

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
Spring 2001

Vol. 8 No. 1

N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



Legislative Day Activities Held

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Legislative Day Luncheon was held in February in Lincoln. More than 150 library staff, trustees, and city officials attended, with thirty-one legislative districts represented by senators or senators' representatives.

Using the theme, **Find the best @ your library™**, the daylong event focused on the number and variety of services that librarians provide for their customers. With a special emphasis on library services to youth, the luncheon featured a recognition ceremony for young people involved with a local public or school library. Lt. Governor Dave Maurstad presented the awards.

A ceremony in the historic Warner Legislative chamber commemorating the Library Commission Centennial highlighted the day. Sen. DiAnna Schimek introduced a legislative resolution honoring the



Gary Hartzell (above) and Sen. David Landis (below) provide communication training. At left, Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad and Gretna Public Library Director Sylvia Allen pose with young award winners.



Commission, and the resolution was presented to library supporters from across the state.

A morning briefing provided information on current legislation

and library issues by Library Commission Director Rod Wagner and NLA Legislative

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Centennial Snapshot: Nellie Mary Carey



On July 16, 1935 Nellie Carey was retained as Executive Secretary for the re-established Nebraska Public Library Commission at a salary of \$2000 for the year. A flurry of activity followed, with discussions about getting material

to every part of the state, developing a regional plan, putting the "proper reading material" in the state institutions, and paying for Mrs. Cochran's expenses to appear before the Carnegie Corporation in New York with a "prospectus of Library Experimental Work in Nebraska or regions thereof."

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From the Director... Making a difference @ your library™

What difference do federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds make? That is a question the Nebraska Library Commission hopes to answer as a result of a dialogue Commission staff will facilitate over the next year. Besides filling a requirement of the LSTA, the Library Commission expects the results of this activity to help assess the results of the LSTA program and shape the revision of the Nebraska long-range plan for library services. **Making a difference @ your library™** will provide the Library Commission with valuable planning and needs assessment information to develop goals and priorities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that administers the LSTA, asked state library agencies to submit plans for evaluating the five year LSTA funding period. In considering how this might be accomplished, a strategy was developed that will send Commission staff to each of Nebraska's public libraries over a ten month period beginning in April 2001.

In the coming months, Library Commission staff members will visit Nebraska libraries to ask about the use of LSTA funds and their perceived benefit to individual libraries and their communities. For libraries that have received LSTA grants, the Commission would like to know what difference, if any, the funds made. In addition, it is hoped that the library visits will offer a chance to talk with library employees, trustees, and community members about local issues, ideas, plans, and needs. Many Nebraska libraries have not received LSTA grants directly, but participate in services supported through LSTA funds. For these libraries, the Commission will seek to find out how other Library Commission supported services may have made a difference in local library services.

Federal library program funds have been an important source of aid to Nebraska library services since the 1950s. The federal program has evolved and changed over the years. With the prospect of a reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act in 2001, it is expected that the federal library program will continue to make a positive difference in Nebraska communities well into the future. (See related article on page 7.) ▲

Rod Wagner

State Advisory Council Appointments Made

At their January meeting in Lincoln, the Nebraska Library Commission appointed the following individuals to the State Advisory Council on Libraries:

Re-Appointments (3 year terms)

- ▲ Mo Khamouna, Library Director, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- ▲ Tom Schmitz, Librarian, Lincoln Regional Center
- ▲ Jane Wall, Media Specialist, Grand Island High School

New Appointments (3 year terms)

- ▲ Margaret (Maggie) Harding, Coordinator, Libraries for the 21st Century and Executive Director, Nebraska Library Association (Crete)
- ▲ John Seyfarth, Information Systems Manager, Sump Library (Papillion)
- ▲ Kay Schmid, Director, Hruska Memorial Library (David City)
- ▲ Jeff Yost, Vice President, Nebraska Community Foundation (Lincoln)

The latest council minutes and upcoming meeting agendas are available on the Library Commission home page, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Council Minutes or Council Agendas. ▲

NEBASE Annual Meetings Scheduled

NEBASE has scheduled two annual meetings for 2001. NEBASE Annual Meeting 2001–West will be held at the Gering Civic Center on Friday, May 4. NEBASE Annual Meeting 2001–East will be held at the Lincoln Cornhusker

Hotel on Thursday, September 20. Details of the meetings are still being arranged. For more information contact Jeannette Powell, 402-471-7740, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Karen Warner**, Norfolk, term expires 2003; **Robert King**, Holdrege, term expires 2003; **Wally Seiler**, Alliance, term expires 2001; **Richard Jussel**, Kearney, term expires 2001; **Velma Sims**, Fremont, term expires 2001; **Kristen Rogge**, Johnson, term expires 2002. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

Preparation of this newsletter was supported in part by funds allocated through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services.

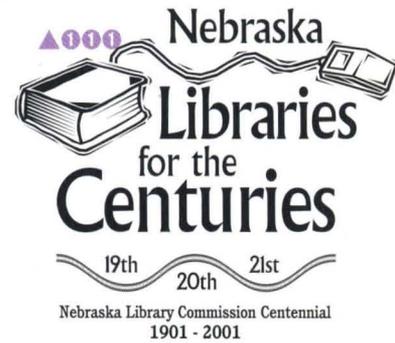
Libraries for the Centuries Celebration Begins

To celebrate our centennial year, the Nebraska Library Commission is launching the **Libraries for the Centuries** initiative. We invite library staff and supporters across Nebraska to join us as we spend 2001 celebrating our birthday. The celebration began in February with a proclamation by Governor Mike Johanns congratulating and recognizing the Nebraska Library Commission for its one hundred years of service to the State of Nebraska. Sen. DiAnna Schimek introduced a resolution in the Nebraska Unicameral commemorating the Library Commission Centennial.

A major component of the **Libraries for the Centuries** initiative is the Centennial Speaker Series. To initiate the series, Charley Seavey, Associate Professor, School of Information Resources and Library Science at the

University of Arizona in Tucson, made a presentation on *Growth of the Public Library in Nebraska*. Seavey's research resulted in the development of a database with information on more than 7,500 libraries in the country, 214 of which are in Nebraska. Public libraries in Nebraska, from Ainsworth to Yutan, were the subject of his presentation, part of a reception and dinner highlighting the annual joint meeting of the Nebraska Library Commission and the State Advisory Council on Libraries. This event commemorated the date the legislation went into effect creating the Nebraska Public Library

Commission, March 26, 1901. For more information see the Library Commission home page at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Centennial.



