



Your guide  
to the  
Nebraska  
Library  
Commission

# N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Spring 1997

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## Libraries Online! Funding Awarded

**T**he Nebraska Library Commission received fifty applications for the Microsoft Corporation funded Libraries Online!

grants to place public access computer equipment and software in 15 libraries. Three grants will go to the community college libraries at the three Nebraska Indian reservations. The remaining 12 will go to public libraries in rural areas (under 5000 population), including Ainsworth, Ashland, Bassett, Clay Center, Ceresco, Curtis, Gordon, Milford, Morrill, Orchard, Tilden, and Wilber.

The number of applications clearly demonstrates a need for



▲ (Left to right) Ashland Mayor Barbara J. Schwarten, Governor Ben Nelson, and Microsoft Vice President Jeff Raikes announce the partnership.

public access to computer technology. Many of Nebraska's rural public libraries are anxious to utilize the Internet and advanced electronic resources. More than 90% of the applications came from libraries in towns of less than 2500 population. Nearly all libraries made a very good case for their community. Several Commission staff members, the Regional Library System Administrators and representatives of partner agencies helped review the applications and select libraries. Criteria to determine the grant awards included need, community partnerships, and letters of support. The library's plan for outreach, fundraising, and promotion was also considered.

The need for public access computers and Internet connections in Nebraska's rural libraries was

clearly demonstrated. Many of the unfunded applications show great promise. Additional funding is under exploration to ensure broader participation in the future.

Governor Ben Nelson launched the project at the Ashland Public Library with Ashland native Jeff Raikes, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Microsoft.

"Our goal is to have access to the Internet in every public library in Nebraska by the 21st Century," Nelson said. "We are excited that the state is partnering with local communities and the Microsoft Corporation to improve access to information for all Nebraskans, regardless of location, age, background or financial situation. That access is not a luxury—it's a necessity and a real key to citizen involvement in government." ▲



▲ The Governor seals the deal with Microsoft.

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## From the Director...

### *The Internet, Librarians, and Nannies*

**F**reedom of speech, as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, is one of our most cherished rights. So why is this (supposedly guaranteed) right under constant attack? Libraries have always been involved in censorship issues. It is often said that if a library doesn't have something that offends someone, it isn't much of a library. If it offends, there is surely someone who has demanded that the objectionable item be removed from the library. Challenges are raised in regard to language, point of view, sexual content, politics, race, emotion, on and on. The censorship issue has largely been centered on books. The Internet has taken all of this to a whole new dimension. Controversial content, in the form of language and graphics, has left librarians skittish about their legal liability. Librarians don't want to be agents for so-called "smut" peddlers by permitting unrestricted Internet access. But installing filters and imposing restrictive policies place librarians at odds with long established policies for freedom of access.

Nebraska's former U.S. Senator Jim Exon has cost the American Library Association hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees challenging his Communications Decency Act (CDA). The CDA was enacted as part of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, imposing criminal penalties for the transmission of "indecent" content over the Internet. An early federal court ruling suspended application of the CDA as unconstitutional. The issue is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Joanne Jacobs, a San Jose Mercury News Columnist, in a syndicated column asked, "Do you really want your local librarian to be your net nanny?" Jacobs pointed to an approach that places responsibility where it should be, noting that Santa Clara (California) County librarians planned a series of parent-child workshops to help families learn how to navigate the Internet effectively. The library's best role is to provide information and education in using library resources, in this case, the Internet. Policies clearly stated and posted should place responsibility on the user. Parents should understand and assume responsibility for their children, not expect the librarian to do that for them.

It is not an easy issue. Librarians have their own views about what is appropriate content. They also have a responsibility not to impose their personal views on another's right to access information. There is no clear and accepted definition of what is "indecent." If there was, it would perhaps be easy to sort out the decent from the indecent. Freedom of speech is freedom to determine for oneself what is appropriate. ▲

Rod Wagner

## Commission Staff Appreciate Customers

**T**he Library Commission reference team sponsored Customer Appreciation Week during National Library Week to thank our patrons for their business. To plan this event we went through our databases of borrowers and brainstormed names of customers who fell between the cracks, for example regular walk-ins who don't check out materials. We sent invitations to organizational customers and called nearly 100 of our customers to personally invite

them to visit us during the week. Some of our customers took the opportunity to say kind things about our services when we called. To reward our guests, team members brought goodies to share. The reference team partnered with the Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service as they honored their volunteers for National Volunteer Week. We think it is important to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to the people who use libraries and library services. They help make celebrations like National Library Week possible. ▲

## Advisory Council Challenged

**A** joint meeting of the Library Commissioners and the State Advisory Council on Libraries was held in Kearney in March. In a previous meeting, the Commissioners affirmed that the State Advisory Council fulfills a vital function and should continue to perform in a similar capacity, although the Council is no longer required by federal regulation. They issued a challenge to the Council to review its function, role, and membership.

