



Library Commission Sponsors Community Technology Fairs

The Nebraska State Records Board awarded the Library Commission a \$25,000 grant to purchase a wireless mobile network and implement Community Information Technology Fairs in rural Nebraska.

This network of twelve laptops is expanding training opportunities to the more remote, less populated parts of the state as well as being integrated into other training opportunities throughout the state. The wireless mobile network was first introduced to library personnel, community members, and state legislators, at the 2003 Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day in Lincoln. Online information resources were demonstrated for participants. Since then, the equipment has been used in a variety of workshops, training sessions, and most recently, in Community Information Technology Fairs.

A successful Community Information Technology Fair was hosted by the Jensen Memorial Library in Minden. Fourteen community members attended the session and spent two hours learning everything from basic Internet searching techniques to accessing database information. Ellen Burchell, Director of the Jensen Memorial Library said, "I

received lots of positive feedback about the class and the teachers! People attending were appreciative



Minden's Jensen Memorial Library Director Ellen Burchell (left) helps a customer.

of the opportunity." At a session at the Sioux County Public Library in Harrison, one participant used the Library Commission-supported subscription databases to access magazine articles written by a family member, senior citizens found a wealth of online medical information, a genealogist found local family records, and a young family located regional Web sites with education and employment resources.

To schedule a session or for further information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Lincoln Southeast High School Media Specialist Mary Reiman (right) assists a student.

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Midwest Internet Institute Held

Nebraska Library Commission staff attended the Midwest Internet Institute in Lincoln in July to demonstrate the subscription databases provided free of charge by the Nebraska Library Commission. Commission staff also presented the following workshop sessions:

- ▲ **Electronic Information @ your Library™:** Database Resources for Citizens
- ▲ **Schools and Libraries Can Help Parents/Community Explore Internet Resources**
- ▲ **Exploring Digital Nebraska History Resources on the Internet:** *Western Trails* ▲

From the Director... Nebraska Library Commission 2003-2005 Biennium Budget Set

No one should envy the job of Nebraska's governor or Nebraska's forty-nine state senators, especially this year. Faced with a \$759 million fiscal shortfall, the Governor and the Legislature took different approaches. Governor Johanns based the biennium state budget largely on spending reductions. The Legislature developed a budget based on a combination of spending reductions and revenue increases. By the end of May, a new biennium budget was enacted. Governor Johanns' budget proposal called for 10% state fund reductions for most state agencies, including the Library Commission.

Initially, the Legislature's appropriations committee agreed with the Governor's recommendation for the Library Commission. Later, following budget hearings, the appropriations committee restored \$89,148 in state funds for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Even with the funds restored, the Library Commission's operating budget was reduced by \$134,535. A combination of personnel, library materials, publishing, equipment, and travel budget reductions will be made to reflect the reduced state appropriation. The Commission's state aid program to libraries was reduced by 10%, \$139,215. The state aid fund reductions will be addressed with across-the-board cuts in the state aid grants for public libraries, regional library system funding, interlibrary loan compensation, training grants, children and youth service grants, and online database subscriptions. ▲

• Rod Wagner

Children's Services Planning Underway

For the next fourteen months Library Commission staff will review our efforts to provide resources to help local libraries improve library services to children and young adults. This review will include a consideration of online resources, training, and other services to address the needs of library staff serving these customers. During this period the Commission will not produce video or online book reviews. We will provide resources on the Commission

Web site to assist local library staff (e.g., Books In Print with Reviews, etc.). The Commission will involve Nebraska librarians in the review and provide updates on the review via the Childlib-L mailing list, Commission newsletters, and home page Announcements. For questions, contact Sally Snyder, Acting Coordinator for Children and Young Adult Services, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Children's Library Services Videoconference Set

The Nebraska Library Commission will sponsor two **Children's Library Services Videoconferences: Young Adult Services @ your library™ Part 1—Resources** on August 22 and **Part 2—Teens Want Graphic Novels and So Do You** on October 10. Both sessions will take place from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. CDT, at sites in Ainsworth, Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Norfolk, and Wayne.

In August Sally Snyder, Acting Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, and several public librarians will present resource ideas

gathered at the Iowa workshop, *What's NEW in Young Adult Literature and How to Use It in Your Program*.

In October Susan Steider, Lincoln City Libraries, and other youth services librarians will present a brief history of Graphic Novels (the comic book-type, not the other "graphic" novels), a discussion of why they appeal to teens, and a list of suggested titles.