(Above) Governor Mike Johanns (at podium) presents the proclamation to Library Commission staff, supporters, and Commissioners (right to left) Richard Miller, Nancy Busch, Rod Wagner, Wally Seiler, Kathy Tooker, Kristen Rogge, Karen Warner, Maggie Harding, Dave Oertli, and Brenda Ealey.



(Left) Sen. George Coordson (2nd from left) and Sen. DiAnna Schimek (3rd from left) present the Legislative Resolution honoring the Library Commission Centennial to NLA Executive Director Maggie Harding (left), Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner (2nd from right), and NLA President Kathy Tooker.

Public Services Course Underway

The Basic Skills/Public Services course, one of four Basic Skills courses required for certification in the Nebraska Public Librarian Certification Program, is underway. The two-day course, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, is designed for public library employees. Course content includes public service attitude, reference service, reader's guidance, planning, policy development, and developing needs-based services and programs. Participants who are not taking the course to fulfill the requirement for certification will earn twelve Continuing Education (CE)

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credits. This two-day course is being offered across the state via in-class instruction or via online format. For more information contact Pam Scott at 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: pjscott@nlc.state.ne.us.

Rod Favors Collaborative Management

Although **Rod Wagner** has been with the Nebraska Library Commission since the 1970s, this is the first time he has been interviewed for this *NCompass* feature. Last week he took some time out to answer a few questions about his career, his management philosophy, and his expectations for the future of Nebraska public libraries.

How would you describe your management style or philosophy?

I would say collegial, but others might dispute that. We rely on the collegial relationships of staff to work together to develop and carry out plans and projects. We emphasize opportunities for staff to assume responsibility and to have the freedom to do work in their best way.

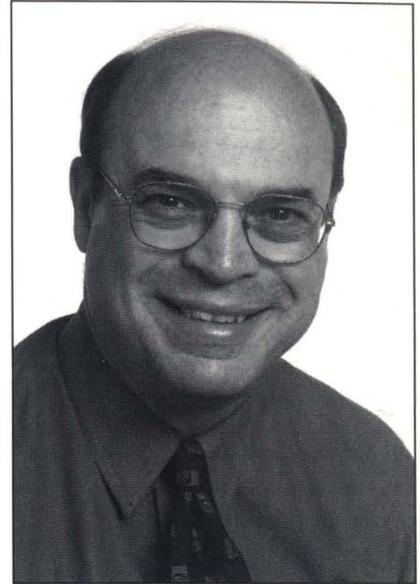
Has your perspective about management changed over the years?

I think it's changed, and I hope it has changed in relationship to other organizations and agencies so everyone is working together toward common goals...goals that are determined in our conversations and interactions with people throughout the state. People have different styles and different needs and preferences when it comes to communication. I

think the team approach allows for more and better participation.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Nebraska libraries now?

First, working with libraries to help them acquire technology to make available to the public. Providing effective training for library personnel—not only for using technology, but to provide the traditional kinds of services that we expect of libraries. We also face challenges in recruiting and retaining library personnel—especially in light of low salaries. At the Commission we are continuing to work toward reaching all the people of Nebraska. All libraries have needs that aren't met, but one area of success is the consortia licensing of online databases. This has been a big benefit to many libraries in Nebraska, large and small. New technologies have helped all libraries but have been especially important in our many rural communities. Public libraries are the most commonly used place (outside the home or office) for accessing the Internet. Many libraries need additional or upgraded computers and equipment. Helping libraries do those things that they do well and to effectively use new technologies as they emerge is an ongoing challenge. ▲



Annette Has Extensive Volunteer Background

Annette Hall refers to her position as Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission as “my first real job.” She has many years of experience working with volunteers and working as a volunteer. Prior to coming to the Commission, Annette was a three-term VISTA volunteer who led 4-H cooperative extension programs. She also conducted training for SERIES, a science curriculum that stresses service learning. Service learning is a way of “taking what you have learned and applying it in the community,” she said. “It involves cross-age teaching...such as high school students working with elementary students, junior high students working with

kindergarten students, and even high school students taking their science exhibits to nursing homes.”

The impetus for much of her volunteer work comes from home. As a parent of a child with multiple handicaps, Annette has developed an extensive background in various volunteer and advocacy efforts serving handicapped children and their families. She has been a Pilot Parent through the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), giving advice and support to new parents of handicapped children. She has also worked in the Lincoln Public Schools Homebound Program, assisting families with handicapped infants and toddlers from birth to three years of age. ▲



Doreen Handles Human Resources



After successfully avoiding the spotlight for several years, Nebraska Library Commission Business Manager **Doreen Kuhlmann** was finally persuaded to sit for a photo and a brief interview. Doreen has always served in a management position at the Library Commission, working first under the directorship of John Kopischke, and later that of Rod Wagner. Her primary responsibilities are supervision of the administrative support staff and handling the accounting and payroll activities of the Commission. Matters related to human resources comprise a large part of Doreen's job. In fact, she said the most difficult aspect of her job is keeping up with the ever-changing employment and personnel laws.

Doreen is a mystery-reader, who owns a cat. "I have a cat," she said, "and my cat has a

dog." She went on to explain that when her previous dog died, the household cat was at a loss without its playmate. So she rescued an abused and neglected dog from the Humane Society. The cat quickly embarked upon its mission of teaching the poor canine how to play and enjoy the finer aspects of domestication.