Other discussion included the new Library Services and Technol-

ogy Act (LSTA), planning for Nebraska's Libraries for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and 1997 Council goals and priorities.

Sandra Riley, a former Commissioner from Columbus, was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the State Advisory Council. Jeanne Saathoff serves as Chair. The next Council meeting is June 13 at Wayne State College. The 1997 Council meeting schedule is located at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/stadv/saclmtg.html>>, along with complete minutes and agendas. For those without Internet access, contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)> for a print copy. ▲

## **Compass** NEWSLETTER

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Commissioners: Karen Warner, Norfolk, term expires 1997; Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1998; Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1998; Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1999; Katherine Fletcher, Omaha, term expires 1999. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

## Commission Volunteers Recognized

**T**he Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille

Service honored volunteers during National Volunteer Recognition Week in April and throughout the month. The recognition events began with National Library Service Network Consultant Steve Prine presenting a national award certificate to honor members of Lincoln's Frank H. Woods Chapter of the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association. Festivities to present a national award certificate to members of Omaha's Casper E. Yost Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America were held in May. The two Nebraska chapters provide volunteers to repair talking book cassette

players, phonographs, and accessories.

During National Library Week, the first-floor reception area of the Commission featured a display honoring Talking Book and Braille Service volunteers and celebrating Customer Appreciation Week. It highlighted the voices of local talking book narrators, combining photos of narrators and cassettes of their voices.

A city-wide volunteer recognition and award ceremony concluded the festivities. The Talking Book and Braille Service nominated two long-standing volunteers for city-wide honors: Helen Roeske and Fred McCormick. Both Helen and Fred became volunteers as members of the Frank H. Woods Chapter of Telephone Pioneers. Helen was one of the original eight Pioneer volunteers who began inspecting



◀ Talking Book and Braille Service Director Dave Oertli (right) presents award to Jerry Gass for his outstanding volunteer contributions.

record books in 1985. Helen currently volunteers to process new cassette books. In 1988, Fred initiated the involvement of Lincoln Telephone Pioneers in repairing talking book players and accessories and he remains a mainstay of the Lincoln repair program. ▲

## Commission Offers Nebraska Press Titles

**"A** great chance to add to the collection."

"Thank you for including our library."

"Thank you for the nice selection of books...Your time and trouble are greatly appreciated."

"Any or all of these books would be a welcome addition to our library. Thanks for sharing these with Nebraska's libraries."

The above comments sum up the response by the more than 150

Nebraska libraries that participated in a onetime giveaway of University of Nebraska Press Books from the Nebraska Library Commission's state documents collection. Most of the 850 books were selected by public or college libraries in communities with populations ranging from 200 to 200,000.

The Library Commission's Publications Clearinghouse Service has been collecting and lending Nebraska state agency publications, including Nebraska Press titles, since 1972. A recent service evalua-

tion resulted in a decision to focus Nebraska Press collecting on Great Plains and Native American publications, rather than everything published by the Press. Many duplicate copies were weeded from the Commission collection and a list was mailed to 287 Nebraska libraries. The response was enthusiastic. Libraries received an average of 5 books, ranging from Western novels to Civil War histories to Shakespeare, reflecting the broad diversity of output from the Press. ▲

## Commission Recognized at Development Network Conference

**T**he Nebraska Library Commission was recognized as a "Gold" level contributor to the Nebraska Development Network at the Network's 1997 Annual Membership Meeting in March. The Commission was recognized for development of **Nebrask@ Online** and for the Nebraska Development Network's Home Page, see <<http://www.nol.org/home/NDN/>>. Commission staff Mary Jo Ryan and Allana Novotny were members of a panel presentation on "Using the Internet to Boost Local

Development." The Nebraska Development Network is a nonprofit organization connecting business and community leaders throughout the state with people in organizations, agencies and the private sector that have identified themselves as partners in community and economic growth. More than 400 public and private organizations (including libraries) are network members. Library Commission Director Rod Wagner serves as the Governor's representative on the Nebraska Development Network Board of Directors. ▲

## Burns Would Strive for Library Political Power

**M**et Burns Davis, the Library Commission Manager of the Year. Burns is responsible for the collection management program, leading the

**If Burns could change anything about working with libraries, it would be salaries and equal gender opportunities.**

Collection Management Team, consulting with other libraries and state agencies, planning budget expenditures, and conducting training. She became a librarian because she believed it is a field in which women have opportunity for achievement in top management positions, offering career satisfaction while making a contribution in the world. In her reading habits, she describes herself as a "tote bag customer" of the public library and second hand book stores, reading anything that holds still. If Burns could change anything about working with libraries, it would be salaries and equal gender opportunities. She would strive for stronger

political positions for libraries, since politics greatly affect funding, working conditions and service delivery.

