



Your guide to the Nebraska Library Commission

N Compass

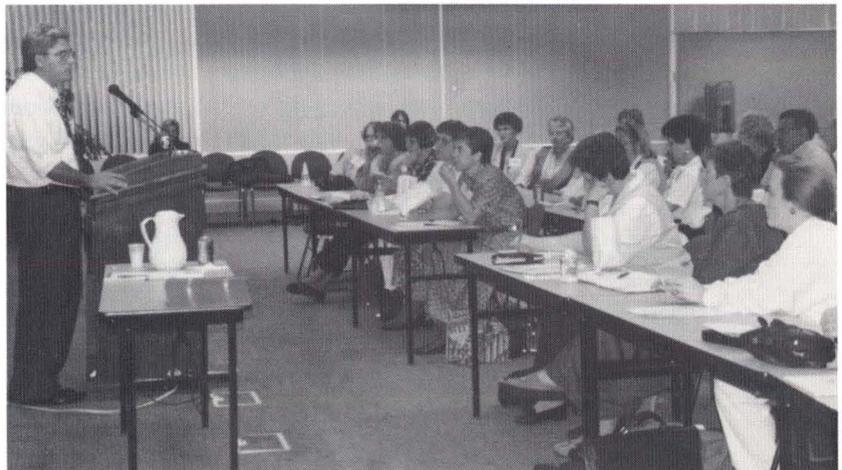
N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 1996

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Resource Sharing Dialogue Successful

Thirty-four librarians from around the state gathered in August for a Resource Sharing Dialogue Retreat, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission. The retreat provided a setting for librarians to talk about resource sharing projects. They identified current resource sharing projects, discussed expansion and additions, identified limitations and barriers, and brainstormed ways to overcome barriers.



▲ Bill Miller advises the group on Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure.

Keynote speaker, Kate Nevins, Executive Director of SOLINET, set the tone of the dialogue by describ-

ing resource sharing projects of the SOLINET network. Bill Miller, Director of the Nebraska Division

of Communication and Central Data Processing, provided an overview and update on the state of telecommunications in the state of Nebraska. Deonne Bruning, Public Services Commission Legal Council, demystified the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Participants, representing public, academic, school and special libraries, spoke of "One Nebraska: the Resources of All Are Resources for All." To review the notes from the meeting, search on **Research Sharing** on the Library Commission Home Page at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>> or contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us> for a print version. ▲



▲ (Clockwise from left) Dee Yost, Mary Nash, Guadalupe Mier, Kay Schmid and Lisa Brawner brainstorm and discuss solutions to resource sharing problems in Nebraska.

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From the Director...

New Rates Will Benefit Libraries

Nebraska libraries have relied on telecommunications for decades to locate and obtain information. Some of us remember the network of Western Union TWX machines that libraries throughout Nebraska used to send and receive interlibrary loan transactions. Technology has come a long way since those chattering machines spewed streams of paper to process interlibrary loans. Interactive telecommunications technologies are even more vital to libraries today. The Internet, online database access, OCLC services, and televideo conferencing are among current telecommunication uses. The cost of these and emerging new services is critical to libraries.

The federal *Telecommunications Act of 1996* introduced a new era in deregulation and competition in the telecommunications industry. A feature of this new legislation provides for discounted telecommunications rates for schools, libraries, and rural hospitals. Nebraska Senators Jim Exon and Bob Kerrey were among four Senators who sponsored this provision. Since state Public Utility Commissions have a significant role in developing new policies, the Nebraska Public Service Commission established a Universal Service Fund Task Force.

The Universal Service Provision is based on the premise that basic telecommunications services should be considered "universal" and should be widely available to everyone at affordable rates, to provide equity among rural and urban customers and assure that all have access to a minimum level of service. The American Library Association (ALA), as an advocate of telecommunication policies favorable to libraries, sought a broad definition of discounted services for libraries and schools, emphasized the need to support high bandwidth, offered specific proposals for what should be considered a discounted rate, and advocated deeper discounts for libraries and schools in rural, high cost, and low income areas. The ALA promoted a library "Equity Rate" based on the principle that libraries need affordable, discounted access to best serve the public. They presented numerous letters and petitions to the Federal Communications Commission.

The Nebraska Task Force will submit policy recommendations to the Public Service Commission in December. State policies must be compatible with federal policies, but may exceed them. They should address the unique needs of Nebraska, enhancing economic development and quality of life throughout the state. I am one of a minority on the Task Force who is not a representative of the telecommunications industry. As the "library" representative, I welcome your comments and questions concerning the issues being addressed by the Task Force. ▲

Rod Wagner

Festival Celebrates New Service

On August 21, the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service celebrated our new collection of home videos with audio description for people with blindness or visual impairment. The Video Film Festival featured ten-minute excerpts from the Descriptive Video Service (DVS®) editions of ten big-screen blockbusters. Talking book customers and volunteers joined the public to view the new audio descriptive videos.

