



2002 National Library Legislative Day Held

Nebraska library representatives participated in the Twenty-eighth Annual National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in May.

Joining more than one thousand library supporters from across the country, the Nebraska group visited Nebraska Congressional delegation offices to provide information on library-related legislation and policies. The reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act, copyright and fair use, federal appropriations for library programs, and access to government information were among the issues noted. Success



stories were presented to illustrate the variety of services offered by Nebraska libraries.

Nebraska library representatives participating in Library Legislative Day are pictured above (seated l. to r.) Dee Yost, Public Services Librarian at Hastings College; Sara Schott, Southeast Library System Administrative Assistant; Kris Rogge, Nebraska Library Commission member; Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator; Diana

Johnson, Director of the Stromsburg Public Library and co-chair of the Nebraska Library Association Legislative Committee; Kathy Johnson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries Reference Department and Vice-President of the Nebraska Center for the Book; (standing l. to r.) Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission; Senator Chuck Hagel; and Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator. ▲

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Centennial Snapshot: Jane Pope Geske



Jane Pope Geske served as Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission from 1969 to 1971 and as the Director of the Nebraska Library Commission from 1973 to 1976. She formerly served as the Library Commission's Supervising Consultant and as the director of the South Central Regional Library in Holdrege.

Her service to the library community is characterized by her comments at retirement. She said, "(I'm) very positive about the role of the library,

any library, especially the small public library, and feel that it can achieve its proper place in cultural, technological, or educational developments of today and tomorrow." She worked to help make this happen by leading the efforts to centralize materials processing; to attract major federally funded projects; to develop regional library service through Regional Networks (the precursors to Regional Library Systems); to attract privately funded projects (like the Griggsville Wild Bird Society's state bird picture project, see

continued on page 4...

From the Director... Further Reductions in State Budgets Likely

State tax revenues have continued to fall below projections and have prompted Governor Johanns to call another special legislative session to make further reductions in the state budget. Nebraska, along with most other states, experienced steady growth in tax revenues throughout the 1990s. Last year, tax revenues began falling below projections. It was wishful thinking to believe that the October 2001 special session would bring budgets in line with tax revenues and solve the problem.

The 2002 legislative session required further state budget cuts. The legislature also enacted tax increases in order to balance the budget. Even so, revenues have continued to fall significantly short of projections. State senators will return to Lincoln on July 30 to reconsider state appropriations for the July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003 fiscal year. The solutions and decisions will be even more difficult.

With state fund reductions enacted in the 2001 special session and the 2002 legislative session, the Nebraska Library Commission's state appropriations have been **reduced eight percent**, \$313,545, for the 2003 fiscal year. These actions were part of across-the-board reductions applied to many state agency budgets. For the Library Commission, budget reductions have been made in personnel expenditures, library materials purchases, publishing, travel, equipment, and telecommunications. The state funds reduction also includes direct aid to public libraries, regional library systems, and interlibrary loan compensation, as well as project grants for children and young adult services, continuing education, and scholarships.

In announcing his call for a special session, Governor Johanns asked state agencies to limit expenditures and to plan for further budget reductions. Within this tentative environment, the Library Commission will operate with contingencies in mind until further budget decisions are made during the July and August special legislative session. ▲

Rod Wagner

Appointments Made to Advisory Council and Committee

Nancy Escamilla, Scottsbluff, is this year's one new member on the **Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries**. She was appointed this spring by the Nebraska Library Commission. The Commission reappointed the following members to second terms: Mike Herbison, Kearney; Ruth Seward, Lexington; and Kathy Lute, Ogallala. Becky Baker, of Seward, joins the Council this year as the Nebraska Library Association ex-officio member, serving in her capacity as President-elect of the Nebraska Library Association.

The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries is established by the Nebraska Library Commission to advise the Commission on statewide library development and planning. The State Advisory Council on Libraries provides advice on library service issues; reviews and evaluates interlibrary cooperative and resource sharing plans and programs; and assists in the development, review, and evaluation of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan. For more information, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on State Advisory Council or contact Sally Snyder, Federal Aid Administrator, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us>.

The Nebraska Library Commission recently appointed four new members to the **Advisory Committee of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service**. New to the Committee are Roy Hobley, Lincoln; Bruce Howe, Wood River; Deb McWilliams, Syracuse; and Kathy Tooker, Omaha. Alisa Gunther, of Gering, was appointed to a second two-year term. The next meeting of the committee is planned for August 23. The Committee represents the needs of borrowers and offers advice concerning policies, services, and programs. For information about Commission services to Nebraskans who cannot see to read or hold a book, visit the Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Talking Book and Braille, or contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 402-471-4005, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

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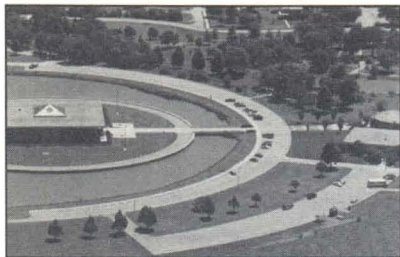
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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Karen Warner**, Norfolk, term expires 2003; **Robert King**, Holdrege, term expires 2003; **Wally Seiler**, Chair, Alliance, term expires 2004; **Richard Jussel**, Kearney, term expires 2004; **Velma Sims-Shipley**, Fremont, term expires 2004; **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.



Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer will host the next Nebraska Book Festival, September 13-14.

This is the first festival under the new title of "book" festival, emphasizing the original goal of holding a public celebration of all varieties of books and book enterprises.

The Stuhr, with its connections to history and its exhibit structure, gives added emphasis to that larger purpose. Under the leadership of Pam Snow, with Diane Haney serving as festival coordinator, a

The Eleventh Nebraska Book Festival Scheduled for September 13-14

planning committee is considering how best to use the Stuhr's facilities and those nearby, and how to create a significant site-centered celebration..

The theme, *A Sense of Time, A Sense of Place*, will evolve into programs for adults, children, and youth. Plans currently call for a Friday program focused on middle and high school students and a Friday evening celebration including a festive meal, program, and the presentation of the Nebraska Center for the Book's (NCB) Mildred Bennet Award and NCB Book Awards. Saturday will be devoted to book displays from publishers and literary centers, readings by various writers, and a wide variety of programs, many of them hands-on experiences taking place in the most appropriate museum venue. Some of these will

be devoted to adult interests, others to small children, and still others to students. In addition to the usual panels and readers, the program committee hopes to attract demonstrations and live broadcasts. Weather permitting, many displays and events will be outside. However, indoor alternatives will be ready. Museum admission will be \$8 for students on Friday (includes lunch) and \$5 for all attendees on Saturday.

The festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, with assistance from the Nebraska Humanities Council and numerous local patrons. For more information see <www.stuhrmuseum.org/book.htm> or contact Pam Snow, 308-381-8681, e-mail: <[pksnow@kdsi.net](mailto:phsnow@kdsi.net)> or Diane Haney, 308-384-6209, e-mail: <greenacre@charter.net>. ▲

Nebraska Network Feasibility Study Underway

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission initiated a feasibility study to address management issues for a Nebraska Network.

A Nebraska Network Workgroup was created to assist in exploring issues, models, and services that would serve broad-based telecommunications needs of state and local government entities. The workgroup's draft final report was developed for consideration at

its June meeting, with intent to review and revise the report for presentation to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission in September.

State of Nebraska Chief Information Officer Steve Schafer joined Tom Rolfes and Anne Byers, both of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, in presenting background information on the project to Library Commission and public library representatives at the Nebraska Library Commission in May. The

Network Work Group is seeking input on telecommunication service needs and uses. Ted Smith, Director of the Norfolk Public Library, is the public library representative serving on the work group. Jeanne Saathoff, Director of the Kearney Public Library, is the library alternate. Both Ted and Jeanne serve on the Nebraska Information Technology Commission Community Council. For further information see <nitc.nol.org/nitc/network>. ▲

Future of Talking Books Addressed at Conference

Our Digital World: A Leap to the Future was the theme of the National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals.

Commission staff members Bill Ainsley and Dave Oertli joined staff from the Library of Congress, forty-three other states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada,

Denmark, and Ireland to consider the digital future for talking book service.

The goal is to provide a collection of twenty thousand book titles to use with digital players by 2008. Scenarios for future talking book service were presented, with the most likely being books stored in flash memory for solid-state

digital players. See *Digital Talking Books: Progress to Date—May 2002* at the Library of Congress Web site, <www.loc.gov/nls/technical/dtbprogress/index.html>. The conference was preceded by workshops on "The Art of Audio Book Production" and "Children and Young Adult Services." ▲

Special Report...Trustee Job Description Available

The *Nebraska Trustee Handbook* on the Nebraska Library Commission Web site now includes a new resource for librarians and library boards. See <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Nebraska Trustee Handbook Table of Contents or click on Commission Services and select the letter "T" from the Index list to access the Nebraska Trustee Handbook. Find the following:

- ▲ A listing in the Table of Contents under Chapter Two, "**Sample Job Description: Library Trustee**"
- ▲ In Chapter Two itself, under the question, "What Makes a Good Trustee?" an indented phrase, "**Sample Job Description: Library Trustee.**"

We placed links to this new sample job description in two places in the Trustee Handbook to help increase the likelihood that everyone will be able to find it. Trustees, librarians, and local appointing officials all need to know what library trustees do in their capacity as trustees. A typical exchange between prospective trustees when asked to serve by local village or town boards can go something like this:

- ▲ Prospect: "What do I have to do as a member of the library board?"
- ▲ Local Official: "You just have to attend monthly meetings and approve the bills."

Actually library board members have a lot more responsibility than that. They and local appointing officials need to know this. In order to address the paucity of information on this topic, the Nebraska Library Association appointed several members to write a more detailed job description for library board members. Becky Baker, Seward Public Library; Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission; Carol Speicher, Northeast Library System; and Myrna Tewes, Lincoln City Libraries worked to develop this job description.