Burns has lived in the south, northwest, and west coast. She says she has lived in good places and places that enabled her to appreciate the good places, with the all time best place being Washington State. The best thing about Nebraska living is her backyard. When she's not pursuing library matters, Burns enjoys music, dancing, researching and collecting vintage clothing, writing, and traveling. Her canine companion Ernie (she'll produce photos at the slightest excuse) and her sister bring great joy to her life. ▲



## Mary Encourages Librarians to Question Assumptions

**N**ebraskans in the library profession have a hard time separating Mary Jackson from children's services. Mary describes her job at the Library Commission

**A love for reading, coupled with growing up in a community without a library, led Mary to her current career.**

as advocacy for children and their library service needs. A love for reading, coupled with growing up in a community without a library, led Mary to her current career. Mary is a native Nebraskan but has lived in Iowa, Washington, and New York working as a media specialist, an educational consultant for gifted children, a public librarian and a caterer. The thing she likes best about Nebraska living are the wide open spaces and the fact that all of her memories are here.

If she could change anything about working with libraries, she would encourage librarians to question assumptions (whether they

relate to collection development, intellectual freedom, or shared decision making). When asked about the Internet, she says that it has given us the ability to enter people's lives in different ways. Our ability to correspond with people has changed due to e-mail. Mary's favorite authors are Anne Tyler, Nancy Atherton, Louise Erdrich and Kazuo Ishiguro. When she isn't reading, Mary enjoys crafts, making baglets (an invention for the disorganized), wallpapering, and cooking. She shares her home and her heart with three cats and adores her four grandsons ranging in age from 9 months to seventeen. ▲



## Lori Loves Quick Access to Information



**L**ori Sailors has lived in the same neighborhood in Lincoln all her life and feels that Nebraska life is preferable because of the seasonal changes and the dual advantage

of rural and city living. At the Library Commission, Lori works with the Reference Team and government information, particularly federal information. As a girl, Lori was a regular patron at an old Carnegie library that is no longer a part of the Lincoln City Library system. She served as a student worker in her high school library. This whetted her appetite for the profession. When asked about the Internet, Lori says she loves the new quick access to information (formerly slowed by the printing process), but dislikes the fact that some people falsely believe that everything is available there. If she could change anything about

working with libraries, Lori would work toward educating librarians to behave as librarians, instead of parents to their customers. Lori states, "Censorship is a parent's role, not a librarian's."

Lori has been married for 13 years to Monte Sailors. Together they share their home with 5 year old Molly and a newly acquired Siamese cat, Simba. She enjoys reading John Grisham and Patricia Cornwell novels, *FDA Consumer* and *The Federal Register*, newspapers, *Time*, and *Newsweek*, just to name of few of her favorites. She collects antique kitchen gadgets and bowls. She enjoys cooking, cross-stitching and has bowled for 20 years. ▲

**Lori states,  
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## Angela Would Make Libraries Accessible



**A**ngela Ames, our newest Library Commission employee, works in Talking Book and Braille Service circulation. She works with incoming books to make

sure they work correctly and are properly rewound for the next patron and assists with various maintenance projects within the collection. Angela started in the library profession as a student worker in the University Libraries while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L). A recent graduate, her major was English with minors in Biology and Psychology. In the future, she hopes to obtain her Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. She enjoys reading and writing poetry and lists two of her favorite authors as Alice Walker and Sandra Cisneros.

A Nebraska native, Angela is

originally from Waverly. Last summer she participated in the Nebraska at Oxford Program, living and studying at Mansfield College, Oxford University. While abroad, she visited Scotland and Amsterdam. If Angela could change anything about working in libraries, she would strive to make them more accessible. As a recent student, she observed many of her classmates avoiding libraries all together. It is her hope that people would find libraries easy to use and a relaxing environment. Angela enjoys being outdoors and camping. She has logged 27 states in her traveling career, and also enjoys cooking. ▲

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## Special Report...

### *Tool Aids in Cooperative Collection Development*

**N**ebbraska's use of the WLN Conspectus is directly related to the collection management, consulting, and cooperative collection development objectives in the Commission's plan. In this issue of *NCompass*, Burns Davis, CM, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, concludes a series of Special Reports, updating her article, "Toward Statewide Cooperative Collection Development: Use of the Conspectus in Nebraska," published in *WLN Participant*, Jan/Feb 1994. This Special Report will focus on Implementation, Tool Development, and Testing.

