

NCompass

N E W S L E T T E R



Library Commission Receives 'Staying Connected' Grant

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded \$250,960 to the Nebraska Library Commission in FY2005 to conduct training and provide consultation to help Nebraska's public libraries sustain and improve the quality of public access computing and access to the Internet. The Gates Foundation matches every dollar of federal, state, and local funds with two dollars.

Expected to be implemented over the next few years, the grant will help public libraries across the state improve technology training for staff and customers, establish Internet access, upgrade to faster

Internet connections, and increase access to technical support. In addition, libraries in Pender, Lynch, and Walthill will receive computer upgrades.

"The key to this program's success," said Martha Choe, director of the Foundation's Global Libraries program, "is ensuring that libraries are able to sustain Internet service in subsequent years by partnering with state and local governments, businesses, nonprofits, foundations, and other library supporters."

The grant builds on previous Gates Foundation support received in 2001 when grants valued at \$1.6



Nebraska library staff attended Gates-funded training.

million were awarded to 206 Nebraska libraries. Microsoft Corporation donated software and libraries receiving Foundation funds.



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Continuing Education Opportunities Offered

The Library Commission funded numerous continuing education opportunities for Nebraska librarians in FY2005. Among the highlights were:

- Personnel workshop, "We're all in this personnel thing together, aren't we?" with Lincoln attorney Linda Sapp
- Gates Foundation-funded workshops on computer troubleshooting, using FrontPage and PowerPoint, and on teaching adults how to use the Internet
- Basic Skills, Public Library Administration and Public Services Courses
- Videoconference on "The ALSC Institute and Mem Fox: What We Learned"
- Variety of OCLC-related workshops, including classes on WorldCat, Connexion: Client Interface for Cataloging, and Browser Interface for Cataloging
- E-rate workshops
- Digitization and Scanning workshops
- Database Roadshows—attendees at sites throughout the state learned about NebraskaAccess through discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on practice
- Communication workshops featuring Theresa Dickson on

such topics as "Rewriting the Script: Communication Skills that Reframe Conflict and Content," "Problem-Solving Techniques," and "Lighten Up: Humor and Workplace Survival"

- Satellite teleconferences from the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL, for library supporters and staff members, on the following topics: "Dealing with Difficult People," "Library Challenges and Opportunities: Library Marketing," "Reference Tools for the Information Age," "Library Transformation: Library as Place," and "Library Hot Topics."



From the Director...

Year in Review Highlights Cooperative Projects and Partnerships

This special edition of *NCompass* highlights Library Commission projects and services from the past year. *The 2004 – 2005 Year in Review* reflects the many and varied services of the Library Commission in pursuing its statewide mission to promote, develop and coordinate library services. Some of the stories are familiar and based on longstanding services, but several address new initiatives.

Of note is the continuing relationship with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that has followed Nebraska's participation in the foundation's initiative to place public access computers in public libraries and to improve technology competencies for library personnel. Also noted are the Commission's "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies" grant project and continuing development of NebraskAccess as an online library for Nebraska. And further, many educational activities are described including financial aid for students and initiation of a new Library Technical Assistant program now offered through Nebraska community colleges.

A significant part of the Commission's activities is providing grants, contract funding and scholarship support for Nebraska libraries, library organizations, and individuals. Grants and scholarships awarded in the past year total nearly \$2,000,000.

The Year in Review identifies many organizations and people that contribute to library service development throughout Nebraska. We are appreciative of these contributions and recognize that the best possible library services depend on the mutual cooperation and efforts of many. Thanks to all for being part of this continuing journey.

Rod Wagner



Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

Funding FY2005

State of Nebraska Funds	\$3,514,850
Federal Funds	1,344,918
Cash Funds	186,998
Total	\$5,046,766

Grants Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

Children's Grants for Excellence	\$ 62,773
Collaborative Summer Library Program	5,308
Continuing Education and Training Grants	51,711
Digitization Grants and Projects	39,730
Electronic Information Resources	387,044
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	207,431
Library Services and Technology Grants	84,154
Master of Library Science Scholarships	11,569
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	15,995
Nebraska Center for the Book Grant	20,000
Nebraska Library Association Grant	2,100
Nebraska Library Association Trustee Grant	10,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	3,750
Regional Library Systems	670,598
State Aid to Public Libraries	351,493
State Technology Grants	33,000
University of Nebraska-Omaha Library Education Options	3,000
Utah State Library (Braille Services)	3,900
Total	\$1,963,556

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Nebraska Library Commissioners:

Velma Sims-Shiple, Chair, Fremont, term expires 2007; Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, term expires 2007; John Dale, Lincoln, term expires 2008; Patrick Gross, Wayne, term expires 2009; Mary Nelson, Holdrege, term expires 2009; and Carol Spencer, Broken Bow, term expires 2007. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

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

Celebrating NebraskAccess's First Year

NebraskAccess, home of the statewide database program, celebrated its first birthday in January 2005. NebraskAccess provides Nebraskans with free online access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, genealogy resources, business information, and much more. The Nebraska Library Commission purchases access to these resources with funding from the State of Nebraska.

