

NCompass

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 14 No. 1

Historical State Documents Website Launched

Students, scholars, and the general public now have free access to a keyword searchable collection of digitized historical reports of Nebraska constitutional officers and state agencies. The Nebraska Public Documents Website at <http://cdrh.unl.edu/nebpubdocs/> includes reports from 1891 to 1929. Until now, these early reports have not been widely available because they are often in fragile condition and are not indexed.

The Website is a collaborative project between the Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, and Nebraska State Historical Society. A Nebraska State Records Board grant assisted with funding.

A fascinating array of information can be found on the Website. A search on "influenza," for example, provides insight into the effects of the epidemic of 1917-18. The Nebraska Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth reported 275 cases and twelve deaths, and the Public Library Commission (now the Nebraska Library Commission) reported that school closings halted the Travelling Library Program for four to six weeks.

Digitization of the *Nebraska Public Documents* collection was first proposed by James Shaw, UNO documents librarian. In this first phase of the project, the Nebraska State Historical Society, using grant funds from the Library Commission, purchased microfilm of the *Nebraska Public Documents* collection created by New York Public Library in the 1990s. The UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities contracted with the OCLC Preservation Service Center to digitize the microfilm from 1891 through 1929. Using raw data supplied by OCLC, a template



for enhancements and search applications was created for the Website.

The project partners plan to raise additional funds to complete digitization of the microfilm, which would provide access to Nebraska state government reports through 1956. If funding allows, earlier print volumes in the collections of the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska State Historical Society will also be digitized.

For more information contact:

Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission Director of Government Information Services, 402-471-4017 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us

Katherine Walter, Co-Director, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, UNL Love Library, at 402-472-3939; e-mail: kwalter1@unl.edu

James Shaw, Documents Librarian, UNO Criss Library, 402-554-2225; e-mail: jshaw@mail.unomaha.edu

Andrea Faling, Associate Director/Library Archives, Nebraska State Historical Society, 402-471-4785; e-mail: bun@nebraskahistory.org

The new Nebraska Public Documents Website offers information not widely available until now.

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From the Director...

Nebraska's State Advisory Council on Libraries doesn't get a lot of public attention, but the eighteen member council is important to Nebraska library development, promotion, and coordination of services. The Council originated in the early 1970s as a result of changes in the federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). Amendments to the LSCA provided for state councils to advise state library agencies on library service needs and services. And they were given specific responsibility to advise on their state's long-range plan and annual program for use of LSCA funds. State advisory councils are no longer required by the federal library program—now administered as the Library Services and Technology Act, but Nebraska continues to support a state advisory council. Members represent the various types of libraries, the public, and different areas of the state. Their ideas and advice are helpful to the Nebraska Library Commission in getting different perspectives on community issues and needs that can be addressed through federal and state resources.

It was the State Advisory Council on Libraries that helped initiate the *Libraries for the 21st Century* initiative, which resulted in added state funding to the Library Commission's budget. The additional state dollars made possible the purchase of subscription databases that are now offered through NebraskAccess, and special grant programs for continuing education, library science education scholarships, and children's and young adult services. And it was the State Advisory Council on Libraries that encouraged and supported a major recruitment grant project that was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and awarded to the Nebraska Library Commission. The IMLS three-year grant, matched with state funds, has led to funding for many additional library science education scholarships as part of the Now hiring @ your library® project. A mentoring program, an improved job postings service, recruitment materials, and other resources have been created through the grant.

As noted in the article on page 8 by Marty Magee, 2008 advisory council chair, this year the Council will be addressing several topics that emerged from last year's efforts in preparing Nebraska's new five-year plan for library services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

Rod Wagner

Congress Cuts LSTA Funding

Federal budget action by the 2007 Congress in late December resulted in a reduction in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Programs appropriation. Nebraska's allocation for the 2008 federal fiscal year is approximately \$58,000 less than last year's allocation, which was slightly less

than in 2006. The reduction was a surprise since both the House and Senate had earlier approved an increase in the LSTA State Programs appropriation. A presidential veto of an appropriations bill that included LSTA funding resulted in the December budget compromise.

Ben Mikaelson to Visit Nebraska in April

The Nebraska Library Commission, in cooperation with the Regional Library Systems, will bring children's author Ben Mikaelson to Nebraska in April for a statewide author tour that will feature programs in schools and public libraries.

