

**Goal 2: All Nebraskans will have improved access to enhanced library and information services.**

**Need:** Nebraska's library and information resources are aggregated in seventeen of the state's largest communities, ranging in population from 10,000 to 425,000. Ninety-four percent of Nebraska's 273 public libraries are located in communities of less than 10,000. Most of Nebraska's rural communities simply do not have the tax base to support the variety and depth of information resources that today's citizens need to flourish in a global environment. The resource sharing infrastructure, developed and maintained by the Library Commission, exists to facilitate customer access statewide to print and electronic resources. The trend is for more library and information services to be delivered electronically, making access and use of those resources increasingly challenging.

Activities in this goal area relate to an ongoing need for the Library Commission to support and improve the ability of local libraries to provide consistent library and information services and programs that meet community needs.

**Activities:**

**2A.** Provide access to and promote use of subscription databases, NEBASE services and cooperative purchasing agreements.

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Use of statewide subscription databases will increase.
2. Library membership in NEBASE will increase.
3. The number of statewide subscription databases will increase.
4. The number of Nebraska libraries participating in cooperative purchasing programs will increase.
5. Participation in consortia database purchasing will increase.
6. Ninety percent of Nebraska libraries with Internet access will be registered for statewide subscription databases.

**2B.** Implement a common user interface to improve access, searching, and use of electronic resources through the Nebraska Library Commission's Web site.

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Public awareness and use of online information resources will increase.
2. Use of statewide online resources, including subscription databases, library catalogs, selected Internet sites, and library catalogs..
3. Efficiency in locating desired information will improve.

**2C.** Promote and monitor NebrasKard<sup>9</sup>, Nebraska's reciprocal borrowing program.*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Information for program decisions and management will be gathered and analyzed.
2. Participation by accredited public libraries will increase.
3. Promotional material will be available in communities with participating libraries.
4. Public awareness of the program will increase.
5. Use of libraries and library resources will increase.

**2D.** Evaluate the Public Library Accreditation program to address changing library and information needs.*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Basic and Advanced Public Library Accreditation Guidelines<sup>10</sup> will be revised with input from appropriate stakeholders.
2. The number of public libraries that meet or exceed Basic and Advanced Public Library Accreditation Guidelines will increase.

**2E.** Develop and promote library and information services for children and young adults.*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Library personnel will have improved ability to meet the library and information service needs of children and youth in their communities.
2. Use of library and information services by Nebraska children and young adults will increase.

**2F.** Promote and support library and information services for Nebraskans for whom English is a learned language (ELL).*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Existing ELL library programs and services for Nebraskans will be inventoried.
2. Library personnel will have access to existing models of library and information services to meet local ELL needs.
3. Grants will be provided to support library and information services to meet ELL needs.

**2G.** Provide statewide reference, interlibrary loan and government information services.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebraskard/nebraskard.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebraskard/nebraskard.html)

<sup>10</sup> [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/revguid.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/revguid.html)

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Library personnel will have the ability to provide better reference, interlibrary loan and government information services locally.
2. Nebraskans will have enhanced print and electronic access to state and federal government information.

**2H.** Provide support for and promote the Nebraska Center for the Book (affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book).

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Public awareness of books written by Nebraska writers or books published in Nebraska will increase.
2. Public participation in author programs or book discussion groups will increase.
3. Public interest in reading and writing will increase, with particular focus on school age children and youth.
4. Reading skills by children and youth will improve.

**2I.** Promote and improve awareness of the library and information services of NLC and Nebraska libraries through a variety of multi-format communication methods including print, electronic, video, audio and other technology as it emerges.

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. NLC and library personnel will use a variety of technologies and formats to more efficiently and effectively communicate their programs and services.
2. A larger percentage of the NLC's communication products will be disseminated electronically.
3. Statewide communication campaigns will be conducted to increase the use of NLC programs and services, particularly the use of subscription databases.