Among the highlights of the first year were:

January 2004 – NebraskAccess goes live on the Nebraska Library Commission Web site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess>.

February 2004 – Nebrask@Online adds a NebraskAccess logo/link to their official State of Nebraska home page at <Nebraska.gov> as well as to their Business, Citizens, and Education portal pages.

March 2004 – Links to the new Patron Books in Print interface, designed specifically for end users,

are added to NebraskAccess. Remote access to Patron Books in Print is provided for the first time via the Home/Work login page. The Books in Print Professional link is moved to the Librarian's Toolbox.

April 2004 – A "Create Your Own Online Resources Page" is added to NebraskAccess. This template allows librarians to create a customized online resources page for their library Web site in less than ten minutes by filling out a simple form. No HTML coding required!

June-September 2004 – Nebraska Library Commission Network Services staff offered nine Database Roadshows across the state. These five-hour training sessions provided in-depth instruction on searching the NebraskAccess databases, as well as an overview of the promotional and training material available to librarians and media specialists through the Librarian's Toolbox. Total attendance: 108.

September 2004 – Three additions to the Librarian's Toolbox are announced: downloadable NebraskAccess desktop wallpaper

(three designs); a downloadable NebraskAccess computer desktop icon; and Books in Print Usage Statistics.

September-October 2004 – Six handouts promoting magazines in NebraskAccess are added to the Librarian's Toolbox. Handouts focus on the following topics/disciplines: Agriculture & Ranching; Health & Wellness; News & Current Events; Sports & Recreation; Teachers & School Administrators; and Hobbies & Crafts.

November 2004 – Hartington Public Library and Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools win our NebraskAccess Link Contest. Their prize was personalized training sessions on NebraskAccess database resources for an audience of their choice.

December 2004 – Nebraska Lt. Gov. Dave Heineman names NebraskAccess one of the notable digital government initiatives at the Nebraska Digital Government Summit in Lincoln.



State Aid Payments to Public Libraries

From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, \$351,493 was paid in direct state aid to 161 Nebraska public libraries. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Library Commission, submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using Bibliostat™ Collect (Web-based data collection tool), and local income must be equal to or greater than that of the three previous years. For more information, contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, at 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>, or see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/staid.html>.

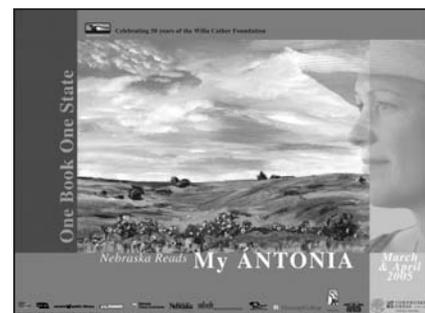
Motion Picture License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission renewed a statewide Motion Picture Video License for all Nebraska public libraries in Nebraska from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, at no cost to public libraries. With this license, videos may be shown in the library facility as part of library programming. All terms and conditions of the previous license remained in effect for the renewed license.

One Book, One State

In spring 2005 Nebraskans participated in "One Book, One State: Nebraska Reads *My Antonia*," launched by the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational

Foundation. The Library Commission was one of the sponsoring organizations and Commission Director Rod Wagner served on the One Book, One State committee. The Commission urged libraries to host book discussions and programs, and compiled discussion kits for them to use that included multiple copies of the book. The event was held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration of the foundation held in April. Cather scholars from throughout the U.S. led discussions and answered questions about *My Antonia*. In addition, a writing competition was held for secondary students across the state.



Nebraskans across the state read *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather, with book discussion kits developed and distributed by the Library Commission, and more than fifty libraries across Nebraska hosting book discussions and programs.

National Commission Recognizes McGoogan Library

The McGoogan Library of Medicine of the University of Nebraska Medical Center received the Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Award for Libraries for Nebraska in FY2005 for its Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS). The library was among outstanding libraries in 37 states recognized by the U.S. National Commission of Libraries and Information Science for their contribution to health awareness and health education.

Rod Wagner, director of the Nebraska Library Commission, nominated the McGoogan Library of Medicine because of the program's potential impact, innovativeness, and replicability. Since its inception in 1985, CHIRS has served as a health information resource library for the state of Nebraska. The service provides health information, free of charge, to residents regardless of their location. For more information about CHIRS, call 402-559-6221 or 866-800-5209 or e-mail <askus@unmc.edu>, or access the program's Web site at <www.unmc.edu/library/consumer> and click on "CHIRS Request Form" to fill out an online request form.