Mikaelson has won the International Reading Association Award and the Western Writer's Golden Spur Award, and his novels have won many State Reader's Choice awards, including the 1995 Nebraska Golden Sower award. He is the author of *Rescue Josh McGuire*, Nebraska's 2007 One Book for Nebraska Kids selection. Mikaelson lives in a log cabin near Bozeman, Montana, with a 750-pound black bear he adopted and has raised for the past twenty-five years.

He will present four programs that will be open to the public:

Ogallala, Goodall City Library:
"Becoming the Author of Your Own Life"
– April 14, 4:00 P.M.

Hildreth Public Library:

"Becoming the Author of Your Own Life" – April 15, 4:00 P.M.

Holdrege Area Public Library:

"Becoming the Author of Your Own Life" – April 15, 7:00 P.M.

Mahoney State Park: "Research—

Finding the Heart of the Story"

– April 16, 7:00 P.M.

School visits (not open to the public) will be in Broken Bow,

DeWitt, Elgin, Fremont, Gretna, Hastings, Ogallala, and Plainview.

For more information see his Website at www.benmikaelson.com, or contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003 or 800-307-2665; e-mail ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us.

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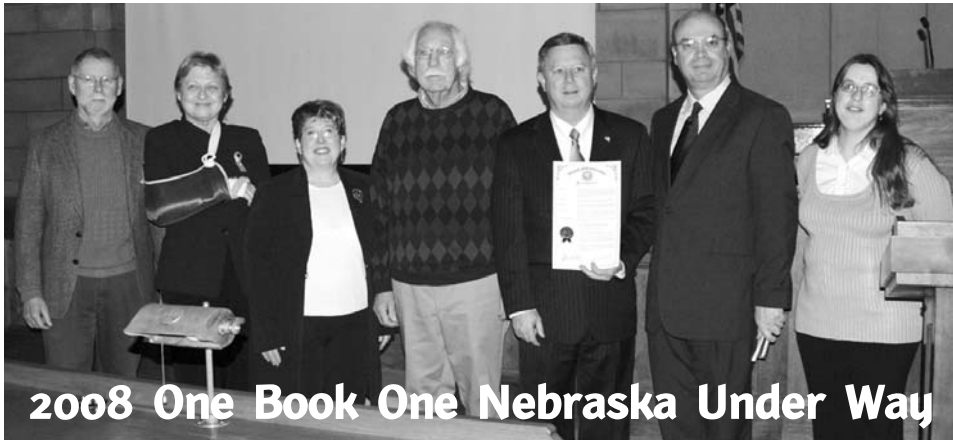
NCompass is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68502-2023. Phone: 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 (in Nebraska only). Fax: 402-471-2083. Home Page: www.nlc.state.ne.us. ISSN: 1075-9719.

Director: Rod Wagner

Editorial: Mary Jo Ryan, Nancy Evans, Janet Greser, Mary Geibel

Design and Production: Reynold Peterson

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.



Nebraska Book Festival Director Michael Cartwright; Nebraska Humanities Council Director Jane Hood; Nebraska Writers Guild President Sally Walker; Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn; Gov. Dave Heineman; Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner, and Nebraska Humanities Council Program Officer Erika Hamilton (l. to r.) at One Book One Nebraska 2008 proclamation ceremony.

Citizens across the state are invited to read *Restoring the Burnt Child*, by Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn for One Book One Nebraska 2008. Nebraska libraries are key to the success of this statewide reading project. They are encouraged to join other literary and cultural organizations in planning activities and events to encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this memoir of a small-town boy's life in the 1940s.

Gov. Dave Heineman launched the statewide initiative with a proclamation encouraging all residents of Nebraska to participate by reading the book, joining community book discussion groups, and

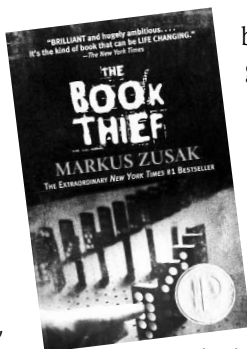
participating in local community events. The Website, funded by University of Nebraska Press and hosted at the Nebraska Library Commission, can be accessed at www.onebookonenebraska.org. It features book discussion materials, a downloadable poster and press kit to help with publicity, information for library loan of book club kits, and a calendar of events.



