



Your guide  
to the  
Nebraska  
Library  
Commission

# N<sub>C</sub> Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Summer 1996

Vol. 3 No. 2

## Evaluation Report Featured at Annual Meeting

*In May 1995, a team of Library Commission staff began a comprehensive evaluation of the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse*

Service. The Clearinghouse Service, which began in 1972 with an act of the Legislature, provides access to state and federal government information for Nebraskans. The Clearinghouse collects publications produced by Nebraska state agencies, makes print copies available on loan, and distributes microfiche copies to depository libraries across the state. The Commission also serves as a federal depository library and provides free direct loan of federal publications as a component of this service.

Increased access to state and federal publications in electronic format, concern that access to and preservation of government information be assured, and changes in staffing in the Clearinghouse program precipitated the evaluation effort. Activities included review of existing statutes and regulations, contacts with other state documents depository programs, Library Commission staff discussions, as well as meetings with documents staff of the University of Nebraska Libraries, Nebraska State Historical Society, State



▲ Nancy Busch and Beth Goble of the Library Commission reporting to the annual documents librarians' meeting held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this June.

Records Management, and state depository libraries.

Three major goals have been identified to date:

- Focus the role of the Clearinghouse on access rather than preservation.
- Restructure the Clearinghouse collection and depository system to provide improved access to key publications.
- Increase state agency and public awareness of the existence and value of government information.

The evaluation report was shared with Nebraska depository libraries at the annual documents librarians' meeting held at the University of Nebraska this June. Representatives from state depositories volunteered

to serve on an ad hoc committee to continue to discuss format and distribution issues and help identify core lists of essential university, college and state agency publications. A Commission pilot project to identify state publications suitable for Internet access was also initiated.

The Commission will also conduct a comprehensive evaluation of federal documents selection and will reduce selection to focus the collection and staff time on meeting the information needs of our customers and helping them meet the challenges of the electronic environment. For more information, contact Beth Goble, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bgoble@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

▲ In this Issue:

**From the Director: New Legislation Impacts Libraries**  
page 2

**The Internet Is a Reference Resource**  
page 3

**A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part three**  
page 9

**Legislature's Property Tax Package Impacts Libraries**  
page 10

## From the Director...

### *New Legislation Impacts Libraries*

**F**or what was the "short" Legislative Session, State Senators managed to enact a broad range of new laws before adjournment in mid-April. Included were several bills of significant interest to Nebraska libraries. Among the new laws are ones which impose budget restrictions on local governments, set future property tax limits, and challenge local governments to restructure. The Legislature also adopted resolutions for interim studies which include library-related issues.

Legislative Bill 590 was among bills that did not receive final action and died with the end of the session.

LB 590 was first introduced in 1995 and sought to clarify provisions related to county library service arrangements, establish procedures to place county public library service issues on election ballots, and allow larger public library boards of trustees. While this legislation was shorted by lack of time, the Legislature adopted a resolution to further

study public library service issues (LR 430).

Legislative Bill 1375, introduced by Senator Curt Bromm, established provisions for creation of a Task Force to develop recommendations regarding electronic access to public records. The bill also set a termination date for any contracts in existence providing electronic access to state records through contract with a private entity. The Library Commission's contract for management of **Nebrask@ Online** through a private network manager was a focus of this legislation. The Task Force has been established and is required to present its recommendations by December 1. A related interim study resolution calls for study of the bid process initiated by the Library Commission along with several other state agencies that resulted in the award of the network manager contract. This study will be conducted by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Chaired by Senator Bud Robinson.

Even though the Legislature is not in session, much legislative work continues. Studies, hearings, and drafting of new legislative proposals will be carried out through the summer, fall, and early winter. The Legislature has presented a challenge to improve the manner in which public services are provided. Legislative initiatives should and must lead to some new, better, and more effective ways of delivering library and information services in Nebraska. Nebraska librarians can be a major force in guiding the direction of these initiatives. Public hearings will be held on all of the above matters and comments from library staff, customers, trustees, and friends will help shape the future of these efforts. ▲