Library directors are encouraged to take advantage of the work of this group and increase the chances that your library has the kind of people you need on the library board. Take a look at the job description and do yourself and your community a favor. For more information contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Richard Miller

Summer PSA Campaign Planned

This summer the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service will distribute radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) to Nebraska stations, as part of an effort to raise public awareness about services provided to individuals with visual or physical impairment. These PSAs, provided by the Library of Congress/National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, feature the Talking Book and Braille Service name and toll-free phone number.

From October 2001 through March 2002, the Talking Book and Braille Service conducted a statewide, multi-media outreach campaign that focused on seniors, entitled "Take a Talking Book." Librarians and community volunteers across Nebraska played a key role in delivering PSAs to local stations. During the six months of the campaign, the Talking Book and Braille Service received approximately one hundred more applications for service, compared with that same period in 2000-2001. The Talking Book and Braille Service is looking for volunteers for this summer's campaign. If you would like to volunteer to deliver radio or television PSAs to local stations, please contact Annette Hall, Volunteer Services Coordinator, or Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, 800-742-7691, e-mail: <ahall@nlc.state.ne.us> or <doertli@nlc.state.ne.us>

Jane Pope Geske

continued ...

<www.nlc.state.ne.us/centennial/1900s/19601969/griggsvillewildbirdsoc.html>; to transform the Commission's traditional role of statewide collection building into facilitation of local collection development; to increase funding for libraries; and to improve communication between libraries and the Commission.

Jane Pope Geske was a founding member and president of the Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries and the Nebraska Heritage Association. She was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and served as president of the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Art Association. The Nebraska Center for the Book

created the Jane Geske Award to give annual recognition to an organization that has made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or Nebraska literature and to honor her as a founding member, book-seller, and life-long book lover. Jane Geske died September 8, 1999, at the age of eighty-one. In Summer 2000 the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Public Library was renamed the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors to honor her lifetime of service to books and readers. For more information about the Nebraska Library Commission during the 1960s and 1970s, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, click on Centennial.

Motion Picture Video License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission recently renewed a statewide Motion Picture Video License for all 271 public libraries in Nebraska for July 1, 2002–June 30, 2003.

With this license, at no charge to public libraries, videos may be shown in the library facility as part of library programming. The following terms and conditions of the license remain in effect for the renewal:

- ▲ Videos may be shown only at the library facility.
- ▲ Publicizing and advertising specific titles is prohibited.
- ▲ Showings must be free to the public.
- ▲ Competition with local movie theatres is prohibited.
- ▲ Videos must be legally acquired, purchased or rented, not taped from television or illegally copied.

The Library Commission agreement with the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) allows unlimited use of all MPLC-authorized motion picture titles within Nebraska public libraries. Licensing is required for libraries to exhibit videocassettes and video discs within their facilities. For more information, see the Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Motion Picture Licensing Corporation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If we own the videocassettes, do we need a license to show them?

A. Yes, the library requires a license, regardless of who owns the video.

Q. We do not charge admission. Do we need a license?

A. Yes, the Federal Copyright Act states that regardless of whether an admission fee is charged, a license is required. In fact, this license only applies to showings where no admission fee is charged.

Q. We would like to show videos to our library cardholders as well as other members of the public? Do we need a license?

A. Yes, libraries are required to have a public performance license to exhibit to library cardholders as well as other members of the public.

Q. We would like to publicize the performance. What methods are acceptable?

A. Announcements of video showings in library newsletters, bulletin boards, etc. where the recipients are likely to be

library cardholders and staff are allowable. Use of public media (TV, radio, or newspapers) to advertise specific titles is prohibited.

Q. Does the MPLC license cover all videocassettes?

A. No, many videocassettes, such as educational and special interest titles, are purchased with public performance rights. Certain videocassettes of motion pictures in public domain do not require a license. MPLC represents all producers that have agreed to allow blanket licensing, see list below. ▲

Alley Cat Films

Website: www.alleycatfilm.com

American Portraits Films

Telephone: 800-736-4567

Website: www.amport.com

Artisan Entertainment (select titles)

Website: www.artisanentertainment.com

Best Film & Video

Telephone: 800-527-2189

Website: www.bestfilmandvideo.com

Bridgestone Multimedia Group/Alpha Omega Publishing

Telephone: 800-523-0988

Website: www.bridgestonemultimedia.com

British and Foreign Bible Society

Telephone: 800-328-0368

Website: disney.store.go.com

Buena Vista Pictures

Telephone: 800-328-0368

Website: disney.store.go.com

Central Park Media

Telephone: 800-626-4277

Website: www.ufocity.com/shop/dvd.cfm

CDR Communications, Inc.