Staff FY2005

Arrivals

- Sue Biloft, September 1, 2004
- Michael Norval, September 1, 2004
- Scott Scholz, March 23, 2005
- James Atkins, June 13, 2005
- Cynthia Taylor, June 13, 2005

Departures

- Robert Shafer, August 13, 2004
- Jodene Glaesemann, August 31, 2004
- Michael Norval, April 15, 2005



Employee of the Year

- Jennifer Wrampe was selected as the Library Commission's 2005 Employee of the Year.

Advisory Group Encourages Libraries

The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries advises the Commission on statewide library development and planning. The Council also evaluates inter-library cooperative and resource sharing plans, and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plans and programs. The State Advisory Council on Libraries challenges Nebraska libraries to link every citizen of the state with information technologies by becoming a catalyst for community planning and aggressively obtaining funding. Libraries are challenged to form partnerships to accomplish the goal of information access, and librarians are challenged to increase their knowledge and ability to use information technologies to serve their communities.

Council members were chosen from libraries in public, academic, school, and special settings, or are library customers. The following individuals served on the State Advisory Council in FY2005:

- **Jim Bothmer**, Health Sciences Library, Creighton University
- **Patti Birch**, North Platte Senior High
- **Janice Boyer**, University Library, University of Nebraska at Omaha

- **Nancy Cantin**, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center
- **Steve Davis**, Kearney Public Schools District Media
- **Karen Drevo**, Norfolk Public Library
- **Nancy Escamilla**, Scottsbluff Public Library
- **Joan Giesecke**, Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **Pat Gross**, Gering High School
- **Margaret (Maggie) Harding**, NLA Executive Director, Crete
- **Gretchen Healy**, Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago
- **Theresa Jehlik**, Omaha Public Library
- **Diana Johnson**, Stromsburg Public Library
- **Marty Magee**, McGoogan Library, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **Sharon Osenga**, Meridian Library System, Kearney
- **Rebecca Pasco, Ph.D.**, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- **John Seyfarth**, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
- **Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith**, Schuyler Public Library
- **Jeff Yost**, Nebraska Community Foundation, Lincoln



Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds



Summer Reading Program

Gov. Mike Johanns proclaimed September as Library Card Sign-Up Month at a celebration with children at Lincoln City Libraries' Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library. After signing the proclamation, the governor was presented with a library card and used it to check out a book, which he read to the children.

Commission Awards Continuing Education and Training Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded Continuing Education and Training grants totaling approximately \$16,282 in August 2004. The grants were awarded to three libraries and three library organizations to assist in providing continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel and trustees.

The following libraries and library organizations received grants:

- Grand Island Public Library
- Kearney Public Library & Information Center
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Panhandle Library System
- Nebraska Regional Library Systems
- Southeast Library System

Library Technical Assistant Program Debuts

The first Library Technical Assistant (LTA) course, developed through a partnership between the Library Commission, Nebraska's community colleges, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UN-O), was offered in Fall 2004 through Metropolitan Community College. It was the first in a series of offerings expected to lead to an Associate of Arts Degree for Library Technical Assistants. It was a hybrid course (face-to-face sites located around the state and online).

All Nebraska community colleges will be involved in developing and delivering future courses. Most of the courses will be Web-assisted or offered online.

Thank You, Commissioners

The Library Commission staff would like to thank the six commissioners for their commitment to improving library service in Nebraska. Commissioners are appointed by the governor and meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board. Commissioners in FY2005 were:



2004 Nebraska Library Commissioners (Left front) Jean Ahrens; Carol Spencer; Mary Nelson. Back: Kristen Rogge; Patrick Gross; Velma Sims-Shipley.

- **Kristen Rogge**, Chair, Johnson
- **Jean Ahrens**, Scottsbluff
- **Patrick Gross**, Wayne
- **Mary Nelson**, Holdrege
- **Velma Sims-Shipley**, Fremont
- **Carol Spencer**, Broken Bow

Consumers Advise Library Commission

TBBS Advisory Committee Focused on Outreach

The Advisory Committee to the Talking Book and Braille Service represents users' needs and makes recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Its membership consists primarily of library borrowers, but may include librarians, educators, health care providers and other individuals who understand the needs of users. The committee normally meets twice a year.

In FY2005 the committee focused on educating more Nebraskans about the service, which included working closely with medical and other professionals who could refer qualifying individuals to TBBS.

