Cindy Drake, Beatrice Public Library; and Treasurer: Pat Headley, College of St. Mary's. Dorothy Knee and Betty Swenson, University of Nebraska Medical Center, were named Paraprofessionals of the Year by unanimous vote. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Gerry Dell, Head of Circulation/Interlibrary Loan, Creighton Univ. Health Sciences Library, is retiring after 30 years with St. Joseph Hospital Library and Creighton. ▲

The **Beatrice Public Library** was instrumental in a local partnership that resulted in a \$230,000 National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant. The library will receive several computers and participate in training local citizens as part of their contribution to the local Community Information Technology Group effort. ▲

LVIS (Libraries Very Interested in Sharing) is a cooperative interlibrary loan project that encourages libraries to get involved in "no charge" resource sharing. The following Nebraska libraries have signed up to join the **Nebraska Library Commission** and more than 300 other libraries in the Midwest: Bellevue University, Central Community College—Grand Island, Central Community College—Platte Campus, Chadron State College, Clarkson College, College of St. Mary, Creighton University, Doane College, Hastings College, Hastings Public Library, John Moritz Library - Methodist Hospital, Joslyn Art Museum, McCook Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Northeast Community College, Papillion Public Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the Western Nebraska Community College. ▲

The search has been reopened for **Southeast Library System Administrator in Lincoln**. Salary range: \$30-35,000. Requirements: MLS, knowledge of related computer applications, valid drivers license. Reply with letter of application, resume, and names of three current work-related references (include addresses and phone numbers) to Southeast Library System, % Union College Library, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln NE 68506. New application deadline: January 1, 1996. ▲

New Library Directors include: Bruning Public Library, **Marie Huber**; Carroll Public Library, **Mable Tietgen**; Dakota City Public Library, **Janette Hackney**; Gordon City Library, **Maria Kling**; Gresham Public Library, **Donna Borchers**; Hayes Center Public Library, **Phyllis Felker**; Lincoln Correctional Services, **April Dillon**; Diagnostic & Evaluation Center, Lincoln Correctional Center, **Cal Clinchard**; Nebraska Wesleyan University Library, **John Montag**; State Law Library, **Marie Wiechman**; Oakdale Public Library, **Elinor Richart**; Paxton Public Library, **Carol Murray**; Silver Creek Public Library, **Elissia Vanek**; South Sioux City Public Library, **Lyn Brodersen**; Table Rock Public Library, **Marie Cumro**; Tobias Public Library, **Mary Ann Kronhofman**; Ulysses Township Library, **Glenna Masek**. ▲

Wanted: Nebraska libraries to host exhibit. The American Library Association (ALA), in cooperation with the Newberry Library, Chicago, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "The Frontier in American Culture" traveling exhibit and educational/interpretive materials. Public and academic libraries interested in hosting the exhibit should contact: ALA Public Programs, 800-545-2433, ext. 5053 or 5056, deadline: January 15, 1996. ▲

The University of NE Medical Center celebrated the **25th Anniversary of the McGoogan Library of Medicine** this fall, with a program, reception and tours. ▲

The **Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library in Falls City** received a collection of 14 photographs by noted photographic artists. The gift, valued at \$18,490, was donated by **Maude Weaver Hutchins of Omaha**, a former Falls City resident, and places the library among the state's largest holders of late 19th and 20th century photographic art. ▲

Libraries across the state share their **fundraising success stories**, including: the **Hartington Library Foundation** received a donation of \$3,000 from Hydraulic Components, \$1,500 from the Farmers & Merchants State Bank; the **Bennington Public Library's** new building fund got a boost from the second annual Bennington Daze tennis tournament; the Friends of the **Hastings Public Library** gleaned over \$4,000 from its annual book sale - including \$22 that was found in one of the sale books and returned by the buyer; the **Eastern Township Library** in Crofton received \$500 from KN Energy to help complete the remodeling of the Library basement; and a donation of \$500 was received by the **Wayne Public Library** from the Eagles Club to purchase large print books, with People's Natural Gas presenting a check for \$7,500 to assist with the building. ▲

Competition is open for the **1996 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award** contest sponsored by The H.W. Wilson Company and the Library Administration and Management Association of the American Library Association. Deadline for entries is 2/12/96. For information and entry forms, contact: John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award Contest, The H.W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10452-9978. ▲

A new login script is available for **Nebraska Libraries on Nebrask@ Online** who wish to use Embarque software for multiple user names (ids). To receive a copy (with instructions) contact Janet Greser at the Library Commission; 402-471-2010, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jgreser@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Next Issue:

- ▲ Article 1 of the Library Bill of Rights explored
- ▲ Spotlight on staff
- ▲ How the Library Commission Reference team use the Internet to respond to customer requests

Nebraska Library Commission



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