An important step toward encouraging statewide cooperative collection development was integrating assessment into the collection management program at the Library Commission, beginning with hiring a collection development librarian and conducting training for staff. Assessment of the entire Commission collection was completed using the WLN Conspectus. Use and collection oriented data were collected using tally sheets, assessment data worksheets, and summary sheets correlated for LC and Dewey classifications. Information from the data worksheets was entered into the WLN Conspectus database and management reports were generated, including age/use and weeding needed. Commission training and collection assessment is used to develop and test procedures and tools for small and medium sized libraries. We share training methods, data collection techniques, and assessment worksheets with Nebraska libraries interested in conducting assessment and contributing data to the conspectus database, as well as with public and academic libraries throughout the United States, South America, New Zealand, and Australia. The benefits of combined experience in using these assessment tools in small libraries ensures that Nebraska libraries have more effective methods of collection planning.

Several components of the Commission's assessment serve as examples for others. Documenting the reasons why the assessment was performed and the rationale for how data was collected provides examples of a collection review statement and planning. Developing data collection worksheets relating use information and acquisition information to conspectus categories helps libraries use assessment results for management reports. Conducting trials and recording how much time it takes to do the work of data collection helps libraries allocate staff time for assessment project steps. Using data collection worksheets and project tools gives libraries clear formats for collecting raw data and formulating that information for entry on the WLN worksheets. For more information, contact Burns Davis, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲  
*Burns Davis*

## Nebraska Catalog Enhanced

**T**hirty-one Nebraska librarians are using a one-time opportunity to add their library holdings to the OCLC Online Union

Catalog (a subset of which is the Nebraska State Union Catalog), at no cost. These librarians will add and delete their holdings on an ongoing basis and lend these materials to other libraries across the state. They will become "lenders," lightening the "interlibrary loan load."

The libraries are: Alice M. Farr Public Library (Aurora), Auburn Memorial Library, Bertrand Community Schools, Blue Hill Public Library, Broken Bow Public Library, Crete Public Library, Fairbury Public Library, Gering Public Library, Goodall City

Library (Ogallala), Gothenburg Public Library, Grant County Library (Hyannis), Grattan Township Library (O'Neill), Imperial Public Library, Jensen Memorial Library (Minden), John A. Stahl Library (West Point), La Vista Public Library, Lexington Public Library, Lydia B. Woods Memorial Library, Mid-Plains Community College, Morton James Public Library (Nebraska City), Neligh Public Library, Ord Township Library, Plattsmouth Public Library, Schuyler Public Library, Scribner Public Library, Seward Public Library, Southeast Community College in Lincoln and Milford, Superior Public Library, Sutton Memorial Library and Sutton Public Schools. This exciting project brings us closer to the goal of getting books into customers' hands. ▲

▼ *Commission staff hold Neligh Library's collection for the Online Union Catalog.*



## Information Packets Improve Referrals

**T**he Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service recently sent file-ready information packets to 350 eye care professionals and 250 care facilities across the state. Each colorful file folder is pre-labeled "Talking Book and Braille Service" and describes the service, eligibility, application process, and successful use of talking books. The potential benefits to patients of eye care professionals or

residents of care facilities are highlighted. The mailings should increase the number of Nebraskans with visual impairment or other physical disability that receive timely referral to the Talking Book and Braille Service. This ready-to-file format, was successfully used in "school packets," in the 1995-96 school year.

For more information, contact Diane Wells, 402-471-4033 or 800-742-7691, e-mail: <dwells@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Statewide Public Forums Held

**A**pril Public Forums were held in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Columbus, Papillion and Lincoln to gather broad public input on the library and information needs of Nebraskans for the 21st

Century. As a part of the Commission's long-range planning efforts, these Public Forums built on last summer's Visioning Retreats and Resource Sharing Dialogue. The Library Commission will use the ideas and recommendations from the Public Forums to revise the *Long Range Plan for Library and Information Services 1997-2001* and to establish guidelines and criteria for awarding state and federal funding to Nebraska libraries.

The following themes emerged from the retreats and Public Forums:

- The mission of libraries is evolving. Librarians must stay active and focused on their customers.
- Libraries can be valued community learning centers.
- Libraries can provide access to books as well as

technology.

- Libraries can be technology leaders, providing access to worldwide information resources.
- Cooperation between libraries is vital, particularly in the areas of resource sharing, bulk purchasing, and consolidating services.

• The concept of "One Nebraska" should guide the development of the State's virtual or electronic library. Information should be available anywhere, any time, to anyone. There should be equitable and seamless access to all information and services.

