

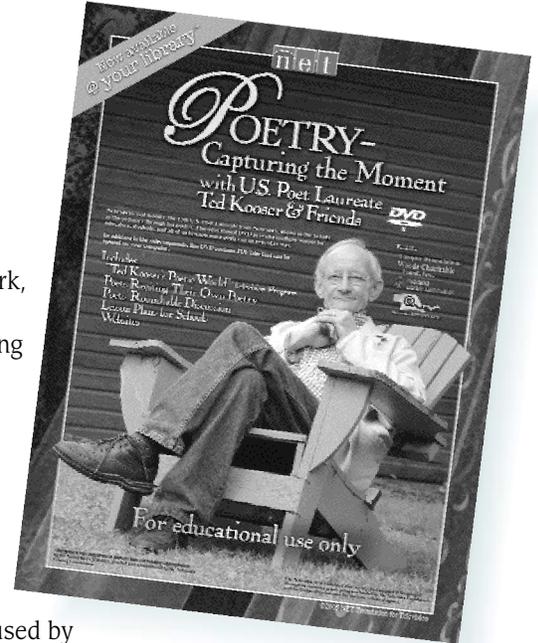
## Kooser Poetry DVD Distributed to Schools and Libraries

In 2005 the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Center for the Book collaborated with NET Television to organize *Plain Poetry*, a poetry reading/discussion session with Pulitzer Prize-winning U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser, Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, and other Nebraska poets. The evening featured poets Dominique Garay of Lincoln, Mary Strong Jackson of Scottsbluff, Lyn DeNaeyer Messersmith of Cherry County, and Mikah Tacha of Bertrand. The event was videotaped for broadcast as *Ted Kooser's Poetic World* on NET Television.

To capitalize on this event, the Nebraska Library Commission partnered with Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, Nebraska Arts Council, Cooper Foundation, and Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., to develop a DVD, *Poetry—Capturing the Moment, with U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser & Friends* (©2005 NET Foundation for Television). The DVD was distributed to school media centers and public and academic libraries. It includes the television program, poets

reading their work, a roundtable discussion, writing workshops, and resources and lesson plans for schools and libraries.

The DVD (with related curriculum materials) was used by teachers, media specialists, and public librarians across Nebraska to increase appreciation of Nebraska poets, encourage young people to use poetry to help make sense of their world, and to celebrate our own U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. To check out the DVD, contact the Nebraska Library Commission Reference Services, 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.



"It's never easy."  
— Ted Kooser

### Reactions to *Plain Poetry*:

"I learned that writing poetry—the actual process of putting your thoughts down—was an excellent way to clarify your own beliefs and not accept the societal norm."

"Although all of the poets lived in Nebraska, they all had different perspectives and entirely different styles of presentation."

"Extraordinary words about ordinary things touch the heart."

"Poetry is cool...soft...loud...quick...slow...sly."

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## Nebraska Libraries Create Local READ Posters

Nebraska libraries are promoting reading with celebrity READ® posters featuring local senior citizens, business leaders, young readers, and families. The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Regional Library Systems, continues this project to encourage Nebraska librarians to create these unique local



promotional materials. For a limited number of public libraries and school media centers, the Library Commission will continue to use ALA READ® software to convert photographs into files that can be printed as posters and other promotional items. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information above.

## From the Director...

**“Nebraskans use library services at a growing rate.”**

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to present this “Biennium in Review” special issue of *NCompass* highlighting many events, projects, and activities from the past two years. The review reflects the varied activities of the Nebraska Library Commission related to its statutory mission of statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library services.

The library enterprise is vital and evolving. A recent report, *Public Agenda, Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes about Libraries in the 21st Century*, asserts that people “expect and prize public library service in the Internet age. In fact, they see libraries as potential solutions to many communities’ most pressing problems, from universal access to computers to a safe place for teens.” While the *Public Agenda* report addresses public library services, similar views would be expressed for college and university, school, and special libraries.

Nebraskans value library services and they continue to use library services at a growing rate. Those trends are reflected in the reports, data, and stories that come from libraries and news sources across Nebraska. It is a significant challenge to support the varied interests and needs of Nebraskans. The Library Commission’s efforts are directed toward helping libraries better serve their customers.

I wish to thank the many library colleagues and others who have helped the Library Commission these past two years. Abundant help and support from many contribute to the library services received by hundreds of thousands of Nebraskans. Nebraskans are well served by this long tradition of cooperation among Nebraska libraries. With this in mind we look forward to serving the people of Nebraska in 2007 and beyond.

Rod Wagner



## Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006

State of Nebraska Funds	\$7,067,935
Federal Funds	2,732,356
Cash Funds	291,045
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,091,336</b>

## Grants Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006

Children’s Grants for Excellence	\$ 105,799
Collaborative Summer Library Program	10,079
Continuing Education and Training	98,923
Digitization Projects	59,770
Electronic Information Resources/Online Databases	898,868
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	438,882
Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)	210,566
Master of Library Science and Library Technical Assistant Scholarships	44,255
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	31,990
Nebraska Center for the Book	20,000
Nebraska Library Association	7,296
Nebraska Library Association Trustees	10,000
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	7,875
Regional Library Systems	1,270,141
State Aid to Public Libraries	705,183
State Technology Projects	34,303
University of Nebraska – Omaha – Library Education Options	3,000
Utah State Library (Braille Services)	7,800
Library Recruitment – Hollywood Librarian	20,980
Nebraskans For Public Television – Plain Poetry	3,235
Nebraska Humanities Council – “Prime Time” Reading	12,000
University of Nebraska Medical Center – Consumer Health Symposium	17,880
Lincoln and Omaha Public Libraries – Marketing Metro Libraries	17,663
Disaster Planning Workshops	8,205
National Federation of the Blind	250
University of Nebraska Press – Marketing Great Books of the Plains	9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,053,943</b>

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# NCompass

Biennium in Review July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006

Vol. 12 No. 3

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**Director:** Rod Wagner

**Editorial:** Nancy Evans, Mary Jo Ryan, Janet Greser

**Design and Production:** Reynold Peterson

### Nebraska Library Commissioners:

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

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

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## Thank You, Commissioners

The Nebraska Library Commission staff would like to thank the Library Commissioners who served in FY 2005 and FY 2006 for their commitment to improving library service in Nebraska. Commissioners are appointed by the governor, and meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including minutes and agenda, see the Library Commission

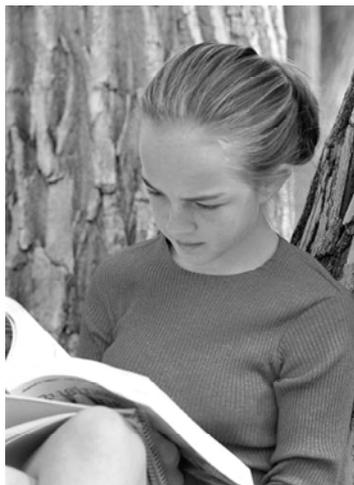
Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners in FY 2005 and FY 2006 were:

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



## Summer Programs Keep Students Reading

The theme for the FY 2005 Summer Reading Program at public libraries across the state was **"Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds"** and focused on knights and royalty in a medieval setting. In FY 2005, 67 of the state's 273 public libraries reported that 1,164 programs were presented and 40,676 elementary school-age children participated in the summer reading program. Thirteen evaluations from public libraries showed that 172 programs were presented for young adults (grades 6-12) with 1,748 participants.



spring. They featured Summer Reading Program manual editor Patti Sinclair presenting ideas from the manual and other sources, and Library Commission staff member Sally Snyder discussing new books fitting the theme.