Website: www.cdrcommunications.com

Christian Cinema.com

Telephone: 888-527-2388

Website: www.christiancinema.com

Christiano Film Group

Telephone: 870-932-7018

Website: www.christianmovies.com

Christian Television Associates Crown Video

Telephone: 800-661-9467

Website: www.crownvideo.com

Cinematheque Collection

(select titles)

Telephone: 800-929-1913

Website: www.peterpan.com

Current Wellness/PPI Entertainment

Telephone: 800-272-4214

Website: www.peterpan.com

Dave Christiano Films

Telephone: 870-932-7018

Website: www.christianmovies.com

EO International

Website: www.omroep.nl/eo/index.html

Family Entertainment Library

Website: www.artisanentertainment.com

Family Home Entertainment

Website: www.artisanentertainment.com

Website: www.artisanentertainment.com

Gateway Films/Vision Video

Telephone: 800-523-0226

Website: www.visionvideo.com

Grace Products/Evangelical Films

Telephone: 870-932-7018

Website: www.christianmovies.com

Grizzly Adams Productions

Telephone: 800-725-0677

Website: www.grizzlyadams.tv

Grizzly Adams/Total Living Productions

Telephone: 800-725-0677

Website: www.grizzlyadams.tv

Hanna-Barbera

Harbinger Communications

Telephone: 800-320-7206

Website: www.harbingeronline.com

Harvest Productions

Website: www.harvestproductions@ebm.org

Hollywood Pictures

Telephone: 800-328-0368

Website: disney.store.go.com

InterComm, Inc.

Telephone: 800-458-1387

Website: www.intercommmedia.org

International Film Forum

Telephone: 800-929-1913

International Films

Lantern Film and Video

Learning Corporation of America (LCA)

Website: www.lakeshoreentertainment.com

Linn Productions

Telephone: 877-348-8675

Website: www.linnproduction.com

Lorimar Telepictures

Mahoney Media Group, Inc.

Website: www.mahoneymedia.com

Maralee Dawn Ministries

Website: www.maraleedawn.com

McDougal Films

Telephone: 870-932-7018

Website: www.christianmovies.com

McGraw-Hill

Website: www.AviationNow.com

Messenger Films

Telephone: 757-226-5897

Website: www.messengerfilm.com

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

(pre-1986 titles)

New World Pictures

Website: www.lakeshoreentertainment.com

Parade Video/PPI Entertainment

Telephone: 800-272-4214

Website: www.peterpan.com

Peter Pan/PPI Entertainment

Telephone: 800-272-4214

Website: www.peterpan.com

Praise Home Video

Telephone: 800-929-1913

RKO Pictures

Russ Doughten Films

Telephone: 800-247-3456

Website: www.rdfilms.com

Scholastic Entertainment

Telephone: 800-724-6527

Website: www.scholastic.com

Side by Side Films

Telephone: 800-279-5143

Signal Hill Pictures

Telephone: 888-527-2388

Website: www.christiancinema.com

Sony Pictures Classics

Website: www.sonyclassics.com

Tommy Nelson

Telephone: 800-251-4000

Website: www.tommynelson.com

Total Living Video Curriculum

Telephone: 800-725-0677

Website: www.grizzlyadams.tv

Touchstone Pictures

Telephone: 800-328-0368

Website: disney.store.go.com

Trans Atlantic Pictures

Website: www.lakeshoreentertainment.com

Trimark Home Video

Website: www.lionsgatefilms.com

Turner Home Entertainment

TVA/Quigley's Village

Telephone: 650-967-6040

Website: www.tva-online.com

Walt Disney Pictures

Telephone: 800-328-0368

Website: disney.store.go.com

Warner Bros.

Website: www2.warnerbros.com

Xenon Home Video

Telephone: 800-929-1913

Special Report... Income and Social Census Data Released

How many people in your community have incomes below the poverty level? How many people live in rental accommodation? Are there businesses or non-profit agencies writing grant proposals who want this type of information? Do they need to know how your county compares with other counties in the state? On May 21, the Census Bureau released Nebraska income and social data from the 2000 Census that can help answer questions like this. It's easy to use at this Census 2000 Profiles Web site, see <censtats.census.gov/pub/Profiles.shtml>.

All you have to do is select a state, type in the name of a county, township or town (e.g. Thurston, Shelton, Cedar Rapids), click on the link for the geographic area you want (the system does a rough keyword search and may bring up several links), then click on the name of one of the four featured tables to bring up a printable, one-page file in .pdf format.

- ▲ Table DP1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (population, sex, race, age)
- ▲ Table DP2 Profile of Selected Social Characteristics (education, marital status, etc.)
- ▲ Table DP3 Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics (employment status, income, poverty)
- ▲ Table DP4 Profile of Selected Housing Characteristics (occupancy, tenure, type of housing, etc.)

Data for census tracts and blocks will be released between June and September.

Search tips: To bring up a list of all Nebraska counties, townships and towns type an asterisk * instead of a place name in the keyword search box.

The profiles are linked from the Library Commission's Electronic Library, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/nsf/nel.html>, Census category, Census 2000 Profiles.

The Center for Public Affairs Research at University of Nebraska Omaha, see <www.unomaha.edu/~cpar/>, posts several tables showing historical trends and ranking counties by social, income, and housing characteristics.

For more information on Census data for Nebraska communities contact the Library Commission Reference/Information Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <ready@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Beth Goble

NEBASE Meeting Held in Alliance

NEBASE, Nebraska's regional network for OCLC services, sponsored the **NEBASE 2002 Annual Meeting-West** this spring at the Alliance Public Library. Forty-eight participants made this year's meeting the most highly attended western meeting ever held. Updates were presented on OCLC Members Council; NEBASE Advisory Council; the Library Commission's Network Services; OCLC Products, Services, and Future Plans; and Gates Foundation Grants. Workshops on



FirstSearch and OCLC ILL Web Interface were presented.

