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Mountain Plains Library Association Report

Submitted By Paul S. Hoffman - MPLA Representative/Nebraska

10.29.03

- NLA/NEMA 2003 Conference - October 29-31, 2003

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) invited Nebraska library staff and supporters to join them for "Many Faces, One Voice...Enriching Our Profession", October 29-31, 2003, at the joint NLA/NEMA 2003 conference held at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre in Omaha, NE.

Conference keynote speakers were:

Thursday, October 30, John M. Budd, Professor and Associate Director of the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, University of Missouri-Columbia, "The Next Generation: Recruitment, Retention, and the Future of the Profession" (sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission).

Friday, October 31, Cory Doctorow, Outreach Coordinator, Electronic Frontier Foundation, "Slashdot the Vote: How the Net is Changing Governments and How Governments Are Trying to Change the Net"

- 174 Nebraska Public Libraries Accredited - Draft Guidelines to be Reviewed October 31st, 2003

As of October 1, 2003, one hundred seventy-four Nebraska public libraries meet the Accreditation Guidelines for public libraries. Of those, fifty-six meet at least sixteen of the Advanced Guidelines. Over 64% of all public libraries in the state are now accredited, with 31% of those accredited at the Advanced Accreditation level. This accreditation, awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission, indicates that a library meets basic Accreditation Guidelines as adopted by the Library Commission and approved by the Nebraska Library Association. These guidelines describe services and programs that provide enhanced library service for Nebraska communities. Accreditation status entitles libraries to apply for both state and federal grants for library improvement projects. Accreditation of public libraries is a cyclical process, with approximately one-third of all libraries scheduled to apply for re-accreditation each year.

The current Accreditation Guidelines are being revised, based on the Library Commission's experience administering the Guidelines for the past ten years, and statewide input collected during the past ten months. A draft of the revised version of the Accreditation Guidelines was presented at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Annual Conference Friday, October 31, at 3:40 p.m. A final version will be approved by the Commissioners of the Nebraska Library Commission and implemented in July 2004.

- Children's Grants for Excellence Due November 12th, 2003

The Nebraska Library Commission announces that grants are available to public libraries for special projects in the area of children's and young adult services. These grants are awarded to encourage innovation and expansion of public library services for children and their parents. Public libraries may apply for the amount needed to complete their project. A minimum of \$ 500.00 will be awarded for each grant that is approved. Applications and support materials must be received by the Nebraska Library Commission with the postmarked date no later than November 12, 2003 or submitted electronically by noon on November 12, 2003.

The forms and information for the Children's Grants for Excellence are now available online at the following sites:

Introduction: Information and Guidelines

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/childrensgrants/childrensgrantsintro.html>

Application Forms and Instructions for Applying (online and print)

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/Childrensgrants/childrensgrantsapplicationonlineform.html>

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/Childrensgrants/childrensgrantsapplicationprintform.html>

Guidelines for Young People's Library Service - Self-Assessment:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/childrensgrants/childrensgrantsassessment.html>

Criteria for Selection - Rating Sheet

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/childrensgrants/childrensgrantsrating.html>

- Patrick Gross to Fill Vacancy in Commission's Northeast Area

Patrick Gross of Wayne, NE was appointed by Governor Mike Johanns to the Nebraska Library Commission to fill a vacancy in the state's Northeast area. Gross replaces Karen Warner, who served two terms as a Commissioner. Gross is Senior Vice President for the State National Bank and Trust Company in Wayne.

- NLC Deputy Director Nancy Busch accepts position at University of Nebraska - Lincoln

H.W. Wilson is offering Nebraska libraries trial access to the following nine databases through November 30, 2003: Applied Science & Technology Abstracts; Art Abstracts; Art Retrospective; Bibliographic Index Book Review Digest Plus; Education Abstracts; Library Literature Full Text; Humanities & Social Science Index Retrospective; Readers' Guide Retrospective

- Oxford University Press Database Trials Available to Nebraska Libraries Through November

Oxford University Press is offering Nebraska libraries trial access to the following five databases through November 30, 2003: American National Biography Online; Grove Art Online; Grove Music Online; Oxford English Dictionary; Online Oxford Reference Online

- CultureGrams Online Edition Trial Available to Nebraska Libraries Through November 8, 2003

Description: CultureGrams Online Edition combines online access to all World, Kids, and States CultureGrams editions:

- World Edition - "Offer[s] 181 concise country reports written at a high school level. . . . The World Edition covers 25 categories, including history, religion, family, economy, and more."
 - Kids Edition - "This collection of 65 country reports teaches upper elementary-aged children more about the world around them. Each report is an indispensable resource of up-to-date, engaging cultural information, complete with images, historical timeline, fun facts, and sections on history, population, "life as a kid," and more."
 - States Edition - "These colorful and easy-to-read state reports help upper elementary-aged students understand the diversity and history of each U.S. State and the District of Columbia. Each report includes maps, flags, symbols, plus sections on history, economy, geography, population, and more." Trial Dates: October 8, 2003 through November 8, 2003
- Library Science Coursework - Schedule for Spring 2004

Readers interested in viewing the Library Science-related coursework offered in Nebraska during Spring 2004 are directed to the following Web site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/>

- Dewey and Sears Workshop to be Held November 7 at Gretna Public Library

Does a book on houseplants go in gardening (635.9), botany (581.6), or interior decorating (747)? Houseplants is not listed as a subject heading in Sears, what else should one look under?

Those with a nodding acquaintance with Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index and Sears List of Subject Headings but who would like to feel a bit more comfortable with using these two important tools, are invited to take part in this workshop. Discussion on Dewey will include assigning classification numbers when a topic might fall under more than one discipline or when an item covers more than one topic or discipline, and how to build numbers for geographic locations. Discussion on Sears will include finding the right subject heading, choosing enough headings to give access to the item, and adding subdivisions.

- 35th Annual Festival of Books for Young People, November 8, 2003

Nebraska Librarians may take interest in "Sights and Sounds: the Rhythm of Stories" the theme of the 35th Annual Festival of Books for Young People. Sponsored by The School of Library and Information Science, the Festival will take place at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City, Iowa.

Featured speakers are Chris Raschke, Elizabeth Partridge, and Anna Grossnickle Hines. Also included in the Festival are an extensive exhibit of new books for young people and concurrent booktalk sessions. Registration is \$48 for the program only, and \$60 for program and lunch. Further details and registration options are available at: www.uiowa.edu/~libsci/festival/festival2003/index.htm.

- Nina Little is Incoming MPLA Representative from Nebraska

After serving his three-year term as Nebraska's State Representative to the Mountain Plains Library Association, Paul S. Hoffman will be stepping down and welcoming Nina Little to the post.

Nina Little received her undergraduate degree in Library Science and English from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Giving definition to the term life-long learner, she followed her B.S. degree with an M.S. in Reading and an Ed. Specialist degree in Administration, both from UNO, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1993 Nina reached a life long goal by completing the M.L.S. degree when it was offered in Nebraska by Emporia State University.