

N Compass

A Quarterly Publication of the Nebraska Library Commission

Vol. 1 No. 2 /Summer1994



The Nebraska Library Commission congratulates Commission staff (l.tor.) Sara Martin, Doris Garlow, and Cecelia Kopp on receiving their Master of Library Science degree.

Emporia Students Graduate

On Saturday, June 11, fifty-three students from Emporia State University's Master of Library Science distance education program walked across the stage in front of a packed audience at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education to receive their diplomas. This completes more than two and one half years of study for the Nebraska program participants. The Emporia master's degree is known as one of the first distance learning Library Science Master's programs in the country.

The graduation program included greetings from Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, commencement address from Dr. David E. Payne, Vice President of Emporia State University, and concluding remarks by Dr. Martha L. Hale, former Dean of the School for Library and Information Management. A reception followed in the lobby of the Continuing Education Center. The Library Commission congratulates the graduates.

Users Council Delegate Selected

Kent Hendrickson (Dean of Libraries, University of Nebraska - Lincoln) and Tom Boyle (Director, Midland Lutheran College) have been elected to the posts of OCLC Users Council Delegate and Alternate, respectively. Each year, NEBASE member libraries select a representative and an alternate to serve on the Users Council. NEBASE is a consortium of Nebraska libraries organized into a regional network and operated by the Library Commission.

The Users Council is comprised of delegates from OCLC networks and service centers. Delegates represent the interests of OCLC general members and ratify amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Code of Regulations. OCLC is a not-for-profit computer network, with an international database of more than thirty million bibliographic records.

Videoconference Featured at NEBASE Meeting

NEBASE will hold its annual meeting on October 4 on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to providing the traditional OCLC-related updates and "break out" discussions, the session will include a satellite downlink for the OCLC-sponsored "International Videoconference on the Electronic Library."

The Videoconference will provide a forum for the 18,000 libraries participating in OCLC to take part in a group discussion. The broad philosophical implications for the next stage of the electronic library will be explored, including reference, cataloging, resource sharing, electronic publishing, and education.

For more details and registration information, search the *Nebraska Online* calendar of events (Keyword: Nebraska Library Commission Training) or contact Paul S. Hoffman (402-471-4021 or 800-307-2665).

From The Director...

Library Interests Advocated

Each year, during National Library Week, hundreds of librarians and library supporters gather in Washington D.C. for Legislative Day. Some five hundred people came to the nation's capital on April 19 of this year to visit with their congressional delegations and staff. Armed with the most recent facts and figures, they made their pitch to ensure that library issues are known and addressed. On this day, among florists, trade union members, anesthesiologists, and thousands of others, library supporters sought to elevate awareness of the issues most important to them.

Not too long ago, library related issues before the Congress were mostly centered on the federal budget. Federal library aid largely comes through the U.S. Department of Education under the Library Services and Construction Act and the Higher Education Act. Funding for the Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, and the National Libraries of Medicine and Agriculture are also concerns. But there are now many other legislative issues involving libraries. Legislation to establish policies and direction for building the so-called information superhighway identifies libraries as key components. There are new federal education programs in the works that include responsibilities for libraries, initiatives that provide access to federal government information in electronic form, and legislation to stimulate economic development. Keeping informed on any one of these initiatives is difficult, let alone staying abreast of the plethora of legislative bills that in some way include library related interests.

Spending one day in Washington D.C. each spring doesn't do the job of advocating interests important to libraries. It is a good opportunity to personally visit with Congressional representatives and staff who need to know what is important back home, and to establish connections that can be followed up on later when help is urgent. However, phone calls and letters throughout the year are necessary to be effective. The American Library Association's Washington Office does a good job issuing timely and helpful information. That information is now available electronically via the Internet as a supplement to their newsletter publication. To subscribe, send the message "subscribe ala-wo [your name]" to listserv@uicvm (Bitnet) or listserv@uicvm.uic.edu (internet).

If spending a few days in the nation's capital next spring is appealing, start planning to be part of a Nebraska library delegation. The trip will be well worth the effort.

Rod Wagner

Retrospective Conversion Progresses

To assist the Public Resource Libraries with automation, the Library Commission contracted with Auto-Graphics for retrospective conversion services. The vendor was selected from replies to a Request For Proposal, based on price (\$0.43 per record converted), potential hit rate, and time frame for completion.