The *Libraries for the 21st Century Nebraska Library Commission Library Services and Technology Act Preliminary Plan* is now on the Commission Home Page at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/about.html>. For those without Internet Access, contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us) for a print copy of the plan. If you were unable to attend the forums or have additional comments, contact Nancy Busch at 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [nbusch@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:nbusch@neon.nlc.state.ne.us). ▲

## Special Report...

### *Saunders County Explores Partnership*

**L**ike all Nebraska local public service institutions, Saunders County libraries face an uncertain future. Even before LB1114 made the property tax lid mandatory, the public libraries in Wahoo, Mead, Ceresco, Yutan, Ashland, and Valparaiso had concerns. Uneven levels of service, rural residents or residents of very small communities with no access to library service, rural residents receiving service without supporting it, and a shrinking tax base are common. These libraries chose to view these issues as opportunities, not problems. The Wahoo Public Library Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP) Committee selected the possibility of cooperation among the Saunders county libraries as one opportunity for exploration.

After completing their CLIP plan, the Wahoo Library Board contacted the Library Commission for help as they began implementation of the CLIP goal, "Improve Our Financial Base." Commission Staff Ellen Van Waart and Mary Jackson, along with Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator, met with the Wahoo Board. They discussed benefits and disadvantages of various organizational arrangements and outlined steps for moving toward a cooperative project.

Kathy Tooker visited with the director of every public library in the county to gather data and ascertain

interest in planning for cooperation. The first general joint meeting provided an opportunity for library personnel and board members to explore possibilities and discuss cooperation. An interlocal agreement was suggested as the vehicle for working together. A federation-like partnership seemed preferable to a centralized administrative structure overseen by the county. Each library could remain autonomous and identified with its community.

A committee has been appointed to draft an interlocal agreement and continue to plan for the partnership. The goal is to improve library services to the citizens of Saunders County.

Local library, Commission, and system staff look forward to the progress and improvement expected in the coming months and believe this approach can make a significant difference in the quality of library service to residents of Saunders County, as well as demonstrate more effective use of limited resources. Two of the goals for *Libraries for the 21st Century*, "Achieving Universal First Class Library Service for Nebraskans" and "Creating New and Innovative Library Service Arrangements" are on their way to becoming a reality for Saunders County residents. ▲

Mary Jackson

## Special Report...

### Emporia Back By Popular Demand

**E**mporia State University's School of Library and Information Management responded to great demand to bring back their Master's of Library Science degree program through a partnership agreement with the Nebraska Library Commission and the College of St. Mary in Omaha. The first weekend class was held in February at the College of Saint Mary. The orientation session introduced incoming students to some Emporia faculty, representatives from the College of St. Mary and the Library Commission, and alumni from the previous Nebraska program. The 45 students, most from Nebraska, some from Iowa and South Dakota, expressed enthusiasm for the program. The first class, "Foundation of Information Transfer," taught by Dr. Marty Hale, was a terrific introduction to the program. There was lively participation in discussions, both in class and on the various listservs that class members use to receive and send information expediently. The group discussed joining a Student Chapter of the American Library Association (SCALA), arranging for speakers and/or workshops during some of the "free" weekend time, and creating a web page for sharing class notes.

I made use of our class listserv to solicit comments from classmates and received the following feedback about the program:

"This program has had an impact on my professional life even now. I can't wait to see how my thinking has changed after the core classes! The first class...far exceeded my expectations."

"I am pleasantly surprised that the program is so progressive and on the verge of major change, as it mirrors the world. The interesting side-effects of listserv access and e-mail among classmates is a bonus."

By the time the program is completed in the Summer of 1999, classes will be held over the Internet, via interactive video, and during weekend intensive sessions in Omaha. For more information about this program, visit the "Distance Education Program" page of *The School of Library & Information Management* Web Site at: <<http://www.emporia.edu/S/www/slim/program/distance/distance.htm>>. ▲

Kit Keller

## Association Holds Legislative Day

**T**he Nebraska Library Association (NLA) celebrated Nebraska Library Legislative Day in February. The Briefing at the Capitol and luncheon at the Nebraska Library Commission were attended by more than 120 Nebraska librarians, library board members, and other library advocates. They visited the Senator's offices, met their staff, visited the display in the Rotunda, and hosted 25 Senators (or their aides) at the luncheon. In the days prior to February 20, cards enumerating the

"12 Ways Libraries Are Good for the Country," from the December 1995 *American Libraries*, were hand delivered by a volunteer to each Senator's office. Legislative staff reported watching for them each day, to see what the next one would say. On Legislative Day, the last cards were delivered along with a small bottle containing 27 pennies representing Nebraska's per capita state support of public libraries. For more information about the ongoing work of the NLA Legislative Committee, contact Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System, 402-330-7884, 800-627-7884, e-mail: <[ktooker@nol.nol.org](mailto:ktooker@nol.nol.org)>. ▲

▼ Nebraska librarians share lunch and library issues with senators during the Nebraska Library Legislative Day luncheon at the Library Commission.