The 2002 NEBASE Annual Meeting East will be held October 3, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. CDT in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Hotel. Registrations will begin September 3. All Nebraska librarians are invited to attend. For more information contact Jeannette Powell, 402-471-7740, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Children's Librarians Connect across the Miles

During the two years the Children's Services Videoconferences have been held, the number of participating children's and young adult librarians has increased from twenty-five to eighty. In addition, librarians from remote areas like Bassett, O'Neill, and Crawford (who may find it most difficult to travel to attend continuing education programs) have attended nearly all of the sessions. Rossella Tesch, children's librarian at Chadron Public Library says, "The Children's Services Videoconferences are my main source of information on what others are doing and my main source of feedback on my activities. Here in the Panhandle, the videoconferences are very important."

As local library budgets tighten and priorities change, children's librarians report that it is increasingly difficult to attend continuing education events. A recent needs survey rated opportunities for continuing education and ongoing communication as a major need. The Nebraska Library Commission Youth Advisory Board recommended that opportunities to share

ideas and to get to know colleagues from all parts of Nebraska be developed. Programming via the state's interactive videoconferencing system meets the need for reasonably priced continuing education that doesn't require excessive travel. Topics explored during the quarterly discussions included Children's Book Week, Read Across America, National Library Week, Story Program Ideas, Golden Sower Awards, Great Internet Sites, and Information Literacy. Topics planned for 2002-2003 are Delivering Services to Spanish-speaking Youth (July 26), Serving Home-schooled Youth, Planning Toddler Programs, and School/Public Library Cooperation.

Librarians are encouraged to participate at sites throughout Nebraska. There is no charge and participants receive continuing education credit. For more information contact Mary Jackson, Coordinator of Children's and Young Adult Services, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjackson@nlc.state.ne.us>.

Museum-Library Partnership Reports Progress

Western Trails is a four-state, museum-library collaborative funded through a National Leadership Grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in October 2001. The grant funds this partnership to digitize and provide World Wide Web access to photographs, text, and maps about historic and modern trails in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas. Records for the images will be stored in databases that can be searched from a common search engine. The Nebraska participants (Buffalo County Historical Society, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska State Historical Society, Omaha Public Library, Oregon Trail Museum Association, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln [UN-L] Libraries) have been very

busy getting this project underway. They attended training, submitted project proposals, and set up subgroups to discuss the Nebraska database, metadata standards, scanning standards, and marketing/Web site design for the project.

Fifty participants attended the first training event, an Introduction to Digitization workshop in February in Lincoln. Workshops on Scanning and Metadata were held in Grand Island in March. A variety of grant-related meetings were held to discuss the project proposals, metadata standards, marketing, and web site design. Programming work on the Nebraska database, to be hosted at UN-L Love Library, has begun.

In April and May the participants chose items from their collections to be digitized; researched

ownership, copyright, and scanning alternatives; and submitted project

proposals to Denver University, the lead recipient of the four-state grant. The Nebraska State Historical Society photographed items at the Chimney Rock National Historic site and scanned them at the Gerald Ford Conservation Center. Other participants will begin scanning this summer. Some plan to use a scanning center at the Library Commission. Scanning representatives will meet in Denver in July.

To learn more about the project, plan to attend a panel discussion at the NLA/NEMA Convention in Lincoln, October 23-25.



Liz Bishoff, left, Colorado Digitization Project, and Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission, at Introduction to Digitization Workshop

Court Overturns Certain CIPA Requirements

A three-judge panel of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ruled on May 31, 2002, that Sections 1712(a)(2) and 1721(b) of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (applying to libraries) are facially invalid under the First Amendment and permanently enjoined the government from enforcing those provisions. The judges said that the law went too far, "Any public library that adheres to CIPA's conditions will necessarily restrict patrons' access to a substantial amount of protected speech in violation of the First Amendment." The court found unconstitutional section 254(h)(6), which set out a requirement that a library receiving E-rate discounts have a technology protection measure for its computers with Internet access. Thus, public libraries receiving E-rate discounts are **not required** to filter their computers with Internet access.

The Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, which amended 47 U.S.C. Section 254 by adding subsection (l), is **not affected** by the Court's decision and **remains intact**. Thus, a library receiving E-rate discounts is **still** required to have an Internet safety policy that addresses:

- ▲ Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web,
- ▲ The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications,
- ▲ Unauthorized access, including hacking, and other unlawful activities by minors online,
- ▲ Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors, and
- ▲ Measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Section 254(l) also includes a public notice and hearing/meeting requirement, which remains in force.

It is important to note that the decision did not address CIPA requirements as they apply to schools. Those requirements remain in full force and effect. Schools will **continue to be required** to meet CIPA requirements as spelled out in FCC regulations in order to receive funds from the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism.

Schools and Libraries Division is monitoring the effect of the court's decision on E-rate discounts. Information will be posted at <www.sl.universalservice.org>. For the response of the American Library Association, see <www.ala.org/cipa/cipatrial9.html>. For additional information see <www.paed.uscourts.gov/documents/opinions/02D0415P.HTM>.