Rod Wagner

## Descriptive Videos Now Offered

**P**eople who are blind or visually impaired have long been unable to enjoy movies and videotapes.

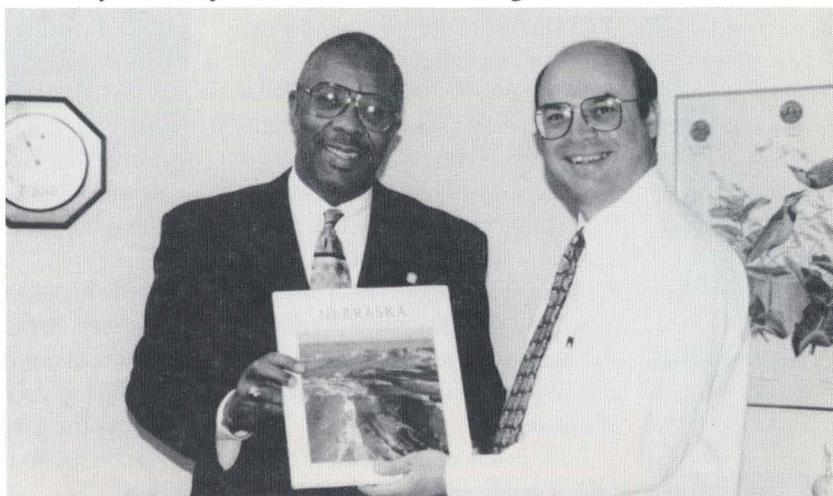
Descriptive Video Service (DVS) is a national service that makes PBS television programs, Hollywood movies on video, and other visual media accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Descriptive video provides narrated descriptions of the key visual elements (actions, settings, body language and graphics) without interfering with the audio or dialogue of a program or movie. Descriptive Video Service was launched nationally in 1990 by the WGBH Educational Foundation.

Through private donations, the

Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service now owns and circulates one hundred and thirty movie videotapes with descriptive video. Borrowers must be registered, active users of the Talking Book and Braille Service. No special equipment is required to view descriptive videotapes on a standard VCR. The videos are mailed as "Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped." There is no cost to use this service, unless videos are lost or damaged.

A Descriptive Video Service catalog and registration form is available to Talking Book and Braille borrowers upon request. For more information, contact Dave Oertli, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <doertli@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

▼ As his term expires, Library Commissioner Thomas Harvey receives a book about Nebraska from Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.



## NCompass

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.

## The Internet Is a Reference Resource

**I**n the Spring NCompass, we asked librarians to share reference questions that were answered with

Internet sources. Members of the Library Commission reference team identified some sites that might be beneficial to know about for use in reference. Here are the addresses and brief descriptions.

Can't afford expensive business directories to answer those questions for local business people? Try *BigBook Inc.* at <http://www.bigbook.com/> - an Internet listing of residential and business information with hotlinks to business Home Pages. *BigBook Inc.* builds a whole new kind of Yellow Pages. The makers of *BigBook Inc.* believe "more information is better, as long as it's organized in ways that are useful," stressing "privacy of information, helping local busi-

nesses, free speech, and having fun." Every feature in *BigBook Inc.* is free to users.

Customer clamoring for Internet Training? The **Internet Education Clearinghouse Web Site** at <http://www.unl.edu:80/websat/> was created for teachers and students of the Internet. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's department of Information Services produced this list of Internet education materials with helpful annotations to enable teachers and students throughout Nebraska to easily identify and obtain Web resources for Internet and electronic information training in support of distance education. Included are "How to Teach the Internet," "Online Teaching Examples," "Internet Classes," "Internet Use Guidelines," "Internet Tools and Helper Applications," "Electronic Journals, Listservs and Other Resources for Internet-based

Distance Education."

Genealogists got you stumped? This Internet site bills itself in a way that no family-tree chaser could resist. Take a look at <http://www.switchboard.com/>. *Switchboard* is a free nationwide business and residential directory. You can use it to find people, friends, colleagues, and old roommates nationwide. Look up over 90 million names and get addresses, phone numbers, and personalized updates. E-mail is provided for registered users...all for free.

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](mailto:lbrawner@neon.nlc.state.ne.us). ▲

## Patrick Jones Motivates Young Adult Librarians

**P**atrick Jones, nationally-known advocate for young adult library services, gave the keynote speech at the annual Library Commission Spring Conference for Children's and Young Adult Library Services. Jones, director of the Tecumseh Branch Library in Fort Wayne, IN challenged the group to make the public library a place where young adults are welcome "to come, to know, and to grow" in their community. Jones highlighted the importance of practicing superior customer service and developing reference skills that show respect for young adult differences and accommodate their

lack of experiential background. He stressed that a young adult librarian must have a sense of humor, understand young adult psychology and pop culture, as well as be energetic and articulate, a rule breaker, risk taker and an intellectual freedom fighter. He then delivered the skills training required for performing the role of young adult librarian.