Thirty-three youth participated in the Summer Reading Program for the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Prizes were awarded to those reading five books.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services, 402-471-4003,

800-307-2665, or e-mail: [ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us). Information about past summer reading programs and themes scheduled through 2009 is available on the Library Commission's Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/summerreading/srp.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/summerreading/srp.html)



☞ **Grand Island Public Library** has an annual contest between the local elementary schools. The school with the highest percentage of students that read at least ten books wins a large traveling trophy to display at their school the following year. A second trophy is given to private/county schools served by the bookmobile.

☞ **Sunshine Township Library** children in Mason City read 437 books during the Summer Reading Program.

☞ More than 1,400 children participated in the Summer Reading Program at **Scottsbluff Public Library**.

## Library Commission Staff

### Arrivals

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

### Departures

- Robert Shafer, August 13, 2004
- Jodene Glaesemann, August 31, 2004
- Michael Norval, April 15, 2005
- Jacque Crocker, May 26, 2006
- Pam Scott, June 8, 2006

### Reassignments

- Beth Goble, from Senior Librarian to Library Commission Unit Director
- Bruce Oorlog, from Mail/Material Worker to Mail/Material Specialist



### Employees of the Year

- 2005 – Jennifer Wrampe (*above left*)
- 2006 – Devra Dragos (*above right*)



### Supervisor of the Year

- 2006 – Scott Scholz



## First-Ever Vendor Day Held at Library Commission

Nebraska librarians and media specialists attended the Library Commission's first Vendor Day in FY 2006. The purpose was to provide librarians with the opportunity to meet multiple vendors during a single event to learn about their products and view demonstrations. The next vendor day will be held in April 2007, at The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. For more information contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [NebraskAccess@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:NebraskAccess@nlc.state.ne.us).



## Librarians Form Disaster Plans

Nebraska librarians learned how to develop a disaster plan and conduct salvage activities at two workshops sponsored by the Library Commission in FY 2006. The two-day sessions were held in Lincoln and Scottsbluff, and were taught by Tom Claeson, PALINET's Program Director for New Initiatives.

Workshop participants learned how to develop a disaster plan, set salvage priorities, and conduct risk assessment. Health and safety issues also were studied, as well as equipment and supplies. Participants took part in risk assessment and water recovery exercises, and received notebooks of disaster planning materials for their libraries.

For more information contact Shannon Behrhorst, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4031 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: [sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:sbehrhorst@nlc.state.ne.us).



## Library Commission Awards Grants for Children's Services

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$95,677 in grants to 43 libraries and three Regional Library Systems during FY 2005 and FY 2006 to promote excellence in children's and young adult services, and to provide continuing education and training opportunities for librarians. (Grant monies may be paid out over more than one fiscal year.)

These awards represent an important part of the Library Commission's commitment to the goals established in *Making a Difference @ your library™: Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library & Information Services 2003-2007*, assuring that library personnel have the knowledge and skills to provide quality library service and to improve access to library and information services to all Nebraskans.

Many libraries used the grants to create or improve teen spaces, and create teen programs and library boards. Others brought authors John Erickson and Jim Trelease to Nebraska, as well as Kim Brown, the "real" D.W. in the Arthur books by Marc Brown. They also provided early literacy training to childcare workers and parents using the "Every Child Ready to Read" materials, created a cooperative program with schools to mentor youth in grades five and six, provided early literacy workshops for youth librarians, created a book club for fourth-sixth graders, and purchased books, computers, CDs, DVD and cassette players, magazines, and literacy kits for kindergartners and first graders.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services, see contact information on Page 3, or see the Library Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) and search on Grants for Excellence.

### Grant recipients were:

Alliance Public Library  
 Arapahoe Public Library  
 Atkinson Public Library  
 Battle Creek Public Library  
 Beatrice Public Library  
 Bellevue Public Library  
 Blair Public Library  
 Broken Bow Public Library  
 Central City Public Library  
 Ceresco Public Library  
 Crawford Public Library  
 Crete Public Library  
 Hruska Memorial Library, David City  
 Fairfield Public Library  
 Keene Memorial Library, Fremont  
 Gering Public Library  
 Gordon City Library  
 Hartington Public Library  
 Holdrege Public Library System  
 Imperial Public Library  
 Kearney Public Library & Information Center  
 La Vista Public Library  
 Lyons Public Library  
 Neligh Public Library  
 Norfolk Public Library  
 Goodall City Public Library, Ogallala  
 Omaha Public Library  
 Florence Branch of Omaha Public Library  
 Lied Pierce Public Library  
 Plattsmouth Public Library  
 Ponca Public Library  
 Baright Public Library, Ralston  
 Randolph Public Library  
 Ravenna Public Library  
 Schuyler Public Library  
 Seward Memorial Library  
 South Sioux City Public Library  
 Stromsburg Public Library  
 Tekamah Public Library  
 Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library  
 Valentine Public Library  
 Wayne Public Library  
 Weeping Water Public Library  
 Eastern Library System  
 Southeast Library System  
 Panhandle Library System



## Library Commission Wins Grant to Recruit Future Librarians

With a \$343,682 grant awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in FY 2005, the Nebraska Library Commission began developing a campaign to recruit the next generation of Nebraska librarians, and to train and support current library workers. The project grew out of a recommendation from the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries, and was prompted by the need to fill current and expected job vacancies, as identified by the Library Commission's Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The goal is to increase the number of professionally trained librarians in Nebraska.

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

For its campaign, **"Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies,"** the Library Commission developed a marketing plan to create awareness and identify prospects for library service careers. The focus is recruiting talented and diverse library personnel, matching them with mentor/recruiters and educational/employment opportunities and providing grants, scholarships, and stipends to

support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional training.

Scholarships are available to students seeking a master's degree in Library and/or Information Science, master's degree in Education in School Library Media, bachelor's degree in Library Studies, or a Library Technical Assistant degree. Since

November 2005 state and federal scholarship funds awarded are approximately \$88,000.

To reach Nebraska's growing Hispanic community,

the Library Commission has funded Spanish-speaking interns at nine libraries across the state through a partnership with the Nebraska Humanities Council's "Prime Time Family Reading Time" program.

