

Your guide
to the
Nebraska
Library
Commission

Spring 1995

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N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Governor Nelson Proclaims National Library Week

On March 23, Governor Ben Nelson signed the official proclamation marking April 9-15 as National Library Week in Nebraska. Included in the proclamation was a happy 100th birthday wish for the Nebraska Library Association (NLA). The Library Association was founded in April 1895.

The proclamation read: Whereas, Libraries preserve the heritage of all humankind; and Whereas, Libraries enable people to educate themselves; and Whereas, Libraries are essential for citizens' access to information in a democracy; and Whereas, Libraries are recognized for their many accomplishments during National Library Week; and Whereas, Libraries in Nebraska have worked cooperatively for a century through the Nebraska Library Association; and Whereas, The contribution of the Nebraska Library Association to this state is recognized in their Centennial theme "Sowing Ideas Across Nebraska." Now, Therefore, I, E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor of the State of Nebraska, Do hereby proclaim April 9-15, 1995 as National Library Week in Nebraska



▲ Present for the proclamation signing ceremony were, from left to right (back row) Dee Yost, Deb Nerud, Kathy Tooker, Carol Lechner, NLA Executive Director Burns Davis (as the Spirit of 1895), Kate Marek; (seated) Laureen Riedesel, Lajeane Price, Library Commission Director Rod Wagner, Governor Ben Nelson, Joanna Marek, and Franklin Marek.

and encourage all residents to visit their libraries, use their services and join me in wishing the Nebraska Library Association a happy 100th birthday! Governor Nelson was presented with a birthday cake and an NLA Centennial mug. ▲



▲ Governor Ben Nelson holding up the NLA birthday cake presented to him.

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From the Director...

Federal Role in Library Support Explored

Some forty years ago the U.S. Congress enacted the Library Services Act (LSA) to extend library services to rural areas. Bookmobiles, demonstration projects, regional services (and more) were developed using this new source of federal funds. The LSA became the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) in the 1960's with the addition of interlibrary cooperation and construction as purposes of the program. The Title II program has helped many Nebraska communities construct new library facilities and comply with building accessibility requirements.

Within the past few years LSCA funds helped supply needed technology in many Nebraska libraries.

The evolution of LSCA added advisory councils, long range planning and evaluation, services to targeted groups, and literacy efforts. Title III—Interlibrary Cooperation, was added to promote resource sharing activity and other cooperative programs among different types of libraries. The most recent change

added technology as a purpose under Title II. Following several revisions over the past decades, the LSCA is at the end of its current authorization period. What are the future prospects for this longtime federal library program?

A coalition of organizations has developed a proposal for a new federal library program to replace the LSCA. The new program proposal offers a continued state-based program with fewer titles and more flexibility. This new "streamlined" program, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), recognizes the various roles of libraries and allows states to target funds to address state and local library service needs.

The LSCA has been a significant funding source for library programs during the past forty years. Within the past few years LSCA funds helped supply needed technology in many Nebraska libraries, assisted with library construction and renovation projects, supported talking book and braille services, funded purchase of materials by state institutional libraries, subsidized interlibrary loans and communication networks, funded continuing education programs, and underwrote special grant projects.

A new federal program, LSTA or similar, will leverage state and local dollars to help assure that libraries are supported at all governmental levels. The contributions of the forty plus years of the Library Services and Construction Act have been significant. A renewed federal program under a Library Services and Technology Act will offer necessary refinements and contribute toward library and information services needs toward the next century and beyond. ▲

Rod Wagner

Library Commission Receives Nebraska Development Network Award

The Nebraska Library Commission received diamond member

recognition for its contribution

to the Nebraska Development Network (NDN). The Library Commission's **Nebrask@ Online** service was developed in cooperation with the NDN and facilitates access to information and communication for economic and community development purposes. Rod Wagner, Commission Director, serves as the Governor's representative on the NDN Board of Directors and is a member of the NDN Executive Committee. The NDN is a non-profit corporation with over 250 organizational and individual members, including a number of



▲ Governor Nelson and Rod Wagner

Nebraska libraries. The NDN was created to aid in the promotion of economic and community development. Bronze member contribution awards were given to: UNL's Love Library, Clarkson College, and Irple Ruby, Librarian at McCook Community College. For more information, contact JoAnn McManus at NDN, 402-471-3775. ▲

Internet Provider List on Nebrask@ Online

An updated Internet provider list is now available on **Nebrask@ Online**.