The Advisory Committee for the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service for FY2005 were:

- Avis Wiest**, Ogallala
- Ryan Osentowski**, Lincoln
- Carolyn Bennett**, Beatrice
- Roy Hobley**, Lincoln
- Kathy Tooker**, Omaha
- Candace Laursen**, North Platte
- Cheryl Roblyer**, North Platte
- Kay Paulsen**, Lincoln
- Susan Roe**, Brady

NEBASE Council Advises on Policy Issues

The NEBASE Advisory Council serves as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE (Nebraska's OCLC Network, operated by the Library Commission) and its members. The Council is comprised of seven delegates elected for three-year terms who advise NEBASE on policy matters and represent the interests of NEBASE libraries. NEBASE Advisory Council members in FY2005 were:

Academic Library

- **Pat Hughes**, Hastings College
- **Lauralee Grabe**, Creighton University
- **Brian Striman**, UNL-Law

Public Library

- **Lori Rader**, Omaha Public Library
- **Sandra Astleford**, Bellevue Public Library

Special/Institutional/School

- **MaryAnne Vieregger**, Creighton Prep

Selective

- **Marjorie Shaw**, La Vista Public Library

Ex-Officio

- **Michael LaCroix**, Creighton University

Youth Grants for Excellence Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$62,773 in FY2005 to promote excellence in children's library services.

The grants offer librarians an opportunity to expand youth services and try new projects. Many libraries used grant funds this year to create teen spaces, programs, and advisory boards. Others brought authors John Erickson and Jim Trelease to Nebraska libraries, as well as Kim Brown, the "real" DW in the Arthur books by Marc Brown. They purchased books, computers, CDs, TVs, DVD and cassette players, movies, magazines, and literacy kits for kindergartners and first-graders; established a marionette troupe; provided early literacy workshops for youth librarians; and started a toddler program.

For more information, see the Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us> and search on Grants for Excellence. Grant recipients were:

Arapahoe Public Library
Atkinson Public Library
Beatrice Public Library
Bellevue Public Library
Blair Public Library
Broken Bow Public Library
Central City Public Library
Ceresco Public Library
Crawford Public Library
Crete Public Library
Keene Memorial Library, Fremont
Gering Public Library
Gordon City Library
Hartington Public Library
Holdrege Public Library System
Kearney Public Library & Information Center
La Vista Public Library
Neligh Public Library
Norfolk Public Library
Ogallala Public Library
Omaha Public Library
Lied Pierce Public Library
Ponca Public Library
Randolph Public Library
Schuyler Public Library
Seward Memorial Library
Stromsburg Public Library
Tekamah Public Library
Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library
Valentine Public Library
Wayne Public Library
Weeping Water Public Library

Nebraska Library Commission Wins Grant to Recruit Future Librarians

With a \$343,682 grant awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in FY2005, the Nebraska Library Commission began developing a campaign to recruit the next generation of Nebraska librarians, and to train and support current library workers. The project grew out of a recommendation from the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries. It was prompted by the need to fill current and expected job vacancies, as identified by the Library Commission's Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

The Library Commission's grant is part of the \$19 million "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" national program. Through this project, high school and college students will be recruited, matched with mentors and educational opportunities, and provided with stipends, grants, or scholarships to support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional education.

For its campaign, "**Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies,**" the Library Commission began developing a marketing plan to raise awareness and identify prospects for library service careers; recruiting talented and diverse library personnel, matching them with mentor/recruiters and educational/employment opportunities; and providing grants, scholarships, and stipends to support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional training.

The primary strategy is a one-on-one, each-one-recruit-one, mentoring approach. The Recruitment phase will

focus on raising awareness, stereotype busting, and enticing young adults (in high school and college) and pre-professional library workers into library skills training. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of professionally trained librarians in Nebraska.

Mentors and recruiters will be trained to use a multimedia approach (including a movie trailer, print and broadcast communication, Web resources, and 3-D exhibits and displays) to identify prospects and inform them about the opportunities for rewarding careers in library service. The resources will be made available to K-12, postsecondary, and public library staff, as well as library supporters and advocates, helping them to form a statewide network of mentors.

The Education phase will match prospects with appropriate educational resources at whatever rung of the career/education ladder they can enter, providing student stipends and internships.

The Employment phase will match prospects with appropriate employment resources, providing employment stipends and internships.



Nebraska Libraries Receive E-Rate Discounts

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$161,861.47 in discounts on their telecommunications costs in FY2005 through the Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Discount (E-rate) program.

The discounts, from 20% to 90%, averaged 65.7% for the state's libraries, with 127 libraries participating, including the Library Commission and the regional library systems.

The purpose of the E-rate program is to provide discounts for libraries and

schools on basic and advanced telecommunications services ranging from basic telephone service to broadband network connections, Internet services, and internal connections. Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale tied to the level of eligibility for the local school lunch program.