Nebraskans with blindness or visual impairment can "check-out" these home videos, available for loan to registered users of the Talking

Book and Braille Service. On these videos, an additional track recounts the visual elements of the program without interfering with the program's narration, dialogue, or sound effects. These videos are played on a standard VHS video cassette player (VCR) and television. (The Talking Book and Braille Service does not provide or loan VCRs or TVs.) There is no cost for this service unless a video is lost or damaged. The videos are mailed to and from the library as "Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped."

For more information, contact the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service: 402-471-4038, 800-742-7691, or e-mail < talkingbook@neon.nlc.state.ne.us >. ▲

▼ *Talking Book and Braille customers and canine companions enjoy cake and audio descriptive videos at the Library Commission Video Film Festival in August.*



NCompass

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1996 Vol. 3 No. 3

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

Children's Services Librarians Collaborate

Librarians serving children in public and school libraries have become aware of the increased potential to improve the quality of children's lives in collaboration with other agencies who serve children. An example is the public library partnership with Head Start. Head Start was initiated in the 1960s to develop the potential of at-risk pre-schoolers. Participation in Head Start resulted in more successful school experiences for many children from low-income homes. The American Library Association (ALA) initiated the **Library Head Start Partnership** to nurture the natural affiliation between children's librarians, who encourage children to enjoy reading, and Head Start facilitators, who encourage school readiness. Three Nebraska libraries share their experiences:

Mitzi Mueller, North Platte Public Library, writes, "We have two sessions of Head Start in North Platte. One meets in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each group attends our Storytime session weekly. They have also started requesting our theme for the week so that they may use the same theme and reinforce ideas. We have ordered puppets for them on our puppet orders and loaned them some of our puppets. We also assist the teachers in finding books and videos when they are working on lesson plans."

According to Karen Drevo, "Norfolk Public Library and the Norfolk Head Start Program have a good partnership. Norfolk's youth services librarians visit the Head Start classrooms two to three times each school year to give Storytimes. The Head Start children come to the library for a tour each year. We

make sure they get our Storytime calendars every year and they bring the kids to Storytime at least a half dozen times during the school year. The Head Start teachers often ask for our help when they are searching for special materials for their classes. We are always happy to assist them in any way we can. We have observed that many of the Head Start children come back to the library to get library cards after they have been here for a tour. And after the school has brought them to our daytime Storytimes, they often begin regularly attending Storytime in the summer reading program."

Kathy Schultz, Hastings Public Library, visits the Hastings Head Start center each month, October through May. She gives story programs for each of six classes. "I usually bring a puppet or stuffed animal along to go with the stories I've chosen and the kids love to talk about the animals and pass them around the circle or pet them."

Last year the teachers began bringing the classes to the library to visit once a month. Someone usually reads them a couple of stories when they arrive. Then each child chooses a book to check out. These are checked out to Head Start and the books are kept at the school and returned the next time the class comes. The Head Start teachers have also sent home copies of our registration form, and some of the kids have come in to get library cards. They now visit the library with their families. The Bookmobile also visits Head Start and the

teachers choose books to use in their classrooms...teachers don't have to worry about who has the card or remember to bring it with them when they come in. Staff conduct a tour of the library for all Head Start teachers to familiarize them with the library and provide the ALA video,

The Library Head Start Partnership and Virginia Mathews' guide to use for staff development."

Deb Carlson, Scottsbluff Public Library, built a partnership with the Panhandle Community Services Early Childhood Project,

funded by a grant from the Early Childhood Care and Education Department of the NE Department of Education. She gives a half-day workshop for area Head Start teachers. Complementary materials are given to the teachers so they can utilize Deb's demonstration Storytimes. The grant also purchases books and videos for the library to make available to all area caregivers.

ALA recently inaugurated the **Roads to Learning: The Public Libraries' Learning Disabilities Initiative**. This partnership project helps libraries find ways to work effectively with children with learning disabilities and make them feel welcome in a library setting. Audrey Gorman, project facilitator, will demonstrate library strategies via an interactive video program "The 15% Solution: Focus on Young People," on November 19, 1:15-4:30 P.M. (CT). For more information, contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

"We have observed that many of the Head Start children come back to the library to get library cards after they have been here for a tour. And after the school has brought them to our daytime Storytimes, they often begin regularly attending Storytime in the summer reading program."