In addition to her pets, Doreen enjoys the responsibilities of being a homeowner, although she admits that carpentry is not her forte. She notes that when the Library Commission moved into the Atrium in 1993, she injured herself trying to disassemble some shelves. A bar fell on her head, and the injury required stitches. "It's kind of funny," she remembered, "because I'm the safety officer and I'm the only one who got hurt during the entire move." ▲

Christa is Eager to Visit Libraries



Christa Burns began a new phase of her career in December when she became the Library Commission's OCLC Member Services Coordinator. Originally from Saratoga Springs, NY, Christa previously worked as a reference librarian at Pace University Library on the Briarcliff campus. She decided to explore career opportunities in Nebraska after beginning a "cyber-romance" with her boyfriend, Chris, who lives in Lincoln. She was not familiar with the Great Plains before coming here to visit Chris, and her first experiences of the vast openness provoked a mild case of agoraphobia. She is

becoming acclimated to the flat, nearly treeless vistas and is eager to begin traveling to libraries around the state as part of her job with the Commission

Her reading preferences are science fiction and fantasy. She and Chris recently read *Dune* to compare and contrast it with the Sci-Fi Channel mini-series and the original David Lynch movie. She also enjoys music—especially classic rock and blues—and likes attending concerts and clubs. She's looking forward to warmer, friendlier weather when she plans to get out and about, exploring the city and what it has to offer. ▲

Special Report... The HAPLR Index and an Alternative

In 1999, Thomas Hennen, Jr. introduced a rating tool to evaluate public library services. The HAPLR Index rating system <www.haplr-index.com/index.html> is a scorecard for public libraries that uses selective outcome measures to rank the approximately 9,000 public libraries in the country.

The core data used to create this index is submitted annually by each state to the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS), as part of a survey administered by the National Commission on Library and Information Science (NCLIS). This data is collected from Nebraska libraries on the Public Library Statistical Report, which is mailed each October to all public libraries. This statistical report includes questions about the library's funding, expenditures, circulation, foundation and board members, and many other items. Of these questions, certain ones are included because the questions are part of the FSCS annual survey of all libraries. A selection of these federal data elements make up the core data used by Hennen to create his index.

It is important when using any index or rating system to look closely at the methodology. While Hennen starts with core data compiled by the FSCS, he uses that data both selectively and subjectively to compile the individual library scores. Libraries are rated, scored, and ranked on six input and nine output measures. The index focuses on circulation, materials, staffing, reference, and funding levels. Scores range from zero to 1,000, with most libraries' scores falling somewhere between 260 and 800. These measures are weighted according to importance, as determined by Hennen. He provides a list of the weight given to each measure, but fails to explain why certain elements are weighted more than others.

An alternative ranking system is available from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Their Web site offers a Peer Comparison Tool <nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/publicpeer/> which allows the user to customize a peer group, select variables, and create a comparative report. The site includes a tutorial and uses the latest data available from the FSCS.

Recently, this peer comparison tool was used to conduct a more controlled examination of one public library in Nebraska, Scottsbluff Public Library. It was compared with selected libraries nationwide whose service population is within 1% of that of Scottsbluff (13,711). This created a group of forty-eight peer libraries. When certain federal data elements were viewed for these forty-eight libraries, Scottsbluff ranked number one in library visits (168,792) and third in total circulation (226,810). It also came in third for circulation per capita (16.56). This comparison tool allows for a systematic examination of specific data elements, and for the creation of a group of peers based on a variety of variables.

The HAPLR Index has received mixed reviews, sometimes it depends upon how one's own library fared in the scoring process. To his credit, Hennen certainly raised the issue of rating and ranking public library service nationwide. Library staff members are encouraged to evaluate the HAPLR index, and also to look at some of the same data elements in the NCES Peer Comparison Tool. For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Apply Now for LSTA Grants

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant application packets are now available on the Library Commission Web site. Apply online, print a copy, or request a print copy from the Commission. A videotape of a training session on grant preparation is available on loan from the Library Commission Information/Reference Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us> or the Regional Library Systems. LSTA applications sent by U.S. Mail must be received at the Library Commission no later than 5:00 P.M. CST on **April 16**. Online applications will be received until midnight. **Faxes will not be accepted.** Grant recipients will be announced by **May 7**. For more information contact Sally Snyder, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us>. To fill out the application online or download and print a copy, go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/2001-LSTA-toc.html>.

Training Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded training and **continuing education grants** in the amount of \$46,815. The grants will assist libraries in providing continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel. Grants were awarded to:

Atkinson Public Library	\$800
Battle Creek Public Library	\$900
Karlen Memorial Library-Beemer	\$550
Central City Public Library	\$2,500
Columbus Public Library	\$640
Hruska Memorial Public Library-	
David City	\$1,200
Grand Island Public Library	\$7,215
Holdrege Public Library System	\$1,170
Pierce Public Library	\$150
Plattsmouth Public Library	\$2,500
Wauneta Public Library	\$500
Levitt Library-York College	\$4,845
Six Regional Library Systems	\$15,000
Six Regional Library Systems	\$3,750
Republican Valley Library System	\$5,095

For more information see the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Continuing Education Grants.

Making a difference @ your library™

The Nebraska Library Commission is launching a new venture this spring: **Making a difference @ your library™**. Sometime during the coming months, Nebraska Library Commission representatives will visit public libraries across the state to talk with library staff members, trustees, and other interested community members.

Library Commission representatives will facilitate two different sessions in each library:

- ▲ A discussion with library staff members on how any Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants or other grants

made to the library during the past three years are **"Making a difference @ your library™"**. If a library has not received a grant from the Library Commission during that time, they will discuss other Library Commission services that have been useful.

- ▲ A Dialogue Session with the library staff, trustees, customers, and other interested community members to gain a better understanding of local issues, concerns, and goals, as well as to learn how state and regional services impact local library services.

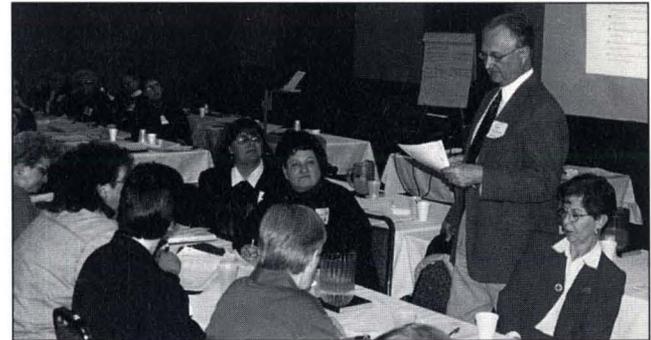
Twenty-one Library Commission staff members will serve on two-member teams. Teams will visit all public libraries in Nebraska over the course of a ten-month period between April 2001 and February 2002. Library Commission representatives began contacting libraries in April to schedule the visits and provide additional information. Results of these local library visits will provide the Library Commission with valuable planning and needs assessment information to further develop goals and priorities. (See related column on page 2.) ▲

Advocacy Workshops Held

The Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association Trustees, Users, and Friends Section, and the Regional Library Systems are participating in the second year of the Communities and Libraries project sponsored by Libraries for the Future and the Viburnum Foundation. Several activities have been planned as part of the project. The first workshops were in North Platte and Columbus. The theme was "Blueprint for Building Infrastructure." Approximately 120 people spent the day with Mary Jo Ketchum, Elma, NY and Penny Hummel, Portland, OR learning about working with various groups in their communities to expand the base of their support.