Mentoring is an important component of the recruitment activities. The primary strategy is a one-on-one, each-one-recruit-one, mentoring approach. Mentors and recruiters will be trained to use a multimedia package (including a movie trailer, print and broadcast communication, Web resources, and exhibits and displays) to identify prospects and inform them about the opportunities for rewarding careers in library service. The resources will be made available to K-12, postsecondary, and public library staff, as well as library supporters and advocates, helping them to form a statewide network of mentors and recruiters. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on page 1.



## Institute Inspires Future Leaders

As part of the state match for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies" grant, the Nebraska Library Commission contracted with the Regional Library Systems in FY 2005, providing Nebraska librarians an opportunity to learn about leadership styles, skills, and networking. The thirty participants worked with mentors, explored leadership skills, and developed professional goals and plans at the Nebraska Leadership Institute.

A survey of the participants revealed that a large majority learned about different leadership styles, how to be proactive, and how to become leaders in the library profession. Most said they learned communication skills and how to be more effective in their work, and that they developed goals and action plans. They said participating in the Institute contributed to their professional development by allowing them to learn from library professionals throughout the state and by providing insight about how to advance in the library profession. Following the Institute, three participants decided to pursue Master of Library Science degrees, and one is taking undergraduate courses in library science.

*"The involvement of the mentors made these leaders accessible as "people," . . . and I could see myself taking on roles in professional organizations and committees. The leaders weren't these mysterious people with unattainable attributes that an average person like me could not expect to become. They were simply people who cared enough to become involved and stay informed."*

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

*"I look at the big picture more now. I also try to see my co-workers in terms of their unique sets of skills and talents. I aspire to a higher level of professionalism in my work, and try to be a good example to my fellow staff members. I have come to trust my own decision-making abilities a little better."*

## Motion Picture License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission renewed the statewide Motion Picture Video License for all Nebraska public libraries in Nebraska from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006, at no cost to public libraries. With this license, videos and DVDs may be shown in the library as part of library programming. All terms and

conditions of the previous license remain in effect for the renewed license. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: [ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us).



Toasting new LTA graduates are (l-r) Deb Robertson and Dr. Bill Path, Northeast Community College, and Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission. Graduates were Lori Juhlin, Lynn Hans, and Jed Miller (not pictured). Peggy Leiting and Patrice Lippert completed the core LTA courses.

## Library Technical Assistant Program Debuts

Library Technical Assistant (LTA) courses were offered for the first time in Nebraska in FY 2005, and the first graduates of the program were recognized at a reception at Norfolk's Northeast Community College in May 2006. The library education program is a result of a partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska's community colleges, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The courses lead to an Associate of Arts Degree for Library Technical Assistants. All Nebraska community colleges are involved in developing and delivering courses. Most of the courses are Web-assisted or offered online.

Graduates of the program are able to provide services requiring technical skills in development of youth and adult programming, circulation of materials, acquisition and processing of print and electronic materials, budgeting and planning, and collection development.

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner spoke at the May 2006 graduation and expressed gratitude to Deb Robertson, Northeast Community College; Dr. Becky Pasco, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Pam Scott, Library Commission; Regional Library System Administrators; Nebraska community college representatives; and course instructors for their efforts to launch the program.

Students interested in earning the LTA Associate of Arts degree can apply to the community college of their choice. For more information about this and other education programs, see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Learning.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Learning.asp).

## Library Commission Awards State Aid to Public Libraries

From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006, \$705,183 was paid in direct state aid to Nebraska public libraries. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, submit their Public Library Statistical Report online using *Bibliostat™ Collect* (a Web-based data collection tool) and local funding must be equal to or greater than that of the three previous years.

The state aid program provides for enhanced services beyond those made available through local funding. The Library Commission distributes state aid funds to as many public libraries as possible, and the Commission's library development efforts enable more libraries to achieve accredited status and potential eligibility for state aid.

To encourage libraries to seek additional public funds, 1% incentive payments to supplement the existing per capita formula are paid to libraries that receive funding from a public entity outside the library's main funding source. In FY 2006 \$31,676 was paid to libraries in incentive payments, indicating that supplemental library revenue from secondary sources was \$316,760. During years when many local library budgets have remained flat, and in some cases decreased, these sources of supplemental public revenue have grown steadily.

For more information contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, at 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665, or see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/staid.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/staid.html).

## Library Commission Pays 'Dollars for Data'

The Nebraska Library Commission instituted a "Dollars for Data" payment in FY 2005 to unaccredited public libraries that completed the annual Public Library Statistical Report using *Bibliostat™ Collect*. Thirty-six libraries qualified for the \$250 payment, and six of these went on to become accredited.

Submitting data ensures that the Library Commission and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) have a realistic picture of public library services and needs throughout Nebraska. Since this is a necessary element toward

meeting the standards of service outlined in the Public Library Accreditation Guidelines, see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html), the remaining unaccredited libraries that submitted data are one step closer to achieving accredited status.

This state funding is intended to provide enhanced services, not to replace local funds. For more information see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), and search on Dollars for Data or contact Kit Keller, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, see above contact information.

### Libraries that received Dollars for Data payments were:

Arthur County Library	Farnam Public Library	Minatare Public Library
Axtell Public Library	Sioux County Public Library, Harrison	Oconto Public Library
Bancroft Public Library	Cravath Memorial Library, Hay Springs	Palisade Public Library
Bayard Public Library	Hayes Center Public Library	Plymouth Public Library
Dundy County Library, Benkelman	Hemingford Public Library	Rising City Community Library
Big Springs Public Library	Lewellen Public Library	Rushville Public Library
Broadwater Public Library	Lyman Public Library	Spencer Township Library
Clearwater Public Library	Sunshine Township Library, Mason City	Stratton Public Library
Klyte Burt Memorial Library, Curtis	Brenizer Public Library, Merna	Sutherland Public Library
Dalton Public Library	Milligan Public Library	Syracuse Public Library
Davenport Public Library		Table Rock Public Library
Daykin Public Library		Walthill Public Library
Elm Creek Public Library		Wauneta Public Library

## McGoogan Library Partners with Library Commission

The McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, received the Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Award in FY 2005 for its Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS). The library was among outstanding libraries recognized by the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for its contribution to health awareness and health education.

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner nominated the McGoogan Library for the award because of the program's potential impact, innovativeness, and replicability. Since its inception in 1985, CHIRS has served as a health information resource library for the state of Nebraska. The service provides health information, free of charge, to residents regardless of their location.

