

Nebraska State Representative Report
January 4th, 2003

- MPLA's Nebraska Representative joins epixtech, Inc.

Paul S. Hoffman, Nebraska's MPLA Representative and Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, recently announced his resignation (effective at year's end) to take a position with epixtech, Inc. Hoffman has been hired by the Provo, Utah-based company as a Library System Engineer - a position that will permit him to bring experience and talents to bear in the role of a "Librarian Liaison" between the company and its new/existing library partners.

Paul looks forward to continuing on to finish his last year of as the Nebraska State Representative.

Individuals wishing to know more about epixtech, and its suite of services, are invited to point their browsers toward: <http://epixtech.com/>

- Legislative Day Date for 2003 Set: Thursday, Feb. 13

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) recently announced that Nebraska Library Legislative Day has been scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2003 in Lincoln. Details will be reported on the NLA Web site, <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA>, as additional information becomes available. Library Legislative Day has historically presented a wonderful opportunity for library advocates to meet with local politicians to discuss timely issues impacting the profession.

- Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom Available Online in January

Nebraska librarians and information professionals have been made aware that starting January 2003, the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom (NIF) will be available both online and in print.

The Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom - the only journal that reports attempts to remove materials from school and library shelves across the country - is a source for the latest information on intellectual freedom issues.

The Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom is published bimonthly (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.) by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association. To celebrate the launch of the online version, for this first year, a \$50 subscription will entitles libraries to both the online and print editions.

- Library Commission Supports Library Services for Children and Young Adults

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner announced the award of \$34,535 in library grants for innovative public library projects for children and young adults. The Library Commission will distribute the grants to sixteen Nebraska public libraries. The grant program is intended to provide financial support for public library service projects that offer creative and innovative approaches to address needs of children and young adults. For more information and to see a list of funded projects see the Library Commission Web site: [http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/childrensgrants/aboutchildrensgrants.html#Childrens Grants for Excellence Recipients](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/childrensgrants/aboutchildrensgrants.html#Childrens%20Grants%20for%20Excellence%20Recipients)

- Children's Library Services Videoconference: Toddler Time January 31

Nebraska public librarians and school media specialists (or anyone with library youth services responsibilities) are invited to attend an interactive Children's Library Services Videoconference entitled "Toddler Time." Participants will share information about recommended books and library activities for toddlers. There is no charge for this videoconference.

Registration form can be found at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/videoconfregform.html>

The broadcast will be Friday, January 31, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. CST, and it can be attended at several videoconference sites across the state: Ainsworth, Chadron, Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, O'Neill, and Wayne.

- Libraries Encouraged to Apply for CDBG Grants

Libraries are encouraged to apply for 2003 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for library construction or for planning. Information about this funding will be provided at the following workshops:

- January 14, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. MST, Sidney, Cheyenne County Community Center, 627 Toledo St
- January 15, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. CST, Hastings, Imperial Mall, 3001 West 12th St., Community Room
- January 21, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. CST, Lincoln, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South,
- January 23, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. CST, Columbus, Holiday Inn Express, 534 East 23rd St

Nebraska Department of Economic Development staff will instruct participants on preparing and submitting applications, as well as on reviewing guidelines in the categories of planning and community development.

- Search for Panhandle Library Services Coordinator

At their September meeting, the Panhandle Library System Board voted unanimously to enter into a collaborative venture with the Nebraska Library Commission to employ a full-time Panhandle Library Services coordinator (administrator), who will be a state employee. This position, based in Scottsbluff, NE, offers the opportunity for a versatile professional to provide services for a multi-type regional library system in a fourteen-county area in western Nebraska. A Master of Library Science degree from an American Library Association-accredited program is required, with three years experience preferred.

Individuals interested in knowing more about this position are invited to point their Web browser to the job description component on the Nebraska Library Association Web site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us>

The position will remain open unfilled. A State of Nebraska job application must also be completed. Apply to: <http://www.wrk4neb.org/>

- 2002 Annual NLA/NEMA Conference

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) annual fall conference was held at the Cornhusker Hotel and Convention Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 23-25, 2002.

School, university, public, special, and institutional librarians gathered to attend workshops, breakout sessions, and keynote addresses focused around the theme, "Nebraska Libraries: Leading, Linking, and Learning." Sessions included such varied topics as Internet Censorship & Terrorism, Learning Styles & Web Design, Database Evaluation, and Books & State Standards.

Highlights included tours of new and remodeled Lincoln libraries, keynote speakers Robert Sidney Martin, PhD. and Hazel Rochman, and the presentation of the Golden Sower Award to author/illustrator Judith Byron Schachner.

Robert Sidney Martin, nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate, is the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Hazel Rochman, former librarian at the University of Chicago Lab Schools, is the co-author of four anthologies, all chosen as Best Books for Young Adults by the American Library Association.

By the numbers... 554 paid participants, 63 paid vendors and 17 non-profit organizations attended.

- Kids Explore Event

The Panhandle Library System was part of the Kidz Explore held on October 5th and 6th at the Mitchell Events Center. The event was sponsored by the Scottsbluff Star Herald. This was a great event to publicize and promote the Panhandle Library System (PLS) and libraries in the Panhandle, and the theme for the library representatives was "Treasure Your Libraries." Decorations from past summer reading programs were used, PLS and other library brochures were available and a display board was assembled to show some of the System projects and people.

- Genealogy Online @ Your Library

Presenter Sherri Dux-Ideus will be conducting a genealogy workshop on January 10th, 2003 at the Central Community College Lab (in Kearney, NE) from 10:00-3:00. Participants will be introduced to the wealth of information about genealogy on the Internet.

- Selected Nebraska Library Commission Highlights - 7/1/2001 through 6/30/2002

- 2,618 librarians attended 146 Continuing Education Sessions sponsored by the Library Commission, including 180 participants in Basic Skills Sessions
- 168 public libraries were accredited
- 167 libraries received state aid
- The Nebraska State Database was increased to more than 7 million holdings
- The Library Commission circulated 4,226 items
- The Library Commission borrowed 8,317 items from other libraries
- The Library Commission loaned 280 items to other libraries
- The Library Commission served 7,280 customers onsite.
- The Library Commission completed 4,111 reference transactions
- 3,355 state documents were added to the Commission's collection, bringing the total to 126,664 items.
- 1,559 federal documents were added to the Commission's collection, and 14,225 federal documents were withdrawn, being the total number to 159,312 items.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paul S. Hoffman
MPLA Representative -- Nebraska
phoffman2@unl.edu (until 12/31/02)