The number of shelflist cards converted was 297,485, out of 310,867 cards contributed by the nine participating public libraries: Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont's Keene Memorial, Grand Island's Edith Abbott Memorial, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. These libraries, along with York's Kilgore Memorial, also contracted with Auto-Graphics for duplicate removal and authority control functions.

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*Commission meetings are held the second Friday of the month,
or as scheduled by public action of the board.*

State Documents List Available

The 1993 list of Nebraska State Government Publications received by the Library Commission's Publications Clearinghouse Service has been compiled. For a free copy of the list, contact Nebraska Library Commission, Publications Clearinghouse Service, 1200 N St., Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023, 402-471-4032 or 800-307-2665 (in NE only). The list is also available on *Nebraska Online* as a downloadable file under Libraries in the Computer Files section. The file name is CHECK93. It is in ASCII format and can be downloaded to a word processing file, such as WordPerfect.

Jo Budler has accepted appointment to the Library Commission Network Services Director position. Jo was formerly Legislative Reference Librarian for the Nebraska Legislature. In that position, Jo was responsible for coordinating library services, providing reference service, giving instruction in library use and research resources, and cataloging the library collection.

Prior to her work with the Legislature, Jo was the Curator of the Heritage Room at Lincoln City Libraries' Bennett Martin Public Library.

New Publications Available from the Library Commission

The following new books are available for loan from the Library Commission's state documents collection. They are also available from University of Nebraska Press.

Indians in Prison: Incarcerated Native Americans in Nebraska

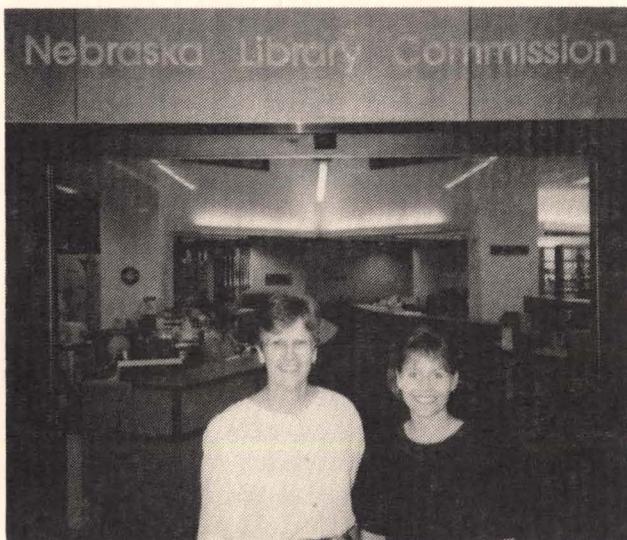
by Elizabeth S. Grobsmith.
University of Nebraska Press, 1994. \$37.50

Dr. Grobsmith, professor of anthropology and assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, bases her study on personal observation and involvement with Indians in the Nebraska state penal system. It discusses cultural and spiritual activities, problems of alcoholism and drug addiction, the need for treatment programs, recidivism and parole of Nebraska Indian inmates. The study traces how Indians incarcerated in Nebraska won the right to practice their religion several years before the national American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed in 1978.

Standing the Gaff: the Life & Hard Times of a Minor League Umpire

by "Steamboat" Johnson.
Introduction to the Bison Book edition by Larry R. Gerlach.
University of Nebraska Press, 1994. \$6.95

Harry "Steamboat" Johnson was an umpire in the early days of baseball, working in exhibition games and minor leagues from 1909 to 1935. His humorous and entertaining memoir, originally published in 1935, is republished with an introduction by Larry R. Gerlach telling more about Steamboat's life. "Standing the gaff" meant withstanding the insults, threats, and thrown pop bottles from players and fans in those wilder days, when Steamboat often had to be escorted to his hotel by the police after a game.