—Karen Drevo

Frances Lovell Tries to Do What's Best for Libraries

Frances Lovell describes the responsibilities of a Library Commissioner as trying to do what's best for the libraries in Nebraska—especially those in western Nebraska.

She believes one of the toughest issues facing libraries today is trying to do more with less money.

Lovell worked 17 years at the Gering Public Library, first as a children's librarian then as the director. Her library career began when her youngest child left home. She inquired about openings at the library and was offered a job. As a retired librarian, she goes to the library at least twice a week, enjoying it from the other side. She enjoys reading fiction, mysteries and Anne Tyler novels. She believes one of the toughest issues facing libraries today is trying to do more with less money, and that the public needs to be informed about what a good bargain libraries are.

An avid knitter, Lovell recently won Grand Champion in the needlework division at her local county fair. She had never entered anything until this year. She is a baseball fan and picks the St. Louis Cardinals as her favorite team. Lovell and her husband, who is also retired, both enjoy bird watching and knitting. The Lovells have three children—a daughter in Lincoln heading Governor Nelson's policy research office, a son who is a mechanic in Scottsbluff, and a daughter in Chicago working for the *Chicago Sun Times*—and three college-age grandchildren. ▲



Ron Norman Tries to Help with Library Challenges

When asked what it means to him to be a Library Commissioner, Ron Norman stressed the importance of having a genuine interest in libraries

Norman sees the job of Commissioner as helping the Commission director and staff to exercise leadership.

and their betterment in the state. It also means making those decisions which, hopefully, will allow the Commission director and staff to exercise leadership in addressing the many challenges libraries face: continuous technological advances, shrinking budgets, and competition with other governmental units for available funds.

After serving Lutheran parishes in Nebraska from 1960-1969, Norman and his family moved to Denver, where he and his wife received masters' degrees from the University of Denver Library School. After first library jobs in Austin, TX, the family moved back

to Nebraska and Norman became director of the Kearney Public Library while Mrs. Norman worked at the Kearney State College library. After 19 years, Mrs. Norman retired in 1990. Two years later, Norman retired from the Kearney Public Library and Information Center.

Since retiring, the Normans have attended Elderhostels and visited their children and grandchildren in Colorado, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The Normans enjoy reading mysteries and the novels of Anthony Trollope. They continue to live in Kearney, enjoying the size of the community and the variety of activities offered by the University. ▲



Robert McPherson Sees Money as Major Issue



Dr. Robert McPherson views the duties of a Library Commissioner as providing public oversight as well as taking any heat the Commission may receive. The

job is made easier by a competent staff who provide the Commission with the necessary information to support the Executive Director in his plans and actions. McPherson is a third generation Nebraska dentist. As a boy, he grew up reading through the stacks of a defunct college library stored in the basement of the Neligh library. Having grown up listening to the radio, books on tape are a natural extension to his reading. In addition to a couple of hard copy books, mystery fiction, biography, or history, he usually has two taped books going, one in his

car and another in his workshop.

He now practices only one day a week and teaches part time in the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Central Community College, leaving additional free time for travel, fly fishing, and radio-controlled model aircraft.

McPherson believes the major issue facing libraries today is money. Many Nebraska towns need to replace aging or overcrowded libraries, requiring major capital investment. All libraries, however, must deal with the costs demanded by electronic media. ▲

He grew up reading through the stacks of a defunct college library stored in the basement of the Neligh library.

Jean Sanders Believes that Libraries and the Arts Nurture Each Other



Jean Sanders is in her fourth year as Library Commissioner. She describes the responsibilities as taking an active interest in what the Library Commission is doing, overseeing

Commission activities, and attending meetings. Sanders can't remember a time when she didn't go to libraries or was unable to read. In her ideal world, libraries would be on every street corner and open 24-hours-a-day, because they are as necessary as grocery stores. She thinks one of the toughest issues facing libraries today is our resistance to change.

As a professional musician and the owner of a word processing/desktop publishing business, Sanders has always been self-employed. She writes and edits; has taught piano; and has given classes and workshops in creativity, for which she wrote her own textbook. In earlier years, she wrote music reviews for the Lincoln *Star* and played for many Lincoln

Community Playhouse productions. Among her other businesses, she is currently Administrative Assistant for the Lancaster County Democrats.

Sanders enjoys reading, flower gardening, walking and traveling. It is her goal to visit every country in the world. Sanders believes in the importance of establishing sound funding for the arts and for libraries. She believes that money should go to libraries and the arts equally because they nurture each other. She feels libraries provide all the necessary tools for education. These include both the physical facilities, such as books and computer access, and interactive, community-based programs, such as children's storytime and adult lecture series. ▲

In Sanders' ideal world, libraries would be on every street corner and open 24-hours-a-day.