The workshops were designed for trustees, Friends group members, directors, and other community activists who are interested in building library support on a sustained basis. The sessions stressed the importance of forming partnerships within the community and provided the tools for achieving those partnerships. The

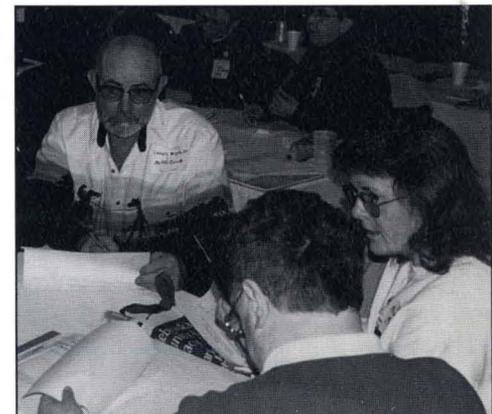
morning session focused on "why, how, and where" to find support for the library, with spheres of influence and related topics. The afternoon session was a working session to build the action plan from beginning to celebration. The presenters provided concrete examples and techniques to achieve the goals of the audience. For more information contact Maggie



Small groups work on advocacy action plans.



Harding, 402-826-2636, e-mail: <gh12521@alltel.net> or Richard Miller, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲



Special Report... Redistricting in Nebraska

April 2000 may seem like a long time ago, but counting nearly 300 million people takes time. On December 28, 2000 the first results (apportionment totals) from the April 2000 census were delivered to the President and released to the public by the Census Bureau. They are available on the Internet at www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html. As of April 1, 2000 the resident population (total number of people in the fifty states and the District of Columbia) of the United States was 281,421,906, an increase of 13.2 percent over the 248,709,873 persons counted during the 1990 census. The apportionment totals transmitted to the President were calculated by a congressionally-defined formula, in accordance with Title 2 of the U.S. Code, to reapportion the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states. Nebraska's seats have waxed and waned since statehood. We had one seat in 1860, based on a population of 28,841, three seats in 1880 with 452,402 people, and six seats in 1890 with 1,062,656. Representation shrank to five seats in 1930 (1,377,963), four in 1940 (1,315,834), and three in 1960 (1,411,330). Nebraska's 2000 population of 1,711,263 will be enough to retain our three seats for the next decade, but we will probably lose a seat after the next census. The redistricting data will be used to determine boundaries of Nebraska Legislative, Public Service Commission, State Board of Education, Board of Regents, and Judicial districts. At the local level it will be used to redraw city council district and voting precinct boundaries.

Several redistricting bills have been introduced in the Nebraska Unicameral this year and a special redistricting committee appointed. LR 7 establishes guidelines for the process, including using county boundaries and recognizable landmarks where possible, not favoring one political party over another, not considering political or other demographic characteristics of the population, not enacting boundary changes that dilute the voting strength of minorities (this would violate the equal protection clause of the Voting Rights Act), and accepting adjusted data if the Census Bureau determines it to be the most accurate count. LB17 would give authority for changing Omaha City Council districts to the City Council instead of the Douglas County Election Commissioner. This responds to controversy over whether the Election Commissioner should have waited for the Census 2000 data before changing boundaries. Information on redistricting in Nebraska is available at the Legislature's redistricting Web site at www.unicam.state.ne.us/districts/redistricting.htm. Specific detailed information will be available beginning with the release of Public Law 94-171 data (redistricting data summary file) by April 2001, and continuing on a flow basis through 2003. Contact Beth Goble, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

Beth Goble

Editor's Note: Look for another Special Report by Beth Goble in the summer issue of *NCompass*, when Beth will discuss the details and implications of the Census 2000 redistricting data for Nebraska and how librarians can use this information to better serve their customers.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

In December 2000, the US Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, legislation to enact the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Internet Protection Act (NCIPA). The Acts place restrictions on the use of funding available through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and on the Universal Service E-rate telecommunications discount program. These restrictions establish requirements for public libraries and schools to adopt Internet safety policies and install technology that blocks or filters certain material from being accessed through the Internet. The law will become effective on April 20, 2001.

Implementation of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish rules and regulations for the E-rate program, and the development of guidelines by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Department of Education for LSTA and ESEA grant programs. The regulations and guidelines will provide the more specific details and requirements for CIPA.

The ALA Washington Office and Office for Intellectual Freedom have created a CIPA Web site at www.ala.org/cipa.

Summer Reading Themes Suggested

The Library Commission's Youth Advisory Board met in January to discuss summer reading program themes for 2004 and 2005. A list of suggested themes is available on the Commission Web site, www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on Summer Reading Themes. Forward suggestions to Mary Jackson, Nebraska Library Commission Children's and Young Adult Services Coordinator, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjackson@nlc.state.ne.us. Mary will attend the eleven-state coordinating committee meeting in Boise, Idaho in April.

Nebraska's @ your library™ Campaign

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) have entered into a partnership to encourage Nebraska libraries to use the American Library Association's (ALA) @ your library™ campaign to send a clear message to society about the value of America's libraries to communities, schools, and businesses. **National Library Week, April 1-7**, launched the campaign. Promotional items will be offered for sale at upcoming NLA Spring Meetings and the Regional Library Systems' Annual Meetings. See <www.ala.org/@yourlibrary> for more information about the campaign. ▲

Promotional Videotape Available

A new videotape about the @ your library™ Campaign for America's Libraries, including greetings from Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, is now available. This seven-minute tape is the perfect way to promote the @ your library™ campaign to library boards, staff and colleagues, trustees, Friends groups, school and academic administrators, and community organizations. The tape is for internal use only and should not be used for broadcast due to copyright considerations.