## Commission Staff Attend Workshop

**L**ibrary Development staff Mary Jackson and Ellen Van Waart recently attended "Masterful Consultation Skills: A How to Workshop on the Craft of Consulting" in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The workshop, presented by Schreiber Shannon Associates for individuals involved in internal and external consulting, focused on a consulting model based on building relationships, contracting for services, data gathering, feedback, diagnosis and action planning, implementation, and evaluation and

maintaining progress.

The training emphasized group facilitation, use of instrumentation, recognizing and channeling resistance, systems and organizational change theory, planning, and marketing. The participants discussed how to create capabilities in others rather than dependence. They agreed that consulting, whether it is external or internal, strives to help everyone achieve success.

Contact Ellen VanWaart, 402-471-4004 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[evanwaart@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:evanwaart@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)> for more information or materials on the above topics. ▲

## A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part five

“Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

Article III of the Library Bill of Rights as adopted June 18, 1948 and amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council and affirmed as *Nebraska Library Bill of Rights* April 3, 1981 by unanimous adoption of Nebraska Library Commission.

In this latest installment of the *NCompass* series examining applications of intellectual freedom and the *Library Bill of Rights*, we explore how librarians challenge censorship, exert community leadership, and demonstrate the courage of their convictions by ensuring that the material in their libraries truly represents diverse points of view.

Librarians are in a position to be the most dangerous censor in the community because they select what is available to everyone else. They can demonstrate respect for the spirit of Article III by examining their own choices and omissions rigorously. For example, if we don't purchase *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris because we think the illustrations vulgar and graphic or because we think someone in the community might complain, we can't demonstrate leadership in challenging censorship. This book could answer questions for children puzzled about the sexual innuendo they encounter on television and in their schools, especially questions they wouldn't feel comfortable asking another human being.

The library collection development policy should be well publicized. Promoting the principle of intellectual freedom through the collection development policy prepares the community for the library's challenge of

censorship and defense of intellectual freedom. When the censors discover *It's Perfectly Normal* in the library, librarians can meet their shock and outrage, not with defensiveness, but with appreciation that they have taken the time to let us know what they think. We can explain the reconsideration procedure to them and offer to help fill out forms. When we examine our own discomfort with certain kinds of materials, we are in a good position to be an articulate advocate for the right to information for all.

For more ideas about how to challenge censorship, see <<http://fileroom.aup.uic.edu/FileRoom/documents/TofCont.html>> from the University of Illinois, a wealth of information on all forms of censorship, including an archive of cases and definitions of censorship; <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nsf/elecaccess.html>> for *Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: A Nebraska Library Commission Interpretation*, a draft of the Commission's statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Internet on the Commission Home Page; and <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/public/newslet.html>> for the full text of the *Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Handbook*, or contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)> for a print copy.

Throughout 1997, *NCompass* will continue this series of articles exploring the *Library Bill of Rights*. We invite our readers to share ideas and help us examine the issues and possible ramifications of the *Library Bill of Rights*. Send comments to Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

**Librarians are in a position to be the most dangerous censor in the community because they select what is available to everyone else.**

## Nebraska Library Association Award Winners Honored

The 1996 Nebraska Library Association Award winners were announced at the Annual Convention. **Meritorious Service Award**, given annually to a person, corporation or organization contributing to the improvement of library service in a local community, a county, region or state agency or in library legislation, was presented to the **Auburn Memorial Library Board of Trustees**. The **Mari Sandoz Award**, recognizing significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production or related activity, was given to **Duane Hutchinson**, storyteller and author. **Seward Public Library Board President Juanita Hill** was named the **Trustee of the Year**. **Mary Geibel**, Library Commission Secretary/Receptionist, was named the **Paraprofessional of the Year**. **Karen Drevo**, Youth Services Librarian of the **Norfolk Public Library**, received the **1996 Mad Hatter Award**, given annually by the School, Children's

and Young People's section and **Children's Press** to recognize outstanding contribution to school, children, and young people's librarianship and library development. **Mary Neben**, **Cozad Public Library** Director was awarded the **Public Library Section Excalibur Award** for the **Outstanding Public Librarian**, honoring the career accomplishments of the public librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his/her local library and to the library profession. The **New Members Round Table** awarded the **Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award** to **Sara Martin**, **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library**; **Mentor of the Year** to **Karen Warner**, **Northeast Community College Library**; and **Friendliest Vendor Award** to **Munson Book Sales**. The **College and University Section** awarded the **Distinguished Service Award** to **Sandra Herzinger**, **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library**. ▲

## Special Report...

### Continuous Library Improvement Program

**T**he Nebraska Library Commission began an initiative in 1994 to challenge libraries to think about how programs and services will look in the future. Librarians were asked to assess their current situations, involving the community in thinking about how the library is a vital part of the community. Librarians, trustees, and community members looked at strengths and weaknesses in the library and the community and sought solutions. Approximately 106 libraries participated in the workshops during the first year and many of the Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP) teams attended follow-up meetings.