Nebraska Librarians Sharon Wiegert (The Child Care Connection), Karen Drevo (Revised Guidelines for Youth Library Service in Nebraska) and Jean Lukesh and Julie Hehnke (Library Light-ups for Young Adults) also presented mini-sessions at this conference attended by forty youth librarians.

A video of Jones' presentation is available from the Library Commission. Contact the Reference/Information Desk 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us). As follow-up, the Library Commission Youth Advisory Board and School Children's and Young People's Section of the Nebraska Library Association are exploring the possibility of establishing a Young Adult Round Table to further discussion of young adult issues. For more information, contact Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us). ▲

## Diana Is Eager to Answer Questions

**D**iana Boone is the Commission's new OCLC Member Services Coordinator. She joined the Library Commission staff in May and says this is the first time

**Originally from Neligh, Diana started her library career as a volunteer with Ruth Strassler at the Neligh Public Library.**

she accepted a job with the location of the city in mind first. She wanted to live in Lincoln and returns to her native Nebraska after residence in Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, and most recently, Minnesota. She is a Master of Library Science graduate of the University of Iowa and earned her bachelors degree in Spanish with a minor in Library Science at Northwest Missouri State University.

Originally from Neligh, Diana started her library career as a volunteer with Ruth Strassler at the Neligh Public Library. Diana cites Ruth as the reason she wanted to

become a librarian.

Diana's professional career began at the North Dakota State Library where she worked as an Interlibrary Loan Librarian. She continued at Wayne State College as an Interim Circulation Librarian and moved to Bellevue where she worked as Acquisitions Librarian and later as Head of Technical Services. Her most recent position was at the Arrowhead Library System in Minnesota where she was Automation Coordinator. Diana is eager to work in training and to answer questions about OCLC products at the Library Commission. ▲



## Allana Returns to Nebraska as Network Services Librarian

**W**elcome to Allana Novotny, a Wisner native who started with the Library Commission in June as Network Services Librarian. Allana is a recent

**Her favorite thing about the library profession is working with people and helping them connect with information.**

graduate of the University of Missouri School of Library and Informational Science (UM-C). She earned her Bachelor's degree from Midland Lutheran College in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems, and minors in Computer Science, Human Services and English. While at Midland, Allana's job at Luther Library helped her decide to earn her Master of Library Science degree.

At UM-C, Allana worked as a teaching assistant in the computer lab for library science students. Her favorite thing about the library profession is working with people and helping them connect with information. She says it is exciting

to show people what they can find and just how easily they can find information on their own. "This is an exciting time to be involved with technology." When asked what she liked least about her profession, she shared her frustration for small towns in their lack of choices for Internet connectivity. She says the best tactics for converting people to technology are time, patience and a spark of interest to convince the unwilling that there is a benefit. Her students have remarked about her abundant patience.

She is looking forward to meeting Library Commission customers and is eager to help them meet and solve their information needs. ▲



## Belinda Enjoys Contact with Customers



**T**he voice of Belinda, Library Commission Information Services Technician, is well known to librarians across the state. She is most accurately described as one of

the smiling faces on the first floor. In Belinda's thirteen years with the Commission, she has performed a variety of tasks, but what she enjoys most is her contact with the customers.

Belinda has been active in the Paraprofessional section of the Nebraska Library Association, serving as president in 1994. At the Library Commission, Belinda works with circulation, videos, jobline, updates information on the Home

Page and serves as a member of the reference team. Before coming to libraries, Belinda worked in hospital emergency rooms and in real estate.

Belinda is a native of Alabama and has two daughters, Heather - 21 and Cheryl - 17. She enjoys shopping for antiques and gardening. Belinda reads mostly nonfiction literature and is active in her church, participating as an usher and in divorce recovery workshops. ▲

**Belinda has been active in the Paraprofessional section of the Nebraska Library Association, serving as president in 1994.**

## Nancy Is Fascinated by the One-on-One Practice of Librarianship



**N**ancy Busch is the Deputy Directory of the Nebraska Library Commission but doesn't see her position as solely administrative. In addition to responsibility

for planning, budgeting, and evaluation for Library Commission programs and services, she is interested in all areas of library and information service provision.

Nancy received her B.A. in Psychology and Master of Library Science from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Michigan. Her doctoral research involved a national survey focusing on factors affecting recruitment and retention of rural public library directors. Nancy is currently a Visiting Faculty Member for Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management and has traveled to six

states to teach Research Methods through Emporia's Distance Education Program. She has worked as a public, special, and system librarian, in addition to spending a year in the Peace Corps as a librarian for the University of Central American in Managua, Nicaragua.