It lists dial-up and SLIP/PPP providers who offer either 800 access or a local number in Nebraska, as well as dedicated leased line Internet providers who offer service in Nebraska.

The list is available in electronic format on **Nebrask@ Online** by selecting *News and Reference* on the **Nebrask@ Online** main menu, then select *Reference Sources*. Use *Internet* as a keyword search under *Business, Information Technology* or *Libraries*.

For a paper copy, contact Annie Sternburg at the Library Commission, 402-471-6277 or 800-307-2665, or astern@neon.nlc.state.ne.us. ▲

Compass

NEWSLETTER

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Commissioners: Thomas Harvey, Omaha, term expires 1996; Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1996; Dr. Robert McPherson, Hastings, term expires 1997; Myrna Vollbrecht, Stanton, term expires 1997; Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1998; Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1998. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

Special Report...

Toward a New Nebraska Online Service

Nebaska Online was introduced to the public in October 1992, as Nebraska's electronic communication and information service. Nebraska Online has succeeded in providing easy-to-use, statewide access to a variety of unique information resources as well as electronic mail (e-mail) services.

The desire to address requests for additional applications and the need for continued network growth led the Library Commission to seek competitive proposals for a network manager to assist in the evolution of Nebraska Online into a user-supported information service. Nebrask@ Online will offer a new level of services through the network manager, including some information resources that will be available under a subscriber and fee structure. This will facilitate sustained growth and development of Nebrask@ Online, and will enhance services available to and through Nebraska libraries.

The network manager was selected by an inter-agency team of representatives from several state agencies including the Library Commission, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, Secretary of State, State Courts Administration, and the Department of Economic Development. These agencies worked together to develop specifications, issue the Request For Proposal, evaluate proposals, and negotiate the network manager contract.

The network manager is a private company with staff who are experienced in operating networked information services, and who have the vision to further develop Nebrask@ Online as an information resource tool. Work is underway to initiate online access to Nebraska state government data resources that will contribute revenues for operation of Nebrask@ Online, and lead to the integration of current Nebrask@ Online components.

The primary technical mission of the network manager will be to develop, maintain and provide for enhanced Nebrask@ Online subscribers a common, seamless, easy-to-use interface to thousands of dissimilar, hard-to-use information systems. System menus will migrate to the World Wide Web (WWW) environment providing access to thousands of information sources. The network manager will work in partnership with the Library Commission to plan, market, and deliver networked information services.

The Library Commission will work with other state agency partners to provide administrative oversight. Some Nebrask@ Online revenues will be retained by the Library Commission to support agency administrative costs and to finance Commission work on development of Nebrask@ Online applications.

The initial work of the network manager will lead to provision of services of special interest to libraries, including full Internet access. The potential is unlimited.

What will these Nebrask@ Online services cost?

Under this user-supported model, fees are charged for some information services. In general, an annual subscription fee of \$50 per year covers start-up charges, World Wide Web browser software, support, and one service manual. For a subscriber, on-line services will generally range from **no connect fee to \$.40 per minute**. Downloading, uploading, e-mail and Internet access through Nebrask@ Online will be provided at \$.12 per minute. A few services, such as Driver and Vehicle Records and Uniform Commercial Code searches have statutory fees in addition to connect time.

The initial \$50 annual fee will be waived for currently registered users (as of 8/1/95) of the former Nebraska Online services.

Will libraries have a special rate?

Public Library, Institutional Library and Community College Library Introductory Offer:

(Must take advantage of this offer before 9/1/95.)

Three hundred dollars purchases Internet Services including e-mail and all Nebrask@ Online information services except those associated with a statutory fee. Note: The library can activate statutory fee services for the published rate, at the library's request.