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One Book for Nebraska Teens Book Bags Available

Librarians and students across the state are encouraged to read and discuss *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, for One Book for Nebraska Teens 2008. The Nebraska Library Commission is distributing book bags containing fifteen paperback copies and one CD of the book, along with discussion questions and background information.



book is geared toward readers in grades 9 and up, and is the story of Liesel Meminger, a young girl living in a working-class neighborhood in Nazi Germany during World War II. In a starred review, *School Library Journal* called the book "an extraordinary narrative."

To borrow the book bags, contact the Nebraska Library Commission Information and Reference Services, 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us or the Regional Library System offices (see www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/index.html).

For more information contact Sally Snyder; see contact information on page 2.

O'Neill Public Library Goes to Scotland

by Rebecca Cemper, Director,
O'Neill Public Library

When I heard that the **One Book for Nebraska Teens 2008** selection is the Markus Zusak book *The Book Thief*, my first thought was, "What an excellent choice!" Our book club, The Grattan Literary League, read Zusak's novel several months ago. *The Book Thief* has been one of the most popular titles among our book club to date.

I began to ponder how I could get teens in our community to read this award-winning novel. Hmmmm.....I know how, a blog! I got in touch with our two high school librarians, Jennie Schneider and Jeanne Crumly, and told them my idea to form a book discussion blog for young adults reading the One Book for Nebraska Teens selection. They readily agreed that it sounded like a great idea. Together we formed a cooperative in which they would enlist students to participate, and I'd create a blog. Next I called Kathy Ellerton at Northeast Library System and requested one of the "book bags" I read about in the *Straight Talk* newsletter. I felt things were really going well; all there was left to do was create a blog. I'd just call someone and they'd tell me, right? Wrong! No one I asked seemed to know anything about blog creation. I had, as my grandmother used to say, "Put the cart before the horse!"

Undaunted, I decided to Google "blogs." As it turns out, Google has a user-friendly program to make a blog. There is a password protection option to keep the blog from being viewed by Internet surfers and an option that limits posting to members. (Ed. Note: Since this blog is not open to the public, the URL is not included here.)

Perfect! I was on my way now. I decided to call my blog One Book One O'Neill, so participants would be sure they were at the right place. In the packet provided with the "book bag" there was an "about the author" sheet. Great! After another call to Kathy Ellerton I knew I needed to contact Sally Snyder for permission to use it on our blog. I called Sally, and she told me that it was written by the Nebraska Library Commission Youth Advisory Board and granted

(continued on page 17)




Workshops Focused on Serving Spanish-Speaking Customers

Hispanics/Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States and are the fastest-growing segment of the population. The Nebraska Library Commission, the Gates Foundation, and WebJunction offered workshops for librarians, board members, and interested community members in nine locations across Nebraska over the past three months. The workshops were part of a nationwide outreach effort.

Participants learned how to take the first steps toward bringing these potential library users into the library and how to serve them better. Participants learned why there is a need for outreach and why Latinos and, in particular, recent immigrants, may not visit the library. Reasons include:

- Little experience using a public library in their country of origin.
- Confusing “library” with “librería.” (The word for “library” in Spanish is “biblioteca,” “librería” means “bookstore,” so newcomers unfamiliar with English may assume that at a librería they would have to purchase a book rather than borrow it for free.)
- Lack of time because of working several jobs.
- Fear of entering a government institution.
- Not feeling welcome because of language limitations.

For more information on this topic, see www.Webjunction.org. Included there is a new wiki for collection development at <http://spanishcollections.pbwiki.com/?l=S> with collection development tips for youth and adults, sample collection development policies, links to external resources for serving Latinos, and more.

For more information about the workshops, contact Sally Snyder; see contact information on page 2. 

Library Commission Awards Internship Grants

Twenty Nebraska public libraries have been awarded student internship grants totaling \$27,000 as part of the *21st Century Librarian* initiative funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Library Commission awarded the grants to introduce promising high school and college students to the array of interesting work done by Nebraska libraries. Examples of tasks to be assigned to interns include helping to promote the library by submitting newspaper and radio announcements, producing flyers and brochures, making PowerPoint™ presentations, developing materials displays, and even updating the library’s Website.

Some student interns will learn to assist library customers by helping them use the online catalog, demonstrating how to search online databases, assisting with public access computers, providing readers’ advisory services, checking out materials, and assisting with reference services.


