

Your guide
to the
Nebraska
Library
Commission

N Compass

N E W S L E T T E R



**FY 1995
Year In Review**

Vol. 2 No. 4

State Advisory Council Issues Challenge to Libraries

During their September 1994 meeting, the State Advisory Council on Libraries adopted the following statement:

"The State Advisory Council on Libraries challenges Nebraska libraries to link every citizen of the state with information technologies by becoming a catalyst for community planning and aggressively obtaining funding. Libraries are challenged to partner to accomplish the goal of information access. Librarians are challenged to increase their knowledge and ability to use information technologies to service their communities."

The State Advisory Council's purpose is to provide the Nebraska Library Commission with information about library activities and



▲ Commission Internet Librarian Annie Sternburg demonstrates the Internet for the State Advisory Council in March.

programs throughout the state and to make recommendations about library legislation, trends, projects, and planning initiatives.

In June, the Library Commission awarded four Challenge Grants to improve citizen access to information technology by assisting libraries: 1) to become catalysts for community planning and fundraising; 2) to form partnerships with other community agencies; and 3) to increase librarians' knowledge and ability to use information technologies to serve their communities. Challenge Grants were awarded to:

Educational Service Unit #7 in Columbus (\$1,815) to train 10 students to set up Internet Home Pages for local public libraries.

Howells Public Library (\$4,450) to provide the public library with a

direct connection to the Internet through a cooperative project with the Howells School.

Seward Public Library (\$5,000) to partially fund community access to the Internet in conjunction with the Seward Information Technology Committee.

Scottsbluff Public Library (\$3,655) to mount a community bulletin board and events calendar on the library's Dynix computer system.

Advisory Council members (appointed by the Commission) who issued the challenge were: Becky Baker, Seward Public Library; Dr. Elmer Baker, York College; Maureen Battistella, Wayne State College; Brenda Behsman, North Platte Public Library; Verda Bialac, Omaha Public Library; Joan Birnie, Broken Bow Public Library; Phyllis Brunken, Education Service Unit #7; Dena Crews, Chadron Public Library; Laura Cundiff, Clay Center Public Library; Ella Epp, Henderson Community School; Jeanne Leader, Western Nebraska Community College; Sharon Mason, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Guadalupe Mier, Bellevue Public Library; Patricia Sheridan, Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center; Carol Speicher, Northeast Library System; Sharon Wiegert, Papillion Public Library; and Sally Wise, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. ▲

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From the Director...

Year In Review

Every year is marked by its own blend of events, trends, and personalities. The year 1995 is no exception. The Library Commission's special Year in Review edition of *NCompass* highlights a variety of events, activities, and people from this past year. No report can fully cover the many activities of the year. However, we hope this report provides a flavor of the many Library Commission activities of 1995.

The year of 1995 included initiation of the revision to Nebraska's public library guidelines, introduction of a proposal to replace the federal Library Services and

On behalf of the staff and members of the Nebraska Library Commission, thank you for the opportunity to promote, develop, and support library and information services throughout Nebraska.

Construction Act, consideration by the Nebraska Legislature of new public library legislation, the introduction of new **Nebraska@Online** service arrangements through a new Network Manager, involvement in four federally funded grant projects, thousands of hours of training for hundreds of librarians and library media specialists, summer reading programs, and much more. These special activities along with the day to day services provided to Talking Book and Braille Service customers, library staff and trustees, state government employees, and the general public

have continued the long history of service of the Nebraska Library Commission to the State of Nebraska.

On behalf of the staff and members of the Nebraska Library Commission, thank you for the opportunity to promote, develop, and support library and information services throughout Nebraska. We look forward to many new opportunities and challenges in 1996 and beyond. ▲