Special Report...

Tool Aids in Cooperative Collection Development

Nebaska's use of the WLN Conspectus is directly related to the collection management, consulting, and cooperative collection development objectives in the Library Commission's long range plan. These efforts focus on assessment methods and tools that can be used by small to medium-sized libraries of all types and are coordinated with application of the WLN conspectus. In the last issue of *NCompass*, Burns Davis, CM, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, began a series of Special Reports to update her article, "Toward Statewide Cooperative Collection Development: Use of the Conspectus in Nebraska," published in *WLN Participant*, Jan/Feb 1994.

This Special Report will focus on the grassroots beginnings of this effort. In April 1988, a statewide Cooperative Collection Development Conference was hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission and PELARCON (Postsecondary Educational Libraries and Resource Centers). The Library Commission was asked to take a lead role in coordinating statewide cooperative efforts, providing training, and maintaining an assessment database. Many of the attendees at the initial conference also participated in a two-day workshop, "Training the Trainers for Collection Analysis," in April 1990.

Since 1988 a variety of collection development programs have been presented at state and regional meetings across Nebraska. Programs during the 1993 Nebraska Library Association Spring Meetings highlighted the benefits for small libraries of implementing an ongoing collection management program and conducting periodic collection assessments. The programs encouraged small and medium-sized libraries to perform assessments, acquainting them with the WLN Conspectus and the training and support available from the Commission.

Collection development components were added to the Nebraska accreditation guidelines for public libraries and the state guidelines for school media center certification. The Basic Skills Training Program and the certification program for librarians, administered by the Library Commission, also have collection development units. In Spring 1991, the Commission leased the WLN Conspectus software. Next month's Special Report will focus on Implementation. For more information, contact Burns Davis, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Burns Davis

Annual Meeting Celebrates 20 Years

One hundred and thirty NEBASE members attended the 1996 annual meetings, celebrating NEBASE's 20th Anniversary at three different locations. Different speakers provided the keynote address at each site.

At the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Marshall Keys, Director of

NELINET, likened the computer age to the advent of the automobile. At Bellevue University, Bill DeJohn, Director of MINITEX, presented an overview of services provided to members by that network. At Chadron State College, Dave Brunell, Director of the Bibliographical Center for Research, talked about changes in technology and in "management philosophy". ▲

▼ Commission Director Rod Wagner cuts the NEBASE anniversary cake with Irple Ruby, Julie Peterson, Brenda Bailey, Jo Budler, Diana Boone, and Annie Sternburg.



NEBASE Workshops Scheduled

In response to surveys distributed by the NEBASE Advisory Council and feedback from the NEBASE Annual Meetings, the following workshops are planned: Passport for Windows, Format Integration, Cataloging Visual Materials with OCLC (Introductory and Advanced), Copy Cataloging with OCLC, OCLC Cataloging: Editing Dynamics, Searching the OCLC Database (Introductory and Beyond the Basics), NEON Refresher, ILL: Beyond the Basics, OCLC and the

Internet, FirstSearch, Cataloging Web Sites, OCLC Authority File: An Introduction, and Union List Basics.

Diana Boone, NEBASE's newly hired OCLC Member Services Coordinator, recently placed course descriptions on the Nebraska Library Commission Home Page at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/NebTrain.html>>. For a paper copy of the descriptions or to express an interest in particular workshops, contact Jeannette Powell, 402-471-7740, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jpowell@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Visioning Sessions Generate Ideas

Two Visioning Retreats were sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission this summer, in Lincoln and Alliance.

These retreats asked members of the library

community to express their thoughts and ideas about the future of libraries and the potential routes to achieve those possibilities.

A few of the many thoughts, ideas and suggestions expressed at the retreats are listed below:

Threats

- (loss of) autonomy
- lack of trust
- slow starvation
- becoming irrelevant
- inertia, passivity, fatalism: “we can’t do anything about it”
- lack of visibility
- rapid technology change
 - integrity of information
 - demands for staff training
 - obsolescence

Opportunities

- to work together (libraries working together)
- to provide service to all Nebraskans
- to use new technology to be “guardians of democracy”
 - for private/public projects—as in community technology center

- for developing and creating our own future
- to support economic development for community growth—be a leader, increase public relations
- for partnerships, cooperation, resource sharing

Visions

- 24-hour access
- unified planning/collaboration
- libraries get respect
- branch out—library without walls
- adequate funding, buildings, staff, full access to resources via electronic and direct access
 - flexible bureaucracy
 - no walls/no institutional barriers
 - library is a social information center—coffee bar, snack bar—community gathering places
 - knowledgeable, friendly, well-paid, versatile, highly trained staff
 - no fines
 - responsive to community needs, including: multi-lingual staff and collection, in various formats
 - blend of high-touch—hi-tech
 - libraries will provide for the preservation and storage of knowledge and ideas for future generations

The notes from each session are available on the Library Commission Home Page. Search on **Visioning Retreats** at: <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>>, or contact the Commission at 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: <mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>, and ask Mary Geibel to send you a complete print copy. ▲

Master of Library Science Program Returns

Through a partnership agreement with the Library Commission and College of St. Mary in Omaha, Emporia State University’s School of Library and Information Management will again offer its Master of Library Science degree program in Nebraska, beginning in the spring of 1997.