Grant recipients may also involve interns in library programming such as planning and participating in preschool storytimes, helping with craft projects, visiting schools to promote the summer reading program, organizing book talks for youth, and starting a teen reading and advisory group. Students will participate in collection work by entering new title data into online catalogs, making recommendations for youth materials, and learning how to catalog using WorldCat.

At Lincoln City Libraries, Young Adult Library Assistant Sarah Dale-Piersol plans to use student interns to help keep up the library’s teen MySpace page (www.myspace.com/makethelibraryyourspace). Sarah said that when the staff was scrambling to set up a social network site for the library, they knew they would have

to get students to do it. So when the internship grants became available, they realized this would be a perfect way to get young people engaged in an innovative facet of library work in the 21st century. She said advantages are that the students are much closer in age to the intended audience for the site and that they will be working during the summer when there will be lots of activity on the MySpace page.

Libraries receiving internship grants are:

Ashland Public Library
Atkinson Public Library
Bassett, Rock County Public Library
Beatrice Public Library
Bellevue Public Library
Blair Public Library
Central City Public Library
David City, Hruska Memorial Public Library
Elmwood Public Library
Emerson Public Library
Gibbon Public Library
Hooper Public Library
Lincoln City Libraries
Neligh Public Library
Ord Township Library
Papillion, Sump Memorial Library
Ponca Carnegie Library
Randolph, Lied Randolph Public Library
Rushville Public Library
Wahoo Public Library

For more information or to apply for a grant to contract with an intern for your library, see the Nebraska Library Commission’s Recruitment Website at www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us. 

Youth Services Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$50,000 in grants to twenty-one libraries and Regional Library Systems to assist in providing improved services to children and young adults, and to provide continuing education and training opportunities for children's and young adult librarians.

These awards represent an important part of the Library Commission's commitment to one of the goals established for its LSTA Five-Year Plan 2008-2012. Goal 1 states, "All Nebraskans will have improved access to enhanced library and information services, provided and facilitated by qualified library personnel, boards, and supporters with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes necessary to provide excellent library and information services."

The Eastern and Southeast Library Systems received a grant for the 2008 Youth Services Retreat which will offer activities to motivate and encourage youth services librarians to try new programming ideas. The six Regional Library Systems will also sponsor "Connecting Kids with Books" in which each System will purchase thirty paperback copies of ten titles, including an audio version when available, for book discussion groups organized by public and school libraries.

Among the projects funded for individual public libraries were: create young adult spaces; provide books to parents of newborns in partnership with a local hospital; "Alice in Wonderland" and "Super-Spiders" programs for

preschoolers; purchase Story Hour puppets and materials; teen events using Anime (Japanese animated media) as a theme; sports programs plus purchase of sports materials for the collection; acquire graphic novels and audio books; hold *Gaming Days*; show movies for grades 4-8 and promote books that relate to the movies; rocket-building and Guitar Hero video game programs; *Family Reading Night*; Wii Sports programs; "Mad Scientists @ your library" programs and a science fair; competitive events using video games to encourage boys to utilize the library and its materials; form a Teen Tech Club and hold programs/activities for them; art contests; and show new-release movies.

Grant recipients were:

Bellevue Public Library
Blair Public Library
Central City Public Library
Fairfield Public Library
Fremont, Keene Memorial Library
Lincoln City Libraries
Neligh Public Library
Oakland Public Library
Paxton Public Library
Lied Pierce Public Library
Ponca Carnegie Library
Ralston, Baright Public Library
Randolph, Lied Randolph Public Library
Rushville Public Library
Schuyler Public Library
South Sioux City Public Library
Wahoo Public Library
Eastern and Southeast Library Systems
Regional Library Systems

Vendor Day Moved to May 22

This year's Vendor Day, sponsored by the Library Commission, has been moved to May 22 and will focus on open library systems. It will be held in conjunction with the **Open Source ILS Symposium** at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. Library staff are invited to hear from vendors who support open source solutions for libraries as well as librarians from other states who are currently responsible for implementing shared open source catalogs. Speakers will include:

- **Bob Molyneaux** – Vice President, Business Development, Equinox; <http://esilibrary.com/esi/home.html>.
- **Josh Ferraro** – President of Technology, LibLime & Marc Roberson – Vice President, Library Partners, LibLime; <http://liblime.com/>.
- **Elizabeth McKinney deGarcia** – PINES Program Director, Georgia Public Library Service; www.georgialibraries.org/public/pines.php.
- **Kathy Rippel** – Pathfinder Central Manager, Central Kansas Library System; <http://tinyurl.com/28wekv>.
- **Ruth Dukelow** – Assistant Director, Michigan Library Consortium; www.mlcn.net/evergreen/.