Rod Wagner

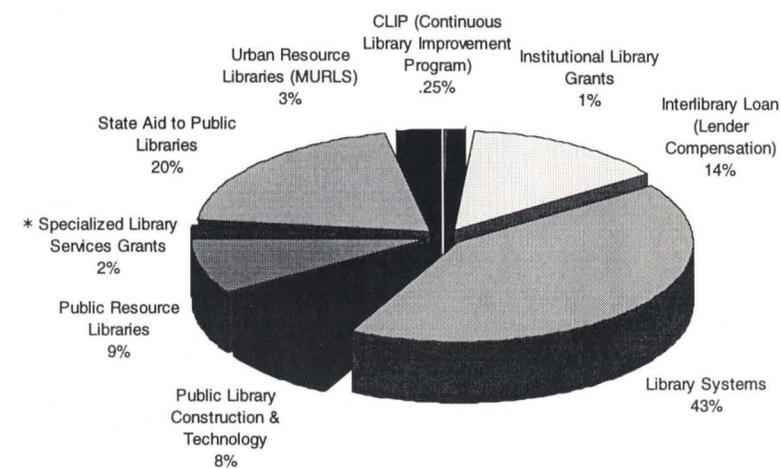


▲ Governor Nelson and Rod Wagner as The Nebraska Library Commission receives diamond member recognition for its contribution to the Nebraska Development Network (NDN).

Funding/Grants FY95

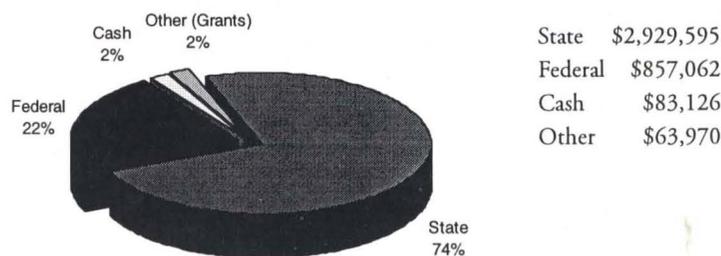
Grants FY95

*Challenge Grants	\$5,000
*Children's Services Grants	\$8,939
CLIP (Continuous Library Improvement Program)	\$3,750
*County Funded Library Grants	\$590
Institutional Library Grants	\$18,600
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	\$205,952
Library Systems	\$631,899
Public Library Construction & Technology	\$125,501
Public Resource Libraries	\$132,795
*Satellite Grants	\$14,995
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$299,909
Urban Resource Libraries (MURLS)	\$44,847



Total Budget Expended FY 1995: \$3,933,753

Where The Money Came From



NCompass
NEWSLETTER

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Commissioners: Thomas Harvey, Omaha, term expires 1996; Jean Sanders, Lincoln, term expires 1996; Dr. Robert McPherson, Hastings, term expires 1997; Myrna Vollbrecht, Stanton, term expires 1997; Frances Lovell, Gering, term expires 1998; Ron Norman, Kearney, term expires 1998. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

Children's Grants for Excellence

The Commission awarded five libraries Grants for Excellence in Children's Library Service:

Bellevue Public Library—Collaboration with local hospitals and high schools to provide access to life-skills and health information for at-risk young adults, \$2,500.00

Central City Public Library—School readiness treasure totes, \$500.00

Fremont Public Library—Collaboration with the Women, Infants and Children's Center to develop school readiness, \$1,350.00

Gibbon Public Library—Information literacy and school readiness for children from low-income families, \$1,089.00

Lexington Public Library—Saturday morning family literacy program, \$600.00

Commissioners/Staff FY95

Both Ron Norman of Kearney and Frances Lovell of Gering were reappointed to the Nebraska Library Commission.

Ron Norman was elected Commission Chair for 1994-95 and Thomas Harvey of Omaha was elected Vice-Chair.

Other Commissioners include Dr. Robert McPherson of Hastings, Myrna Vollbrecht of Stanton and Jean Sanders of Lincoln.

Arrivals

Joanne Corson, Public Information Technician
Cathy Hatterman, Acquisitions Librarian
Clarice Schmidt, TBBS Circulation Coordinator
Jeannette Powell, NEBASE Services Assistant
Julie Pinnell, Information Services Librarian
Cindi Hickey, **Nebrask@ Online** Librarian
Janet Greser, Computer Help Desk Consultant

Departures

Roberta Fagan, Librarian II
Doris Garlow, State Documents Librarian
Cecelia Kopp, Information Services Librarian
Sara Martin, NEBASE Services Coordinator
Ellen Snow, TBBS Readers Services Coordinator

Reclassifications

Sue Biltoft, Administrative Assistant
Kit Keller, Library Development Staff Assistant
Renee Klebe, Librarian I
Belinda Odgen, Library Technician
Judy Winkler, Librarian III

Grants to Nebraska Libraries

Library services throughout Nebraska were improved through grants to 61 libraries during 1995.

Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title II Grants were awarded for construction and technology projects in 57 public libraries. Grants of \$50,000 for construction of new libraries were awarded to David City and Superior. The Eastern Township Library in Crofton received a grant of \$9,350 for renovation to provide increased space and improved accessibility. Technology grants were approved for 32 public libraries through a joint library systems grant, and for individual requests from 22 libraries. ▲

Meet our Staff of the Year, FY95

Employee of the year, Judy Winkler, is the cataloger at the Library Commission. She catalogs monographs, serials, state documents and videos. Judy joined the Commission in March, 1993 and was formerly at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L) libraries.

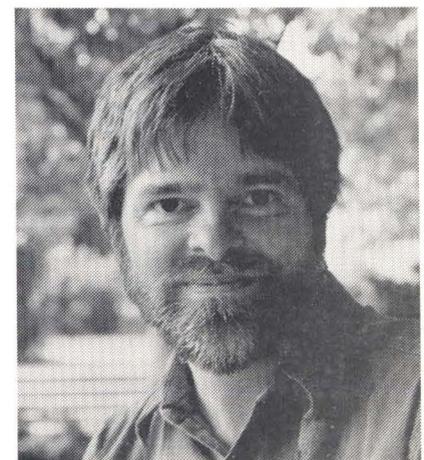
Judy participates in the reference and docs teams at the Library Commission. She is currently vice-chair of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) paraprofessional section, and editor of the Technical Services Roundtable newsletter.

Vern Buis is the first person previously honored as Employee of the Year to be named Manager of the Year at the Library Commission. Vern is the Computer Services Director. He coordinates computer-related activities, including the Internet server, READS (the software used by Talking Book and Braille Staff), and the in-house network.

Vern has been at the Commission since 1973, when he began as courier. As his involvement with computers and automation increased, he helped develop his current position. ▲



▲ *Employee of the year, Judy Winkler.*



▲ *Manager of the year, Vern Buis.*

FY 1994-95 marked the transition of *Nebraska Online* to an Internet-based service. *Nebraska Online*, introduced to the public in October 1992 as Nebraska's electronic communication and information service, succeeded in providing easy-to-use, statewide access to a variety of unique information resources as well as electronic mail (e-mail) services. Requests for additional applications and the need for continued network growth led the Library Commission to seek competitive proposals for a network manager to assist in the evolution of *Nebraska Online* into a user-supported, Internet-based information service. **Nebraska@ Online** now offers a new level of services through the network manager, including some information resources available under a subscriber and fee structure. Currently 13 out of 70+ services are fee-based. From its inception, support for *Nebraska Online* was dependent upon fiscal savings from other areas of the Library Commission, grants from other agencies (i.e. NE Telephone Association, NE Energy Office, NE Department of

Economic Development). The transition to some user fees provides a reliable revenue stream for this effort. This facilitates sustained growth and development of **Nebraska@ Online** and enhances services available to and through Nebraska libraries.

The network manager was selected by an interagency team of representatives from several state agencies including the Library Commission, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, Secretary of State, State Courts Administration, and the Department of Economic Development. These agencies, continuing to function as the NE Information Consortium, worked together to develop specifications, issue the Request For Proposal, evaluate proposals, and negotiate the network manager contract. The Library Commission also organized other state agency partners and representatives of the major customer groups into an advisory group to assist in providing administrative oversight.

The network manager is a private company employing staff with experience in operating networked information services and with the vision to further develop **Nebraska@ Online** as an informa-



tion resource tool. Access to some Nebraska state government data resources will contribute revenues for operation of **Nebraska@ Online** and lead to the continuing development of future **Nebraska@ Online** components.