Because of the limited number of MLS programs in the Great Plains region, Emporia State University is committed to providing quality programs in several regional sites. It is the only library school in the country with classroom learning leading to graduation in multiple locations outside its home state, and offers one of only 20 Ph.D. programs in the country. Geared for the adult learner, the program is offered in a format that enables students to keep their jobs and stay in their home states. The regional programs run in cycles, with

an entire group completing the program together and classes offered sequentially. The focus of the curriculum is people. Students are challenged to consider such questions as: How do people turn information into knowledge? How can the information professional assess the needs of a particular group of people? What determines how a particular person tries to solve his/her information needs?

Classes are held in “weekend intensive” format from Friday evenings to Sunday afternoons. Students are in class approximately 16 weekends per year and finish the 42-credit-hour program in less than three years. The degree is fully accredited by the American Library Association. For more information call 800-552-4770 or see <<http://www.emporia.edu/s/www/slim/slim.htm>>, and click on “Regional Home Pages.” ▲

Advisory Council Supports Coalition for Nebraska Libraries

The State Advisory Council on Libraries voted at their September 1996 meeting to contact the Nebraska Congressional delegation to support enactment of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The letter of support can be found on the Commission Home Page at <http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/news/anno/news.html>. (Editor's note: LSTA passed on September 24, see "Library Announcements" on the Commission Home Page, URL above.)

The Council also reviewed a draft information piece for the Coalition for Nebraska Libraries. The Coalition is evolving as a partnership of librarians, media specialists, and library advocates dedicated to supporting Nebraska libraries of all types. The draft statement is excerpted below:

"Libraries for the 21st Century" Vision: Affordable, predictable, progressive, economical and equitable library service for all citizens of Nebraska regardless of their economic status and geographic location.

Nebraska libraries can play a

critical role in the delivery of information for economic development, lifelong learning, professional, and recreational needs of Nebraskans. To meet these needs, libraries increasingly rely on electronic information services and the technology needed to access and deliver these services, as well as new partnerships and collaborative strategies. Needs assessment sessions, focus groups, planning sessions, workshops and partnership ventures have raised awareness and solicited information from the library community. The need for increased statewide funding to improve library services for Nebraskans has emerged as a necessity for libraries to move into the 21st Century. Solutions and opportunities will be discovered by identifying new ongoing funding for Nebraska libraries and from statutory changes to encourage cooperation among libraries. Nebraska citizens will be the real beneficiaries of new funding and statutory changes for Nebraska libraries. Through greater use of resources, electronic information, technology, and broader-based partnerships, Nebraskans will have better access to information and

greater opportunity for informed participation in a democratic and global society.

For the complete statement, see "Library Announcements" on the Commission Home Page, URL above, or the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Home Page at <http://www.nol.org/NLA/>, or the Nebraska Education and Media Association (NEMA) Home Page at <http://gilligan.esu7.k12.ne.us/~pbrunke/nema/nema.html>. Further discussion of the Coalition is planned for the NLA/NEMA Convention, October 25, 2:25 P.M.

The Council also discussed Library Advocacy Training. Four sessions are scheduled: December 9 in Lincoln, December 10 in Norfolk, December 11 in Kearney, and December 13 in Scottsbluff. These sessions will be facilitated by Pat Wagner of Pattern Research and will focus on communicating effectively with community, state and national decision-makers to urge full support of Nebraska libraries of all types. These sessions will provide librarians, trustees, and other community leaders with the tools they need to become effective library advocates and to mobilize others to speak out. ▲

Nebraskans will have better access to information and greater opportunity for informed participation in a democratic and global society.

Home Page Remodeled



The newly remodeled Nebraska State Government Internet Home Page, the official directory Home Page for Nebraska state government, is now available at <http://www.state.ne.us/>. The page organizes and points to electronic sources of state government information, including state agency Web Pages. It is hosted on the Nebraska Library Commission server and maintained by a team of Library Commission staff, with input, assistance and support from staff of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and a variety of other state agencies. The Nebraska State Government Interagency Internet Group (staff from a variety of state agencies providing government information through Web Page development) provides ongoing input and maintenance assistance. The Nebraska Independent State Agency Directors also provide

formative evaluation and feedback.