Register at the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Library Training.

For more information contact Shannon White, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4031 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: swhite@nlc.state.ne.us.

Volunteers Honored at Reception

Volunteers of the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service were recognized in January for their contribution to the program. Library Commission Director Rod Wagner presented Pat Schreurs with a Presidential Award accompanied by a letter from President Bush honoring her for twenty-five years and thousands of volunteer hours. Fred McCormick, a volunteer in duplication and machines,

received an Admiralship in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska. Other volunteer anniversaries included Alice Timm, ten years; and Bonnie Faimon, Wendy Hirsch, Norman Simon, and Helena Whitaker, five years each. The Audio Tape Duplication volunteers were presented with a Certificate of Environmental Achievement from Lincoln and Lancaster County for erasing and reusing the cassettes used to record magazines.



TBBS Circulation Coordinator Scott Scholz presents an award to volunteers Fred McCormick, Pat Schreurs, and Jeff Schroeder (l. to r.).

Unshelved Creators to Speak at Spring Colloquium

A talk from the creators of *Unshelved*, the world's only daily comic strip set in a public library, will be presented at the Spring Colloquium at Lincoln's Cornhusker Marriott Hotel on April 10, from 5:30 to 9:30 P.M. Librarians are invited to come to dinner and explore library issues and trends at this event funded by the Nebraska Library Commission and coordinated and arranged for by the Eastern and Southeast Regional Library Systems.

Writer Gene Ambaum (the fictional name of a real-life librarian) and co-writer and artist Bill Barnes have been publishing *Unshelved* since 2002. "Some of the stories are made up, some of them are based on real life, and some are absolutely true stories sent to us from our readers. And the stranger the story, the more likely it is to be true," they say.

What possessed Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum to write a comic strip about a library? And how do they keep tens of thousands of librarians around the globe laughing every day? Visit www.unshelved.com to find out what everyone's talking about, and then come to hear Bill and Gene discuss what makes libraries so funny.

Bill Barnes is a native New Yorker who was dragged all around the world by his parents at a formative age and finally ended up in the wilds of Seattle. He is a trained software designer and very much an untrained cartoonist.

Gene Ambaum is the pen name of a public librarian from the Seattle area. He loves graphic novels, television shows from his childhood, pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain. He continues to make the mistake of letting Bill write his bios.

Colloquium participants will receive 2 continuing education credits; cost is \$35 per person. To register, see www.selsne.org/SColl08.pdf. For more information contact Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Coordinator; 402-330-7884; e-mail: ktooker@alltel.net.

Talking Book Service Begins Move to Digital Technology

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress has begun the move to digital audio technology as the backbone of its recorded talking book system.

The domestic spending bill signed into law at the end of last year included an increase of \$12.5 million each year for six years to be used for the nationwide transition away from audio cassette books and players to digital format.

The digital system will be based on flash memory technology, specifically Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drive technology, and customers and libraries are expected to see improvements associated with digital technology. Among the advantages:

- Flash memory provides better audio quality.
- Storage capacity is larger and will require fewer cartridges per book and eliminate the need to turn the cassette over and flip a switch to access the reverse side.
- Cartridges have a long life and may be reused many times while retaining high-quality audio.
- Playback machines will be smaller and lighter, ensuring better portability.
- Machines will last longer because they will be far more robust and



resistant to damage.

The move to digital will mean an overall cost savings that will be redirected to other facets of the talking book program.

The program will continue to provide audio cassettes and machines to customers during the transition. During FY2008, 12,000 digital players will be produced per month for nationwide distribution. The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, as well as all other talking book network libraries, will receive a quota of cassette and digital books. The Library Commission will receive at least one copy of each cassette title (2,000 titles total) and each new digital book (650 titles total), and also may select additional copies of titles deemed most popular with talking book readers. In 2009, 2,000 titles on cassette and 1,049 in digital format will be produced.

A distribution timeline will be announced when contracts to produce book cartridges and digital players are awarded.