The primary technical mission of the network manager is to develop, maintain and provide for enhanced **Nebraska@ Online** subscribers a common, seamless, easy-to-use interface to thousands of dissimilar, hard-to-use information systems. World Wide Web (WWW)-based menus help organize the diverse Internet environment, pointing to thousands of information sources. The network manager works in partnership with the Library Commission to plan, market, and deliver networked information services. Some **Nebraska@ Online** revenues are retained by the Library Commission to support agency administrative costs and to finance Commission work on development of **Nebraska@ Online** applications. The initial work of the network manager brought 51 Nebraska libraries full Internet access at a reduced fee. The potential for the future is unlimited. ▲

Nebraska@ Online now offers a new level of services through the network manager, including some information resources available under a subscriber and fee structure.

Continuous Library Improvement Program Enters Second Year

Nebraska public libraries continued their progress in the Continuous Library Improvement Program (CLIP) during 1995.

The CLIP process emphasizes library improvement through community involvement, a shared vision of the library's purpose, tangible short term action steps to

realize that vision, and continuing evaluation of the plan's implementation.

CLIP Activities for 1995 include:

1. Planning teams from 32 libraries participated in four regional training workshops, bringing the total number of participating libraries to 102 during 1994 and 1995.

2. Several libraries have completed the first cycle of CLIP planning and many others have taken the first steps in the process.

3. Regional follow-up meetings in Spring, 1995 allowed library planning teams to share strategies, successes and problems.

In 1997 state aid to public libraries will be allocated in two parts: a basic grant to all accredited libraries, and a supplementary grant to libraries which have completed the first cycle of the Continuous Library Improvement Program or a comparable planning and evaluation process. ▲

Commission Supports Library Community Information Technology Partnership Efforts

In October 1994, the Commission and Nebraska's Department of Economic Development (DED) expanded their partnership in Governor Ben Nelson's Global Community Initiative. Funded by a U.S. Small Business Administration grant administered by DED, the Commission took the lead in the electronic conferencing and publishing component of the project.

In support of the project goals, the Commission hired Janet Greser as *Nebraska Online* Help Desk Consultant and Cindi Hickey as Information Technology Librarian, and increased *Nebraska Online* call-in lines and computer capacity. In the transition to an Internet-based information service, content enhancements included Information



◀ Library Commission Information Technology Librarian Cindi Hickey explores the library role as the new community information utility.

Information Technology World Wide Web site with pointers to a variety of information resources related to community and economic development, small businesses, and locally created information resources.

Demonstrations and other outreach efforts registered Information Technology Committee

members via *Nebraska Online*. Nineteen focus groups were conducted in communities across Nebraska during January 1995 as part of an interagency planning effort. In addition, twenty-seven telephone interviews were conducted with Information Technology Committee representatives and librarians in their respective communities. Data collected during the interview process will be transformed into community profiles to inform the creation of further information services and provide a basis for inter-committee discussion.

Information technology training, demonstrations and consultation facilitated community awareness and access for citizens of Ainsworth, Blair, Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Grant, Holdrege, Indianola, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Schuyler, Seward, Valentine, and West Point, as well as for organizations and groups such as the Northeast Regional Library System, individual libraries, the NE Home-Based Business Association, the NE Rural Development Commission, the NE Development Network, the NE League of Municipalities, Eastern Regional Library System, Nebraska Girl's State and agricultural entrepreneurs. ▲

◀ Participants explore community resources at the Scribner Community Information Technology workshop.



Technology discussion groups; "Success Stories" to share information about successful strategies, projects and ideas; a news and reference section; and UNL Bureau of Business Research's "Onramp" (formerly Nebraska Economic Information Program). Construction also began on a Community

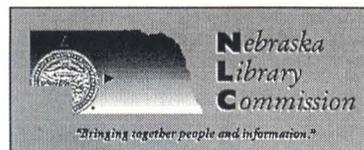
members, Rural Development Commissioners, NE Home-Based Business Association Board members, and members of the NE Development Network for *Nebraska Online* e-mail. Continuing efforts stimulated on-line discussion and information sharing among information technology committee

Announcing the Nebraska Library Commission Home Page

This year marked the unveiling of the Nebraska Library

Commission World Wide Web Home Page on the Internet. The page has library-related information including: the Nebraska Library Directory, the Nebraska Library Calendar and Library Job Listings for Nebraska and the region. Commission services are also

highlighted including: Government Information Services, with a link to the U.S. Census; Library Development Services, including Continuing Education and Children's Services information; Network Services, with NEBASE, Internet Services, and Technical Services; Community Information Technology; and the Talking Book and Braille Service, with information about our collection of recorded