Nancy was raised in a small, rural community in northwestern Iowa. The public library there helped her discover a larger world and to understand other options. The one-on-one practice of our profession is what fascinates Nancy most about librarianship and "nowhere does this have the potential to be practiced more effectively than in the small or rural setting." ▲

**Her doctoral research involved a national survey focusing on factors affecting recruitment and retention of rural public library directors.**

## Special Report...

### *Tool Aids in Cooperative Collection Development*

**T**his Spring, the Library Commission used the WLN conspectus software to “take a snapshot” of our information resources in all formats. We also analyzed usage of these materials. The comparison, when matched with our Long Range Plan goals and objectives and collection development policy, provided an interesting reality check. This information helped us answer questions like: Is the collection as current as we think? Are we investing in materials to support our priority activities? Do our staff have the resources they need to quickly answer our customers questions?

Nebraska’s use of the WLN conspectus is directly related to the collection management, consulting, and cooperative collection development objectives in Nebraska Library Commission’s long range plan. The Commission provides consultation and the statewide assessment database for collection development. Commission collection management activities endeavor to:

- ▶ Promote the practice of collection management in all types of libraries.
- ▶ Encourage libraries of all types to complete assessment, use results in collection development planning, and compare results over time and with other libraries.
- ▶ Promote statewide cooperative collection development.
- ▶ Provide assessment tools and conspectus database maintenance.

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 upcoming issues of *NCompass*, Burns Davis, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, will highlight Commission goals, activities, and plans in this area, updating her article, “Toward Statewide Cooperative Collection Development: Use of the Conspectus in Nebraska,” published in *WLN Participant*, Jan/Feb 1994. For more information about Collection Management, contact Burns Davis at 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <bdavis@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

*Burns Davis and Mary Jo Ryan*

## Library Association Hosts Spring Meetings

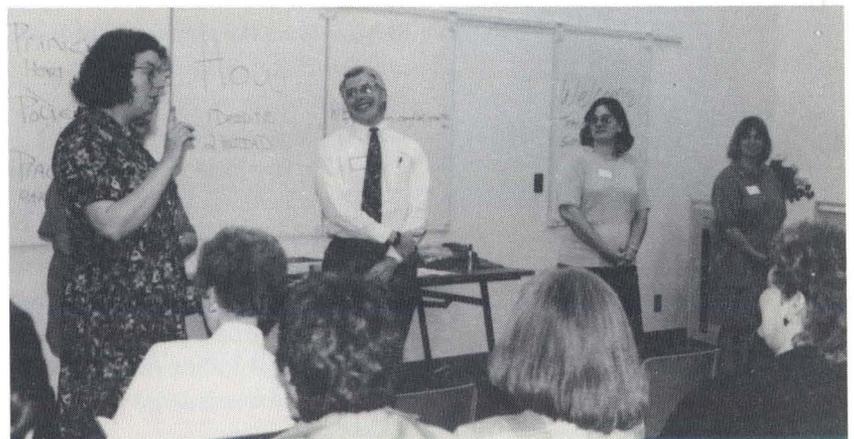
**T**he 1996 Spring meeting of the Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) met at the Hastings Museum. Jeff O’Donnell, local author of several books, including *The History of Adams County*, gave an interesting talk about his books and the writing and publishing process. Revised bylaws were voted on, candidates for office were introduced, and program plans for the Fall NLA Convention were discussed. Participants also attended the Lied IMAX Theatre and toured the museum.

The NLA College and University Section Spring Meeting was held at Concordia College in Seward. The theme of the Spring Meeting was “The Changing Nature of Academic Librarianship: To There and Back.” The keynote address by Dr. Blaise Cronin, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, focused on “The Po-Mo Library”—the “post modern” library and described what will follow librarianship, as we know it. Sixteen papers were presented. The majority focused on automation and the Internet, including “Cataloging Internet Resources,”

presented by Ming Jian, “Archives in Cyberspace,” presented by Michele Fagan and “Designing Your Web Page,” presented by Lorin Lindsay. Other topics focused on publishing, selection, and “The State Aid Campaign for Nebraska Library Development,” presented by Library Commission Deputy Director Nancy Busch.