Nebraska Public Libraries will receive: one service manual, World Wide Web browser software, training, and 24-hour technical support via an 800 number.

This introductory offer will be valid for 100 hours of service (must use by 8/31/96). After 100 hours are used or after 8/31/96, the following pricing will be in effect:

Pricing for All Other Types of Libraries: (and for above-mentioned Libraries after Introductory Offer)

Library Accesses via own Internet provider:

A \$240 annual subscription fee gives the library unlimited access time to Nebrask@ Online information services (except for services with statutory fees).

Library Accesses via Nebrask@ Online dial-in:

A \$240 annual subscription fee gives the library 50 hours of Nebrask@ Online information services. Additional 10-hour blocks of access time can be purchased for \$60.

These hours apply to: Internet access, (including e-mail) uploading and downloading, and any Nebrask@ Online service with \$.40 per minute fee—fee will be waived but time is charged against library time blocks.

Note: Nebrask@ Online services available for free to the public will not be charged against library time blocks.

For further information, contact Janet Greser, 402-471-2010 or 800-307-2665, or Sam Somerhalder, Nebrask@ Online General Manager, at 800-747-8177 or 402-471-7812. ▲

Rod Wagner and Mary Jo Ryan

Nebrask@ Online will offer a new level of services through the network manager, including some information resources that will be available under a subscriber and fee structure.

Meet the Newest Member of the Talking Book and Braille Staff

Clarice Schmidt, a Kansas native, is the newest member of the Talking Book and Braille Service staff at the Library Commission. She oversees average daily

Schmidt worked at Nebraska Wesleyan University Library for 16 years.

circulation of 700 incoming and outgoing items with a staff of one full-time and four part-time employees. Schmidt received her associate degree in library science from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Schmidt is no stranger to libraries. She worked at Nebraska Wesleyan University Library for two years in circulation and for 14 years as a cataloger.

Prior to Wesleyan, she assisted in setting up a central school library at a grade school in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Schmidt and Duane, her husband of 36 years have two children, Doug and Jannette, and two step-grandchildren. She is an avid series reader, and a collector of depression glass. Her favorite meal is a good Nebraska steak. ▲



Information Technology Librarian Supports Local Community Planning

Cindi Hickey was officially welcomed to the Library Commission in January. Her position as Information Technology Librarian emerged out of a

Hickey supports Nebraska communities as they plan and implement information technology strategies.

collaborative effort of Nebraska's Department of Economic Development and the Library Commission to support Nebraska communities as they plan and implement information technology strategies to enhance their community economic development. Hickey is a member of an interagency group that is developing information services aimed at nurturing the creativity and innovation of local Information Technology Committees and their public libraries. An important component of Cindi's job is to work with public libraries to support them in their role as the information gateway and repository for local

information for their communities.

She is from Prairie Village, Kansas, and received her Master's in Library Science from Emporia State University (ESU) in 1993. Hickey is a second year doctoral student in the Library and Information Management program at ESU.

Hickey's husband and son still reside in Prairie Village, so she has become quite familiar with I-29 on the weekends. She is an Internet junkie and says it is an all-consuming hobby. Give her a call at 402-471-3217 or 800-307-2665 for information on information technology and community/economic development. ▲



New Acquisitions Librarian Working at the Library Commission



Cathy Hatterman is the new Acquisitions Librarian at the Library Commission. Hatterman works with the WLN *Conspectus*, and processes serials, periodicals,

monographs, CD-ROMs, and videos. She maintains the paper trail for new items added to the Library Commission collection. Previously, she worked at Doane College Library, Ellis Library at the University of Missouri and the National Fisheries Contaminants Research Center near Columbia, Missouri.

As an avid reader, Hatterman has always been comfortable in the library. She devours fiction and especially loves C.J. Cherryh novels.

With a love for reading and learning, she says, pursuing a degree in Library Science was a logical career choice. She earned her Master's of Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and received her bachelors degree in education with a major in English and a minor in art from Wayne State College.

She is a longtime resident of Nebraska, and lives with an 18-pound part-siamese cat named Sony. ▲

As an avid reader, Hatterman has always been comfortable in the library.