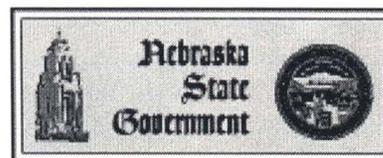
books and magazines. *Interchange*, *NCompass*, *NLCommunicator*, *N³* and *What's Up Doc?* are also available on the Home Page. Point your Web browser to <<http://neon.nlc.state.ne.us/nlc.html>> or access from "Library Net" on *Nebrask@ Online* <<http://www.nol.org/>>. ▲

Library Commission Hosts Nebraska State Government Home Page

As part of a nationwide initiative to develop an Internet

World Wide Web Home Page for every state's government information, the Commission volunteered to design and host the Nebraska State Government Home Page (in cooperation with the Nebraska Interagency Internet

Group). Information includes: the Office of the Governor with the Governor's press releases; State Job listings from the Department of Personnel; Nebraska Unicameral; links to other state agencies, such as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Education; and links

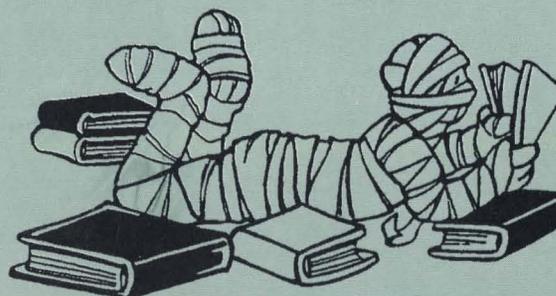


to State Funded Colleges and Universities. Point your Web browser to <<http://www.state.ne.us/>> or access from "State Net" on *Nebrask@ Online* <<http://www.nol.org/>>. ▲

Newly Organized Children's Advisory Board Meets

The first meeting of the Library Commission's newly organized Children's Advisory Board was held in the spring of '95. Representatives from school and public libraries throughout the state joined Library Commission staff Rod Wagner, Mary Jackson, Kit Keller, Jim Minges, Sally Snyder and Ellen Van Waart. Mary Jackson was named Chair.

The group confirmed the selection of the 1996 summer reading theme, *Peer-Amid Books*. They also recommended that Nebraska become a member of the Midwest Consortium for Summer Programs, a group of state and regional libraries who cooperate to produce summer reading materials and a manual at a lower cost than commercial vendors. The Consortium's 1996 theme is *Get In the Game at Your Library* and the 1997 theme is *Thrills and Chills at The Library*. ▲



The newly organized Children's Advisory Board confirmed the selection of the 1996 summer reading theme, *Peer-Amid Books*.

PEER AMID BOOKS READ

Commission Hosts Nebraska Electronic Library Planning Retreat

A statewide planning retreat was held at the Nebraska Library Commission to discuss issues relating to development of Nebraska's Electronic Library.

More than 50 representatives from academic, public, medical, school, and special libraries and state government assembled for the two-day session. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Nebraska Electronic Library planning grant was administered by the University of Nebraska Libraries and the Commission.

Featured presenters at the planning retreat included Susan Fayad, Project Director for the Access Colorado Library and Information Network (ACLIN),



◀ Beth Goble, (left), and Nancy Busch, (far right), of the Library Commission, participating in the electronic library planning retreat.

Robert Denicola, Professor and Interim Dean of the UNL College of Law, and Janet Poley, President and CEO of A*DEC (Agricultural Distance Education Consortium, formerly the Agricultural Satellite Corporation). Fayad, keynote speaker, presented an overview of electronic networking development and services in Colorado. Denicola addressed the issues surrounding intellectual property rights in an electronic environ-