In FY 2006 the Nebraska Library Commission partnered with the McGoogan Library, Nebraska Health and Human Services, and

the National Network/Libraries of Medicine to facilitate Community Health Information Partnerships across Nebraska. Public libraries participated in a planning symposium which focused on shared resources, collection development, Internet resources, and training staff and volunteers. Ten local community health information teams were formed. They include staff and volunteers from local hospitals and other health information groups, and representatives from public and school libraries. The local teams are creating informational materials and joint programming, and are developing community health information events. Funding has been provided to groups in Hastings, Omaha, and Grand Island. For more information

contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on Page 1 or see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Health Information.

**McGoogan Library Director Nancy Woelfl with the award.**



## Nebraska Memories Project Initiated

The Nebraska Library Commission launched Nebraska Memories in FY 2005, a cooperative project to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials and make them available to researchers of all ages via the Internet.

The project, online at [www.memories.ne.gov](http://www.memories.ne.gov), with approximately 2,000 items from eleven institutions, provides access to historically significant digital collections created by Nebraska libraries, either alone or in partnership with other Nebraska institutions such as museums and historical societies. Original manuscripts, diaries, photographs, sheet music, maps, posters, movie film, and oral histories are among the materials included. The content helps document the rich history of Nebraska and its residents, and includes materials from the 1890s to the 1970s.

Nebraska Memories uses CONTENTdm software, which allows institutions to

import, organize, manage, store, search, and share digital objects. The Commission uploads the digital objects and accompanying metadata to the Nebraska Memories database, which is housed on a server maintained by the Commission. Libraries may use the Library Commission scan center located at the Commission office in Lincoln to digitize their materials (at no cost). Training on creating metadata and scanning projects will be provided to Nebraska Memories participants by the Library Commission.

The Nebraska Library Commission will work with the education community to provide lesson plans to be used with the materials found in the Nebraska Memories database. For more information contact Shannon Behrhorst, Network Services Director, see contact information on Page 4.

## State Advisory Group Encourages Libraries

The State Advisory Council on Libraries advises the Nebraska Library Commission on statewide library development, federal library programs, and planning. During this biennium the Council challenged Nebraska libraries to link every citizen of the state with information technologies by encouraging community planning and aggressively obtaining funding. Libraries were encouraged to form partnerships to provide information access and librarians were challenged to increase their knowledge and ability to use information technology to serve their communities.

Council members are appointed to three-year terms by the Nebraska Library Commissioners and are chosen statewide from libraries in public, academic, school, and special settings, or are library customers. For more information, including minutes and agenda, see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on State Advisory Council.

State Advisory Council members for FY 2005 and FY 2006 were:

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

## Partnership Formed to Save Nebraska's Treasures

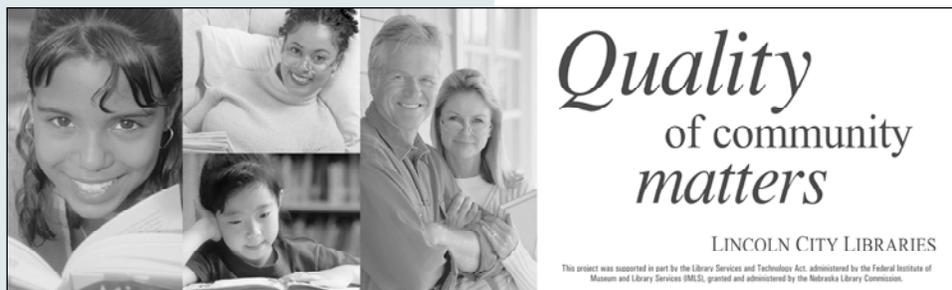
The Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) are partnering on a \$249,837 grant awarded by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a collaboration of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The grant was one of seven awarded from a national pool of 132 applicants.

The goal of "Saving Nebraska's Treasures" is to create awareness of the importance of preserving the state's cultural heritage, and educate families, museum workers, and librarians about how to slow the deterioration of artifacts, photographs, and documents. This is expected to impact on how heritage collections in the state's museums and libraries are handled, and increase participation in the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project.

To date, conservators with the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, a division of NSHS, have held three heirloom health clinics at which they offered consultations and "health tips" to Nebraskans about their family and community heirlooms. NET will produce an "Antiques Roadshow"-style program featuring footage of engaging excerpts from the clinics. Footage was taped at the Ford Center featuring a muzzle-loading rifle used by an early African-American homesteader in Adams County, a Ponca tribal council member and pow-wow dancer discussing materials handed down in his family, and

*(continued on Page 16)*

Billboards like the one below appeared at locations throughout Lincoln.



## State Documents Depository Program Expands Digital Delivery

The Library Commission's Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse underwent a major transformation in FY 2006, switching from a microfiche distribution program to a digital downloading and alerting service.

Selected electronic versions of state agency publications are now downloaded from agency sites or scanned, and permanently stored on the Library Commission server. They are linked from a new page on the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us/epubs](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/epubs), and from Nebraska State Publications Online, the Library Commission online catalog, and *What's Up Doc?*, the bimonthly documents newsletter. Subscribers to the EDOCS-L mailing list receive alerts of new e-pubs. OCLC catalog records of new publications now include URLs of the electronic versions, making them accessible to anyone using the WorldCat database of library holdings. Any library using OCLC can download records into its local catalog, allowing users to access the documents with a single click. Image files are written to preservation microfilm and forwarded to the Nebraska State Archives.

Response to the change has been very positive, with library staff reporting that they appreciate the flexibility of selectively downloading documents in response to users' needs, and that their customers like having quick access to publications they might not have sought out in microfiche. The e-pubs subdirectory on the Library Commission's Website ranks in the top ten most accessed subdirectories. Google is the main referring site, followed

by other Library Commission Web pages and the State of Nebraska Website.

### Other Initiatives:

#### • Federal Documents Collection Streamlined

Streamlining the federal documents collection to more closely match the needs of Library Commission customers was completed during the biennium. Many publications were weeded from the collection and remaining items cataloged in OCLC and listed in the Library Commission catalog to make the entire collection accessible to users.

#### • Digitization Continues

During the biennium, documents staff assisted with several Library Commission digitization initiatives. A Nebraska Carnegie Library Website was created, using photos and a manuscript in the Library Commission archive. The Library Commission contributed staff time and grant funding to a collaborative project to scan microfilm of the Nebraska Public Documents collection. The resulting images will be hosted by Love Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Other project participants are the Nebraska State Historical Society and the University of Nebraska at Omaha library.

For more information contact Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Director, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us).

## Metro Library Marketing

A marketing partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission, Omaha Public Library, and Lincoln City

Libraries resulted in a workshop for Omaha and Lincoln library staff members in FY 2005 focusing on how to market to specific audiences and build more responsive library services. Using the theme, "Quality of community matters—your public library," the library staff designed billboards and other marketing materials. The partnership continues, with activities aimed at a younger audience planned. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on Page 1.

