

Report from Paul S. Hoffman
MPLA Representative - Nebraska MPLA Board Meeting 7/12/2003

New Location for Nebraska Library Association Web Site

There is a new URL for the Nebraska Library Association's Web page: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>

Nebraska Statewide Databases Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission announced that Nebraska's package of statewide databases (below) has been renewed for the 2003-04 year. The databases are provided at no cost to public, academic and school libraries in the state of Nebraska. Approximately 800 libraries are registered for the resources.

FirstSearch Base Package (featuring ten databases, including WorldCat)
H.W. Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated
H.W. Wilson OmniFile Full Text Select
Books In Print with Reviews
Kiplinger Forecasts
bigchalk eLibrary (licensed to academic and public libraries)

WebSearch University Conference (September 8-9, 2003) Discount Available to Nebraska Librarians

Information Today, Inc. has authorized NEBASE (the Nebraska consortium of OCLC-member libraries) to offer a special discounted rate to all Nebraska librarians who attend the WebSearch University conference scheduled to be held at the Hilton Washington on September 8-9, 2003. WebSearch University is a unique, valuable, and intensive learning opportunity where intermediate and advanced searchers can improve their skills and learn new search tactics, strategies, and tools.

Librarians Encouraged to Attend Continuing Education Sessions this Summer and Fall on E-Rate, Gates Computer Training Strategies, and USA PATRIOT Act

Beginning June 27, 2003 and running through early December, the Library Development Department from the Nebraska Library Commission will be offering a series of six different workshops throughout the state. Three of the workshops are related to the E-rate process and cover Forms 486, 470, 471, and 472 as well as Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirements and use of the Schools and Libraries Division's Web site. The USA PATRIOT Act and privacy issues are covered in another series of workshops.

Scholarships Now Available from the Nebraska Library Commission for Doctoral Studies in Library and Information Science

Scholarships have been established to support students pursuing graduate level library education beyond a Master of Library Science degree. Applicants pursuing a Ph.D. in Library Science on a full or part-time basis must meet the guidelines set forth by the Nebraska Library Commission. The scholarship is available on an on-going basis. This means there will not be a due date for applications.

Continuing Education and Training Grants Accepted Beginning June 16

Beginning June 16, the Nebraska Library Commission will accept applications for state-funded Continuing Education and Training Grants. These grants will be awarded to projects providing continuing education and training for Nebraska library personnel and supporters, ensuring that every public library in Nebraska has skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve the citizens' information needs.

Nebraska Librarians Encouraged to Explore Online Classes in Information Law and Policy

Intellectual Property Law -- What does it mean for information professionals?

The College of Information Studies at University of Maryland announces the third offering in the Electronic Continuing Education Program in Information Law and Policy -- Intellectual Property in the Information Age: From the Basics to Breaking Developments.

This course will run online from July 14-July 25, 2003. It will survey the basics of copyright law and address the following questions: Do we understand how the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) is being used today by big business? How the DMCA substantially changed the reproduction rights of libraries? Or how the Copyright Term Extension Act, now upheld by the Supreme Court, affects my institution? In addition, ample opportunity is provided for interaction with the faculty through asynchronous as well as live chat discussions.

For more information on this program, visit the following web site: <http://www.clis.umd.edu/ce/>

6 Nebraska Counties Rank in the Bottom 10 in the Nation for Per Capita Income in 2001

In May 2003 the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis released its annual Local Area Personal Income data for the year 2001. The May issue of Survey of Current Business features an article by Jeffrey L. Newman entitled Local Area Personal Income, 1999-2001. It lists per capita personal income for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and counties. As in previous years, several Nebraska counties ranked among the lowest in the nation. Of the 10 lowest counties 6 are in Nebraska. Loup County, at \$6,235, had the lowest per capita income in the nation. Other Nebraska counties are Blaine (\$8,372), Arthur (\$8,852), Grant (\$10,164), McPherson (\$10,407) and Sioux (\$10,944). All 10 of the lowest counties had per capita personal income that was at least 63 percent lower than the national average of \$30,413.

The Lincoln, Omaha and Sioux City IA-NE Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Nebraska has only three MSAs) fared better. Lincoln (\$30,872 ranked 75th out of 318, Omaha (\$33,249) ranked 44th, and Sioux City IA-NE (\$25,768) ranked 194th.

The complete 38-page article is available on the Bureau of Economic Analysis web site at <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/articles.cfm> Click the button for "Recent Survey articles relating to data releases" and select the Local Area Personal Income article. It is in .PDF format.

Outcome-Based Evaluation Training Scheduled for September 30-October 1

The Nebraska Library Commission will host a two-day workshop on the techniques of outcome-based evaluation on September 30 and October 1, 2003. The training sessions will be held at the Library Commission and will be conducted by representatives of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The goal of the workshop is to develop knowledge and skills in outcome-based evaluation.

Fifteen participants from Nebraska public libraries will be selected to participate in the training. The workshop is open to employees of any public library in Nebraska. Participants will be asked to propose a project implementing the skills to be learned in the workshop to evaluate a program using outcome-based techniques and to submit a report describing how the outcomes were defined and measured. A Web page will be developed to share information from the projects, providing a statewide "snapshot" of the outcomes of a variety of library services across Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul S. Hoffman
Nebraska State Representative