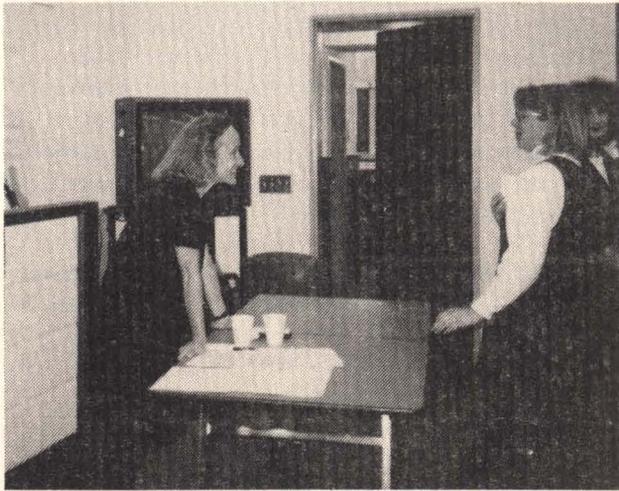


Jo Budler(left) and Annie Sternburg bring new talent and enthusiasm to the Commission's network services team.

New Staff Appointed at Commission

Annie Sternburg has been appointed to the Nebraska Library Commission's Online Services Librarian position. She is formerly a member of the Technical Support Team at Emporia State University and has trained faculty, staff, and students to use e-mail systems and the Internet.

Annie has coauthored user guides for electronic resources and for the installation and use of telecommunications software. In addition to training, she is also an experienced online searcher, including Dialog, OCLC Epic, and First Search.



Linda Milliman (left), of the Tattered Cover, chats with Nebraska paraprofessionals.

Paraprofessionals Hold Spring Meeting

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Paraprofessional Section held their spring meeting in May at Gere Library in Lincoln. The featured speaker was Linda Milliman of the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver. The afternoon session featured Sally Snyder of the Nebraska Library Commission, who shared information about *Nebraska Online*. This was followed by a tour of the newly expanded Gere Library and a short business meeting.

Linda Milliman spoke on the philosophy and realities of customer service. She shared her store's philosophy about training employees to serve both internal and external customers. "People who work in libraries are really good at customer service because they have a feel for their library and a grasp of the human element," Milliman said.

The Tattered Cover sets out to delight their customers by extra effort and uncommon courtesy. One of the more unique features of the Tattered Cover management philosophy is their moral viewpoint. They assume that everyone, customer and employee alike, is honest and their policies reflect that view. For instance, every employee is given a key to the store and customers are not asked for identification when paying by check.

Milliman believes it is important to empower the people who work with customers to do whatever needs to be done to satisfy them. The philosophy regarding employee satisfaction is that an employee can only pass on to customers what they are getting or giving. Milliman ended her presentation with the Tattered Cover's educational and entertaining training video.

Commission Awards Grants

Preliminary approval has been given by the Library Commission for the 1994 Library Services and Construction Act Title II grants totaling approximately \$216,000. \$121,000 in construction grants were awarded to Auburn Public Library and Ralston Public Library. The grants, along with local funding, will be used to construct new library buildings in both communities.

Technology grants worth \$95,124 were awarded to twelve public libraries and the Regional Library System Cooperative, representing another nineteen public libraries. The grants will be used to purchase microcomputers, printers, modems, CD-ROM drives and other computer equipment which will provide access to *Nebraska Online*, improve information services, and assist automated circulation and/or catalog systems.

Commission and Council Meet

The Library Commissioners and the State Advisory Council on Libraries held a joint meeting in March. The joint meeting included presentations by the Administrators of Nebraska's Library Systems, updates on Library Commission activities, and a presentation on Nebraska Internet Applications by Jim Emal, UN-L Institute on Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications and Computing Services. Separate meetings of the Commission and the Council were held in the afternoon.

The State Advisory Council on Libraries met again in June. The meeting focused on legislation, both federal and state. The Council received a report on library/congressional efforts to reinvent the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and Nebraska legislative action influencing libraries, including the resolution calling for an interim study on public library laws.

Additionally, a group planning session and discussion of the Council's vision, mission, and goals focused on formulating the answer to Commission Director Rod Wagner's question, "How do you see the Council functioning best?" The group brainstorm generated a variety of ideas about how the Council might best contribute to library development in the state. Several goals were proposed to facilitate Nebraska library participation in the emerging National Information Infrastructure. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 9.

Lincoln City Libraries Project Included in Publication

Lincoln City Libraries has announced the inclusion of Anderson Branch Library's Homework Center in the American Library Association's (ALA) book, *Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults: The Nation's Top Programs*, edited by Mary K. Chelton. The Homework Center is a special area for informational and recreational needs of junior high and senior high students. It includes a special seating area, books, CD-ROM sources, and other materials geared to this age group. Fifty libraries across the nation were chosen for inclusion in the publication recognizing quality programs for young adults.