## LSTA Grants Awarded

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provides federal funding through the Nebraska Library Commission for local library technology and service projects. Nebraska libraries were awarded \$432,759 in FY 2005 and FY 2006 to improve public access to electronic information, with special emphasis on digital imaging projects and helping build the Nebraska Memories Project. (Grant monies may be paid out over more than one fiscal year.) For more information contact Kit Keller, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, see contact information on Page 6. Grant recipients were:

### Public Libraries

Beatrice  
Blair  
Crawford  
David City, Hruska Memorial  
Falls City, Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial  
Fremont, Keene Memorial

Among the photos preserved through LSTA funding is this one of a C.B. & Q. Railroad yard crew in McCook, Nebraska. In this 6 x 8-inch, black-and-white photograph, dated 1942-1945, of twenty-two railroad yard workers, some are wearing buttons pinned to their chests or hats identifying them as a "Denver Air Raid Warden"—one button is numbered 2114.

Friend, Gilbert  
Hastings  
Lincoln  
Lyons  
McCook  
Omaha  
Orchard  
Plattsmouth  
Randolph  
Scribner  
South Sioux City  
Tilden, Raymond A. Whitwer  
Weeping Water

### Other Libraries/Library Service Organizations

Nebraska Dept. of Correctional Services  
Nebraska Regional Library Systems



**Scribner Public Library** used LSTA funding to purchase six laptop computers, establish a mobile computer lab, and offer classes for senior citizens. Library Director Jeanette Groppe reports that twenty-three seniors signed up for classes before the equipment arrived. To date, fifty sessions on Internet and e-mail use (totaling 115 hours) have been taught. Classes in Excel, Word, and digital photography have been requested. Groppe reports, "Several people are now buying their own computers, and those who come in to use the library's computers sit down with confidence. They are grateful they don't have to leave town to take classes, that the classes are free, and that the instructor is patient and considerate."

**McCook Public Library** purchased a new computer, scanner, software, and a printer to preserve seventy-five old photographs of railroad life for the Nebraska Memories project with its LSTA grant. When it's not being used for that purpose, library patrons can use the equipment for their own picture history projects. To encourage its use, Library Board president Steve Batty makes presentations to area museums, libraries, service clubs, and organizations. The library partnered with the High Plains Historical Society and Museum and the Southwest Genealogical Society on this LSTA grant project.

### South Sioux City Public

**Library** used LSTA funding to purchase three computers and furniture, and established a Homework Help Desk. Library staff promoted the Help Desk to school principals, media specialists, and student councils. News releases were sent to the city's newspapers and broadcast media, and a message was put on the city's electronic message board. The number of questions fielded by library staff during the subsequent school year (2004-2005) increased 31.6%, from 2,815 to 3,706. Library traffic increased by 43% during the school year, with September seeing a 262% increase. Computer usage at the library also increased, from 12,639 users to 18,869, an increase of 49.3%. Staff reported a marked increase in community support for the library, as seen in a fundraising effort to purchase library cards for students and their parents who live outside the city limits, a majority of which are minority and low-income families.

## Nebraska Libraries Receive E-Rate Discounts

During the biennium, Nebraska libraries were awarded \$256,126 in discounts on telecommunications costs through the Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Discount (E-rate) program. Discounts ranged from 20% to 90%, with 158 of the state's libraries participating, including the Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems.

Discounts are available to libraries and schools for basic and advanced telecommunications services ranging from basic telephone service to broadband network connections, Internet services, and internal connections. The program requires a technology plan from each library for services other than basic telephone services. To receive the Internet discounts, libraries

must follow the provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act and filter access with software that may be disabled for adult users of the service.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale by the percentage of students in the library's local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the locale's level of need.

Library Commission staff presented seven workshops around the state on applying for the E-rate discount, technology plans, and E-rate program changes. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us).

## Commission Supports Center for the Book

### Network Services Staff Present Training

More than 1,500 library staff members across the state attended training workshops and meetings conducted by the Library Commission's Network Services staff in FY 2005 and FY 2006.

Ninety-five workshops covered Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) products on such topics as Connexion Client for cataloging, WorldCat Resource Sharing Basics, the new browser interface, interlibrary loan, and local holding maintenance, as well as other electronic information resources. NEBASE, Nebraska's OCLC network supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, is one of seventeen regional networks and library service centers providing OCLC services and training to facilitate access to information and help reduce information costs. OCLC products are used to locate, acquire, catalog, lend, and preserve library materials.

NEBASE annual meetings drew 216 participants who learned more about OCLC products and the Nebraska Library Commission's new statewide digitization project using OCLC's CONTENTdm software. Afternoon sessions at the 2004 meeting provided an opportunity to participate in a full demonstration of the CONTENTdm software.

Participants at eighteen Database Roadshows held at twelve locations throughout the state during the biennium learned about NebraskaAccess, the gateway to the statewide databases funded by the Library Commission. Sessions included discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. For more information contact Shannon Behrhorst, Network Services Director, see contact information on Page 4. ➡

The Nebraska Library Commission continued to provide financial and staff support for the Nebraska Center for the Book throughout the biennium. A charter member of this coalition of readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars, the Library Commission supported programs to stimulate and celebrate public interest in books and the richness they bring to people's lives. The Nebraska Center for the Book has been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990. Among the projects supported by the Library Commission were:

**Jane Pope Geske Award:** The Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation and the Nebraska Writing Project were honored for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, and writing in Nebraska.

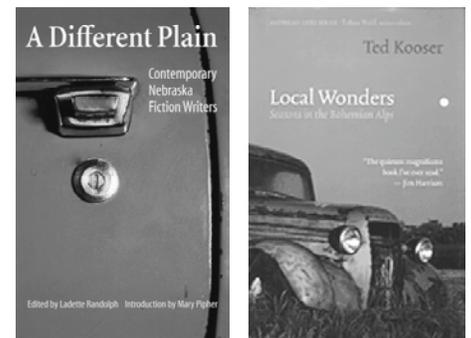
**Letters about Literature:** Young Nebraskans wrote letters to their favorite authors and in FY 2005, Jackson Fisher of Lincoln received the top national prize for grades 4-5 for his letter to Carl Hiassen, author of *Hoot*.

**National Book Festival:** The Library Commission staffed exhibits in the Pavilion of the States in Washington, D.C.

**National Idea Exchange:** Supported travel expenses for the Nebraska Center for the Book presidents to attend these information-sharing sessions in Washington, D.C.

**NCB News:** Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute seven editions of this newsletter.

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



**Nebraska Book Festival:** In 2004, the University of Nebraska at Kearney hosted the thirteenth annual festival themed *A Different Plain: Contemporary Nebraska Fiction Writers* (after the featured University Press book edited by Ladette Randolph). In 2005, Nebraska Wesleyan University hosted the event, headlined by U.S. Poet Laureate and 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner Ted Kooser. The festival was titled *Local Wonders* and was drawn from the title of Kooser's evocative book about living in Nebraska's Bohemian Alps.