The State Government Home Page points to Web Pages created by state agencies. The page includes a welcome from Governor Nelson and links to his page as well as the Lieutenant Governor's page. The signature graphic on the State Government Home Page is the Champville marble column cap from the main vestibule of the Nebraska State Capitol. Carved by the Edward Ardolino Co., Lee Lawrie, sculptor, it signifies the blending of Nebraska's proud agricultural tradition with Nebraska's rich, classic cultural heritage. The signature quote, "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizen" is taken from an inscription on the front of the Nebraska State Capitol. This statement by Hartley Burr Alexander, anthropologist, poet, philosopher, and educator, articulates the mission of the Home Page. ▲

A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part four

“**L**ibraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.”

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

In this latest installment of the *NCompass* series examining applications of intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights, we explore how librarians exert community leadership by ensuring that the material in their libraries truly represents diverse points of view (as stated in Article II). Sometimes this means resisting community members, even staff members, who feel that materials they are individually uncomfortable with, should not be available on the shelves of “their” library. Sometimes it means actively seeking materials that we are not comfortable with. It is important that librarians provide a community role model, demonstrating that materials considered undesirable by some (sexy, dangerous, inflammatory, obscene) may be interpreted differently by others.

Librarians are in a unique position to inspire others to grow beyond the parochial concerns and cultures of our communities. We can help our customers to expand their minds and question cultural assumptions. We can build resource collections that celebrate diversity and we can stand firm in the face of intolerance. Librarians need to guard against exercising de facto censorship (purchasing only materials that we know will be

offensive to no one or that we personally do not find offensive). Sometimes a beleaguered librarian might be tempted to promote the library and all it contains as “safe and wholesome,” but it might be better to promote the message seen recently on this library sign, *We guarantee that there is something in this library to offend everyone.*

In the Summer 1996 edition of *NLAQ*, the Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee offered the following Web sites to assist librarians in their role as Intellectual Freedom Fighter:

Intellectual Freedom Committee Web Links

<<http://www.freenet.tlh.fl.us/infreedom.html>>,

Intellectual freedom issues with links to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

<<http://www.aclu.org/>>, “The American Civil Liberties Union Freedom Network.” The site with both the Communications Decency Act and the brief filed by the ACLU.

<<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/web/people/spok/banned-books.html>>, “Banned Books On-line.” A selection of books that have been the objects of censorship attempts.

<<http://fileroom.aaup.uic.edu/FileRoom/documents/TofCont.html>>, From the University of Illinois, a wealth of information on all forms of censorship—includes an archive of cases and definitions of censorship.

<<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/people/spok/most-banned.html>>, A list of the most frequently banned books in the 1990s.

<http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Civil_Rights/Censorship/Censorship_and_the_Net/>, The “Yahoo” connection to a variety of links dealing with censorship on the Internet. ▲

We can help our customers to expand their minds and question cultural assumptions. We can build resource collections that celebrate diversity and we can stand firm in the face of intolerance.

Nebraska Libraries on the Internet Featured on Home Page

A list of Nebraska libraries with a World Wide Web Home Page or a telnet-accessible OPAC can be found on the Nebraska Library Commission Home Page, see “Nebraska Libraries on the Internet,” <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nelib/nelib.html>>. The number of libraries with Home Pages or spots on their community Home Page is growing dramatically. Take a look and let us know if you find omissions. For questions or additions, contact Annie Sternburg, 402-471-6277, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <astern@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>.

The “Nebraska Libraries on the Internet” is part of a new component on the Library Commission Home

Page, titled “Nebraska Libraries.” This section also includes information about: Public Libraries with Computers, CD-ROMS, Modems and Internet Access; Public Libraries with Automated Circulation/Cataloging Systems and OCLC; Public Libraries Listed by Population Served and Number of Books; State Depository Libraries; Federal Depository Libraries; OCLC Member Libraries—Full Cataloging; OCLC Member Libraries—NEON—Selective Users; and Nebraska’s Regional Library Systems. Point your web browser to: <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>> and click on “Nebraska Libraries” to access this information. ▲

Special Report...

Children's Grants for Excellence

In 1995, more than \$6,000 was awarded to five libraries for Children's Grants for Excellence.

Evaluative reports describing the success and outcomes of their efforts are summarized below:

Sara Lee, Central City Public Library, directed a project based on theme-related treasure totes to encourage school readiness among pre-schoolers. Six bags circulated more than 95 times since January. Sara reports many positive comments. The library will add more bags and continue aggressive promotion and maintenance.