For more information, see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtraining.html> or contact Jacque Crocker, 402-471-4037, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us>. CE Credits: 3. ▲

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Director: Rod Wagner
Editor: Mary Jo Ryan
Design and Production: Valerie Dayton

Staff: Jacqueline Crocker, Mary Geibel, Janet Greser
Nebraska Library Commissioners: Wally Seiler, Chair, Alliance, term expires 2004; Richard Jussel, Kearney, term expires 2004; Velma Sims-Shipley, Fremont, term expires 2004; Kristen Rogge, Johnson, term expires 2005; Patrick Gross, Wayne, term expires 2006. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

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Supreme Court Upholds CIPA

The U.S. Supreme Court recently announced a ruling upholding the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). This law requires libraries to install filtering software on computers providing access to the Internet as a requirement for receiving federal assistance, including the E-rate program and grants provided through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

The Institute of Museum and Library Services provided guidance to the Nebraska Library Commission regarding LSTA grants. The Federal Communications Commission released an order updating regula-

tions pertaining to CIPA requirements for libraries receiving E-rate support.

The American Library Association (ALA), plaintiff in the case, called for "full disclosure of what sites filtering companies are blocking, who is deciding what is filtered, and what criteria are being used." ALA also scheduled technology briefing sessions for vendors and developers of filtering technology to explain how CIPA will affect the library market.

ALA is also collecting questions from library service practitioners and will seek appropriate assistance in answering them. A Legal FAQ,

including plain language analysis of the court decision, is posted on the ALA Web site, <www.ala.org/cipa>.

The full court decision is also posted, along with the link to an analysis of the decision from FindLaw's Writ Legal Commentary.

For more information about the impact of this decision on Nebraska libraries, see the Nebraska Library Commission home page

Announcements, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, or contact Rod Wagner, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

2003 National Library Legislative Day Held

More than five hundred library representatives from forty-eight states participated in the 2003 National Library Legislative Day activities in Washington, D.C. in May.

Library representatives participated in briefings on library-related legislation and issues and met with members of their Congressional delegations and staff. Nebraska representatives included (left to right) Library Commission director Rod Wagner; Nebraska Educational Media Association representative Gail Formanack; Nebraska Center for the Book Vice-President Chuck Peek; Nebraska Library Commission member Bob King; Amy Tejral [not a Nebraska Legislative Day participant], Legislative Director for

Senator Ben Nelson; Nebraska Library Association Legislative Committee representatives Kathy Tooker and Brenda Ealey; Nebraska Library Commission member Velma Sims-Shipley; and Library Advocate Parker Shipley.

Library legislative issues addressed during Legislative Day included the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, Copyright legislation, E-rate, Literacy through School Libraries Act (ESEA), civil liberties and privacy issues and legislation, Freedom of Information Act legislation, appropriations, and more. Nebraska library

representatives thanked the members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation for their support of the Library Services and Construction Act and E-rate, and requested their attention to other issues including sufficient funding for the Literacy through School Libraries Act to permit allocations to each state. The Nebraska participants also attended the Nebraska Breakfast, hosted by the Nebraska Congressional delegation. ▲



Surveys to be Distributed this Fall

Public Library Statistical Data surveys will be available online through Bibliostat™ Collect on October 15, at <informata.collect.com>. The Nebraska Library Commission will distribute a letter to each public library that contains the library's Username and Password, which is the same as last year's. The deadline

for data submission is January 31, 2004. This online data submission is a requirement for state aid eligibility.

Due to recent budget cuts, the Library Commission has discontinued its statewide license of the companion program, Bibliostat™ Connect, which was used to analyze the data. Data analysis can be accomplished by downloading the raw data

files from the Library Commission Web site <www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/statlist.html> and manipulating them in standard spreadsheet software. For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Making a difference



@your library™

Find Information Resources @your library™

With the Nebraska Library Commission's FY 2004 renewal of the statewide online databases, Nebraskans of all ages can use electronic information sources to find a variety of resources for homework, research, and decision-making. The Library Commission provides the following databases at no cost to public, academic, and school libraries across the state:

- ▲ bigchalk eLibrary – full-text magazines and newspapers
- ▲ Books in Print with Reviews – book reviews and publishing information for in-print books

- ▲ FirstSearch Package with WorldCat – indexes and holdings of libraries worldwide
- ▲ Kiplinger Forecasts – financial information, including *The Kiplinger Letter: Forecasts for Management Decisionmaking*
- ▲ Wilson Biographies Plus – 95,000 full-text biographies
- ▲ Wilson OmniFile – full-text magazines and journals

For more information see the Library Commission home page <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, click on Electronic Databases. ▲

Database Roadshow Dates Set for Fall

Attend the Database Roadshow 2003 to learn more about the statewide databases funded by the Nebraska Library Commission through discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. For more information and to register see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/roadshowreg.html>. If classes are full, registrations will be recorded on the waiting list for cancellations. CE Credits: 4.5.