Library Commission staff presented seven workshops around the state on applying for the E-rate discount, technology plans, and E-rate program changes.

Library Commission Answers Interlibrary Loan Questions

During FY2005, the Nebraska Library Commission worked with libraries across the state to provide Interlibrary Loan services to Nebraskans. Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, collected the following regularly asked questions.

Q. Is it possible to request VHS, DVD, and Books on Tape through ILL?

A. Yes, many libraries generously loan these materials. On occasion, there are libraries with policies that prohibit lending.

Q. May we request multiple copies of a book for a book club?

A. Yes, however, we will not be able to place requests for bestsellers, books that have been out for less than one year or other popular titles, such as Oprah Book Club books. It's best to ask for the number of books you'll need from the start so all your books will arrive at about the same time. Generally, book club libraries request three to seven copies of a title.

Q. How long does an ILL book take to arrive at my library?

A. Usually one to two weeks. If the book is provided from an in-state library, it will arrive more quickly than if it comes from out of state. Encourage your patrons to ask for items two weeks before they will need them.

Q. Is there such a thing as an ASAP ILL?

A. No. Once a request is in the OCLC system, it's up to the five lending libraries to respond to your request. We aren't able to do anything to speed things along.

Q. Why do we have to let you know when we receive and return items?

A. ILL has its own circulation system to track items. Libraries that lend their items need to know when materials have reached their destination and when they are returned.

Updating these records is part of our daily ILL circulation process. Keeping up with ILL records makes everything run more smoothly for all the libraries involved.

Q. What books are too new to request?

A. Any book, fiction or non-fiction, that is less than twelve months from its release date . . . If you're uncertain about a book's publication date, check <www.amazon.com> or Books in Print. Many libraries restrict lending their newer materials through Interlibrary Loan.

Q. Why won't you accept my request to borrow *The DaVinci Code*?

A. Because it's on the bestseller list and the movie release is May 2006, which increases the popularity of this title and keeps it among those hard-to-borrow books. Any book with a recently released movie version is generally on our "Do Not Place" list as are all fiction and non-fiction bestsellers, Oprah books, and other popular titles such as the One Book/One Lincoln selection. Locate the Publisher's Weekly Bestseller list at <www.publishersweekly.com> and click on Bestsellers.

Q. Can I renew ILL items?

A. Yes, from most lending libraries. Libraries prefer to be asked for renewals before the due date. If an item has been recalled by the lending library, we will not be able to request more time. When asking for a renewal, please contact the Nebraska Library Commission.

Q. Why must I use the <ready@nlc.state.ne.us> e-mail address for ILL e-mail?

A. If you send ILL e-mail to an individual's e-mail address and that person is sick or on vacation that day, your e-mail will not be addressed in a timely manner. Staff members take turns answering and responding to the 'ready' e-mail account, assuring a quick response to your question.

Q. How many people work with Interlibrary Loan at the Nebraska Library Commission?

A. There are seven—Belinda Fanning, Beth Goble, Bonnie Henzel, Evelyn Kubert, Julie Pinnell, Lisa Kelly, and Susan Knisely.

More information about the Nebraska Library Commission's Interlibrary Loan Services is located on the Commission's Web site at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/ill.html>. To request Interlibrary Loan services, contact the Commission by phone at 800-307-2665; fax: 402-471-6244; e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us>; ILL request form: <www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/ill>



Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Director Beth Goble (right) assists a customer.

Library Commission Supports Nebraska Center for the Book

The tradition of support for the Nebraska Center for the Book continues. As a charter member of this coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to the support of Nebraska's community of the book, the Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff support for a variety of projects.

Jane Pope Geske Award:

Nebraska Writing Project was honored for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska.

Letters about Literature: Young Nebraskans wrote letters to their favorite authors and this year, Jackson Fisher of Lincoln received the national top prize for Grades 4-5, for his letter to Carl Hiaasen, author of *Hoot*.

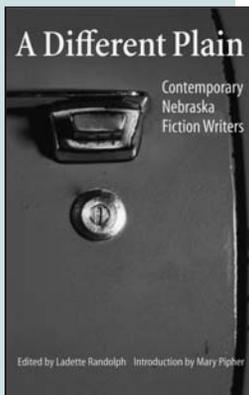
National Book Festival: Staffed an exhibit in the Pavilion of the States in Washington, D.C.

National Idea Exchange: Supported travel expenses for the Nebraska Center for the Book president to attend this information-sharing session in Washington, D.C.

NCB News: Supported development and distribution of this newsletter (three editions per year).

Nebraska Book Awards: Books published in Nebraska, set in Nebraska, or written by Nebraskans (or former Nebraskans) were honored in the following categories: fiction, nonfiction, children/young adult, design/illustration, and poetry.