Judy Andrews, Bellevue Public Library, collaborated with a high school and hospital to provide health information and life skills training to at-risk young adults in Bellevue and surrounding areas. A conference, "Harnessing Family Energy," attracted 72 families from four counties. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to information about communication skills and prevention of at-risk lifestyles in young adults. The "Good Vibes" theatrical ensemble, a teen group from Chicago, was particularly appealing. Audio visual and print materials on related topics were added to the library collection. Special promotion of the library's resources to adults who work with youth and a second conference are planned.

Gibbon Public Library encouraged information literacy and school readiness for children from low-income families. A computer (and special software for children) in the children's room attracts many children. The computer is available for children to explore. The children's librarian or other personnel offer hands-on assistance.

Lexington Public Library developed a cooperative project with the Migrant Education Teacher at the community school to reach out to migrant families for whom English is a second language. As a result of special Saturday programs, home visits and presentations, four families registered for library cards. Follow-up activities will rely on families who use the library, as well as other Spanish-speaking educators, linking new Spanish-speaking families to library programs and activities.

Under the direction of Joan Chesley, Fremont Public Library undertook a collaborative project with the Women, Infants and Children Center (WIC). Books on topics of interest to mothers (parenting, nutrition and budgeting) and books for children were purchased and placed at the WIC center. Two hundred families borrowed at least one book during the year. Local businesses will be approached for funds to continue this joint project, targeting additional low-income families with special needs. ▲

Mary Jackson

Librarians Find Internet Resources

We asked you for your favorite Internet sites and you reported back. They include:

For good, general information from the Alzheimer's Association, dedicated to the research and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, see <<http://www.alz.org/>>.

For a quick and easy way to obtain cancer information from the National Cancer Institute, including the PDQ database, see <<http://www.wicic.nci.nih.gov/>>.

For resources from Hyper Doc, the National Library of Medicine, see <<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>>.

—Roxanne Byrd
University of Nebraska Medical Center

To compare your Internet activity with that of other libraries, see the *1996 National Survey of Public Libraries and the Internet: Progress and Issues* by John Carlo Bertot, Charles R. McClure, Douglas L. Zweigig at <http://istweb.syr.edu/Project/Faculty/McClure-NSPL96/NSPL96_T.html>.

For a collection of Internet policies for libraries that might be helpful as you ponder your library policy, see <<http://www.intac.com/~kgs/freedom/policies.html>>.

For information about all the presidents of the United States, including their presidential election results, cabinet members, highlights of their presidency, Internet biographies, and historical documents, as well as audio and video clips, see

The Internet Public Library's Presidents of the United States Web Site. Click on "POTUS: Presidents of the United States" at the Internet Public Library site at <<http://www.ipl.org/>>.

—Annie Sternburg
Nebraska Library Commission

Reading a book on the Internet may not sound appealing, but it is one more way to provide access to classics like *Through The Looking Glass* and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. Point your browser to <<http://www.lib.utk.edu:70/1/Electronic-Books/by-title>>.

There are a number of sites designed to help new users. You can try the 12+ step program at "Newbies Anonymous: A Newcomer's Guide to the Internet" at <<http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/1945/index1.htm>> or try "Commonly Asked Questions When Conducting Internet Training" at <<http://www.sir.arizona.edu/rick/conduct.html>>. "The Electronic Library Classroom," <<http://web.csd.sc.edu/bck2skol/>>, is a set of web pages designed for librarians with little or no Internet experience.

—Allana Novotny
Nebraska Library Commission

We continue to invite Nebraska librarians to send your favorite reference questions (along with the Internet locations you used to answer them). We'll feature your favorites in upcoming issues of *NCompass*. Send to Lisa Brawner at <lbrawner@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Beverly A. Satorie (formerly Wittig) died on September 13, 1996, at the age of 40. Bev grew up in Cook, NE and moved to Lincoln in 1974, where she received an Associate Degree in Business from the Lincoln School of Commerce. She interned at the Library Commission and was later employed here

for 17 years as executive secretary to the director and secretary to the Library Commissioners. She was named employee of the year in 1986 and awarded an Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy. In 1992, Bev was married to Richard Satorie and moved to North Bend, NE. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Corinne Jacox, Love Library Serials Cataloger, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is the 1996 recipient of the First Step Award-Wiley Professional Development Grant presented by the ALCTS Serials Section. Donated by John E. Wiley & Sons, it encourages professional development for librarians new to the serials field. ▲