Designer Gives Commission Publications a New Look



Joanne Corson is the Library Commission's Desktop Publishing Designer. She designs and edits the Library Commission's newsletters and other publications

and promotional materials.

Corson was born in Kansas but grew up in Boulder, Colorado. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas and from there, moved to New York City to pursue her interests in the publishing industry. While in the Big Apple, she worked on several different publications, including *Travel & Leisure* magazine, *I.D.* magazine, and the *New York*

Observer newspaper. As a Lincolnite, Corson lives downtown as it reminds her of living in the big city.

Corson works part-time at Southeast Community College teaching Adult Basic Education. In her free time she likes to ride Lincoln's many bike trails or go flying with her boyfriend, who is a commercial pilot. As a fourth-generation Jayhawk, she loves to meet fellow Jayhawks also living in Lincoln. ▲

A former New Yorker, Corson lives downtown as it reminds her of living in the big city.

Commission Increases Access to Information Technology Resources

The Library Commission has entered into a partnership to ensure access to electronic information resources for Community Information Technology planning.

Cindi Hickey serves as the librarian for this collaborative effort of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Nebraska Library Commission funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. She works with Chris Hoy, Special Projects Director for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, to support the efforts of local Community Information Technology Planning Committees as they plan and implement information technology strategies to enhance community economic development.

These committees are ideally comprised of representatives from

the library, business, education, health, and government sectors, as well as students and senior citizens. Committee goals include: 1) awareness of information technology, 2) access to information technology, 3) training, 4) partnerships, and 5) planning. Committees implement "bottoms-up" strategic planning for the information technology needed by their communities.

The Commission's role in the project stems from a view of the public library as an "information utility." Titled *NEED ==> IT!*, the Commission's project involves three target areas: development of

information resources for the committees, collaboration with the community's librarian to provide demonstrations and support, and facilitation of training related to the information technology needs of the community.

New services on **Nebrask@Online** are specifically designed for the benefit of the Information Technology Committees and others interested in information technology planning. The first issue of the *NEED ==> IT!* newsletter highlights these additions, including Success Stories, Discussion Groups, Reference Resources and more. To request a copy of this newsletter or for more information, contact Cindi Hickey at 402-471-3217 or 800-307-2665. ▲

Commission Hosts Nebraska Electronic Library Planning Retreat

A statewide planning retreat was held at the Nebraska Library Commission on April 19 and 20 to discuss issues relating to development of Nebraska's Electronic Library.

Over 50 representatives from academic, public, medical, school, and special libraries and state government assembled for the two-day session in Lincoln. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Nebraska Electronic Library planning grant is administered by the University of Nebraska Libraries and the Commission.

Featured presenters at the planning retreat included Susan Fayad, Project Director for the Access Colorado Library and Information Network (ACLIN),



Robert Denicola, Professor and Interim Dean of the UNL College of Law, and Janet Poley, President and CEO of A*DEC (Agricultural Distance Education Consortium, formerly the Agricultural Satellite Corporation). Fayad, keynote speaker, presented an overview of electronic networking development and services in Colorado. Denicola addressed the issues surrounding intellectual property rights in an electronic environment. Poley

provided an overview of the issues raised in small group discussions.

Joan Giesecke, Associate Dean of the University of Nebraska Libraries, and Nancy Busch, Deputy Director of the Library Commission, principal investigators on the NSF planning grant, compiled a summary report from the retreat. Request copies from Nancy Busch, 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665, or nbusch@neon.nlc.state.ne.us. ▲

► Beth Goble, (left), and Nancy Busch, (far right), of the Library Commission, participating in the electronic library planning retreat.

Commission Conducts Needs Assessment

The Library Commission completed a needs assessment planning project as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and

Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIP) Planning Grant. This grant was awarded to the State of Nebraska for needs assessment related to the development and use of telecommunications networks.

The Library Commission considered the information needs and technology access requirements of our constituents by conducting nineteen focus groups throughout Nebraska during January 1995.