Basic Skills Classes Offered

Basic Skills: Organization of Materials, one of the four Basic Skills courses required for Public Librarian Certification, was offered online and at six sites around the state this spring. The course covers Basic Principles of Organization in Libraries, Subject Cataloging, Dewey Decimal Classification, Card Catalog Format, Automated Catalog Format, and Library

Automation Systems. Basic Skills courses are sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us.

Book Reviews

by Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission
Technology Innovation Librarian

Dreaming in Code: Two Dozen Programmers, Three Years, 4,732 Bugs, and One Quest for Transcendent Software

by Scott Rosenberg. New York: Crown Publishers, 2007.

Have you ever wondered just why software takes so long to develop, seems to have way more features than any normal human would ever want, and still contains bugs and doesn't do what you need it to do? If so, this is the book for you. In this book Scott Rosenberg, co-founder of Salon.com, follows Mitch Kapor, inventor of Lotus 1-2-3, on his quest to develop Chandler software, which will be the next stage in the evolution of calendaring software. The story takes us

from the project's beginning in July 2003 through November 2005, and answers just those questions we've all been wondering about. (It's now Spring 2008, and Chandler still hasn't been officially released but you can check it out at <http://chandlerproject.org/>.) Despite the subject matter, you don't have to be a computer geek or programmer to enjoy this book.

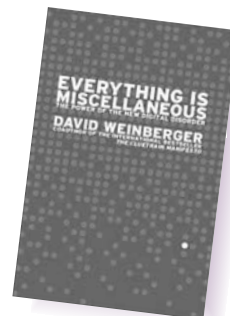


Everything is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder

by David Weinberger. New York: Times Books, 2007.

"Web 2.0." Just what is it and how does it affect libraries? Despite the fact that I've presented on it many times and participated in many discussions both on- and off-line, sometimes I still feel that no one really knows. Either that, or there are too many answers and everyone has chosen a different one to follow. Which ever it is, many librarians today are looking for an introduction to the topic written just for them. Weinberger's *Everything is Miscellaneous* is that book. He

starts with a discussion of how we organize physical objects, and then shows us how those concepts need to change for a digital environment. Through this he covers such timely topics as tagging and wikis, and shows us just how they're changing what we librarians do. And when a book is dedicated "To the librarians," how could you not want to read it?



Strategies Offered to Enhance Friends Groups

Sally Reed, executive director of Friends Of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), presented "Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends," a distance learning workshop sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission in April. An archived recording of the session is available free to libraries for showing to Friends or other community groups.

Effective Friends groups are invaluable for raising money, promoting the library, and engaging in advocacy. In the session, Reed offered suggestions to help library supporters and staff work together to ensure that Nebraska's library Friends groups are growing and active. Specifically, she addressed how to increase membership in Friends groups and

Friends as advocates and financial supporters.

The Library Commission recently purchased memberships in FOLUSA for all Nebraska public libraries so that library staff, Friends, Trustees, and Foundations can take advantage of FOLUSA services to enhance fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness.

To access the recording, contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us.



Sally Reed



Step Up to the Plate @ your library® Begins

The American Library Association and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum are teaming up to promote season three of "Step Up to the Plate @ your library®." This year, it's a whole new "ball game," celebrating the 100th anniversary of the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Librarians can visit the program's Website, www.ala.org/baseball, to register for free promotional tools to help promote the program locally. Tools include program logos in both English and Spanish, and a toolkit that includes sample press materials and programming ideas. Under "Baseball Resources" are lists of fiction and non-fiction books for grades 1 through 12 and adults, as well as baseball-related films and other online and print resources.

The first 100 libraries to register will receive a Jackie Robinson *History Lives* poster. Librarians who bring in the most entries also can win incentives for participation in the program.

"Step Up to the Plate @ your library®" will officially launch in April with program spokesperson and Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith.

The program teams up two American classics – baseball and libraries – to promote the importance of information literacy skills and increase awareness of the library as an essential information resource. People of all ages will be encouraged to visit their library and answer a series of trivia questions inspired by "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Categories of questions will include ballparks, baseball in popular culture, fan experience, and baseball pioneers. One grand-prize winner will receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in October 2008.

For more information see www.ala.org/baseball or contact Megan McFarlane, The Campaign for America's Libraries Coordinator, 312-280-2148, e-mail: mmcfarlane@ala.org.