Nebraska Book Festival: The University of Nebraska at Kearney hosted the thirteenth festival, themed *A Different Plain: Contemporary Nebraska Fiction Writers* after the featured book edited by Ladette Randolph



Library Commission Pays 'Dollars for Data'

In FY2005 the Nebraska Library Commission instituted a "Dollars for Data" payment of \$250 to unaccredited public libraries that completed the annual Public Library Statistical Report using Bibliostat™ Collect. Twenty-seven libraries qualified for the payment, and six of those went on to become accredited.

Data submission ensures that the Library Commission and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) have a clear picture of public library service throughout Nebraska. Since this is a necessary element toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines <www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html>, the remaining twenty-one libraries are one step closer to achieving accredited status.

This state funding is intended to provide enhanced services, not to replace local funds. For more information see the Library Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, and search on Dollars for Data or contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, or by e-mail, <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Libraries that received Dollars for Data payments were:

Axtell Public Library
Bancroft Public Library
Dundy County Library, Benkelman
Big Springs Public Library
Broadwater Public Library
Clearwater Public Library
Klyte Burt Memorial Library, Curtis
Davenport Public Library
Daykin Public Library
Farnam Public Library
Sioux County Public Library, Harrison
Cravath Memorial Library, Hay Springs
Hemingford Public Library
Lewellen Public Library
Lyman Public Library
Sunshine Township Library, Mason City
Brenizer Public Library, Merna
Oconto Public Library
Palisade Public Library
Rising City Community Library
Rushville Public Library
Spencer Township Library
Stratton Public Library
Sutherland Public Library
Syracuse Public Library
Walthill Public Library
Wauneta Public Library

State Documents Depository Program Becomes Digital

The Nebraska Library Commission announced in April 2005 that its Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse would undergo a major transformation, "morphing" from a microfiche distribution program into a digital preservation and alerting program.

Commission staff developed procedures for downloading or scanning state publications, posting them on the Commission's Web site, and alerting depository libraries.

Nebraska State Publications Online continues to be a comprehensive Web

listing at <www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pilot.html>. Items that were previously distributed on microfiche are scanned or downloaded and posted on the Library Commission's Web site. If the item is a serial (e.g., annual report, newsletter) an index Web page lists individual reports or issues. URLs of the online versions are included in the OCLC catalog record. Depositories receive e-mail alerts with titles, OCLC numbers, and URLs. For preservation purposes, microfilm is produced for key items.

Library Commission Funds Regional Systems

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$670,598 in FY2005 to fund training and development assistance for Nebraska libraries through the state's six regional library systems. The systems provide access to improved library services through cooperation of all types of libraries and media centers within the counties in each system area. The Library Commission supports the regional systems using state and federal funds.

Administrators for the six systems in FY2005 were: Eastern–Kathy Tooker, Northeast–Kathy Ellerton, Republican Valley–Sherry Houston, Meridian–Sharon Osenga, Panhandle–Cherie Longmuir, Southeast–Brenda Ealey.

Here is a snapshot of how the systems fulfilled their service roles this year.

Continuing education/training/consulting

Coordinated programming on many topics, including:

- trustee training
- budgeting
- accreditation
- database training
- summer reading program
- youth services
- graphic novels
- copyright

- Gates training-computer hardware/software
- medical information online
- weeding
- BiblioStat™
- personnel
- leadership
- planning
- Basic Skills
- new and remodeled facilities
- marketing
- reference tools
- E-rate
- system boards
- “Cheap Remodels” seminar
- school institutes
- safety/security
- collection management
- fundraising
- computer troubleshooting
- OCLC/ILL
- communication and conflict resolution
- digital cameras and scanning
- technology strategies
- media specialists training day
- public library planning
- Bricks ‘n Boards
- public library directors meetings
- presentations to library science classes

Networking/cooperation

- circulated professional collection items and journals
- loaned cutting machines and dies
- loaned laptops, projectors, and scanners

- participated in Weed of the Month Club
- loaned BiFolkal kits
- circulated Books on Tape and storytelling kits
- placed cooperative puppet orders
- coordinated seven-event author tour

Promotion

- participated in Nebraska and National Library Legislative Day, and other communication with decision-makers
- honored library supporters
- presented free-speech sessions at Doane College-Lincoln
- exhibited at the Nebraska League of Municipalities meeting
- honored library staff
- participated in One Book, One State: Nebraska Reads *My Antonia*

Communication

- published system newsletters
- produced annual reports
- maintained/re-designed system Web sites
- created/maintained online directories
- re-designed system brochures
- performed needs assessment survey
- updated strategic plans and technology plans