Fifty-five libraries submitted written plans to the Library Commission. Every plan reveals many hours of thought and work on the part of numerous individuals in the communities. These plans were returned to the library with feedback, providing the opportunity for librarians and CLIP teams to continue to work toward their visions and goals, with help from Regional System Administrators and Commission staff.

The Library Commission provided special funding for libraries participating in CLIP to implement some of the action steps developed through the planning process and improve library services and programs in the community. Libraries report projects such as increased hours and staff, technology centers, purchase of software and hardware, cooperative projects with schools and other entities, improvement of physical facilities, lifelong learning projects, cultural and ethnic enrichment of collections, and innovative programming. Forty-four libraries applied for and received grants of \$600.

Librarians across the state are challenged to continue the planning process and make it an integral part of routine activities. Planning gives the library a guide for the future and increases visibility in the community. When funding (in the form of grants or other opportunities) become available, planning makes it possible to take immediate advantage of the opportunity. Planning efforts can drive local budget process and provide input for statewide initiatives.

In 1997, the Commission will evaluate the effectiveness of the CLIP planning process. Input from Nebraska library staff and trustees about the value of this planning process to your library and community is essential. What have you learned about planning that has been helpful in improving library programs and services? Have you seen any changes or improvements in the library or community as a result of the planning process? Was it beneficial to involve the community in the library planning process? What advice would you give to libraries contemplating a planning process? ▲

Ellen VanWaart

## Commission Staff Teach Internet Classes

**"I** thought I'd never use government documents..."  
"I'll use the Internet more for reference."

"I feel more comfortable with the Internet."

"...more information at our fingertips makes for happier patrons!"

"...picked up helpful ideas to speed up searching."

"What I learned will be very valuable in day-to-day reference work."

"I'll know how to better direct customers to information sources on the Web."

The above comments came from librarians across Nebraska attending Internet classes facilitated by Commission staff. More than 386 librarians attended more than 32 Internet classes since July 1996. The

trainers, Beth Goble, Lori Sailors, Julie Pinnell, Lisa Brawner, Allana Novotny and Annie Sternburg, traveled to Hastings, Broken Bow, Bellevue, Arapahoe, Valentine, Ord, Wayne, Omaha, Kearney, Neligh and Columbus. Some classes were held in Lincoln. Classes included "Netscape and the World Wide Web," "Netscape E-mail," "Pegasus E-mail," "Using the Internet for Reference," "Finding Government Information on the Web," and "What is the Internet and How Can I Use It?" More classes are scheduled for this summer, dates and locations to be announced. For more information see <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/nebtrain.html#Internet>> or contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)> for a print copy. ▲

## Issues Forums Celebrate Anniversary

**N**ational Issues Forums (NIF) celebrate their fifteenth anniversary this summer. NIF is a nonpartisan, nationwide network of forums and study circles for the discussion of public policy issues. Libraries offer an appropriate setting for forums, bringing together a cross section of citizens to deliberate on major public policy issues.

NIF is rooted in the simple notion that people need to come together to talk, to deliberate about common problems. Each year, major policy issues are identified. Issue books in a nonpartisan framework provide background and guide discussion by presenting three or four public policy choices and describing the pros and cons of each. They include references for further reading.

Forums represent democracy in action. People come together to engage in a dialogue, weighing the consequences, trade-offs, and

underlying values associated with each policy choice in a non-debate format. Forums help citizens clarify their own views and better understand the views of others. Although not necessarily intended to lead to specific action, a by-product of a Forum may be action on the part of participants who wish to explore or pursue an issue further.

Nebraska is fortunate to have NIF training readily available. Wayne State College's Public Policy Institute (PPI) conducts an annual training event for conveners and moderators of National Issues Forums. Training includes actual forums on current public policy issues. For more information on the Institute scheduled for June 12 and 13, contact Jan Dinsmore, PPI Director, at Wayne State College, 402-375-7292.