Advisory Council Year Gets Under Way

by Marty Magee,
McGoogan Library of Medicine
President, 2008 Nebraska State Advisory
Council on Libraries

SACL? Does it make you think of snap, crackle, and pop? It does rhyme with crackle, but what does it mean? SACL is the State Advisory Council on Libraries. The group of eighteen members representing a cross-section of libraries is appointed at-large by the Nebraska Library Commission and also includes two ex-officio members from the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association. Meetings are held three times a year in different places in the state. This gives members a chance to see other libraries, as well as share successes and challenges. The group is scheduled to meet in March, July, and November in 2008. The March 14 meeting in Kearney was a joint meeting with the Nebraska Library Commission.

Council members in the past reviewed such plans as the Library Services and Technology Act Plan for 2008-2012. In 2008, council members will be asked to reflect and share back with their organizations on topics such as assessment, marketing, customer service, and advocating for their libraries. Additionally, we'll share our thoughts with you through *NCompass*. So watch for updates as we snap, crackle and pop our way in SACL through 2008!

For more information on meeting times and places, or the role of the State Advisory Council, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/stadv/stadv.html or contact Marty Magee National Network/Libraries of Medicine Education and Nebraska Liaison, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 402-559-7076 or 800-338-7657; e-mail: mmagee@unmc.edu or Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us.

Libraries Offer Digital Download Services

Twenty-four Nebraska libraries have access to a shared collection of digital audio books, eBooks, music, and video that library customers can download. Audio books and eBooks may be downloaded to a PC or supported PDA. Those downloaded to a PC/laptop can be burned to CD or transferred to more than 500 portable devices, including most MP3 players.

Available in a wide variety of popular genres (including fiction, romance, suspense, young adult fiction, business, self-help, and language learning), the digital books may be checked out for a limited time period and downloaded to the customer's device. They are automatically returned to the collection when the checkout time expires. Libraries do not need to purchase any additional equipment to provide this service to customers.

A group of Nebraska libraries began exploring options for providing audio books last fall, and selected OverDrive, one of several digital download services designed specifically for libraries. In addition to its ever-expanding inventory of popular, bestselling titles, OverDrive is known for providing a streamlined, positive user experience. It comes with steep start-up costs, but libraries can share these costs as long as they also are willing to share content and a customized Digital Library Reserve Website.

To facilitate participation in this group by as many libraries as possible, including those that might not otherwise be able to afford it, the Nebraska Library Commission is contributing \$60,000 to the project, which includes setup of the group Website, as well as initial content and a yearly maintenance fee for the group. The

Library Commission will pay the group maintenance fee each year. Participating libraries will pay annual participation fees that will go toward purchasing Overdrive content.

Twenty-four Nebraska libraries signed up to participate in the first year of the shared OverDrive collection, contributing just over \$28,000 to the project. Combined with the Library Commission's contribution, the group should be able to purchase around 1,000 digital audio books during its first year.

Libraries will receive posters, bookmarks and business cards, and logos to put on their Websites in addition to staff training.

Participating libraries include: Alliance Public Library; Beatrice

Public Library; Bellevue Public Library; Chadron Public Library; Columbus Public Library; Fremont's Keene Memorial Library; Gering Public Library; Grand Island Public Library; Gretna Public Library; Hastings Public Library; Hemingford Public Schools; Holdrege Area Public Library; Kearney Public Library; Norfolk Public Library; North Platte Public Library; Oakland Public Library; Ogallala's Goodall City Library; Scottsbluff Public Library; Scribner Public Library; Seward Memorial Library; South Sioux City Public Library; Superior Public Library; Wahoo Public Library; and West Point's John A. Stahl Library.

For more information about Nebraska's shared OverDrive collection, contact Shannon White; see contact information on page 5, or Susan Knisely; see contact information on page 7, or see the Library Commission's Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/pricing/overdrive.html.



Nebraska
OverDrive
Libraries

Download Audio Books

Browse a dynamic digital collection of audio books!
Check out and download best-selling titles to your PC, then
transfer to a portable device or burn some titles to CD and enjoy
anytime, anywhere.

my library, anytime

nebraska.lib.overdrive.com
powered by OverDrive

Updates from the Information Desk

Library Commission Creates Book Club Wiki

In support of book groups in Nebraska, the Library Commission has created a book club wiki that combines the titles of all Nebraska libraries willing to loan their book club kits, and provides the added benefit of allowing librarians to discuss with each other why a book is a good or bad choice for book club discussions. The result is that librarians can view in one place the more than eighty kits currently available for loan and share their book club opinions and experiences with their peers.