Library Commission staff conducted focus groups with Nebraska library staff, Nebraska state government employees and clientele of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Holdrege, Gretna, Columbus, Wayne, Omaha, Broken Bow, Grand Island, North Platte, Lincoln, and Beatrice.

The focus groups provided a rich

look into the information needs of Nebraska libraries and state employees and, therefore, Nebraska citizens.

A needs assessment report was developed from these focus groups and additional research. This report is available from Mary Geibel at the Commission, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665, or via **Nebrask@ Online** under the *Computer Files* section within the category of *Libraries*. The report includes an inventory of technology employed by Nebraska public libraries.

Several major themes emerged from the focus groups. The need for equitable access to information resources was identified. Many of Nebraska's libraries have good technological resources but suffer prohibitive long-distance charges when they dial-in to electronic networks like the Internet. Forty percent of public libraries in Nebraska utilize **Nebrask@ Online**

by using a toll-free access number. But only 6% of public libraries in the state utilize Internet resources. Access to information technology itself (e.g., computers, modems and telephone lines) is also a consideration for a number of libraries.

Training and technical support were another top priority for library staff and state employees. "If you build it, we still won't know how to use it..."

Librarians also stressed the need to work closely with schools and other community organizations. Librarians recognize the importance of building a statewide information network through cooperative community structures.

The State of Nebraska submitted a demonstration grant application which builds on the needs assessment work already completed. The demonstration project will involve the acquisition, installation, and use of telecommunications equipment and systems for a variety of community applications, particularly health care applications. ▲

Training and technical support were another top priority for library staff and state employees. "If you build it, we still won't know how to use it..."

Legislative Update

LB 590, introduced by the Legislature's General Affairs Committee, was advanced from committee and was among many bills held for further consideration during

the 1996 legislative session. LB 590 is a revision of Nebraska's public library laws. The bill attempts to make provisions more consistent among municipal and county libraries, provides an initiative process for placing library issues on county ballots, and provides for the

creation of county library federations.

Legislative Resolution 191 was introduced by the General Affairs Committee to conduct an interim study to address the following issues:

Whether all public libraries in Nebraska should be organized and governed pursuant to one set of

statutory provisions;

Whether providing options for different forms of library organization can help in providing access to people who lack library service;

Methods of improving the funding of libraries in the State of Nebraska; and

Any other issues necessary or appropriate for a full and complete examination of this matter. ▲

Special Report...

Facts and Faces of the Talking Book and Braille Service

The Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service addresses the needs of individuals who cannot use standard print because of visual or physical impairment. The scope of services can be described statistically, though numbers alone fail to communicate the variety of human needs to which the program responds.

Here are the facts:

More than 189,000 books and magazines were loaned last year to 3,868 adults, 211 juveniles; 200 nursing homes and 158 schools.

The collection of books, on record, cassette and in braille, totals over 169,000 volumes.

More than 43,000 cassette tapes duplicated, 193 issues of magazines recorded.

Here are some faces:

A woman in mid-Nebraska, one of our senior readers, borrowed a history of Nebraska on cassette. The book makes numerous references to her grandfather, who played a prominent role in the early years of our state. She hopes to instill pride within her grown children concerning this family legacy.

Another senior reader, a woman in southeast Nebraska who is a true Anglophile and wanted information about a recorded history of England, borrowed from us within the last four months. Her son wanted to read the same book in standard print. After some research, we were able to mail the information to her.

A gentleman in mid-career became a familiar face at the library while serving as our contact for service to his elderly mother. After she passed away, he returned to us once again—this time to obtain service for himself before dying prematurely of a terminal illness.

After struggling with print for most of her life, a woman in her thirties with dyslexia was astonished to learn that she qualifies for talking books.

Several borrowers with multiple disabilities use motorized wheelchairs and speech boards. Readers Advisors have learned to understand their synthetic speech systems and alphabet boards in order to engage in conversations concerning service issues: preferences in authors, titles, subject areas.

School resource teachers call routinely to order such recorded classics as Steinbeck's *The Red Pony* and Rawls' *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Access to these "school classics" helps young talking book users keep up with their classmates.