- ▲ **September 10**, 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
CDT, Meridian System Office, 3519 Second Avenue, Suite B, Kearney
- ▲ **September 24**, 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
CDT, John A Stahl Library, 330 North Colfax, West Point – **CLASS IS FULL**
- ▲ **October 2**, 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
CDT, Holdrege Public Library, 604 East Avenue, Holdrege
- ▲ **October 7**, 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
CDT, Nebraska Library Commission, Heron Room, 1200 N Street, Lincoln ▲

Outcome-Based Evaluation Training Set

On September 30 and October 1, the Library Commission will host a two-day workshop, **Training on Outcome-Based Evaluation: Are We Making a Difference?**, on the techniques of outcome-based evaluation. The workshop will be held at the Library Commission and will be conducted by representatives of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Outcome-based evaluation is a method used to determine if a program has achieved its goals. The Nebraska Library Commission is committed to helping libraries strengthen their programs and their capacity to evaluate the impact of their work through systematic evaluation of results—outcomes. Fifteen participants

from public libraries in Nebraska will be selected to attend the workshop. Participants will be asked to implement the skills learned in the workshop to evaluate a program using outcome-based techniques and to submit a report describing how the outcomes were defined and measured.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, visit the Library Commission Web site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/mission/TrainingonOutcome-BasedEvaluation.html> for an application form, or contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

LSTA Grant Priorities Announced

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provides federal funding to state library agencies to support statewide programs and library grant projects through the Nebraska Library Commission. This year \$213,856 in LSTA funding was awarded through the Library Commission to fifty Nebraska communities. For a list of grant awards see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/lstaapp.html>.

Grant applications for the upcoming grant cycle will be available October 1. Three priorities are identified for funding:

- ▲ Projects for serving English-Language Learners will be funded through a

competitive grant process open to all accredited Nebraska public libraries and libraries at designated state institutions.

- ▲ A limited Request for Proposal will be issued to solicit digitization projects with statewide impact.
- ▲ A statewide virtual library will be developed with LSTA funds to serve the entire state.

For more information, see the Library Commission home page Announcements, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, or contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <LSTAGrants2004@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Support for Digitization Projects Available

Thinking of scanning those old postcards donated to your library? Nebraska libraries considering digitization projects can access new resources to help them “do it right” using established best practices. See the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Western Trails Standards for the following:

- ▲ *Western States Digital Imaging Best Practices*
- ▲ *Western States Dublin Core Metadata Best Practices*

▲ *Western Trails Digitization Project Metadata Guidelines for Nebraska Participants*

Looking for training before starting a digitization project? A special training event will be offered this summer to Nebraska library staff considering digitization projects. Two one-day workshops, *Introduction to Digitization* and *Introduction to Scanning* will be presented by the Colorado Digitization Program on **August 26** and **27** at the Nebraska Library Commission. See <www.cdheritage.org/resource/

[introduction/index.html](#)> for information similar to the workshop content.

For more information about the training contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Coordinator, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>. For more information about the Metadata Best Practices contact Devra Dragos, Cataloging Librarian, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ddragos@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

NEBASE Annual Meeting Set for Fall

This spring forty-two Panhandle librarians and media specialists gathered for the 2003 NEBASE Annual Meeting—West at the Gering Civic Center. A full day of informative sessions and hands-on training were on the agenda. Attendees heard about the latest OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) news and services as well as updates on the two newly redesigned database interfaces in the Nebraska Statewide Database Program, bigchalk eLibrary and Wilson Web. The lunch break featured four lively roundtable discussions on the PATRIOT Act, Library Web Pages, OCLC, and Database Resources in K12 schools. Three afternoon sessions provided hands-on experience with netLibrary, Book Repair, and the new OCLC Connexion cataloging service.

On **September 18** the **NEBASE Annual Meeting—East** will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. Marilyn Gell Mason, Program Director for the Gates Portal Project: *WebJunction*, will be featured as the keynote speaker in the morning. The afternoon will feature two 75-minute presentation periods, each with four consecutive sessions. Library staff, media specialists, and others are invited to attend. Registration and an agenda are available on the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on NEBASE Annual Meeting East. Make plans now to attend on September 18. For more information contact Shannon Behrhorst, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

WebJunction Provides Web-based Communication Space

OCLC and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently launched a new, interactive Web site to help public libraries and other institutions make the most of information technology. *WebJunction*, <webjunction.org>, gives public librarians a broad range of resources, including a forum for sharing information on policies and practices, technical resources, advice for purchasing hardware and software, and community message/discussion boards that cover day-to-day support issues and management topics.

Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act Advances

Renewal of the Museum and Library Services Act moved forward in March with approval of H.R. 13 by the U.S. House of Representatives on a 416-2 vote. H.R. 13 had 126 co-sponsors, including Nebraska Congressional representatives Doug Bereuter and Tom Osborne. Rep. Osborne serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee

that has oversight for library legislation. Nebraska’s three House members voted for enactment.

The U.S. Senate recently passed legislation authorizing \$232 million, incorporating the Senate bill (S 888) into H.R. 13, and passing H.R. 13 in lieu of S 888. A key provision of the authorizing legislation is an increase in the base allotment for the state

programs portion of the Museum and Library Services Act, increasing for the first time since the 1970s, providing additional financial assistance to smaller populated states. The legislation now goes to the House. If the House passes the Senate version of the bill without making any changes, the bill will be sent to the President for his signature. ▲

Western Trails Project Underway

The Western Trails collaborative grant project is in full swing. Nebraska local participants have created master images for their artifacts and documents. They plan to complete their projects this fall by creating images for Web viewing, as well as thumbnail images and metadata records for the Nebraska database. Highlights of recent activities include:

- ▲ Nebraska participants met at the Library Commission this spring to discuss creating metadata using the Nebraska template and Web site design. Another meeting will take place in late August.
- ▲ Participants submitted Fifth Quarter Reports for their individual projects, which can be viewed on the Library Commission Web site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/westerntrails>.
- ▲ The Nebraska Western Trails Database of digitized images (including artifacts, documents, maps, photos, and publications) is live, with a few test items, at <trails.unl.edu>.
- ▲ The Nebraska Web development committee is working on the final design of the Nebraska site, a checklist and template for local sites, and the Nebraska Library Commission Western Trails site. All are scheduled for release in the fall.
- ▲ Work is underway on the Colorado Four-State Western Trails site to link the state sites together and provide a unified search interface for all of the project images.

For more information contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Coordinator, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us>.



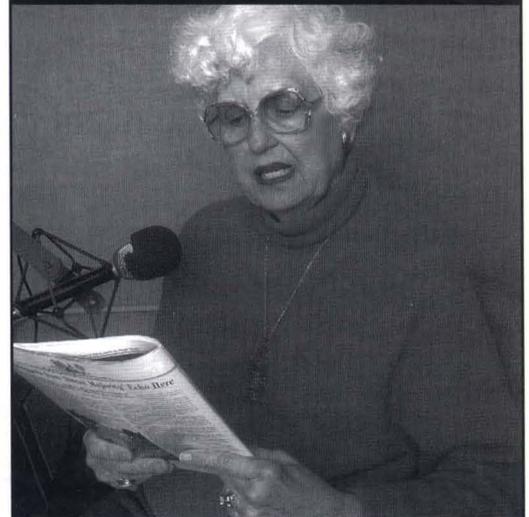
"I have an elderly friend whose mind and intellect are sharp, but her sight is failing. She uses Talking Books for her reading now.

One evening at a club meeting, she came and sat beside me and said, 'Last Saturday evening I was feeling a little lonely and blue, so I decided to listen to a talking book. Imagine my delight when I heard your voice, Marjory, reading the book. I listened with interest, pleasure and a feeling of comfort, hearing your familiar voice. I no longer felt lonely.'

This meant so much to me as a volunteer narrator to hear firsthand how our work can make a difference in someone's life. Something that brings us satisfaction and pleasure is bringing pleasure to others."

—Marjory Gloc, long-time volunteer narrator for the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service

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Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service

Accreditation Guidelines Revision Underway

The Library Commission is in the process of collecting input to revise the *Guidelines for Accreditation of Public Libraries*. In an effort to solicit input on this process, Kit Keller visited with library staff throughout the state to talk about revision of the Guidelines and to ask for input from the library community.

It is not too late to share your comments on this important program administered by the Library Commission. To read more about

the process and about the basic content of library guidelines and standards, see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Accreditation, or contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Planning Tool for Federal Grants Now Available

The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has launched an online Project Planning Tutorial, <eservices.imls.gov/project_planning>, to help libraries develop project plans for its National Leadership Grant applications. This tool is designed to make it easier to develop competitive applications for federal grants.