For more information see the Nebraska Center for the Book Website, [www.unl.edu/NCB](http://www.unl.edu/NCB). ➡

At the National Book Festival are (l to r) Chuck Peek, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission; and U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.



## Continuing Education Offered

The Library Commission funded numerous continuing education opportunities for Nebraska librarians during the biennium. Many were held at multiple sites across the state. Among the highlights were:

- Personnel workshop, "We're all in this personnel thing together, aren't we?" with Lincoln attorney Linda Sapp.
- Gates Foundation-funded workshops on computer troubleshooting, using Front-Page and PowerPoint, teaching adults how to use the Internet, and rural library sustainability.
- Basic Skills: Public Library Administration, and Public Services courses.
- Videoconferences on Children's Services.
- Variety of OCLC-related workshops, including classes on WorldCat, Connexion: Client Interface for Cata-

logging, and Browser Interface for Cataloging.

- E-rate workshops.
- Digitization and Scanning workshops.
- Database Roadshows, learning about NebraskaAccess through discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on practice.
- Communication workshops.
- Satellite teleconferences from the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL, for library supporters and staff members. The Library Commission negotiated a statewide license that allows Nebraska libraries free unlimited access to download and videotape these programs.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us).



Fran Reinehr, Kit Keller, and Mary Jo Ryan (l to r) share their reactions to current literature on BookTalk.

## BookTalk Airs Weekly

Communication efforts are integral to the accomplishment of the Library Commission mission, which is "statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services. As the state library agency, the Commission is an advocate for the library and information service needs of all Nebraskans."

The live weekly radio program, BookTalk, is one aspect of this role. The program is aimed at "people who like to read" and encourages reading by talking about the benefits of a broad spectrum of reading interests. BookTalkers include staff of the Library Commission and Lincoln City Libraries, along with other community members with an interest in books and reading. Sometimes local authors are interviewed, and since the inception of BookTalk in December 1996, hundreds of books have been featured. On each program listeners are urged to visit their local library to find the books discussed on the show.

Program tapes have been made available to public libraries statewide, with permission to replay them in whole or in part, and encouragement to develop their own local program. Podcasts of shows will soon be available. BookTalk airs weekly on community radio, KZUM, 89.3 FM, or streams audio at [www.kzum.org](http://www.kzum.org). For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on Page 1.

## Grants Awarded for Skill-Building

The Library Commission awarded \$32,427 in Continuing Education and Training grants from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006, to Nebraska libraries and library organizations. (Some grants are approximate totals and were paid out over more than one year.) Additional funds were awarded to individuals as scholarships, stipends, or reimbursement for conference attendance.

The grants were awarded to assist libraries in providing education for library staff and trustees, with an emphasis on how they can upgrade skills and knowledge to better meet the information needs of their customers.

These awards represent an important part of the Library Commission's commitment to the goals established for *Making a Difference @ your library™: Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library & Information Services 2003-2007* which state that Nebraska library personnel will have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide quality library and information services for all Nebraskans.

In addition to funding attendance at regional and national library conferences, grant monies were used to educate library staff on children's and early literacy services; E-learning and Internet design; computer maintenance and network training; youth services; strategic planning; and how to increase the awareness of cultural differences and how those differences impact opportunities for success. Grants were also used to train library board members on planning a new library, advocacy, and fundraising. For more information see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Continuing Education Grants.

Grant recipients were:

- Atkinson Public Library
- Eastern Library System
- Grand Island Public Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Kearney Public Library & Information Center
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Omaha Public Library
- Panhandle Library System
- Regional Library Systems
- Schuyler Public Library
- Southeast Library System

## Advisory Committee Focused on Outreach

The Advisory Committee to the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) represents customers' needs and makes recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Its membership consists primarily of library users, but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and other individuals who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. The committee meets twice a year. During the biennium the committee and TBBS staff focused on educating Nebraskans about the service, which included mailings, posters, and working closely with Nebraska County Veterans Service Officers and medical professionals who could refer qualifying individuals to TBBS. For more information contact Dave Oertli, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-307-2665, e-mail: doertli@nlc.state.ne.us.

The Advisory Committee for the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service for FY 2005 and FY 2006 were:

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



## Libraries Host Talking Book Receptions

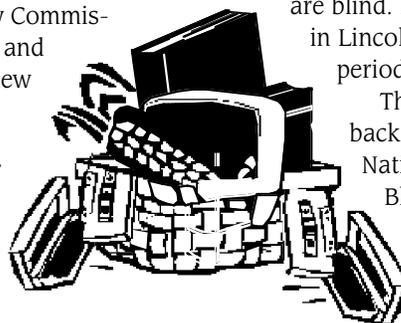
Talking book borrowers and staff of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service often know each other by voice only—over the telephone. Borrowers and talking book staff met face-to-face at two receptions in FY 2006.

Library Commission staff presented information on how to make better use of the Talking Book and Braille service at Fremont's Keene Memorial Library in May

2006 and Ogallala's Senior Citizens Center in June 2006. They described new books, new magazines, and new movies with audio description, and they responded to questions from borrowers and their families. Staff members of Keene Memorial Library and Ogallala's Goodall City Public Library described audio and large print books, and other local public library services.

## Library Commission Cosponsors Program

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service began a new program, Kernels in a B.A.S.K.E.T. (Blind And Sighted Share Kernels of Experience Together) in FY 2005. Cosponsored with Lincoln City Libraries, the program is a joint reading and discussion program for blind and sighted people, and is designed to enhance sighted individuals' understanding of the lives of those who



are blind. Five sessions were held in Lincoln during the biennium period.

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



Cecilia, Tristan, and Stacy Burda (l to r) of Lincoln volunteered to help process cassette books at the Talking Book and Braille Service in FY 2006.

Application forms for free talking book service are now just a click away. Individual application forms, facility application forms, and student enrollment forms are available on the Nebraska Library Commission's Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs10a.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/tbbs10a.html). The forms are in .PDF (portable document format). Paper application forms are still available directly from the Talking Book and Braille Service (see contact information above) or contact public libraries, eye care professionals, or other health care providers.



## NebraskaAccess Launched

NebraskaAccess provides Nebraskans with free online access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, genealogy resources, business information, and much more. The Nebraska Library Commission purchases access at a group discount to these resources, using funding from the State of Nebraska.

Among the highlights of NebraskaAccess' first two years:

- Nebraska@ Online adds a NebraskaAccess logo/link to the official State of Nebraska home page at Nebraska.gov as well as to the Business, Citizens, and Education portal pages.
- Links to the new *Patron Books in Print* interface, designed specifically for end users, are added to NebraskaAccess. Remote access to *Patron Books in Print* is provided.
- A "Create Your Own Online Resources Page" is added to NebraskaAccess, allowing librarians to create a customized online resources page for their library Website, with no HTML coding required.
- Nebraska Library Commission Network Services staff presented eighteen Database Roadshows across the state. These five-hour training sessions, attended by 253 people, provided in-depth instruction on searching the NebraskaAccess databases, as well as an overview of promotional and training materials.
- Downloadable NebraskaAccess desktop wallpaper and computer desktop icons are made available, along with *Books in Print* usage statistics.