Commission Implements Making a Difference @ your library™ Planning Process

In the spring of 2001 the Nebraska Library Commission launched a venture called "Making a Difference @ your library™," with Library Commission staff visiting all 271 public libraries in Nebraska. The first visit was made to the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library. By the end of June 2002, 95% of the visits will be completed.

Each visit consists of the same set of questions being posed to library staff and other participants. The responses to these questions have been compiled and reviewed. The Nebraska Library Commission recently submitted the Library Services and Technology Act Five Year Plan Evaluation (Executive Summary follows), based on responses to the questions about federal LSTA grants received by libraries over the past five years. Responses about library successes, challenges, and plans for future services and programming will be used to guide the development of the Nebraska Long Range Plan for Library Services 2003–2007.

Commission staff have been welcomed by library staff and community members. Photographs from visits are posted on the Commission's Web site <www.nlc.state.ne.us/mission/librariesstafflist.html>. ▲

Library Services and Technology Act Five Year Plan Evaluation

The following is an Executive Summary of a report on a comprehensive statewide evaluation project conducted by the Nebraska Library Commission. The primary objective of the project was to provide the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) with an in-depth analysis of the impact of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding on Nebraska's libraries and communities. Another objective was to collect consistent, specific information from all of Nebraska's public libraries about their successes, challenges, and dreams for providing library and information services to enable the Library Commission to provide responsive, appropriate services and programs in the future.

In part, this evaluation demonstrates:

- ▲ That the infusion of federal funds throughout the library communities of Nebraska has had a significant impact on the growth and development of technology and on statewide access to library and information services;
- ▲ That the competitive grant process has improved the skills of local library staff, encouraged collaboration and cooperation both within and between communities, and encouraged local support in the form of funding and good will;
- ▲ That the Library Commission developed successful programs and services to accomplish the five major goals identified in its document, *Libraries for the 21st Century, Nebraska Library Commission Library Services and Technology Act Five Year Plan, October 1, 1997 – September 30, 2002*; and
- ▲ That the six regional library systems support the goals and services of the Commission, and provide personal consulting and training opportunities for staff from libraries of all types.

In order to conduct this evaluation, the Nebraska Library Commission identified a core group of staff members to develop a strategy to conduct the research and to collect and compile the findings in a comprehensive, consistent manner.

The decision to have Commission staff complete this evaluation was deliberate. Team members improved their facilitation and recording skills, gained insight into the day-to-day work of the public libraries in the state, and developed a better understanding of the needs,

abilities, and dreams of libraries and their communities. In the course of conducting library visits, Commission staff were warmly welcomed by both library staff and community members. This has already resulted in improved relationships with library staff throughout the state, more responsive consulting, and Commission staff taking a more personal interest in the improvement of library services.

An analysis of the data collected during this process resulted in the following recommendations for the future distribution of LSTA funds:

Technical issues

There is a need for expertise and consulting before, during, and after the grant process to select hardware, software, technical support, installation, etc. One library recommended that the Nebraska Library Commission maintain a list of libraries that use various automated systems and names of staff willing to demonstrate or provide training on the systems.

Evaluation

The Nebraska Library Commission should provide outcome-based training for state, regional, and local library staff. Evaluation expectations should be clearly articulated in the grant application instructions, with examples of outcome measures provided.

Follow-up

Nebraska Library Commission staff should monitor interim and final grant reports for outcome-based measures and probe for stories. The Making a Difference visits helped us after the fact but Nebraska Library Commission staff will not be able to commit to that level of effort every year.

Sustainability

Since many libraries have received multiple LSTA grants during the evaluation period, a majority of their technology and automation has been funded with federal monies. Although many libraries are also using state aid funds (as well as other sources) to meet the 25% matching requirement, the local commitment and funding to sustain or increase the level of technology is not in place. The Nebraska Library Commission should assist local libraries in budgeting for technology maintenance and future development. One strategy would be to

build into the LSTA grant process a sustainability element, perhaps using the Gates Library Project model.

Future Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission should consider funding larger, statewide projects that could benefit more libraries. Examples might include digitization and databases.

Local Match

The requirement for local match in most LSTA projects should be maintained. It allows limited funds to be maximized and builds in a commitment for the project on the local level.

Grant Application Process

Although the Nebraska Library Commission's LSTA Competitive Grant Application may be submitted online, currently a printed signature page must be sent in separately. The Nebraska Library Commission should investigate implementing use of electronic signatures in subsequent LSTA and other grant applications. The Nebraska Library Commission should adhere to a consistent time-frame, announce and award the grants the same time each year, as well as allow for the same grant application interval and the same reporting schedule each year.

Grant Review Process

The Nebraska Library Commission should consider involving grant reviewers from outside the agency.

Grant Process Follow-Up

The Nebraska Library Commission should also review the grant application process each year shortly after grants are awarded to note what went well and what should be improved or changed. Projects that are not funded should be reviewed to learn what the Nebraska

Library Commission can do to assist libraries in future grant applications.