Spring Meetings, sponsored by the Public Library and Trustees, Users and Friends’ Sections of NLA were held at Gering Public Library, Kearney Public Library and Information Center, and Gere Branch, Lincoln City Libraries. Pat Wagner, of Pattern Research in Denver, presented “Building Support for Your Library.” Wagner stressed the importance of making sure the first priority of the entire staff is customer service, stating, “Building support needs to be practiced by everyone in the library community, in word and deed. The practices of your library should be evidenced in your voice, your heart, and your mind.” Proposed revisions in the public library accreditation guidelines and the draft of Nebraska guidelines for young people’s library service were discussed. An NLA update and a discussion on state funding for Nebraska libraries was held at each site. ▲

▼ *An Animated Pat Wagner of Pattern Research in Denver, Colorado, speaking at the Nebraska Library Association Spring Meeting at Gere Branch Library in May.*



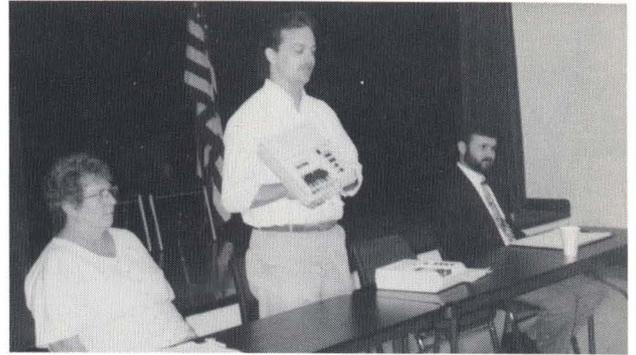
## Talking Book and Braille Service Statewide Meetings Held

The Advisory Committee to the Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service hosted a series of spring meetings across the state. These "information get-togethers" provided an opportunity for borrowers and other interested individuals to discuss service issues with members of the Advisory Committee, Commission staff, and other talking book users. The meetings gave borrowers across the state an opportunity to meet the staff and find out more about how they can

personally customize the Talking Book and Braille Service and the best ways to work with the Reader's Advisors. Many borrowers attended to meet the Reader's Advisors, their first point of contact.

Meetings were held at Omaha's Peter Kiewit Conference Center, Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped in Nebraska City, Gering Public Library, the Department of Social Services in Norfolk, and the Edith Abbott Memorial Library in Grand Island.

Advisory Committee members involved in the meetings included: Russell Bloemker (chair) and Ana Kalin (secretary), both from Lincoln;



▲ Paul "Jake" Jacobsen demonstrating the cassette machine.

Bill Carter, Joyce Cohen, Tracy Grothe, and Mary Ann Jobanek from Omaha; Anita Regler, Nebraska City; Robert Schnuelle, Grand Island; and Fred Wheeler, Chadron. ▲

## Commission Joins Summer Reading Cooperative

This Spring, Nebraska joined the Cooperative Summer Library Program. This multi-state consortium jointly selects a theme and develops materials and manuals for summer reading programs in public libraries in Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. The Consortium offers high quality materials at low prices, including a variety of incentives and prizes.

The theme for 1997, *Thrills and*

*Chills at the Library*, features a wide range of reading adventures, including mysteries, riddles, puzzles, outdoor adventure, and action. Upstart-Highsmith, the materials vendor, will develop special art and materials for the program. Terry Jeffers Moore of Iowa is writing the manual. A separate handout of Nebraska human resources will be developed. Send ideas for program speakers and presenters for this theme to Mary Jackson, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln,

NE 68508-2023, e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. Order blanks will be distributed in October. The manual will be available no later than December. As in previous years, each Nebraska public library will receive one manual at no charge. Additional manuals may be purchased via the order blank.

The theme for 1998 is *Rock N' Read at the Library*. More details about contributing ideas for the 1998 manual will be forthcoming. ▲

## Fall Convention Scheduled

The NE Library Association/NE Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) will hold their 1996 convention on October 23-25, at the Lincoln Cornhusker Hotel. This year's theme is *Success at All Points: Strength through Interdependence*. Nebraska's Regional Library Systems will sponsor a preconference on "Getting Your

Message Out to Build Clout, Visibility and Support" on October 23, from 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Cornhusker. The session will feature Kare Anderson, author of "Cutting Deals with Unlikely Allies: An Unorthodox Approach to Playing the Political Game." A "Hands on Technology Workshop," presented by NLA's Information and Technology Access Round Table will also be held on October 23.