- Handouts promoting magazines in NebraskaAccess are added to the Librarian's Toolbox. Handouts focus on: Agriculture & Ranching; Health & Wellness; News & Current Events; Sports & Recreation;

Teachers & School Administrators; and Hobbies & Crafts.

- Hartington Public Library and Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools win the NebraskaAccess Link Contest and

receive personalized training sessions on NebraskaAccess database resources for the audience of their choice.

- Nebraska Lt. Gov. Dave Heineman names NebraskaAccess one of the notable digital government initiatives at the Nebraska Digital Government Summit in Lincoln.
- *Fiction Connection* Database is added, see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/fictionconnection.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/fictionconnection.html), and *Fiction Connection* Flash tutorials are created and posted at [www.nebraskaccess/toolbox/tutorials.html](http://www.nebraskaccess/toolbox/tutorials.html).
- A new login option is provided so that all libraries have one unique password to access all the resources.
- A live chat feature is added so users can chat live with a member of the Network Services staff with questions about using the NebraskaAccess databases.
- Customizable business cards are made available to libraries to assist in distributing new NebraskaAccess passwords to library customers.

For more information see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess).

## Library Commission Receives Gates Foundation Grant

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded \$250,960 to the Nebraska Library Commission in FY 2005 to conduct training and provide consultation to help Nebraska's public libraries sustain and improve the quality of public access computing and access to the Internet. The Gates Foundation matches every dollar of federal, state, and local funds with two dollars.

The "Staying Connected" grant was combined with an earlier \$67,200 Gates Foundation training grant to the Library Commission to help Nebraska public libraries improve technology training for staff and customers, establish Internet access or upgrade to faster Internet connections, and increase access to technical support. Libraries in Pender, Lynch, and Walthill also received computer upgrades.

Library Commission staff offered Rural Library Sustainability workshops at eight venues across the Nebraska. Topics included basic computer troubleshooting, upgrades and maintenance, resources for keeping pace with library-related technology, funding, outreach, advocacy, and library-community connections. Additional training included the online LEAD (Library Education At your Desk) courses on providing customer service in a multicultural environment, improving communication and presentation skills, understanding and operating PCs, networking, and "Kids Stuff on the Internet."

These training funds build on previous Gates Foundation support received in 2001, when grants for computer hardware (valued at \$1.6 million) were awarded to 206 Nebraska libraries and Microsoft Corporation donated software to libraries receiving Foundation funds. For more information contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, see contact information on Page 9.

## Libraries Accredited Under Revised Guidelines

Nebraska public libraries now are accredited under the revised Library Accreditation Guidelines, [www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html), implemented in FY 2005. Revision of the guidelines was part of *Making a Difference @ your library™ Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library and Information Services 2003-2007*, the Library Commission's long-range plan to address changing library and information needs.

The purpose of the voluntary statewide guidelines is to establish a consistent level of basic library and information service at every public library in the state. The guidelines address a variety of topics, including governance, funding, staff size and educational level, hours, collection size and currency, equality of access (age, disability, location), policy requirements, board of trustees' requirements (by-laws, meeting frequency, orientation), program and service requirements, and outreach and public relations.

A significant change in the revised guidelines was the adoption of three phases of accreditation (Essential, Enhanced, and Excellent). Each tier of accreditation requires increasingly higher levels of accomplishment in terms of funding, service hours, programs, and services. Accreditation is a prerequisite for state aid eligibility and for all grants administered by the Library Commission. State aid payments are proportionate to the levels of accreditation.

Another major change in the FY 2005 revision was the addition of free public Internet access as a basic library service, and as a requirement for Essential accreditation.

At the conclusion of FY 2006, 163 Nebraska libraries were accredited. Of those, twelve had achieved Excellent Accreditation status, fifty-three had achieved Enhanced Accreditation status, and ninety-eight had achieved Essential Accreditation status.

For more information see the Library Commission home page, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), and search on Accreditation, or contact Kit Keller, Planning and Data Services Coordinator, see contact information on Page 6. ➡

## Library Trustee Training Addressed

Nebraska public library trustees were asked in 2004 to help plan for trustee continuing education. In a partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association, and Regional Library Systems, Lynn Bradman from Metropolitan Community College designed and administered a survey of public library boards. Board members commented on board composition, continuing education needs, and training delivery formats. The survey was distributed to 1,255 trustees, with a 50% return rate.

A report based on the survey results was presented and an ad hoc committee was formed to address the continuing education needs of trustees. The committee, including Lynn Bradman; Maggie Harding, Executive Director of the Nebraska Library Association; Cherie Longmuir, Panhandle Library System Coordinator; Felicia Cogley, Chair of Trustees, Users, and Friends section of Nebraska Library Association; and Pam Scott, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, developed recommendations for improving continuing education for trustees and for gathering ongoing feedback from trustees. Some highlights of their plans include:

- Continuing Education for Trustees
    - **Year I:** Grants, fundraising, Friends of the Library, 501c3s, planning, implementation, and evaluation
    - **Year II:** Policies
    - **Year III:** Legal and fiscal responsibilities, copyright, and intellectual freedom
    - **Year IV:** Public relations skills; library advocacy; verbal, written and presentation skills; and board management
    - **Year V:** Review and evaluation
  - Fact Sheets
    - Discussion/learning activities sheets for use at board meetings.
  - Library Board Certification Section of the Library Commission Website
    - Training materials and board certification information packaged specifically for trustees on the Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/trustees/trustees.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/trustees/trustees.html).
  - *Nebraska Library Board Manual*
    - Existing publication updated, with a print copy sent to each public library and a downloadable Web version of the manual available on the Nebraska Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Library Board.
- For more information contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, see contact information on Page 9. ➡

## NEBASE Council Advises on Policy Issues

The NEBASE Advisory Council serves as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE (Nebraska's OCLC Network, operated by the Library Commission) and its members. The Council is comprised of delegates elected for three-year terms that advise NEBASE on policy matters and represent the interests of NEBASE libraries. NEBASE Advisory Council members in FY2005 and FY 2006 were:

### Academic Library

- **Pat Hughes**, Hastings College, Perkins Library
- **Lauralee Grabe**, Creighton University, Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library
- **Brian Striman**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Schmid Law Library
- **Basil "Buz" Wehrman**, Concordia University, Link Library

### Public/Special/Institutional/School Library

- **Lori Rader**, Omaha Public Library, Sorenson Branch
- **Sandra Astleford**, Bellevue Public Library
- **MaryAnne Vieregger**, Creighton Prep Media Center

### Selective/CatExpress Library

- **Marjorie Shaw**, La Vista Public Library
- **Barbara Miller**, Plattsmouth Public Library
- **Sue Murphy**, Alliance Public Library

### Ex-Officio

- **Michael LaCroix**, Creighton University, Reinert Alumni Memorial Library
- **Beth McNeil**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Love Memorial Library

For more information contact Shannon Behrhorst, Network Services Director, see contact information on Page 4. ➡

## Nebraska Library Commission Funds Regional Library Systems

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$1,270,140 during the biennium to fund training and development assistance for Nebraska libraries through the state's six Regional Library Systems. The systems provide access to improved library services through cooperation of all types of libraries and school media centers within the counties in each system area. The Library Commission supports the regional systems using state and federal funds.