The following general recommendations pertain to the administration and implementation of Library Commission programs and services in the future:

- ▲ The Nebraska 2003-2007 Long Range Plan should articulate specific objectives for each goal and incorporate outcome-based evaluation.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should require that all LSTA-funded (and state-funded) grant proposals include outcome based evaluation measures and that final reports from LSTA-funded projects include outcomes and be submitted in a timely fashion.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should continue to build planning and evaluation knowledge and skills among agency staff, regional library system staff, and local library staff.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should work towards a clearer and separate delineation of state and federal funds for specific programs and services.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should consider reallocation of federal LSTA funding within its programs to improve the ability to track and evaluate outcomes.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should conduct in-depth evaluations relating to the agency's various Aid programs and develop consistent evaluation plans and report forms on the purpose, structure, funding, and impact of:
 - The six Regional Library Systems,
 - Lender Compensation,
 - State Aid to Public Libraries,
 - Statewide Databases, and
 - Continuing Education and Training Grants.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should evaluate the impact of its Accreditation Guidelines on various sizes and

types of libraries in order to prioritize the level of effort and resources expended by Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems.

- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should ensure that the Nebraska Library Commission and sub-recipients of LSTA funds (systems and local libraries) credit IMLS for LSTA-funded projects.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission is encouraged to sponsor a statewide conference for librarians, library trustees, and others to explore library and information service needs of special populations and to raise awareness of existing programs and services for special populations. These populations include, but are not limited to, people with diverse cultural and socioeconomic background, people with limited functional literacy or information skills, and persons having difficulty using a library.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should make recruitment and retention of library personnel a priority and utilize LSTA and state general funds to support strategies to address this critical issue.
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission should develop consistent evaluation plans and report forms for major programs and projects to facilitate data collection, reporting, and analysis of program effectiveness, as well as to better evaluate program costs.

Note: The entire evaluation report is available for review on the Commission Web site at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/mission/LSTAreports/2002-Eval/index.html.

- ▲ For more information about the Nebraska Library Commission's **Making a Difference @your library™** Planning Process contact Nancy Busch, 402-471-4002, 800-307-2665, e-mail: nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us.

Special Report ... The Downside of E-mail Filtering

Increasingly, Internet Service Providers and Internet users are attempting to filter their mail servers in an effort to curb spam, unsolicited bulk e-mail. Sometimes the results are not what is intended. Last month a Library Commission staff member sent a message to a mailing list with the subject heading: *Limited-Time Offer: Get a FREE OCLC Language Video Set!* The message bounced for several recipients due to a spam filter that was installed on the recipients' mail system. The "Limited-Time Offer" phrase can trigger many filters. Another staff person posted a message with the subject heading: *OCLC CONTENTdm Product Forum at ALA*. Because it happened to include the character string "dm pro" which is the name of a software product (DirectMail Pro) that spammers use to broadcast messages, the message was rejected by some e-mail providers. A list of things to avoid is difficult to generate because the filtering software is so arbitrary. It seems that the filters are well-meaning, but extremely flawed in execution.

An article on "over-zealous spam cops," <www.internetnews.com/IAR/article.php/1143551> addresses another filtering problem. This Internet Advertising Report from internetnews.com, "When Spam Policing Gets Out of Control," dated May 23, 2002, highlights the issue of how filters can impact legitimate business communication. Blacklists, the controversial method of filtering out IP addresses of known spammers, have been around almost as long as spam itself. When a person or agency files a complaint against a server that hosts mass e-mail marketers, the blacklist will put the IP address of the server in its database, which is then downloaded by Internet service providers and carriers to filter out the "bad" IP addresses.

According to Jeff Mitcham, part-owner of APEC Solutions, the ends do not justify the means and the practice results in overkill. "It's equivalent to trying to kill mosquitoes using an elephant gun and not worrying whether you actually see the mosquito or not," he said.

Additional information on this topic will appear in the next edition of *NCompass*. ▲

Grants Schedule Updated

The Nebraska Library Commission offers funding support according to the following schedule:

- ▲ **Continuing Education and Training Grants:** Funds are available to assist libraries in providing continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel. Local libraries, library organizations, or consortia of libraries are eligible to apply. Library board members, volunteers, advocates, and other supporters may be included in the training, as appropriate.

Available	Due	Recipients Announced
June 15, 2002	July 15, 2002	...to be determined pending outcome of special session of Nebraska Legislature

- ▲ **Children's Grants for Excellence:** Funds are available for innovative projects to serve children in public libraries. Children's librarians, young adult librarians, or librarians whose responsibilities include children's services are eligible to apply. Schools or other service agencies may be involved through collaborative planning and programming with public libraries.

Available	Due	Recipients Announced
October 7, 2002	November 13, 2002	December 5, 2002

- ▲ **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants:** Funds are available to assist libraries in improving information technology services and improving access to information for underserved populations.

Available	Due	Recipients Announced
December 9, 2002	January 31, 2003	March 3, 2003

- ▲ **Scholarships: Master of Library Science:** Funds are available to help Nebraskans upgrade their library science skills by participating in a graduate level course of study leading to a Master of Library Science degree.