The tutorial is divided into four sections:

- ▲ A step-by-step process for getting projects underway, including analyzing organizational needs, identifying the target audience, and formulating goals.

- ▲ A project plan outline, including activities, evaluation approach, schedule, and resources.

- ▲ Tips for writing applications.
- ▲ Tips for implementing successful projects.

This resource can be used by anyone who would like to learn more about project planning and development, and should be a valuable tool to enhance skills and strengthen grant applications. The need to identify and communicate with stakeholders is emphasized throughout.

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- ▲ **Nebraska Library Commission Deputy Director Nancy Busch** resigned her position with the Library Commission to serve as Associate Dean and Professor of the University Library at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Busch served as the Commission's Deputy Director since 1989. She contributed to all facets of the Library Commission's statewide services, notably long range plans, state budgeting, and program evaluation. In just the past few years she successfully led the Commission's centennial celebration and **Making a Difference @ your library™** projects...and much, much more. Prior to that, she served as Nebraska's first regional library system administrator, directing the Panhandle Library System from 1978 to 1983.
- ▲ **Governor Mike Johanns** appointed **Patrick Gross** of Wayne to the Nebraska Library Commission, filling the vacancy from the Northeast area. Gross replaces **Karen Warner**, who served two terms as a Commissioner. Gross is Senior Vice President for the State National Bank and Trust Company in Wayne. He served as president of the Wayne Public Library Board and the Library Foundation, receiving Wayne's 1995 Citizen of the Year award for his role in leading the building committee for the new library/senior center facility.
- ▲ **Julie Pinell** is the Library Commission's **2003 Employee of the Year**. Her contributions to the Commission's reference and interlibrary loan service, along with her work updating the *Electronic Library* and the *Star Reference Manual*, were noted in her nomination. Congratulations, Julie!
- ▲ **Banned Books Week is September 20–27**. See the ALA Web site, <www.ala.org>, search on 2003 Banned Books Week, for ideas on celebrating our Freedom to Read.
- ▲ **The Omaha Public Library Board** announced that **Rivkah Sass** will be the next library director. Sass served as the reference and information services coordinator for the Multnomah County Library System in Portland OR since 1999.
- ▲ **September is National Library Card Signup Month**. Promotional ideas are available from the ALA Web site, <www.ala.org>, search on 2003 Library Card Sign-up Month.
- ▲ **Millard Public Schools** received the **2003 National School Library Media Program of the Year Award** from ALA's American Association of School Librarians.
- ▲ **Laura Bush Foundation Awards** to purchase books were awarded to these Nebraska schools:
 - Lincoln Elementary School, Grand Island
 - Liberty Elementary School, Omaha
 - Walthill Public School, Walthill
 - Winnebago Public School, Winnebago
- ▲ The **University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries** and the **Omaha Public Library** recently received National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" grants to present a traveling exhibition and public programs on the theme, *Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend*.
- ▲ **Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Committee** announced the recipients of the following scholarships:
 - **Louise Nixon Scholarship**
 - **Lori Brezina**, Children's Librarian at the **Swanson Public Library** in Plattsmouth, pursuing a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia
 - **Deborah Levitov**, Coordinator for the **Lincoln Public Schools Library Media Services**, pursuing a Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia
 - **Marty Magee**, Chief Librarian of the **Veterans Administration Medical Center** (affiliated with the University of Nebraska Medical Center), pursuing a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia
- **Duane Munson Scholarship:** **Kate Freeman**, Library Assistant III for the **Keene Memorial Library in Fremont**, pursuing a Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia
- ▲ **The Nebraska Center for the Book** will sponsor the twelfth **Nebraska Book Festival on October 24-25**, hosted by **Omaha's Creighton University** at the Skutt Student Center. For more information see <nebraskabookfestival.org>.
- ▲ **IMLS** recently announced the award of 2003 Native American Library Services Grants to the **Ponca Tribe of Nebraska** in Lincoln (\$4,000), **Omaha Tribe of Nebraska** in Macy (\$4,000), and **Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska** in Winnebago (\$6,000).
- ▲ **Carol Connor** recently celebrated twenty-five years as **Director of Lincoln City Libraries**. She was awarded a key to the city, a mayoral proclamation, and an admiralship in the Nebraska Navy.
- ▲ The **Nebraska Library Association** has a new Web address, <www.nebraskalibraries.org>. ▲

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 Sept. 18 at the Cornhusker in Lincoln.**
 See <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nam.html>.