The tape was shown extensively at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. It is being made available due to the overwhelming response of members. The cost of the videotape is \$10 to cover reproduction and shipping. To order, contact the ALA Public Information Office at 800-545-2433, ext. 5041 or e-mail: <atyourlibrary@ala.org>. Include your name, mailing address, billing address, (if different from mailing address), and phone number. An invoice will be included in the shipment. ▲

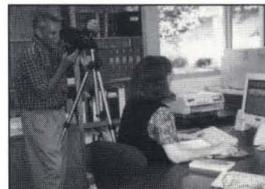
@ your library™

Nebraska Libraries Featured in OCLC Annual Report

Last summer, the OCLC staff spent two days visiting four NEBASE CatExpress libraries for an article about the OCLC CatExpress Service that appears in the OCLC 1999/2000 Annual Report. Sutton Public Schools, Southeast



Photography crew from OCLC visit Nebraska school, public, and academic libraries featured in OCLC Annual Report.



Community College in Milford, Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and Scribner Public Library are included in the article.

Thirty-eight NEBASE libraries participated in rollout testing of CatExpress, and forty-three NEBASE libraries formed the first large consortium of CatExpress subscribers when the product was released in July 1999. Many of the CatExpress libraries participated in the Batchload project and have been filling Interlibrary Loan requests since 1998, but CatExpress has made it easier to add their holdings. During

FY 2000, CatExpress libraries added 51,449 holdings to WorldCat. In the same period, they loaned 2,878 items—an increase from the 2,341 items loaned in the previous fiscal year.

CatExpress was developed to provide copy cataloging with limited editing capabilities for small libraries at a low, flat-fee subscription price. For more information about CatExpress, see the Library Commission home page <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on CatExpress. ▲



Special Report... E-Rate Funding Progress Report for 2000-2001

Nearly one hundred public libraries are participating in the third year of e-rate funding along with the Nebraska Library Commission and three regional library systems. Communities of all sizes across the state are continuing to seek discounts on telecommunication services, Internet connectivity, and internal connections. This year the individual funding amounts ranged from \$211 at Elmwood Public Library to \$42,263 at Omaha Public Library.

Although libraries are in the process of applying for fourth year funding, many libraries are still filling out the forms to facilitate the discounts and reimbursements for the past year. In addition, telecom acquisitions have provided an extra hurdle. Recent and pending mergers of local telephone exchanges (e.g., USWEST/QWEST and Citizens Communications/GTE), make it difficult for librarians to find the information needed to complete forms. Toll-free numbers may be busy and spokespersons may not provide the appropriate information.

Some librarians are concerned about the possibility of forced filtering as a consequence of the recent passage of the Children's Internet Protection Act. They have received mailings from filtering companies that urge them to purchase their products now. One librarian considered not applying for e-rate due to the upcoming legislation. The outcome of pending legal action is unknown at this time, but the Library Commission continues to encourage libraries to participate in the application process for this coming year. (See related article on page 8.)

For more information contact Pam Scott, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <pscott@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Library Commission Distributes State Aid

The Nebraska Library Commission annually provides direct state aid payments to eligible public libraries. This money augments local support for library services and is used by local public libraries to meet a wide variety of needs. To be eligible for this annual state aid payment, a library must be accredited, must return the Public Library Statistical Report for submission of the data in the annual *Public Library Profile*, and must meet local income requirements (income must be equal to or greater than that of the three previous years).

Last year, the **Libraries for the 21st Century** initiative resulted in an increase in state funds for library services in Nebraska. An additional \$150,000 in state aid funding was appropriated by the legislature for that fiscal year. The Library Commission distributed a total of \$403,892 in state aid for the year 2000, and the average state aid payment per capita rose from \$0.25 to \$0.34.

Library directors were surveyed to learn about the impact this increased funding had on services and programs. Of the 160 libraries that received state aid, seventy-eight submitted a brief statement about the use and impact of the state funding. The following responses reflect the variety of services and programs available in Nebraska libraries:

▲ "The state aid money shall be a major contribution towards the purchase of a new computer." (Bayard Public Library)

▲ "This year, our state aid will be used for the purchase of software for our public computers, specifically to enhance research and learning skills." (Central City Public Library)

▲ "This past year, (state aid) money was spent on two resources of great benefit to this community: INFO USA, an on-line database used to locate names, addresses and phone numbers of businesses around the United States, and...Magazine Article Summary, an on-line database that is particularly helpful to students and researchers..." (Columbus Public Library)

▲ "We have updated our computers...with the latest Follett software." (Crawford Public Library)

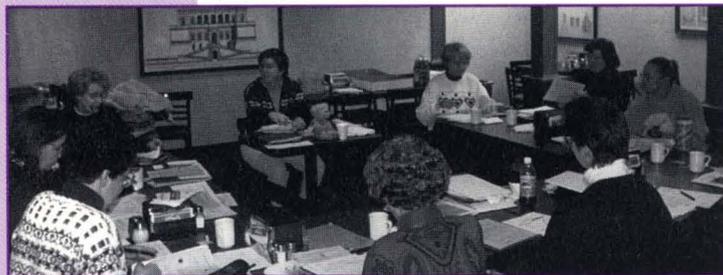
▲ "We have a plan to create a more "user friendly" library and thanks to this funding, we are able to get started. ...There is no longer a school in our community and the only institution offering programs for children is the library. It is so important to the future of our town that the library continue to progress and update." (Greenwood Public Library)

▲ "...the increased state aid... has allowed us to be in a position to offer our patrons better service with up-to-date technology." (Lyons Public Library)

▲ "The state aid funds will be used for additional continuing education/training for the library director and assistant librarian, in regards to technology, computers, etc." (Stanton Public Library)

Libraries for the 21st Century is an ongoing initiative, and continues to seek increased state funding for public libraries. For fiscal year 2000/2001, the process for distributing state aid was streamlined. There is no application form or paperwork to complete. On December 15 of each year, state aid award letters are mailed to all eligible libraries. The letter explains how the state aid payment is determined, and when and how payment will be made.

Jeff Gilderson-Duwe, Director of the Holdrege Public Library System, expressed satisfaction with the process, "I really like the changes made. It was such a smooth transaction." For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲



Discussion between Library Commission employees and Conversation Among Small Town Librarians (CASTL) group emphasizes the importance of E-rate in small libraries.

