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Nebraska MPLA Board Report
January 24, 2004

Public Library Accreditation - The Nebraska Library Commission has been seeking input about the Guidelines for Accreditation for Nebraska Public Libraries used in the Library Commission's Public Library Accreditation program. This program, which serves as a basis for distribution of state and federal funds to public libraries in Nebraska, is being evaluated. Information about the Accreditation program, open-ended questions about the process, and a draft of the Guidelines was made available on the Library Commission Web site at www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on Accreditation. Nebraska library staff and board members were invited to review these materials and comment to Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us.

Program History - In 1986-87, a committee produced a document called Gearing up for the twenty-first century: Guidelines for excellence, which represented a consensus of the public library community in Nebraska. The guidelines assisted many public libraries to attain or exceed a common level in governance, resources and services. Those guidelines were the basis for the Public Library Accreditation and Public Librarian Certification programs and encouraged local planners to adapt services to local needs and conditions.

In 1989 the guidelines were revised and recorded in a document called Guidelines for Service, published in 1991. The document was intended to assist local public libraries in achieving basic public library service. In order to be an accredited public library, a library had to meet a minimum number of guidelines.

The 1991 Guidelines for Service were revised in 1995-96. A review committee formed for this purpose prepared the Basic and Advanced Accreditation Guidelines. Accreditation is one of the eligibility requirements for state aid to public libraries and other grant programs available through the Nebraska Library Commission.

The newly revised Guidelines are to be implemented during the fall of 2004.

Spotlight on Scottsbluff, NE - Nancy Escamilla, ILL Library Assistant at Scottsbluff Public Library has been awarded the "Woman of the Year" Award by the Scottsbluff Business and Professional Women's Association. Congratulations Nancy!

"Tickled Pink" (as in Pink Panther) was the theme of the Adult Fall Reading program at Scottsbluff Public Library. 276 people from 15 towns signed up, and 1335 books were read. The promotional materials for this program were included in a display at the Nebraska Library Association (NLA)/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) conference held in Omaha on October 29-31.

For more information contact Jane Schlager, Library Assistant, at Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue, Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2417

WebDewey Opportunity - Now Nebraska libraries can have web-based access to an enhanced version of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) database through WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey. The Nebraska Library Commission has coordinated a group purchase to enable this access. These databases correspond to the unabridged and abridged print editions of Dewey, and provide additional electronic functionality not available in the print editions to make classification work more efficient. OCLC is offering a discounted price to Nebraska libraries who join the NEBASE WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group.

Although the subscriptions are annual and based on the calendar year, Nebraska libraries may join the WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group at any time and subscriptions will be prorated. Orders must be received by the 15th of the month for a start date of the 1st of the following month. Libraries wishing to subscribe do not have to be members of OCLC. Any library can subscribe. WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey are available to both OCLC member and non-member libraries.

WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey are updated on a quarterly basis, bringing ongoing updates implemented by the Dewey editorial team almost as soon as they occur. If a collection holds less than 20,000 titles, Abridged WebDewey is the database to select. It gives access to an enhanced version of the Abridged Dewey. Abridged WebDewey is based on Abridged Dewey 14. WebDewey is already based on the enhanced DDC 22 database.

Nebraska libraries interested in joining the new WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group were asked to complete the online Order Form at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/deweyorder.html>

For more information about web access to the DDC, go to <http://www.oclc.org/dewey/versions/default.htm> For questions about WebDewey, Abridged WebDewey or the NEBASE group, Christa Burns can be contacted at cburns@nlc.state.ne.us, 402-471-3107, or 800-307-2665.

2004 NLA Legislative Day - Thursday, February 19, 2004 is Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day. The day begins early at the Nebraska State Capitol in Room 1023 during a coffee and doughnut session with the senators. Members of NLA's Trustees, Users and Friends Section are there to greet the senators. Following at 9:30 am in Room 1524 there is a legislative briefing. Those attending have the opportunity to find out what they need to know when they visit with the senator from their district and/or ask questions.

A luncheon is served at noon at the First Christian Church across the street from the capitol. Invitations to the senators go out the middle of January, while NLA members receive their invitations shortly after that time. Youth volunteers from across the state are also present and are recognized for their contributions to Nebraska libraries. The last event of the day is a seminar with Mike Nolan, city administrator from Norfolk, speaking on Servant Leadership.

University of Nebraska Engineering Library - The UNL Engineering Library has celebrated a quarter of a century as a patent and trademark depository library. Together with the UNL Libraries and the United States Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, they sponsored two free patent and trademark seminars, on December 2nd and December 3rd. At the conclusion of the December 2nd seminar there was a celebration reception in Room 129/130 of the Walter Scott Engineering Center on the UNL campus.

The December 2nd seminar was open to the public. The December 3rd seminar was a hands-on workshop for librarians to obtain some advanced skills and knowledge of patent and trademark searching.

Planned Giving Fund - The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Planned Giving Fund for Nebraska Librarians kicked off a 5-year campaign at the 2003 NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha with a display at the NLA Membership Table and an announcement at the NLA Business meeting. The program is set-up as an affiliated fund to assist NLA in providing continuing education, training and learning opportunities for Nebraska librarians and library supporters and to increase awareness of the importance and value of all types of libraries throughout Nebraska.

The NLA Planned Giving Adhoc Committee through an initial "quiet" campaign was able to generate \$9,300 in pledges. A primary goal of NLA since its inception in 1895 has been to meet the continuing education needs of Nebraska librarians. Additionally, many NLA members spend their lives passionately involved in the library community, and find that a gift to the Planned Giving Fund is a way of carrying on that commitment. Pledges can be a tool for expressing one's beliefs and values and a gift to an effort that contributes to services available to all Nebraskans across the state through their local libraries.

The opportunity for individuals to contribute to the Planned Giving Fund as part of the 5-year campaign was available until January 31st, 2004. Prior to that date, contributors of a minimum of \$250, either through a 5-year pledge or single donation, were recognized as members of the NLA Legacy Society. Fund raising for The Planned Giving Program will continue after January 31st as an ongoing activity through the NLA Finance Committee in an effort to provide continuing support for library education and publicity throughout the state. For further information or to make a donation contact Nebraska Library Association, c/o Maggie Harding, Exec. Director, Planned Giving

Program, P.O. Box 98, Crete, NE 68333-0098, Phone: (402)826-2636, Fax: (402)826-2636, E-mail:
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Submitted by Nina Little, Nebraska MPLA representative