Several libraries received grants and gifts this summer. They include Omaha Public Library, anonymous gift of \$200,000 to be used for purchase of books on tape; Gratan Township Library in O'Neill, \$25,983 from Bill Miller for automation; Greenwood Public Library and Wilsonville Public Library, \$350 from their library foundations for children's books; and Hruska Memorial Library in David City, \$30,000 from Don and Judy Kosch (Columbus) for the new Library Children's Section and \$25,000 from Larry and Esther Perkins Price (Lincoln) for the Technology Center. ▲

This summer, the Southeast Library System hosted a tour of the Houchin Bindery in Utica. Thirty librarians toured the Bindery to see how they bind, rebind or restore books. For more information, contact the Southeast Library System, 402-486-2555, or 800-288-6063. ▲

Nebrask@ Online's work was recently featured in the *Nebraska Department of Revenue Update*. The department proudly stated that it is "moving toward the next century" by providing electronic access to records, forms, publications, etc. through Nebrask@ Online, a contract service of the Library Commission and the Nebraska Information Consortium. ▲

The Norfolk Public Library recently registered its 20,000th customer since installing an automated circulation system in October 1994. The patron received a free cassette and his photo in the *Daily News*. ▲

New Library Directors include: Carroll Public Library, Charlene Jones; Clearwater Public Library, Carolyn Tuttle; Davenport Public Library, Delores Sylte; Genoa Public Library, Rebecca Addy; Grand Island, Stuhr Museum, Russ Czaplewski, Historian; Leigh Public Library, Lori Welsch; Lexington Public Library, Interim Director, Ruth Seward; Macy, NE Indian Community College, Linda Robinson; Meadow Grove Public Library, Beverly Raulston; Mullen, Hooker County Library, Kathy Leibhart; Norfolk, Nebraska Christian College Library, Interim Director, Elizabeth Johnson; Norfolk Regional Center Library, Susan Kohlhof; Omaha, Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus, Kay Hershey; Omaha Public Library, Interim Director, Verda Bialac; Orleans, Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library, Raylene Stephens; Oshkosh

Public Library, Ruby Chryst; Scottsbluff, Western NE Community College Library Interim Director, Valetta Schneider; Shickley, Virgil Biegert Public Library, Carolyn Schlegel; Snyder Public Library, Marilyn Haas; Wisner Public Library, Carol Duncan. ▲

Brad Hauptman has been selected as the Library Commission's employee of the year, and Burns Davis, CM, has been chosen as Manager of the Year. Jeannette Powell, Janet Greser, Julie Pinnell, and Theresa Thomssen were awarded Certificates of Appreciation. ▲

Library Commission Director Rod Wagner was recently appointed to the NE Public Service Commission Universal Service Task Force. This task force will explore strategies and help to develop policy for Nebraska's implementation of the universal service provisions in the "Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, preparing an implementation plan for a state universal service fund. ▲

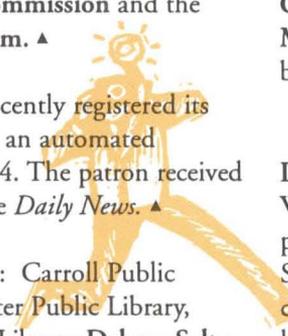
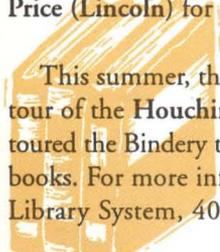
Myrna Vollbrecht resigned her position on the Library Commission due to illness. Governor Nelson appointed Karen Warner, Director of Library Services at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, to fill her term. Jean Sanders was reappointed to a second term. ▲

At the request of rural Madison County residents, County Commissioners approved a \$15,000 appropriation from the County's Inheritance Tax Budget Line to be divided equally among the libraries of Newman Grove, Meadow Grove, Tilden, Battle Creek, and Madison. This allocation begins to alleviate inequalities between city and rural library funding. ▲

Kids Connection, a project of the Omaha Public Library Foundation with \$49,000 in support from US WEST, was launched this Fall. Kids Connection will provide computer learning/homework stations at the South Branch and Washington Branch libraries. The computers will be connected to the Internet and used by youth to enhance computer skills, gather information for school and personal use and to increase proficiency in reading, English and math. ▲

Don Robertson, Nebraska Department of Roads Librarian, was featured in the August/September 1996 edition of the Department newsletter, *The Roadrunner*. ▲

The Ribbon Cutting and Official Opening of the North Platte Public Library's Technology Learning Center was held in October. The Technology Learning Center provides citizens with access to computers for word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and the Internet. ▲



Next Issue:

- ▲ Library Commission Annual Report, FY 1996, including:
- ▲ Library Commission highlights and service reports
- ▲ Nebrask@ Online report
- ▲ Planning updates

Nebraska Library Commission



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