Newsline Provides Newspaper Access

In 1995, Kenneth Jernigan, then President Emeritus of the National Federation of the Blind, brought a long-standing dream to fruition. For years, he and others wanted to provide blind individuals full access to national and local newspapers. Today, through **Newsline**, Nebraskans with visual or physical disabilities can use touch-tone phones and a toll-free number to access three national newspapers and *The Omaha World Herald*, at no charge. *The Lincoln Journal Star* will soon be added.

Newsline subscribers can access these newspapers by using telephone buttons to select articles, and can progress through a particular article by sentence or paragraph. **Newsline** also offers word spelling and word search features. The speed and sound of the synthetic computerized voice can be customized according to the subscriber's preferences. For more information call Ryan Osentowski, 402-471-8102, 877-809-2419, e-mail: <johnnydollar70@hotmail.com>.

Community Technology Fund

The Community Technology Fund was created by statute (86-1512) "to provide incentives for collaborative community and regional approaches toward more effective and efficient use of technology to meet the needs of citizens, political subdivisions, and other entities."

For the year 2001, the Community Council has approximately \$270,000 available for technology projects. Applications were submitted in early 2001.

Forty-three pre-proposals were received, ten from libraries. The range of grant awards is expected to be \$15,000-\$25,000 each, however smaller projects will also be considered. Last year, libraries represented one-third of the grant recipients. To see a list of this year's applicants, visit the Community Council's Web site at <www.nitc.state.ne.us/cc/grants/2001/ctf2001applicants.htm>.

The Libraries of Promise Initiative: Librarians as Mentors

As part of the national @ your library™ campaign, the Nebraska Library Commission developed the Libraries of Promise @ your library™ Initiative. It encourages Nebraska libraries to begin or continue work with children and youth in the development of five key areas: Mentoring, Nurturing, Serving, Teaching, and Safety. Mary Jackson, Nebraska Library Commission Children's and Young Adult Services Coordinator, will publish a series of articles on each of these five components on the Library Commission Web site. The first article, "MENTORING @ your library™," offers personal examples and stories, talks about famous mentors Colin Powell and Tom Osborne, and discusses some critical aspects of mentoring such as consistency, reliability, support, and modeling success. Although school libraries may be readily seen as mentoring sites, public library staff also often function as mentors, guiding and coaching young customers. To read the first article in this series, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Libraries of Promise.

Database Survey Conducted

The Nebraska Library Commission recently asked libraries across the state for feedback about the databases the Library Commission has purchased on their behalf. These databases include Books in Print with Reviews, FirstSearch, H. W. Wilson OmniFile, H. W. Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated, Kiplinger Business Forecasts, and Electric Library (for public and post-secondary libraries). This input is extremely valuable as Commission staff members begin the process of renegotiating the database contracts.

The responses varied widely. The majority of responding libraries wanted to renew most of the databases. A number of suggestions for additional databases were proposed, including those that support genealogy research, increase access to newspaper articles, and provide consumer health information.

The survey results will be analyzed this spring and negotiations will begin with database vendors. Announcements about new contracts will be mailed to the Trial mailing list and posted to the Library Commission Web site, see the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, click on Electronic Databases. To join the Trial mailing list see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/tlist.html>. For more information contact Susan Knisley, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Special Report... Public Librarian Certification Program

The Nebraska Library Commission's Public Librarian Certification program, initiated in 1987, is designed to improve public library service throughout the state and to motivate librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education.

Participation in this program has grown steadily since its inception, with more than 500 library staff members currently enrolled in the program. A task force was established in 1998 to evaluate the Public Librarian Certification Program, including the Basic Skills courses. The Nebraska Library Commission contracted with Debra Wilcox Johnson, J&J Consulting, to direct the evaluation process. The result of this evaluation is an in-depth analysis of the certification program, as well as recommendations for program improvements. This report is located on the Nebraska Library Commission Web page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Certification Report.

Public Librarian Certification Program changes include:

- ▲ The implementation of a "provisional" certificate. This recommendation was implemented January 1, 2001. For participants who apply to the program after that date, the Nebraska Library Commission will issue a one time, three-year Provisional Certificate. This certificate is provisional until the requirements of the certification program are met. A Provisional Certificate expires at the end of three years and is not renewable. This does not apply to participants with a Master of Library Science degree. The certification program operates with the same requirements as always. The only change is that the initial certificate contains the word "provisional."
- ▲ The renewal application is no longer required. Once the requirements for recertification are met, the Library Commission will issue a renewed certificate, along with a copy of the participant's record. In January of each year, certified persons will be notified if records show that they do not have the necessary requirements for renewal.
- ▲ No fees are charged to participate in the Public Librarian Certification program.

Participation in the certification of public library boards has dropped since the program started in 1992, with approximately 120 library boards currently certified. One factor in this decline in participation may be that when board members change, tracking hours and program attendance can be difficult. Another factor might be that there is no fixed renewal date for boards. Currently, the certification period for a library board starts from whenever their application is received by the Library Commission. This makes the renewal date difficult to remember.

Library Board Certification Program changes include:

- ▲ Starting in 2001, library board certification will run from October through September. This coincides with the time frame for public library accreditation, thus facilitating better monitoring by the Library Commission. Renewal dates will be checked and each board contacted near their renewal date. During this changeover period, no library will be shortchanged in terms of time to meet the renewal requirements. This should encourage continued and increased participation in the Library Board Certification program.
- ▲ Certificates for library boards will be sent to the library director. Copies of the certificate and cover letter will be mailed to board presidents.

For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Kit Keller

NEBASE Advisory Council Elections Held

NEBASE Advisory Council elections were held in January. Sharon Mason, Head of Cataloging at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, was elected as a delegate to represent academic libraries. Judy Oltmanns, Technical Services Librarian at Scottsbluff Public Library, was elected to represent public libraries. Both will serve on the Council through 2003.

In December, the NEBASE Advisory Council was established to serve as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE and its members. The Council is composed of nine delegates, elected for three-year terms by the member libraries or appointed by NEBASE for geographic representation. In addition, the NEBASE member who currently serves on the OCLC Users Council is an ex-officio member of the Council. NEBASE is Nebraska's regional network for OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) services. For a complete list of NEBASE Advisory Council members and meeting minutes, see The Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on NEBASE Advisory or contact Christa Burns, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <cburns@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Commission Biennial Budget Submitted

The 2001-2003 biennial budget request has been submitted. The budget includes two major areas: agency operations and state aid.