This preconference workshop will be held at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Bill Burns, President-elect, Association for Education and Communications Technology will open the convention on Thursday. Steve Cisler, Librarian, Apple Computer, Inc., Apple Library of Tomorrow Program will provide Friday's keynote address, sponsored by the Library Commission. Preregistration packets will be mailed in August. ▲

## States Share Library Development Solutions

**M**ary Jackson and Sally Snyder represented the Nebraska Library Commission

this Spring at a Western Council of State Libraries Meeting on Library Development, held in Salt Lake City, UT. The meeting brought together library development personnel from the member states of the Western Council to identify interests, share expertise, and investigate solutions to common problems. Forty library

development staff members from eighteen state libraries reported on library development activities in their states and discussed issues and strategies relating to improvement of library service for all citizens. Current challenges faced by all states include training needs of library staff and trustees, unserved and underserved areas, district libraries and other arrangements for larger units of service, long-range planning in a fast-changing environment and equitable Internet access.

Participants explored problems, proposed and shared solutions and

crafted possible scenarios for future development. "The meeting was a valuable learning experience," said Mary Jackson, "Participants felt encouraged to transcend state boundaries to make better use of resources. They also learned a great deal about their strengths and weaknesses in comparing their activities with those of other states. Nebraska libraries can feel proud of their support through state aid and also the progress they have attained through librarian certification and library accreditation." ▲

## Federal Funding Updated

**T**he U.S. Department of Education recently announced the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Nebraska funding allocation for 1996. The list below compares amounts received in previous years to 1996:

Despite the fact that the Federal Library Services and Construction Act is technically not authorized to receive funding in Fiscal Year 1997 (beginning October 1, 1996), the U. S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education has approved funding for the program for the FY 1997. The following amounts have been approved, to be shared by all states:

### Title I - Public Library Services

1994: \$640,009  
1995: \$635,691  
1996: \$692,593

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY 1996 Final Appropriation For All States</u>	<u>FY 1997 House Subcommittee</u>
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### Title II - Public Library Construction/Technology

1994: \$175,251  
1995: \$174,513  
1996: \$166,011

LSCA		
Title I, PL Services	\$92,636,000	\$92,636,000
Title II, PL Construction/Technology	\$16,369,000	0
Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation	\$18,000,000	\$11,864,000

### Title III - Interlibrary Cooperation

1994: \$146,799  
1995: \$169,524  
1996: \$135,285

Higher Education Act II		
Library education/training	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Research/demonstration	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000

<b>Total Library Grant Program</b>	<b>\$132,505,000</b>	<b>\$108,000,000</b>
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## A Fresh Look at the Library Bill of Rights, part three

“Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.”

Article I 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.

As the latest installment in the *NCompass* series examining applications of intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights, we explore how librarians articulate their selection policy by spending money on materials and applying Article I of the Library Bill of Rights.

What does Article I mean to Nebraska librarians in their daily lives? It means that while Roger Welch's humor may not be to your taste, as a Nebraska author he may belong on your shelf. Madonna's performance art may not please you, but that is not a reason to ban her book. Since the alleged Unabomber's treatise in mathematics has become one of the most requested American doctoral dissertations, you might be filling interlibrary loan requests regardless of your personal feelings about the suspect. Your compact disc music collection for young adults may include artists or groups that you and some members of the public might not appreciate.

In a recent conversation, a librarian stated that she would prefer not to purchase the book authored by O.J. Simpson. But we know it is important for librarians to remember that the quality of the book is more important than our perception of the actions of the writer. When you receive a complaint about items in your collection, instead of defending the material, ask the protester, “What should we add to the collection that would add balance?” The important principle stressed in Article I is access to material for all community interests, viewpoints and questions. “Librarians have a professional responsibility to be inclusive, not exclusive, in collection development and in the provision of interlibrary loan. Access to all material legally obtainable should be assured to the user,” from *Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights* (adopted by ALA Council).

Article I leads the librarian directly to the selection policy. The following excerpt from *The Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Handbook* illustrates how Article I can serve as the foundation of the library collection development policy. Prepared by the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Nebraska Library Association, published and distributed in cooperation with the

Nebraska Library Commission, it provides guidelines for the development of a materials selection policy—the greatest tool for defending The Library Bill of Rights. ▲

### *Development of a Materials Selection Policy*

All libraries should develop a written materials selection policy. The materials selection policy should be adopted officially by the governing board of the library and communicated to the library staff and the library community. Once adopted, the policy should be reviewed periodically and revised if necessary.