Teachers contact the library while planning an instruction module on disabilities. They often structure their information around some prominent individual, such as Helen Keller or Louis Braille. We provide fact sheets on the history of braille, along with a sample braille magazine and a braille alphabet card for each student.

A public library in a small community requests that we braille emboss a library card for a young braille reader. We also loan a selection of children's braille books so the child can participate in summer reader program along with his sighted peers.

A borrower in Grand Island calls to describe a problem with her playback equipment. The borrower hates to be without access to talking books. She is given two choices: either we can mail replacement equipment to her or she can exchange the machine at the Edith Abbott Memorial Library. She is happy to know she can exchange her machine in her own city instead of waiting for a replacement to be mailed. Edith Abbott is one of twenty Nebraska libraries or branch libraries providing this unique community service.

A nursing home activity director calls out of concern that talking books are being underutilized in her facility because of attention span problems. Readers Advisors recommend greater use of recorded short stories, humor, and magazines, such as *Cappers*, which contain short, high-interest articles.

Talking book readers, who are football fans, wanted us to record a Special Collector's Edition entitled *Sports Illustrated Presents—That Championship Season; Nebraska 1994*. The library assigned several volunteer narrators to record this publication, while simultaneously pursuing copyright clearance with the publisher. The audio edition was distributed to Nebraskans while still timely. Four other regional libraries, located in states that are historically our Big-8 football rivals, eagerly obtained copies from us as well. For more information about the Talking Book and Braille Service, contact Dave Oertli, 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691. ▲

Dave Oertli

Our collection of books, on record, cassette and in braille, totals over 169,000 volumes.

Virginia Mathews Speaks at Children's Conference

Child advocate and reading expert, Virginia Mathews, challenged fifty children's librarians and media specialists to make a significant difference in the lives of

preschool children. "In many cases," Mathews said, "parents are so preoccupied with their own concerns and burdens, that their children live in barren, desensitizing environments devoid of intellectual stimulation. Many enter school without the foundation skills and attitudes necessary for a successful school experience." Mathews spoke eloquently of the "five P's" that children's librarians need. Children's librarians must be **political**. They must know how to influence and communicate effectively with policy makers. They must have **passionate** communication skills when they speak for children. They must always be ready to **perform** as a child advocate. Children's librarians need to realize that they have **purity of purpose** and can't be afraid to ask

on behalf of children. Finally they must have **persistence**. It may take many contacts before parents of at-risk preschoolers visit the library or bring their children.

Mathews was the keynote speaker at the 15th Annual Conference for Children's Librarians and Media Specialists, held March 18 at Gere Branch Library in Lincoln. Conference attendees also heard about building coalitions with other agencies such as Head Start as well as strategies for helping children reach the Education 2000 goal, "All children in America will start school ready to learn."

Virginia Mathews, of Madison, Connecticut, is currently Project Coordinator for the Family Literacy Project of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the



Administration on Children, Youth and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has participated in six White House Conferences on Libraries and Information Science. A videotape of her presentation is available from the Commission. Call the Reference Desk, 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665. ▲

▲ (Left to right), Glee Nelson, Theresa Wachal, both of Columbus Public Library, and featured speaker Virginia Mathews.

State Advisory Council Meets With Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries and the Nebraska Library Commission held a joint meeting March 16 and 17 in Lincoln at the Library Commission.

Following an afternoon orientation session for Council members, the Council and Commission joined for a dinner meeting and presentation by Randy Moody, Nebraska Library Association Legislative Representative.

The Council and Commission also held a joint discussion of the Nebraska Long Range Plan for Library and Information Services in preparation for the 1996 update to the plan. The Council elected Sally

Wise, Director, College of Law Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as Chair of the Council. Lupe Mier, Director, Bellevue Public Library, was elected as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.

The 1995 Council meeting schedule is: Friday, June 30; Friday, September 15; and Friday, December 8. Tentative plans are to hold the December meeting via teleconference. ▲

Special Report...

"Computers in Libraries" Conference

This winter Jo Budler and Annie Sternburg attended the "Computers in Libraries" Conference in Washington D.C. The conference was divided into four general topic areas: The Internet, Revolution, CD-ROM and Special Libraries.