The Homework Center was included as the result of a grant application to ALA. Last fall, the Library Commission sponsored a two-hour interactive video conference on grant writing. The program was specifically designed for librarians interested in writing and applying for grants to increase and improve funding for children's and young adult services, however much of the information is applicable to other types of grants. Video copies of the teleconference are available on loan from the Commission. Ask the Information Desk for "Getting Your Grant," 402-471-4024 or 800-307-2665.

Summer Reading Program Plans Discussed

A general consensus among Nebraska public librarians regarding the future of the Summer Reading Program was reached at the Nebraska Library Association Spring Meetings. The theme for the 1995 summer reading program will be recycled from the 1986 program, *Have A Bearable Summer - Read!* The manual and materials from that year will be reprinted and offered for sale.

It was further agreed that the Library Commission would continue to coordinate and subsidize the program beyond 1995. However, in future years, thematic development will be based on availability of materials from commercial vendors.

Nebraska children's librarians also agreed to contribute to a generic "Best of the Best" summer reading manual. Participating librarians will be asked to contribute at least one activity that was particularly successful in past programs. Since most activities can be adapted to many themes, this generic manual will be a basic tool for future programs. Librarians are asked to write up their best ideas and submit them now through December 1, 1994. The generic manual will be available for the summer of 1996.

In addition to the generic manual, a twenty page booklet with ideas that complement specific themes will be developed each year.

Please call Mary Jackson at the Library Commission (402-471-4006 or 800-307-2665) or e-mail her via *Nebraska Online* if you have questions or comments concerning these decisions or to submit your ideas for the "Best of the Best" manual.

Appointments Made To Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee to the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service makes recommendations to staff concerning service policies and practices. New to the committee are Mary Ann Jobanek, Omaha; Anita Regler, Nebraska City; and Russell Bloemker and Eunice Walkenhorst, both of Lincoln. Reappointed for a second two-year term are Sherri Dux-Ideus, Kearney, and Ed Launer, Columbus. Fred Wheeler, Chadron, chairs this committee which meets each spring and fall.

Talking Book Staff Attend National Conference

More than one hundred and fifty talking book librarians convened in May for the National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. Three Commission staff members attended--Jan Anderson, Judy Tuttle and Dave Oertli. Speakers discussed standards revision, service to Native Americans, the braille centralization study update, and the machine study overview. An automation conference was held on the fourth day. One session featured Bob Askey, a former Nebraska broadcaster, now an award-winning talking book narrator. The biennial event drew librarians from across the United States and Canada.

The *N-Compass* is available on audiocassette tape upon request. To receive a copy, please contact **Brad Hauptman** at 402-471-6241 or 800-742-7691.

Special Report

Grants Support Excellence

In 1993, the Nebraska Library Commission offered the first grants for excellence in children's services. This grant program encourages public libraries to explore possibilities for new services that they might lack the resources to develop on their own. It also builds grant writing skills enabling children's librarians in Nebraska to write competitive proposals for national grants.

The five libraries awarded grants in 1993 recently completed a year of implementation and evaluated their projects. Although degree of completion varied, all libraries reported impact and increased visibility in their communities. The next edition of *N-Compass* will feature an expanded Special Report evaluating the activities of the Kearney Public Library and Information Center young adult demonstration center, Aurora's Alice M. Farr Public Library's enrichment program for unattended children of Adult Basic Education students, the Holdrege Public Library System's collections of children's books in offices of health-care providers, Chadron Public Library's storytelling training for children, and Lincoln City Libraries' day care kits of materials and story program training.