State aid includes grants and distribution of aid funds to local subdivisions. Continuing education grants, aid to public libraries, online database licensing, Interlibrary Loan compensation, and funding for regional library systems are included in this category.

The Library Commission Technology Plan and Project Proposals to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) are key components of the budget process. The NITC Project Proposals, including **Project e-Library: Content; Project e-Library: Infrastructure; and Project e-Library: Training**, are available on the Commission home page, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Nebraska's e-Library. ▲

Statistical Reporting Improved

Completing your library's statistical report will soon be a lot easier. The Nebraska Library Commission is negotiating with **theLibraryPlace.com** for two statistical products: **Bibliostat Collect** and **Bibliostat Connect**. These programs make the process of collection and use of public library statistics more efficient and user-friendly.

Bibliostat Collect is a customized Internet survey application that creates an online version of the Public Library Statistical Report, and allows for submission of data via the Internet. The interface will be developed to reflect federal data elements and those unique to Nebraska, facilitating quick, efficient, and accurate data collection. Bibliostat Connect is a Web-based tool that provides easy access to comparative statistics about libraries, making it possible to quickly identify peer libraries and compare specific data elements. Nebraska librarians will be encouraged to evaluate their libraries or to compare with others over time and to use this tool to create compelling data and statistics for effective analysis and presentation purposes.

For additional information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

NEBASE Celebrates 25th Anniversary

NEBASE is celebrating its twenty-fifth year serving Nebraska libraries. On May 20, 1976, several academic libraries in Nebraska partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission to form the OCLC regional consortium called NEBASE. NEBASE was established to facilitate access to OCLC

services for libraries throughout Nebraska. The Library Commission was designated the managing body for the network with Rod Wagner, current Nebraska Library Commission Director, as the first NEBASE Director.

NEBASE began with nine original member libraries plus the Nebraska Library Commission, and has grown to include 146 libraries of all types and sizes including: academic, research, public, school, medical, law, and special. Over the years, NEBASE has pioneered the implementation of new OCLC products and services for these libraries, including the Interlibrary Loan Subsystem, FirstSearch Group Subscription, Cataloging Express Service (CatExpress), and Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC).

In addition to OCLC-based services, NEBASE coordinated related statewide network services, promoting cooperative resource sharing among libraries. NEBASE sponsored the microfiche development of NEUCAT, the Nebraska Union Catalog, and NEULIST, the Union List of Nebraska serials.

Today, member libraries across the state continue to benefit from the wide range of NEBASE products and services in the areas of cataloging, reference, and resource sharing. To enhance member libraries' management and use of these services, NEBASE maintains cost-effective and innovative training, support, information, and administrative services. NEBASE is committed to providing ongoing promotion and support of Nebraska libraries in their cooperative efforts to share resources and information for the next quarter century and beyond.

Database Roadshow 2001 Set

Learn more about the databases the Nebraska Library Commission purchased for libraries across the state at the third annual Database Roadshow. The Database Roadshow 2001 will provide training on four of the databases funded through the Nebraska Library Commission, including OCLC FirstSearch, Books in Print with Reviews, Wilson OmniFile and Biographies Plus, and Electric Library. The four-and-one-half hour class is divided into four segments, each focusing on a particular database. During each segment we will discuss and demonstrate a database, and provide hands-on practice using the database. Continuing Education credits of 4.5 hours can be earned.

The following dates are set:

Alliance

May 10: 9:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. MDT
Alliance Learning Center

Norfolk

May 15: 9:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. CDT
Northeast Community College

Kearney

May 18: 9:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. CDT
Central Community College

Papillion

May 22: 9:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. CDT
Sump Memorial Library

Additional locations will be added. As they are added, they will be posted to our Web site and sent out over the Trial Mailing List. See the Library Commission home page, <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/tlist.html>>, for information about joining the Trial Mailing List.

To attend the Database Roadshow 2001, complete the online registration form at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/roadshow.html>>. Space is limited.

Legislative Day

continued from page 1...

Liaison Ken Winston. Sen. David Landis provided entertaining and informative tips for communicating with your senator.

An afternoon seminar featured Gary Hartzell in a program sponsored by The Nebraska Community-Library Advocacy Project and the NLA Legislative Committee. Hartzell, Professor of Educational Administration and Supervision at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, spoke on building influence, his area of specialization. Participants were inspired to recognize and utilize the influence they have within their communities and the state.

For more information contact Brenda Ealey at 402-467-6188, 800-288-6063, e-mail: <bealey@cornhusker.net>, or <<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/legcomm.html>>. ▲

Nellie Mary Carey

continued from page 1...

Nellie Carey earned her bachelor's degree from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1915. She received her teaching certificate and taught in Nebraska, Kansas, and Wyoming from 1915-1925. She began her library career as an assistant at New York Public Library in 1926. By October 9, 1931 she was appointed to succeed Nellie Williams as Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission. She worked under Gilbert Doane during the abolition of the Commission in 1933. She stayed with the Commission until August 1944, when she resigned to take a position as librarian at Peru State Teachers College. For more information about the Nebraska Library Commission during the 1930s and 1940s, see the Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, click on Centennial. ▲

News from NLA:

Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Scholarships

Three NLA scholarships will be awarded this spring to NLA members pursuing education and training in the field of librarianship. Two **Louise A. Nixon Scholarships** (\$1000 each) will be awarded, supporting students pursuing graduate level library education, either on a full- or part-time basis. Guidelines and application forms are available at <www.nol.org/home/NLA/nixonsschol.htm>. One **Duane Munson Scholarship** (\$250) will be awarded, supporting practicing librarians and paraprofessionals acquiring additional professional training. Guidelines and application forms are available at <www.nol.org/home/NLA/munsonschol.htm>. The application deadline for both scholarships is April 15. Recipients will be announced in May. Contact Dr. Becky Pasco, 402-554-2119, e-mail: <rpasco@unomaha.edu>. ▲

Nebraska Library Association Awards

The Nebraska Library Association Citations Committee invites nominations for 2001 Awards. The **Meritorious Service Award** is given annually to a person, corporation, group, or organization contributing to the improvement of library service in a local community, a county, region, or state agency, or through library legislation. The Mari Sandoz Award recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, and telephone number; the nominee's accomplishments; and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination. At least four letters providing further information about the nominee must be submitted as support and endorsement of the nomination. Nominations and letters of support must be received by May 30. Submit to Janet