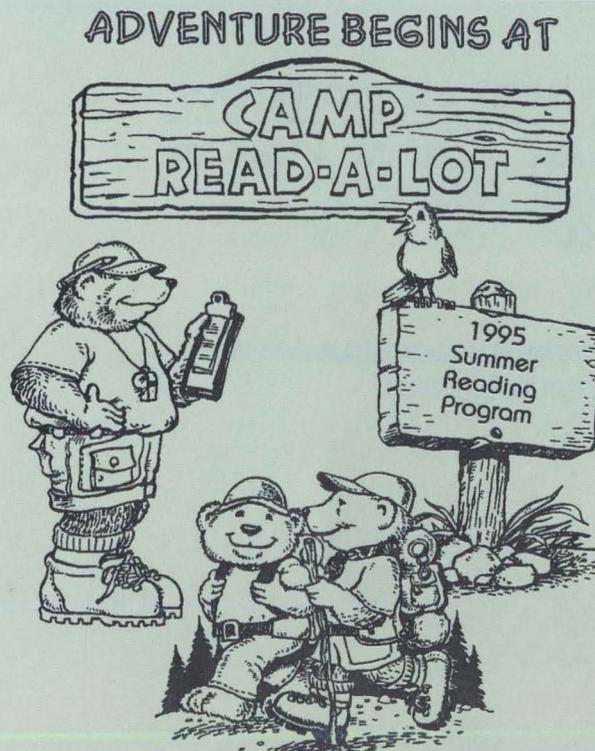
ment. Poley provided an overview of the issues raised in small group discussions.

Joan Giesecke, Associate Dean of the University of Nebraska Libraries, and Nancy Busch, Deputy Director of the Library Commission, principal investigators on the NSF planning grant, compiled a summary report from the retreat. Request copies from Nancy Busch, 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665, or <nbusch@neon.nlc.state.ne.us>. ▲

Summer Reading, 1995

Twenty-four thousand Nebraska children enjoyed games, excursions, special events and reading last summer through participation in the state-wide summer reading program. The 1995 summer theme, *Adventure begins at Camp Read-a-Lot*, encouraged children to read nearly 400,000 books on outdoor adventure, campcraft and other varieties of summer fun. Such summer reading experience encourages children to maintain their reading skills during the months without formal reading instruction and to return to the classroom more ready to learn.

Virtually every Nebraska community with a public library offers a summer reading program, lasting from one week to two months. Children may earn a certificate of recognition for their participation in the summer program, however approximately 20% of the libraries involved do not give certificates, preferring instead to emphasize reading as a satisfying pastime, rather than another source of pressure to achieve. ▲



The 1995 summer theme, *Adventure begins at Camp Read-a-Lot*, encouraged children to read nearly 400,000 books on outdoor adventure, campcraft and other varieties of summer fun.

Library Commission Highlights FY 1994/95

- ★ Sixteen institutional libraries accredited and received federal funds or LSCA grants
- ★ An average of 5,965 people per month used **Nebrask@ Online**
- ★ 165 libraries accredited
- ★ 160 libraries received state aid
- ★ 15,197 talking books, magazines, and braille materials circulated each month (average)
- ★ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded 206 issues of magazines
- ★ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated 47,156 audio cassettes
- ★ Current Awareness Service (SDI) delivered 4,545 documents to sixty clients. (Service discontinued March, 1995.) 3,888 new periodical issues processed
- ★ 4,807,010 records in Nebraska State Database
- ★ 210,905 total items cataloged by NEBASE members
- ★ 1,684 items originally cataloged by NEBASE members
- ★ Library Commission borrowed 2,197 items from other libraries
- ★ Library Commission loaned 455 items to other libraries
NEBASE libraries borrowed 74,403 items from other libraries
- ★ NEBASE libraries loaned 63,368 items to other libraries
- ★ At the end of the fiscal year, NEBASE membership included 60 full-cataloging members, 69 NEON members, and 20 NEULIST only members (libraries with periodical holdings in the Nebraska Union List of Serials)
- ★ 4,888 state documents added to the Commission's collection, bringing the total to 80,148
- ★ 19,804 federal documents added to the Commission's collection, and 51,212 federal documents weeded, bringing the total to 249,467
- ★ 3,933 information requests filled by Commission's Library and Information Services staff
- ★ 24,000 children in Nebraska registered for the 1995 Summer Reading Program, *Adventure Begins at Camp Read-a-lot.*

Nebraska Library Commission



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