Target areas for the 1994 grants were Places and Spaces for Young Adults, Outreach to Day Care Centers, and Interesting Kids in Information. Eleven grant proposals were received. Five have been approved for funding. Recipients are:

- Auburn Public Library, **Workshops, Programs and Delivery Services to Day Care Centers** - \$1,150
Project Coordinator: Ruth Henderson
- Wayne Public Library, **Grandmapa Storytime (older adult volunteers provide stories in day care homes)**- \$1,200 Project Coordinator: Jolene Klein
- Norfolk Public Library, **Youth Literature Festival for Young Adults** - \$1,500 Project Coordinator: Karen Drevo
- Karlen Memorial Library, Beemer, **Information Materials for Children with Learning Disabilities** - \$850 Project Coordinator: Tammy Lorenz
- Niobrara Public Library, **Mentoring Program for Young Adults** - \$ 700 Project Coordinator: Linda Leader

Mary Jackson

Special Report

Technical Services Roundtable Proposed

A committee has been formed to lay the groundwork for the formation of a Technical Services Round Table within the Nebraska Library Association (NLA). The committee includes Margaret Mering, Dean Corwin, and Kathy Bowersox, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Sara Martin and Judy Winkler, Nebraska Library Commission; and Sharon McCaslin, Peru State College. The committee is working with the NLA Board and has accepted several recommendations for further action.

A survey was conducted to determine statewide interest. The proposed Technical Services Round Table (TSRT) is intended to address broad issues concerning technical services such as cataloging, acquisitions, materials processing, etc. Dramatic changes are taking place in technical services, where automation has had a profound impact. Other issues the committee hopes to address include the forthcoming implementation of format integration and the down-sizing of technical service units. In this climate of change, technical services staff need a forum for discussing these issues, sharing expertise, and providing networking opportunities. Such a forum would allow interaction among library staff at all levels. The results of the survey will be available in a future *NLAQ*.

In addition, a listserv has been created to facilitate and encourage communication among technical services staff within the state. The listserv, NLATSRT, is hosted by Peru State College. To subscribe, send an Internet e-mail to listserv@pscvox.peru.edu with no subject and the message: SUBSCRIBE NLATSRT (your name).

The committee, in cooperation with the Nebraska Library Commission, sponsored a program on Format Integration on August 22, at the Commission. Rich Greene, from OCLC, was the featured speaker. The workshop demystified Format Integration for library directors, catalogers and computer systems staff. For further information, contact Sara Martin, smartin@neon.nlc.state.ne.us or 402-471-3217 or 800-307-2665. For a copy of the workshop video, contact 402-471-4024 or 800-307-2665 and ask for the Information Desk.

The committee looks forward to working with the Nebraska Library Association Board and By-Laws Committee. For additional information, contact any of the committee members.

Judy Winkler and Sara Martin

Special Report

Nebraska Online Access Revised

Nebraska Online was developed by the Nebraska Library Commission in cooperation with the Nebraska Development Network to:

- support library and information service development
- serve as the computer-supported information and communication component of the Nebraska Development Network
- improve public access to state and federal government information

In July, *Nebraska Online* had 6,248 registered users accessing the system more than 6,000 times each month. In order to make the information on *Nebraska Online* more widely available and to reduce phone line congestion during peak periods, *Nebraska Online* is now officially accessible via the Internet. This connection has been operating on an experimental basis for several months.

An introductory help screen providing instruction and information appears the first time a user connects via the Internet. To use *Nebraska Online* from an Internet connection, telnet to neon.nlc.state.ne.us and follow on-screen instructions.

Software notes: shareware versions of Procomm are not compatible with *Nebraska Online's* Internet configuration, due to bugs in Procomm's VT-100 terminal emulation. The same problems also affect the commercial versions of Procomm Plus through version 2.0. These problems have been corrected in version 2.01. Version 2.0 users can receive a free upgrade by contacting the vendor: Datastorm Technology Customer Service Department, 314-443-3282. When you reach this number PRESS 4. For questions about connecting to *Nebraska Online* via the Internet, contact Vern Buis at 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665.

Nebraska Online Electronic Mail and Calendar Changes

Effective July 1, Electronic Mail is available only to authorized users. Calendar posting (adding events/calendar items) is also available only to authorized users. Individuals representing the following categories are authorized:

- library staff
- library board members
- library system administrators
- members of library-affiliated groups
- state government staff affiliated with community economic development-related organizations

This change is an effort to target *Nebraska Online* services to intended audiences. Electronic mail and calendar services are communication vehicles for the groups identified above. Other services of *Nebraska Online* are geared to broader audiences.

This change affects only electronic mail and calendar POSTING. Calendar VIEWING and all other *Nebraska Online* services are unchanged and continue to be available to all users.