A well-written, board approved, materials selection policy will:

- \*Provide a statement of philosophy to guide materials selection decisions.
- \*Define the role of those who select library materials, including legal responsibility.
- \*Clearly define the philosophy and procedure used in evaluating and selecting materials.
- \*Provide a procedure for dealing with complaints about specific items.
- \*List criteria for selection and evaluation of materials.
- \*Outline the way these criteria should be applied.
- \*Clarify dimensions and limits of collection.

The following are example of criteria to include in a materials selection policy. An item does not have to meet all of the criteria to be acceptable.

#### **General Criteria:**

- \*Insight into human and social conditions
- \*Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- \*Present and potential relevance to community needs or interest
- \*Contemporary significance or permanent value
- \*Relationship to existing collection
- \*Attention of critics, reviewers and public
- \*Scarcity of information in subject area
- \*Availability of material elsewhere in the community
- \*Price and format

#### **Specific Criteria For Nonfiction:**

- \*Authority
- \*Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- \*Clarity, accuracy and logic of presentation
- \*Statement of challenging or original point of view
- \*Currency

#### **Specific Criteria For Fiction:**

- \*Representation of significant literary or social trends
- \*Vitality and originality
- \*Artistic presentation and experimentation
- \*Authenticity of historical, regional or social setting
- \*Demand

Throughout 1996, *NCompass* will continue this series of articles exploring the Library Bill of Rights. We invite our readers to share ideas and help us to examine the issues and possible ramifications of the Library Bill of Rights. Send comments to Mary Jackson, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

## Electronic Transition Plan Discussed

Nearly six hundred librarians from federal depositories met in Washington this

Spring for the annual Depository Library Conference. The proposed transition of much of the federal depository program to electronic distribution prompted a large turnout. Jerry Frobom, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; James Shaw, University of Nebraska-Omaha; and Beth Goble, Library Commission, represented Nebraska.

The depository program is operated by the Government Printing Office (GPO), a Congressional agency. Federal publications are distributed free of charge to depository libraries that offer free

public access to them. Over the years, many documents have switched from paper distribution to microfiche, CD-ROM or computer diskette. Efficiency, budget, and customer service pressures recently prompted the development of a transition plan to change distribution of all but a small core list of publications to electronic-only format by the end of 1998. Americans are already accessing free Government information electronically from the GPO at a rapidly growing rate. Since December 1995, users have downloaded an average of two million documents per month.

A draft report, "Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Pro-

gram," was presented to Congress. It found that some publications are still better suited to distribution in paper format and proposed a five-to-seven-year transition. The report is available for loan from Library Commission Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us> or point your World Wide Web browser to the GPO Access Home Page at <<http://www.access.gpo.gov/>>.

Librarians from Nebraska's fourteen federal depositories met in June to discuss the transition and their plans for coping with the proposed changes. Most libraries plan to offer public access with the minimum technical requirements for providing access to electronic information by 1997. ▲

## Library Commission Staff Attend Conference

Staff of the Commission's Talking Book and Braille

Service Diane Wells, Paul Jacobsen and Dave Oertli,

met in Pittsburgh with 170 of their colleagues from across the United States and Canada at the National Conference of Librarians Serving

Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals.

At the conference, Paul "Jake" Jacobsen was elected to the National Library Service Ad Hoc Audio Equipment Advisory Committee, and Dave Oertli was selected for the READS Advisory Committee.

The conference covered Internet use by network libraries, recruiting volunteers for machine repair, and

barcoding for improved delivery through the U. S. Postal Service. Sally Hobart Alexander, author of *Taking Hold: My Journey Into Blindness*, gave the keynote address. Other speakers included Euclid Herie, President and CEO, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, President Emeritus, National Federation of the Blind. ▲

## Legislature's Property Tax Package Impacts Libraries

Laws enacted by the 1996 Legislature related to property tax and local government spending limitations and restructuring will have a major impact on the future of Nebraska libraries. Final reading versions and other information related to these bills can be found at the Nebraska Legislature's World Wide Web Site at <<http://unicam1.lcs.state.ne.us/>>. Randy Moody, Nebraska Library Association Lobbyist, states, "LB 299 and LB 1114...contain budget

lids and property tax levy limits threatening the very existence of public libraries." These changes will be phased in over the next two years. LB 590, backed by the Nebraska Library Association to allow for the broadening of the property tax base to support libraries in serving more Nebraskans, could have helped to address some of the issues raised by LB 299 and LB 1114. Although LB 590 did not pass, the Legislature did enact LR 430, an interim study to

examine the issues of library governance, funding, and access. It is hoped that a response for libraries threatened by the property tax measures can evolve through the interim study. For more information, see the "News" section 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](mailto:mgeibel@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)> for a print version. ▲