The Internet sessions were especially interesting and useful. Donald J. Napoli from St. Joseph County Public Library in Indiana, James D. Rubbottom from OCLC, and Peter Scott from the University of Saskatchewan and creator of the hytelnet software presented three consecutive sessions dealing with the World Wide Web and public libraries. Napoli discussed the trials and rewards of setting up a Web server and creating a homepage for a public library.

**Robert Gurn's
four point
evaluation to
measure
services on the
Internet:
Accessibility,
Authority,
Interactivity, &
Conviviality.**

On a more technical note, Rubbottom talked about how to plan for the implementation of a Web server. The planning process included conducting needs assessment, selling the idea to the organization, determining what you want to accomplish, deciding what information to present, and market-

ing the product once it's finished.

As an overview of how libraries across the globe are using the Web, Scott demonstrated library homepages. He also discussed the growing use of the Web by all organizations, as an interactive way to communicate with their customers.

Chris Casey, from Senator Edward M. Kennedy's office, presented an overview of government information on the Internet and particularly the World Wide Web. Casey created Senator Kennedy's homepage (<http://www.dsc.org/capweb/States/MA/MA.html>) last year, making Kennedy the first U.S. Senator to have a presence on the Web. Casey has now created CapWeb (<http://www.dsc.org/capweb/congress.html>), a homepage that acts as an entrance point into U.S. Federal Government information on the Internet.

Robert Gurn, Head Librarian at Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in New York, along with guest panelists, used Gurn's four point evaluation to measure services on the Internet. The four points are: **Accessibility**, ease of getting to the information; **Authority**, ease with which the user can find the author or creator of the information and date of creation; **Interactivity**, ability of the user to exchange information with a service; and **Conviviality**, ease with which a person can interact, understand and enjoy a service. For more information, contact Annie Sternburg at the Library Commission, 402-471-6277 or 800-307-2665. ▲

Annie Sternburg

Nebraska Government Publications Index Available on Nebrask@ Online

Many libraries in Nebraska provide access to copies of official Nebraska government publications. Since 1972 the Nebraska Library Commission has been collecting the publications of Nebraska state agencies,

microfiching many of them, and distributing them to depository libraries across the state (there are currently 14 depositories). From 1972 to 1992 the only comprehensive listing of these publications was a microfiche checklist produced by the Library Commission. The Commission has created an up-to-date computer catalog of its entire state publications collection from 1972 to the present. These records, comprising over 15,000 separate titles are searchable by author, title and keyword.

Publications dating from 1992 to the present have full OCLC cataloging. This catalog is the most complete and up-to date listing of Nebraska state publications in existence.

To access the database use your modem to dial **Nebrask@ Online** at 800-392-7932 (471-4020 in Lincoln), or telnet to neon.nlc.state.ne.us.

From the main menu choose *Library Catalogs*, then choose the *Nebraska State Publications Checklist Database*. You will see a searchable subset of the Library Commission's online catalog. To borrow a publication call the Library Commission Reference Desk at 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665, or contact one of these depository libraries:

Bellevue Public Library
402-293-3157

Calvin T. Ryan Libray, UNK
308-234-8542

Columbus Public Library
402-564-7116

Holdrege Public Library
308-995-6556

Kilgore Memorial Library, York
402-362-3039

Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8586

Love Memorial Library, UNL
402-472-2562

Nebraska State Historical Society,
Lincoln, 402-471-4783

Norfolk Public Library
402-644-8711

Omaha Public Library
402-444-4800

Perkins Library, Doane College,
Crete, 402-826-8287

Scottsbluff Public Library
308-630-6250

University Library, UNO
402-554-3258

U.S. Conn Library, Wayne State
College, 402-375-7419. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Library recently developed a World Wide Web Home Page. It provides information through a graphic or text-based connection to the Internet. To access the UNO Library Home Page, set your browser software to:
http://revelation.unomaha.edu/library_home.html. ▲

Seward Public Library Director **Becky Baker** is chair of "Connect Seward NE Inc.," a community organization planning for a community networking process to ensure that area individuals and businesses have access to global communication at a reasonable fee. ▲