Current *Nebraska Online* users identified as affiliated with one of the groups mentioned above have been pre-authorized. Select *Nebraska Online* from the mail menu for information on authorization.



Chris Hoy, Director of Special Projects for the Department of Economic Development uses *Nebraska Online* to communicate with Community Information Technology groups.

As this edition of *N-Compass* goes to press, plans are underway to contract with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for a major component of their federal Small Business Administration grant to encourage teleliteracy in Nebraska's small businesses.

News of Nebraska Libraries And People

- Several **Library Commission** staff members will receive length of service recognition during "State Employee Recognition Month" in October. They include: **Mary Geibel**, **Mary Jackson**, **Jim Minges**, **Sally Snyder**, and **Judy Tuttle**, for ten years; **Dave Oertli** and **Lori Sailors** for fifteen years; and **Barbara Johnson** for 30 years of service.
- **Kearney Public Library & Information Center** Director **Brenda Carroll** has resigned. **Carol Reed** has been appointed Acting Director.
- The **Library Commission** recently hired **Bruce Oorlog** as mail courier, **Joanne Corson** as Desktop Publishing Designer, and **Clarice J. Schmidt** as Talking Book Circulation Coordinator.
- **Ainsworth**, **Beatrice**, **Bellevue**, **Broken Bow** and **Minden Public Libraries** are promoting Nebraska Authors through a book discussion program funded by a state-wide grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund through the **Nebraska Center for the Book**.
- Congratulations to **Vern Buis** and **Judy Winkler**! **Vern** and **Judy** were selected by Library Commission staff as **1994 Manager/Supervisor of the Year and Employee of the Year**, respectively. Both will begin their reign as honored employees with ceremonies at the State Capitol this fall.
- New library directors include **Devra Dragos**, Beatrice State Developmental Center; **Robin Bernstein**, Bellevue University; **Kathryn Redman**, Central City Public Library; **Mary Neben**, Cozad Public Library; **Marie Tlamka**, Dwight Community Library; **Linda Gooder**, Franklin Public Library; **Lisa Geiken**, Gothenburg Public Library; **Mary Lou Kulp**, Nebraska Vocational Curriculum Resource Center, Kearney; **Nancy Margus**, Thomas S. Power Library, Offutt Air Force Base; **Nancy Purintun**, Overton Community Library; **Stacy Vogel**, Palmer Public Library; **Marlene Warneke**, Pierce Public Library; **Nancy Jensen**, St. Edward Public Library; **Marfay Johnson**, Wilcox Public Library.
- The **4th Annual Nebraska Literature Festival** will be held Saturday, September 24 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 14th & Farnam, Omaha, NE. For information, call (402) 554-3312.
- Severe hail and wind damaged the **Ponca Public Library** recently. Five large windows were broken on one side of the building. Glass, water and hail entered the library, damaging books and computer equipment. Volunteers were recruited to help clean up.
- The **Wayne Public Library** Foundation recently received a \$20,000 gift from **Ginger Nissen** in memory of her parents. "With a new Library/Senior Center, the community of Wayne will be greatly enhanced," said Mrs. Nissen.
- **Holdrege Public Library** staff and 160 volunteers barcoded over 60,000 items this spring to prepare for automation. The library closed for a week to finish barcoding prior to its May 2 opening as an automated library.
- More than 700 children registered for the summer reading program at the **Norfolk Public Library**. Activities included weekly "Around the World Storytime" for younger children, "Monday Mania" featuring special guests, and "Wednesday Afternoon at the Movies."
- The **Library Commission** said "Good-bye" to two long-term employees. **Dick Allen**, Library Development Coordinator, retired after seventeen years of service and **Ellen Snow**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Services Advisor, left to do missionary work in the Dominican Republic.
- A Read-in was held the evening of June 20th on the lawn in front of the **Columbus Public Library** to protest the library's budget cuts this past year. As a result of the cuts library hours were cut, as well as the materials budget and staffing.
- **Governor E. Benjamin Nelson** appointed **Frances Lovell** to fill **Marge Curtiss'** unexpired term on the **Library Commission** board. **Frances** is a former director of the Gering Public Library. **Governor Nelson** also re-appointed **Dr. Robert McPherson** and **Myrna Vollbrecht** to the Commission board. Their terms extend through June, 1997.

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Nebraska Library Commission



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