LSTA Grants Awarded for FY 2005

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provides federal funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Nebraska Library Commission for local library technology and service projects. In FY2005, Nebraska libraries were awarded \$84,154 to improve public access to electronic information, with special

emphasis on digital imaging projects and helping build the Nebraska Memories Project. Grant recipients were:

Public Libraries

- Blair
- Crawford
- David City, Hruska Memorial
- Fremont, Keene Memorial
- Hastings
- Lincoln
- Lyons
- Omaha
- Orchard
- South Sioux City

Other Libraries/Library Service Organizations

- Nebraska Dept. of Correctional Services
- Nebraska Regional Library Systems



Fast System Facts

- Meridian System Administrator Sharon Osenga logged more than 10,000 miles in visits with library staff and board members.
- Sherry Houston, Republican Valley system administrator, contributed articles to nationwide newsletters.
- Northeast System Administrator Kathy Ellerton visited 64 libraries and drove 6,548 miles on system business.
- Brenda Ealey, Southeast system administrator, judged the *Reading Rainbow* Young Writers & Illustrators Contest.
- Cherie Longmuir, Panhandle system administrator, made 90 library visits and presented to 4 library boards and 4 village/city councils.
- Kathy Tooker, Eastern system administrator, served as Nebraska Library Association legislative chair and on the American Library Association Public Awareness Committee.

Revised Library Accreditation Guidelines

Implemented in 2004

Revised Guidelines for Accreditation for public libraries were implemented by the Nebraska Library Commission in July 2004. The revision of the guidelines was part of the Commission's 2005-2007 long-range plan to address changing library and information needs. The purpose of these voluntary statewide guidelines, first implemented in 1987, is to establish a consistent level of basic library and information service at every public library across the state.

A significant change in the revised guidelines included the adoption of three phases of accreditation based on services and programs offered by libraries. The three designations are Essential, Enhanced, and Excellent. Accreditation is a pre-requisite for state aid eligibility and for all grants administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. State aid payments are now proportionate to the three levels of accreditation. Another major change was the addition of free public Internet access as a basic library service, and as a requirement for Essential accreditation.

The guidelines address a variety of topics, including governance, funding, staff size and educational level, hours, collection size and currency, equality of access (age, disability, location), policy requirements, board of trustees' requirements (by-laws, meeting frequency, orientation), program and service requirements, and outreach and public relations.

For more information see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us> and search on accreditation, or contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, or by e-mail, <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.



Institute Inspires Future Library Leaders

In 2005, the Nebraska Library Commission partnered with the Nebraska Regional Library Systems to offer a library leadership retreat, the Third Nebraska Leadership Institute.

As part of the state match for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies" grant, the Nebraska Library Commission contracted with the regional library systems in FY2005 to provide future Nebraska library leaders an opportunity to learn about leadership styles, skills, and networking. In addition to exploring leadership skills and developing professional goals and plans, the thirty participants at the Nebraska Leadership Institute worked with ten mentors, who are recognized leaders in the library profession in Nebraska.

A survey of the participants showed that a large majority learned about leadership styles, how to be proactive, and how to become leaders in the library profession. Most said they learned communication skills and how to be more effective in their work, and they developed goals and action plans. They said participating in the Institute contributed to their professional development by allowing them to learn from library professionals throughout the state, and by providing insight about how to progress in the library profession.

Following the Institute, three participants decided to pursue MLS degrees, and one is taking undergraduate courses in library science.

Comments from participants:

- "The work we did on the personal action plan was invaluable to me! I have now begun the registration process for classes toward my library degree. . . . Before going through this process, I had some nebulous goals about someday finishing my degree, and someday moving up in the library world, but no concrete plans or goals. That has all changed, and it changed mostly because someone took the time to identify me as a 'leader', and to ask me what I wanted to be 'when I grow up', so to speak."
- "I gained some knowledge about myself, and learned what some of my strengths and weaknesses were. Also, [I learned] how to start changing some of those weak-

nesses. The networking was also valuable."

- "Upon returning to my job after the institute, I approached my supervisor with what had been a 'taboo' topic, and through the skills I learned, the conversation was very beneficial."
- "I know that I have the skills and know-how to be a leader in Nebraska libraries."
- "It helped me better understand my staff and how I can better communicate with them."

"I was able to see and experience the passion of other library professionals for the patrons of this state . . . Seeing mentoring at work and benefiting from the experience and expertise of others was significant in how I relate to others and how I try to work with those around me. Feeling more confident in my own value as a library worker and more secure in my tendency to 'take the lead' were wonderful benefits."