Available	Due	Recipients Announced
Ongoing Basis	Ongoing Basis	Ongoing Basis ▲

Accreditation Applications Distributed

The Library Commission will distribute applications for the Public Library Accreditation program in July to all public libraries scheduled to renew their accreditation, and to eligible unaccredited libraries. These applications are due at the Library Commission by September 1. Certificates of Accreditation will be mailed on October 1 to all libraries that meet the requirements. To be accredited, public libraries must meet the twenty Basic Guidelines for service, see <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/revguid.html>, meet the maintenance of effort requirement, and have submitted a Public Library Statistical Report FY 2000/2001. The Basic Guidelines define a minimum level of

public library service for Nebraska citizens. Accredited libraries are eligible for direct state aid to public libraries and other grant programs through the Nebraska Library Commission.

The Advanced Guidelines offer a challenge for developing and improving library services beyond the basic level. Libraries must meet sixteen Advanced Guidelines to be awarded Advanced Guidelines status. For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us>, or see the Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Public Library Accreditation. ▲

News of Nebraska Libraries and People

- ▲ **Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) Annual Conference, Leading, Linking, and Learning**, is scheduled for **October 23-25** at the Cornhusker Hotel and Convention Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information see <www.nol.org/home/NLA/conference/index.html>.
- ▲ **Allana Novotny**, Network Services Librarian, has been selected as the **Nebraska Library Commission's 2002 Employee of the Year**. Congratulations, Allana!
- ▲ **Kevin Leapley** has accepted appointment as **Republican Valley Library System Administrator**. He most recently served as Automation Librarian for the Plum Creek Library System in Minnesota. Welcome, Kevin.
- ▲ **The Nebraska Library Commission** recently awarded \$260,034 in **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** grants for 2002. See <www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/2002-LSTA-GrantsAwarded-quicklist.html> for the list of forty-three public library and other library organizational recipients.
- ▲ **Go Figure!**, a national traveling exhibit organized by Minnesota Children's Museum and the American Library Association (ALA), visits the **Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City**, June 24 through July 20. The exhibit introduces early math concepts through kid-sized environments inspired by familiar children's books.
- ▲ **Database Roadshow 2002** is underway. Librarians are invited to learn more about the databases the **Library Commission** purchased for libraries across the state. For summer location and registration information see the Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Database Roadshow.
- ▲ Nebraska libraries will be contacted this summer regarding their status as grant recipients through the **U.S. Library Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. Grants will be awarded and computers installed in Nebraska libraries through February 2003. For more information, see the Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Gates Index.
- ▲ **Mountain Plains Library Association, North Dakota Library Association, and South Dakota Library Association** are joint hosts for the Fall 2002 Conference, **Exploring New Pathways to Information**, celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, October 2-5, in Fargo, North Dakota. See <ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/02conf.htm> for more information.
- ▲ The **Pierce Library Foundation** was recently awarded \$300,000 from the **Lied Foundation Trust**, \$100,000 from the **Peter Kiewit Foundation**, and \$10,000 from the **Cooper Foundation and Midwest Bank** for construction of a new library. The total cost of the library is estimated at \$757,000.
- ▲ **MacKenzie King**, winner of Nestlé's Very Best in Youth Award 2001 celebrated National Library Week at the **Crete Public Library**. She was selected for her community volunteer activities and donated her \$1,000 prize to the library.
- ▲ **Troy Johnson**, librarian at the **Creighton Law Library**, developed an online librarian's book club to read and discuss books about libraries and the library profession. A new book is selected every two months, see the Librarian's Book Club at **Bibliofuture: The Future of the Library and the Book**, <www.bibliofuture.com>.
- ▲ **Gretna Public Library** now offers a monthly program for seniors. **LEARN @your library™** combines entertainment and social interaction with educational programs like travelogues, book talks, speakers, and videos.
- ▲ Nebraska librarians and media specialists are invited to attend the **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial: Challenges and Solutions for the Information Specialist** Videoteleconference on August 14. This free, distance learning workshop (supported by the National Park Service, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Humanities Council, Omaha World-Herald, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha) will be facilitated by library media specialists at sites across Nebraska. For more information see Announcements on the Commission Web site, <www.nlc.state.nlc.us>.
- ▲ **New Library Directors include:** Bartley Public Library, **Ronni Harding**; Chester Public Library, **Judy Smith**; John G. Smith Memorial Library, **Dawson, Carol Kean**; Dorchester Public Library, **Mark Bartek**; Genoa Public Library, **Sharon Jones**; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, **Christine Jorgensen**; Douglas County Correction Center Library, Omaha, **Barb Glaser**; Sidney Public Library, **Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran**; Keya Paha County Library, Springview, **Jo Prentice**; and Table Rock Public Library, **Frances Workman**. ▲

New on Our Home Page:

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

- ▲ Database Training Planned for Summer
- ▲ Childrens Library Services Videoconference July 26
- ▲ @ your library™ Promotional Videotape Available
- ▲ Gates Foundation to Assist Nebraska Public Libraries
- ▲ **Making a difference**
@your library™ Evaluation and Plan

Nebraska Library Commission



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