The Papillion Public Library received a pledge of \$250,000 from **Wallace and Elaine Sump**. Ground breaking is scheduled for early September and the new facility will be named the **Sump Memorial Library**. ▲

The Columbus Public Library hosted a series of televideoconferences on business applications of the Internet this Spring. The programs focused on how the Internet was created and how businesses can use it to connect with customers, including case studies on developing customer relations and marketing. ▲

The Hoesch Memorial Library in Alma will receive forty percent of the net income from a trust formed by the late **Lucile Porter** of Alma. Current market value of the trust is approximately \$862,000. Estimates are that the library will receive \$24,000 for the next 75 years. ▲

The Pierce Public Library is the recent recipient of a new Gateway 2000 computer donated by the **Pierce Telephone Company**. The donation was made to aid in the development of a Library Resource Center. The computer will be available for use by library patrons to enable more people in Pierce to become familiar with personal computers. ▲

Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City was named as one of 10 libraries with outstanding projects to combat illiteracy. The projects were developed over the past two years through the **Cargill/ALA Partnership** for Family Literacy. The cooperative project to upgrade the GED program was featured along with the other nine programs in an article in the February issue of *American Libraries*. ▲

Staff changes at the Library Commission include: **Jeannette Powell** appointed Network Services Staff Assistant; **Julie Pinnell** hired as Information Services Librarian, effective July 24; **Sara Martin**, formerly NEBASE Member Services Coordinator, resigned to

accept a position with the University of Nebraska Libraries; **Cecelia Kopp**, formerly Information Services Librarian, appointed North Platte Public Library Director; and **Doris Garlow** resigned after eighteen years of service in the State Documents area. ▲

The Western Roundup at the Polk Public Library rounded up 45 western fans, many in costume. Western style music complemented Library Trustee **Gary Harless'** opening talk on his favorite writer, Zane Gray. Others spoke on their favorite authors, accompanied by games, "trail food," and complimentary booklists. ▲

The Gibbon Public Library celebrity auction raised \$3,600 toward a new library facility. A football autographed by the 1994 national champion Nebraska football players and coaches brought the highest bid: \$1,575. The auction helped the library to meet a \$2,000 matching grant from Wal-Mart of Kearney. ▲

The Scottsbluff Public Library offers delivery to homebound customers. Job's Daughters Bethel 10 volunteers deliver books in regular or large print or on audio cassette to people restricted to their homes or to senior citizens without transportation. ▲

New Library directors include: **Karen Kitz**, Hoesch Memorial Library in Alma; **Kay Stork**, Arlington Public Library; **Kathy Ageton**, Battle Creek Public Library; **Karen Costello**, Creighton Public Library; **Michael LaCroix**, Creighton University-Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library; **Connie Pieper**, John Rogers Memorial Library, Dodge; **Mary Fritts**, Lyons Public Library; **Jo Waara**, Madison Public Library; **Sara Beck**, Osceola Public Library; **Marlene Warneke**, Pierce Public Library; **Janet Kent**, Sidney Public Library; **Paulette Blair**, Spencer Township Library; **Joanne Lopez**, Valparaiso Public Library; **Nancy Rehms**, Verdon Public Library; and **Judy Coday** at the Wahoo Public Library. ▲

Governor Ben Nelson reappointed **Ron Norman**, Kearney, and **Frances Lovell**, Gering, to three year terms on the Library Commission. ▲

Library Commission staff introduced the **Commission World Wide Web Home Page**. For information about Library Commission services, staff and products point your browser software to: <http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>. The Commission also hosts the **Nebraska State Government Home Page** featuring information from the governor's office, other state agencies and state-funded colleges and universities. To access the Home Page, go to <http://www.state.ne.us>. ▲

Library Commission staff recently introduced the Commission's World Wide Web Home Page and the Nebraska State Government Home Page.

Next Issue:

- ▲ Spring Meeting Highlights
- ▲ Spotlight on New Staff
- ▲ Nebrask@ Online News
- ▲ ALA Conference Reports

Nebraska Library Commission



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