With fine support materials and convenient training, National Issues Forums can be an excellent program choice for Nebraska libraries. ▲

## News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Governor Ben Nelson appointed **Katherine Fletcher**, Omaha, to the **Nebraska Library Commission**, term expiring in 1999. Katherine replaces Tom Harvey whose term expired last June. ▲

**Jane Elizabeth Crouch**, Lincoln, was recently appointed to the **Advisory Committee of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service**. **Ana Kalin**, Lincoln, and **Joyce Cohen**, Omaha, were reappointed. The committee, appointed by the chair of the **Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries**, represents the needs of borrowers and makes recommendations concerning library policies, services and programs. ▲

**Kate Fitz** was recently hired as the **Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce** administrative assistant. Formerly from Alma, she was library director of the **Hoesch Memorial Library**. ▲

**Marie Marshall** recently retired as director of **Superior Public Library** after nearly 28 years. The Library Board honored her at an open house at the library. She will continue as a member of the **Republican Valley Library System** board. ▲

**Karen Ingish**, former **Library Commission** Library Development Coordinator, was appointed Information Science and Technology Librarian in the Public Services Department at the **University Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha**. ▲

The Technology Center in **David City's Hruska Memorial Library** is now open for business, with computers available for use by children and adults. ▲

The **Ponca Public Library Friends** donated 55 rolls of newspapers on microfilm and hope to purchase all Dixon County newspapers available on microfilm. The Friends previously donated a microfilm reader/printer to the library. ▲

**Hastings Public Library Friends** have purchased baskets for gathering books at the library that can be checked out for three weeks with library materials. When they leave the library, they are walking billboards, displaying "Hastings Public Library" wherever they go. ▲

The **Fairmont Public Library** used federal grant money provided through the **Library Commission** to purchase a voice synthesizer so that customers with visual disabilities can use the library computer. Matching funds came from donors like the **Fairmont Lions Club** and the **Nebraska Lions Foundation**. ▲

The **Library Commission** was awarded the **Francis Keppel Award**, made each year to the qualifying chief officers of state library agencies and state and territory data coordinators for submitting the most prompt, complete, and high quality public library data. Commission Director **Rod Wagner** and **Kit Keller**, State Data Coordinator, were recognized for data collection efforts. ▲

The **Nebraska Library Association** recently appointed **Mary Stultz**, **Baird Holm Law Firm** Library in Omaha as editor of the Association Quarterly, **NLAQ**. ▲



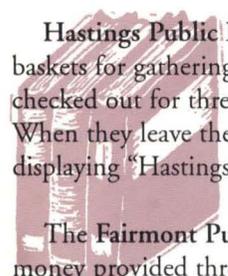
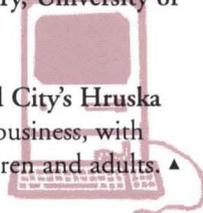
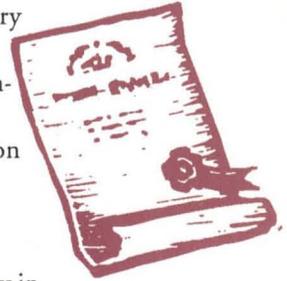
**Mary Elizabeth Lomax (Betsy)**, Media Specialist from **Omaha South High School** received a 1997 **Nebraska Teacher Achievement Award**, made possible through the **Peter Kiewit Foundation** to recognize excellence in the classroom. ▲

**Judy Winkler**, former **Library Commission** Cataloger, accepted a position as slide curator in the Architecture Library at the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, beginning in December. ▲

**Burns Davis, CM**, **Library Commission** Information Resources Coordinator, received the **Manager of the Year** award from the Nebraska State Government Chapter of the **National Management Association**. ▲

**Pamela Scott** was recently hired as **Administrator for the Panhandle Library System**. A recent graduate of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, she has a B.A. in History from the University of Nebraska and worked with Lincoln City Libraries from 1988-1994. ▲

New Library Directors include: Alma, **Hoesch Memorial Library**, **LaDonna Schluterbusch**; Bloomfield Public Library, **Renae Johnson**; Ceresco Public Library, **Carol Mintzmyer**; Dodge, **John Rogers Memorial Library**, **Mary Mandel**; Elmwood Public Library, **Virginia Hoyt**; Harvard Public Library, **Mae Morgan**; Lewellen Public Library, **Peggy Rohlfing**; Lexington Public Library, **Ruth Seward**; Lincoln, **American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**, **Maria Ford**; Lyman Public Library, **Stephanie Zamora-Steiner**; Osceola Public Library, **Niki M. Sharmon**; Saint Edward Public Library, **Sandy Zurovski**; Springfield Public Library, **Charlene Harding**; Strang Public Library, **Lynn Gibson**; Superior Public Library, **Vicki Perrie**; Wymore Public Library, **Jackie Nicholson**; and York College, **Levitt Library Learning Center**, **Todd Mountjoy**. ▲



*New on our Home Page:*

(see "Announcements" on  
<<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>>)

▲ LB250 Passes to Permit  
County Libraries

▲ Legislature Proclaims National  
Library Week

▲ Library Commission Home  
Page Reorganized

▲ Talking Book and Braille  
Service Label System Improved

*For a print copy contact Mary Geibel,  
402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665,  
e-mail: <[mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>.*

## Nebraska Library Commission



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