Greser, Chair, NLA Citations Committee 2001, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N St. Suite 120, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023 or e-mail: <jgreser@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Annual Conference Set

Plans are underway for the 2001 Nebraska Library Association (NLA)/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) Convention, October 17-19 at the Holiday and Ramada Inns in Kearney. The program committee is seeking ideas and suggestions for sectional presentations to fit the theme, *Library Cooperation: The Key for Success*. To make suggestions for program topics contact Sue Divan, NEMA Program Chair at <sdivan@esu10.org> or Sally Payne, NLA Program Chair at <spayne@monarch.papillion.ne.us>. ▲

Directory Available

The NLA College and University Directory (Web version-PDF) is ready for access at <reinert.creighton.edu/cu/dir2001.pdf>. To make corrections or additions, or for more information, contact Chris LeBeau, Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Electronic Services, Reinert/Alumni Library, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178, 402-280-1757, fax: 402-280-2435, e-mail: <clbeau@creighton.edu>. ▲

Spring Meetings

Spring meetings are set for 2001. For more information see the NLA home page at <www.nol.org/home/NLA/cal.html>.

- April 18 . . . Paraprofessional Spring Videoconference at sites across the state
- April 30 . . . Public Library Section Spring Meeting at Ogallala
- May 1 Public Library Section Spring Meeting in Lexington
- May 4 Public Library Section Spring Meeting in David City
- May 11 . . . College and University Spring Meeting at Wayne State College. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- ▲ **Cherie Longmuir** is the new Book Circulation Coordinator for the **Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service**. She coordinates the distribution of talking books to customers across Nebraska. Cherie has experience as a teacher and library media specialist in Nevada, Arizona, North Dakota, and Oregon. **Jennifer Wrampe** is the new Staff Assistant working in the **Nebraska Library Commission's Government Information Services/Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse**.
- ▲ A new bookmobile will arrive in **Bassett at the Rock County Public Library**. The funding package includes \$18,800 in Nebraska USDA Rural Development grant funds, \$19,676 from the Rock County Public Library, and \$2,000 in other local donations.
- ▲ **Johnny Carson**, the retired host of "The Tonight Show," recently notified the **Norfolk Library Foundation** that he would donate \$500,000 to their endowment fund. Carson noted, "I can think of few projects more important to the community than having a first class library, especially if it encourages young people to read."
- ▲ Nearly 350 people of all ages formed a three-block-long human chain to move 15,000 volumes into the new \$700,000 **Stromsburg Public Library**.
- ▲ Seventy-five people attended the opening for the new coffee bar at **Omaha Public Library's W. Dale Clark Library**. Mayor Hal Daub cut the ribbon and sipped the first cup of coffee at the **Books 'N Beans** coffee bar.
- ▲ A number of Nebraska libraries have issued news releases advertising electronic books and readers. **Lincoln City Libraries** and **Kearney Public Library and Information Center** featured the netLibrary™ consortium sponsored by the **Nebraska Library Commission**. The **Holdrege Public Library System** highlighted the eBook Reader that the library circulates.
- ▲ The **Rushville Public Library** recently updated consumer medical information with funding help from the **Rapid City Regional Hospital Health Science Library of Medicine** and the **Bush Foundation**. The library also bookmarked a variety of medical Web sites for their customers.
- ▲ Groundbreaking for the new **Springfield Memorial Library** was held recently. The new 5,000 square foot library will be located on Main Street next to the Springfield Elementary School.
- ▲ The **Tilden Public Library** will host the *Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image* exhibit. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and the **American Library Association**, the interactive exhibit examines the transformation of the plains into cropland and grazing pasture.
- ▲ The **University of Nebraska at Omaha Library** now offers Electronic Reserves for all courses. Students can now access Reserve Reading Materials from any networked computer at any time, enabling unlimited simultaneous access.
- ▲ **Stanton Public Library** has a new computer lab, with four new computers funded through the **Library Commission LSTA** grant project. The lab has high-speed DSL access to the Internet, courtesy of **Stanton Telecom, Inc.**
- ▲ The **Nebraska Library Association (NLA)** store is coming soon to a location near you. Short- and long-sleeved T-shirts, denim baseball hats, and travel mugs will be sold at upcoming NLA Spring meetings and Regional Library System Annual Meetings.
- ▲ *The Legacy of the Wall* is a free-standing exhibit produced by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and offered on loan to Nebraska libraries from the **Nebraska Humanities Council**. The exhibit illuminates a variety of aspects of the Vietnam War and the Memorial. For more information, contact Angie Kruml, Nebraska Humanities Council, 402-474-2131, e-mail: <angiekruml@juno.com>.
- ▲ Several libraries are initiating spring fund drives. **St. Edward Library** is working to raise \$500,000 for the construction of a 5,600 square foot facility. The **Public Library Foundation in Wakefield** is raising \$812,000 for a 7,100 square foot building.
- ▲ New Library directors include: Bruning Public Library, **Lori Krehnke**; Brunswick Public Library, **Joan Masat**; Central City Public Library, **Judy Marco**; Ceresco Public Library, **Wylene Twombly**; Farnam Public Library, **Phyllis Reynolds**; Harvard Public Library, **Lisa Leichter**; Humboldt Public Library, **Jorene Herr**; Leigh Public Library, **Susan Finkral**; Lyman Public Library, **Janet Beebe**; Nelson Public Library, **Mary Statz**; Spencer Township Library, **Paulette Blair**; South Sioux City Public Library, **Becky Hansen**, Acting Director; Springfield Public Library, **Charlene Harding**; Snyder Public Library, **Betty Niewohner**; Tekamah Public Library, **Mary King**; Village of Verdon, **Byron Estes**; and Wilcox Public Library, **Kim Penny**.

New on Our Home Page:

See <www.nlc.state.ne.us>

- ▲ Database Training Planned for Spring
- ▲ Childrens Library Services Videoconference May 18
- ▲ @ your library™ Promotional Videotape Available
- ▲ Classification Web Assists Librarians in Cataloging
- ▲ **Making a difference** @ your library™ Project Launched
- ▲ Nominations for Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards Due May 30

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