Administrators for the six systems during the biennium were:  
 Eastern—Kathy Tooker  
 Northeast—Kathy Ellerton  
 Republican Valley—Sherry Houston  
 Meridian—Sharon Osenga  
 Panhandle—Cherie Longmuir  
 Southeast—Brenda Ealey.

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

### • Continuing Education/Training/Consulting

Coordinated programming on many topics, including:

- trustee training
- budgeting
- summer reading program
- youth services
- copyright
- medical information
- weeding
- leadership
- Basic Skills
- facilities
- reference
- E-rate
- system boards
- NEMA school institutes

- collection management
- fundraising
- computer troubleshooting
- technology
- public library planning

### • Networking/Cooperation

- circulated professional collection items and journals
- loaned cutting machines and dies
- loaned laptops, projectors, and scanners
- participated in Weed of the Month Club
- loaned BiFolkal kits
- circulated Books on Tape and storytelling kits
- placed cooperative puppet orders
- coordinated author tour

### • Promotion

- participated in Nebraska and National Library Legislative Day
- provided news releases to media for library events
- presented awards to library staff and supporters
- exhibited at meetings and conferences
- participated in One Book One Nebraska

### • Communication

- published system newsletters, brochures, and annual reports
- redesigned/maintained system Websites
- created/maintained directories
- performed needs assessment
- updated plans

For more information see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Library Systems.

↻ **Southeast Library System** collaborated with libraries across the state and Nebraska author Alex Kava for One Book One Nebraska 2006, creating a logo and a Website. Discussions were conducted with Doane College Ethics classes on “First Amendment, Free Speech and Libraries,” a *Top 10 Librarian Booklist* was developed, and orientation presentations made for UN–O library classes.

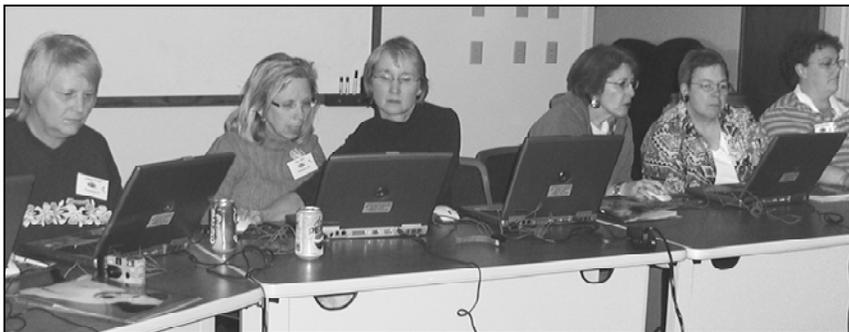
↻ **Meridian Library System** consulted with area library staff on weeding, E-rate, policy and personnel questions, and completing the state statistical report. Services for young adults are growing, demonstrating widespread interest in reaching out to teens with library spaces designed for them and increased collection development in this area. Meridian cosponsored an online reference workshop with Republican Valley and a youth services retreat with Republican Valley and Northeast Library Systems.

↻ **Eastern Library System** offered a workshop to provide librarians the tools and techniques for helping customers who are dealing with grief and grieving. Eastern and Southeast Library Systems received a Continuing Education Grant from the Library Commission for a Spring Colloquium. The event included a presentation by Joe Janes, University of Washington, the Internet Librarian for *American Libraries*.

↻ **Panhandle Library System** reported that Basic Skills classes continue to be one of the learning highlights. System Administrator Cherie Longmuir states, “It’s very rewarding to watch new library employees start the first class feeling overwhelmed and intimidated, then listening to them by the fourth course – two years later – confident and ready to share all the things they are doing in their libraries.” She met with every library board at least once last year, and many board members became involved in trustee initiatives and training.

↻ **Republican Valley Library System** routes a Spanish book collection to six libraries every three months and a collection of more than 300 audio-books for libraries to check out. The Ellison die cut machine and the more than 200 dies are very popular. The System hosted three “Let’s Get Acquainted” workshops, and twenty-two workshops on topics including poverty issues, using Google, grant writing, tax information, and serving immigrant populations.

↻ **Northeast Library System** hosted Basic Skills classes and facilitated twelve online Library Education at Desktop (LEAD) classes through the University of North Texas. The System co-sponsored “Exploring the Blackboard Jungle,” a workshop for school media specialists and held Winter Workshops. The System office established an AccuCut Die directory and conducted an automation survey. ↻



Julie Pinnell (center), Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Librarian, facilitates a Gaming session at a Youth Services Institute.

## Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005

- ☞ **11,133** Nebraska library staff members participated in **416** continuing education events sponsored by the Library Commission, including Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **163** public libraries were accredited.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **350,617** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to **4,903** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **263** issues of magazines and **48** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **91,155** audiocassettes.
- ☞ The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than **9.1 million** holdings. These items, cataloged by staff of NEBASE libraries, are reflected in the OCLC WorldCat database of library holdings.
- ☞ The Library Commission circulated **4,632** items.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **910** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **18,807** items from other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission completed **31,366** reference transactions.
- ☞ The Library Commission awarded **28** continuing education grants.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **8,760** customers onsite.
- ☞ At the end of the fiscal year, NEBASE membership included **143** libraries.
- ☞ **9,247** state documents were added to the Commission's collection, bringing the total to **124,641**.
- ☞ **1,380** federal documents were added to the Commission's collection, and **5,275** federal documents were withdrawn, bringing the total to **96,316**.
- ☞ **715** electronic state agency publications were downloaded. ☞

## Partnership Formed to Save Nebraska's Treasures *(continued)*

a consultation with conservators and David City Public Library staff regarding digitization of its Boston Photo Studio collection through the Nebraska Memories project.

The agencies will create a complementary Website, and present three in-depth workshops for library and museum staff and volunteers on conservation, preservation, and digitization via distance learning videoconferences. The Nebraska Library Commission will develop and deliver the digitization workshop as part of the Nebraska Memories initiative.

Goals of the project include stimulating more locally based museum/library partnerships, creating value for families by preserving heirlooms, and serving public purposes in helping libraries and museums preserve a community's collective history. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, see contact information on page 1. ☞



## Nebraska Library Commission

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