

ST-5

Nebraska Library Association  
State Representative Report  
January 2001

NLA/MPLA/NEMA 2000 Tri-Conference

Conference Registration  
Tri-Conference registered: 707  
Pre-Conference only: 16  
Post-Conference only: 151  
Exhibit representatives: 135  
WHCLIST 35  
Attendance grand total: 1044

Financial figures for the Tri-Conference are not available at this time.

#### Grants & Activities

The Nebraska Library Commission recently finished taking applications for the state-funded Information Technology Training and Continuing Education Grants. These grants serve to assist libraries in providing information technology training and continuing education for Nebraska library personnel, ensuring that every library in Nebraska has skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. This grant helps achieve the goals of the Libraries for the 21st Century, Nebraska's long-range plan for library improvement.

The Nebraska Library Commission is offering a challenge to libraries to sign a pledge to support Nebraska's youth by providing some aspect of the five resources most crucial to child development: Mentoring; Safety; Nurturing, Teaching, and Serving. This effort: 1) permits a showcase for libraries already offering elements of these resources; 2) encourages other libraries to focus on the needs of young people; 3) links the library community to other community and state-wide activities on behalf of Nebraska's youth. Thus far, 35 libraries have pledged their support to this program.

The Nebraska Library Commission is encouraging public libraries to apply for technology grants from the Community Technology Fund of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC). Approximately \$270,000 is available for technology-related grants to public entities. Guidelines and forms are available electronically.

Nebraska's Northeast Library System has available \$5,000 to be distributed equally among the first ten system member public libraries meeting Nebraska's Advanced Accreditation Guidelines by May 1, 2001.

Nebraska librarians have been encouraged to provide input to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development on how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allocated. Librarians attended public information meetings to voice long standing concerns that Nebraska libraries have not been included in CDBG investment in communities.

In a recent conference call, staff from the Nebraska Library Commission and the state's Library System Administrators discussed the proposal by the NLC to provide Interlibrary Loan service for the state. The product they are intending to use (an new OCLC ILL product) will not be available until spring 2001, and Nebraska is targeted as the first state to receive it. Topics of concerned voice during the meeting included fill rate, turnaround time, training, increasing costs, etc.

#### Programs

A Children's Service's Retreat is being held at Camp Comeca in Cozad Nebraska on January 11-12. The program includes: book talking ideas for great children's books, storytelling with props, Collection development of multicultural materials, and outstanding non-fiction for youth.

To assist libraries and their supporters in developing strategies for creating these essential community partnerships, the Nebraska Library Commission and others are hosting a daylong workshop to be presented in North Platte January 10 and Columbus January 12. The workshop's theme, "Building Great Libraries-One Person at a Time," will provide a blueprint for building infrastructure designed to provide participants with the tools to be an Effective advocate for their library and for libraries statewide. Among the topics to be covered in the workshop are:

- Sharing your library's story (and getting people to listen)
- Designing an advocacy plan for your library
- Techniques for building support for your library

Nebraska Panhandle region will be treated to a technology mini-conference held in Scottsbluff on Friday, March 30. Focus will be on school library media specialists, but public, special and academic librarians are welcome to attend. The conference will feature a keynote speaker and a session on Information Power and the Nebraska Guide. Concurrent sessions will offer programs on computer maintenance, using MARC records online, electronic reading programs, and censorship. A session for automated user groups will end the day.

Nebraska libraries of all types are being encouraged to take advantage of the more than 300 programs available through the Nebraska Humanities Council. The new catalog features program on a wide variety of topics, many of which have uniquely local ties to Nebraska.

#### Studies

Last spring, members of the Nebraska Information Power Committee and other selected librarians and media specialists representing the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association met with the Department of Education. The group discussed work being done by the IP Committee in Nebraska, shared the correlation between the Nebraska Standards and Information Literacy Standards, and addressed the need for representation at the state level for library media programs and professionals. As a result, a proposal has been made that a policy study be conducted for library media services in Nebraska public schools. Those involved in the policy study will create a survey--to be distributed in early winter--and determine the sampling of schools to receive it. The survey data will be compiled and a statewide committee will be formed to make decisions based on the results.

#### Promotion

The next OCLC Annual Report will feature NEBASE (the Nebraska Consortium of OCLC-members libraries) CatExpress Libraries. OCLC staff recently photographed four NEBASE CatExpress libraries for a story on this cataloging product.

#### Libraries

The Kripke Jewish Federation Library recently has its grand opening in its new location in the Jewish Community Center of Omaha. The move permitted the 40,000 volume collection to be placed in a larger and more centrally location site.

The Albion Public Library has expanded its hours and open a special area for people who want to begin or learn about operating a small business. Included in the new section are books, periodicals, software, business reference sources and Web site address for a variety of topics covering the subject. The new service was funded, in part, by the Albion Development Company.

The Wayne State College Library has initiated its CARDS service designed to help librarians who have been unable to find information for patrons in their in-house collection or via the Internet. CARDS staff will endeavor to locate the required information and, if necessary, send the article or book to the library for the patron to use.

#### Awards

Recent Nebraska Library Association award winners:

Meritorious Service Maggie Harding

Mari Sandoz Award Ted Kooser

Paraprofessional of the Year Mary Goldek and Kathy Derkes

C&U Section Distinguished Service Award Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

Public Library Excalibur Award Carol Conner

SCYP Mad hatter Award Pat Leach

NMRT Beginning Professional Award Mary Ellen Ducey

Mentor of the Year Kate Adams and David Sherwood

Submitted by Paul S. Hoffman

Nebraska State Representative