- "I've taken a more active role in my library system."
- "I was able to meet mentors in the library field, who gave me both practical and philosophical advice on continuing and furthering my library career."
- "Just being selected for this institute and being identified as someone who has leadership abilities was a real boost. I have never thought of myself as much of a leader, but now I feel that is a role I can take on. I have always tried, since entering the library field, to do my best and be a contributor and team player. Now, I have aspirations to move up, hopefully to a position that will best utilize my talents."
- "The involvement of the mentors made these leaders accessible as 'people'... The leaders weren't these mysterious people with unattainable attributes that an average person like me could not expect to become. They were simply people who cared enough to become involved and stay informed."
- "I feel more comfortable in my role as a supervisor. I am aware of the different types of people and how they interact and work together."
- "I have agreed to be on a committee that I might not have otherwise said yes to,

before the Institute. I also think I try to listen more to what others are saying and understanding where they're coming from, their leadership style."

- "I look to see how my ideas will affect the whole library and see what I have to do to bring others on board, or to get feedback from other staff members before thinking about changing something."

- "This process forced me to actually commit to action. I have accomplished the first goal I set for myself of getting involved by joining a committee. This process also helped me see a

"I feel the responsibility of setting an example and being an advocate for the library and its users."

difference between professional and personal goals."

- "I identified goals that I had already considered. I plan to take time for legislative e-mails (Action Alerts)—use opportunities to be proactive in regards to the services libraries provide. A Master's Degree remains a few years away, but in the meantime, I can assist library colleagues and continue to educate our students & public."

"I look at the big picture more now. I also try to see my co-workers in terms of their unique sets of skills and talents. I aspire to a higher level of professionalism in my work, and try to be a good example to my fellow staff members. I pay more attention to my ideas and plans—I take them more seriously, and I'm not as nervous about suggesting things at meetings or to my supervisors. I have come to trust my own decision-making abilities a little better."



Library supporters attending national library education activities in Washington, D.C. included (l to r) Mary Reiman, President, Nebraska Educational Media Association; Rod Wagner, Director, Nebraska Library Commission; Velma Sims-Shiple, Commissioner, Nebraska Library Commission; Parker Shiple, Consumer; and Kathy Tooker, Past-president, Nebraska Library Association.

Talking Book and Braille Service Reaches Nebraskans Across State

The Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service co-sponsored a new program, Kernels in a B.A.S.K.E.T. (Blind And Sighted Share Kernels of Experience Together). The program is a joint reading and discussion program for blind and sighted people, and is designed to enhance sighted individuals' understanding of the lives of those who are blind. Five sessions were held in Lincoln in FY2005.

The program used paperback books produced by The National Federation of the Blind containing vignettes that reveal kernels of truth that go to the heart of blindness. Audiocassettes of the books are available to users of the Talking Book and Braille Service.



Beth McNeil, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of the University Libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln received the Runza Spirit of Service Award in FY2005 for her work as a volunteer narrator for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. She was recognized at the Chancellor's Leadership Recognition Reception.

Photo courtesy UN-L Photography



Leif Eric Johnson organized a reuse-recycling project at the Nebraska Library Commission in preparation for his Eagle Scout award. Twenty-six volunteers removed labels from boxes, and cleaned and shelved them for reuse in the Talking Book and Braille Service. Cassettes were prepared for shipment to the National Library Service recycling center in Pennsylvania.

Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics

July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

- ☞ **4,112** Nebraska library staff members attended **173** continuing education sessions sponsored by the Library Commission, including Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **174** public libraries were accredited.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **183,541** talking books, magazines, and Braille materials to **4,869** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **139** issues of magazines and **21** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **48,684** audiocassettes.
- ☞ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than **8.9 million** holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of NEBASE libraries, are part of the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ☞ The Library Commission circulated **2,038** items.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **9,503** items from other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **463** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **5,336** customers onsite.
- ☞ At the end of the fiscal year, NEBASE membership included **143** libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission completed **16,083** reference transactions.
- ☞ **22,838** federal documents and **79,326** state documents were made available for circulation through the Library Commission.

Library Commission Launches Memories Project

The Nebraska Library Commission launched Nebraska Memories in FY2005, a cooperative project to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials and make them available to researchers of all ages via the Internet.

The project will provide access to historically significant digital collections created by Nebraska libraries, either alone or in partnership with other Nebraska institutions such as museums and historical societies. Original manuscripts, diaries, photographs, sheet music, maps, posters, movie film, and oral histories are among the materials that may be included.

Nebraska Memories will be built using CONTENTdm software, which allows institutions to import, organize, manage, store, search, and share digital objects. The Commission will upload the digital objects and accompanying metadata to the Nebraska Memories database, which will be housed on a server maintained by the Nebraska Library Commission. Libraries may use the Nebraska Library Commission scan center located at our offices in Lincoln to digitize their materials at no cost. Training on creating metadata and scanning projects will be provided to Nebraska Memories participants by the Library Commission.



Nebraska Library Commission

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