## News of Nebraska Libraries and People...

Burns Davis, CM, Library Commission Information Resources Coordinator, has been elected Vice-president, President-elect of the Nebraska Chapter of the **National Management Association**. Burns will serve as President of the organization from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998. ▲

The **Nebraska Library Association** New Members' Round Table is accepting nominations for the Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award and the Mentor of the Year Award, to be presented during the NLA/NEMA fall conference in October. Contact Myrna Tewes, NE/NMRT Awards Coordinator, Lincoln City Libraries, Gere Branch, 2400 South 56th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, 402-441-8558. ▲

New Library Directors include: Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora, **Jan Thomsen**; Campbell Public Library, **Jacklyn Smith**; Chadron Public Library, **Imogene Horse**; Lincoln Regional Center, Resource Center Library, **Tom Schmitz**; Osceola Public Library, **Kathy Sidlinger**; Ruskin Public Library, **Deana Bischiff**; Wayne State College, **Stan Gardner**. ▲

The **Nebraska Library Association** Internet World Wide Web Page is up and running at: <<http://www.nol.org/NLA>>. Many thanks to **Nebrask@ Online** for hosting the page and for technical help provided free of charge as part of their service to Nebraska libraries. ▲

**Spring 1996 Book Review** tapes are available for checkout from your **Library System** or from **Library Commission** Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <[ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ready@neon.nlc.state.ne.us)>. ▲

**Nebraska** reported the highest percentage (44.6) of children's books checked out from public libraries in the entire United States, according to 1993 reports and published in 1995 by the U.S. Department of Education. ▲

**Marjorie Prettyman**, the **Hastings Public Library/Adams County Bookmobile** librarian, recently received the Friend of Reading award from the **Nebraska State Reading Council**. She is known for her storytelling and promotion of books and reading and is cofounder of the **Hastings Organization for the Purpose of Storytelling (HOPS)**. ▲

Forty community people attended a session at the **Holdrege Public Library System** on "Business on the Internet." The presentation was given by **Steve Williams** of the **Nebraska Economic Development Department**. ▲

**Susan Shaver**, **Hemingford Public Schools**, was

awarded a grant by the **Newblom Foundation** to purchase 1,000 OCLC searches for the special price of \$550. With these searches, **Susan and Hemingford** faculty and students will have access to nearly all **FirstSearch** databases. ▲

Libraries in **Bennington, Elkhorn, Valley and Waterloo** formed a partnership with **Riverwoods Computer Enterprise** in Waterloo to offer a 24-hour telephone information line. Hours of operation and upcoming special programs at each library are highlighted, along with other information. The call is free in the local dialing areas. ▲

The **Stanton Public Library** partnered with the local **Tree Board** to host an Open House at the library. More than forty people previewed new books purchased through **Natural Resource District** and local matching funds. The library's *Home Gardener* CD-ROM software was also demonstrated. ▲

The **Tilden Library Foundation** received a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of the late Mrs. Bertha Dahnke. She also left her extensive personal library to the Foundation. Books not added to the collection were sold at an estate auction sale, with proceeds going to the Foundation. ▲

Omaha-area media specialists awarded grants for innovative programs designed to further the goals of Omaha 2000 included: **Wanda Duff**, media specialist at **Northwest High School** worked with other faculty on the project "Union Station to Tokyo Bay;" **Marge Butler**, media specialist at **Central Elementary School in Bellevue**, helped develop the project "Authors, Illustrators and Storytellers;" **Maureen Olsen**, media specialist at **Ralston High School**, cooperated with several other teachers on the project "Interdisciplinary Curriculum." ▲

**Palisade Public Library** received a computer through a partnership with **Great Plains Communications**. ▲

**Nebrask@ Online** will be featured in a report by the **National Conference of State Legislatures** in the *State Legislatures* magazine, one of five states chosen for the report on information technology and state government. ▲

The **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** will be the first to host "**The Frontier in American Culture**" traveling exhibition. The exhibit is sponsored by the **American Library Association (ALA)** in cooperation with the **Newberry Library, Chicago**, and funded by a \$350,000 grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**. ▲

*Next Issue:*

- ▲ Article 2 of the Library Bill of Rights explored
- ▲ Nebraska Librarians share their favorite Internet resources
- ▲ Report on the Library Commission Visioning Retreats

Nebraska Library Commission



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