To browse the titles and obtain borrowing information, see nebookclub.pbwiki.com. A password is needed to add comments or a library's book club holdings. To receive a password call the Library Commission Reference Desk, 800-307-2665 or 402-471-4016.

To view book kits available from the Library Commission's collection, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html.



Ask A Librarian

Chat With a Librarian

Having trouble using the Library Commission's online catalog? Help is just a chat away. Since the Library Commission added chat to its services at www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/contactus.html, a chat option was added to specific locations where searchers may need help. A search of the online catalog at www.nlc.state.ne.us/m3 returns a chat box and users are able to chat live with a librarian for assistance during the hours the Library Commission is open. Chat with us anytime, we're happy to help!

Twittering from the Reference Desk

Library Commission reference staff receive some terrific questions from customers. About a year ago reference staff members began adding questions received to a Twitter page at http://twitter.com/NLC_Reference. This has been a great way to discuss sources among staff members on a regular basis and also could be a good tool to recruit folks to the world of reference librarianship.



For those unfamiliar with Twitter, it's a popular "microblogging" tool that allows users to write brief comments that can be viewed by anyone or by a restricted group (which can be chosen by the user). Text is limited to 140 characters, however, so library staff list just the questions (not answers) on their pages.

Rivkah Sass, director of Omaha Public Library, says of Twitter: "I adore Twitter. I love the short, sweet posts, and the fact that it allows me to post random thoughts—after I've seen a movie, during the news, etc."

Manya Shorr, also with Omaha Public Library, said she used Twitter for a couple of months while working on the reference desk at an Oregon library. "I don't think we keep very good reference statistics and some libraries don't keep them at all. I wanted to answer the question, 'What does a librarian do all day?'" She said she tried to record every patron interaction she had, reference question or not. "If every reference person in a library system was Twittering every interaction, it would give us a good idea of our level of service," she said.

Check out how other libraries are using Twitter—you may find an application that works well for your community. For more information see <http://twitter.com/>, <http://oedb.org/blogs/ilibrarian/2007/a-guide-to-twitter-in-libraries/>, or www.davidleeking.com/2007/05/09/twittering-libraries.

Ed. Note:

Library Commission staff Michael Sauers and Christa Burns will make a Twitter presentation at the April Computers in Libraries Conference in Crystal City, VA. ➡

Let's Make 2008 the Year of WiFi in Nebraska

by Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian

As I've traveled around this country, I've noticed more and more locations in which I can open my laptop and get a free wireless connection to the Internet. From a muffler shop in Salt Lake City, Utah, to the grocery store down the street from me here in Lincoln, to the Wendy's off I-80 in Holdrege, WiFi is becoming more ubiquitous every day. However, only about half of the public libraries I've ever walked into offer the same level of service. Well, when it comes to the public libraries here in Nebraska, I'd like to help change that.

I've set myself a goal for 2008. If you're a public library in the state of Nebraska and you don't yet offer your patrons a WiFi Internet connection, let me know. What we're looking to do is to offer, free of charge, the basic equipment and instructions necessary to offer this service to your patrons. The application process is not yet set up, but I promise, it'll be relatively painless. Also, I can't promise that your whole building will be covered (this will depend on many factors such as the size of the building and the materials it's made out of), but it'll allow you to say to your patrons, "Yes, we offer WiFi here!"

If your library doesn't currently offer WiFi to the public and would like to, send me an e-mail at msauers@nlc.state.ne.us with the subject "WiFi Nebraska 2008" and I'll get you on the list. Let's work toward getting every library WiFi-enabled by the end of the year. ➡

Study Shows Young Adults Use Libraries Most

Generation Y young adults (ages 18-29) are the heaviest users of public libraries for help in solving problems. And they appreciate the resources available there, especially access to computers and the Internet, according to a recent study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project and the University of Illinois.

The national survey looked at how people use a variety of information sources to address issues such as health concerns; making decisions about school enrollment or financing; tax matters; changing jobs or starting a business; or getting information about such programs as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The findings are in direct contrast to a study done in 1996 by the Benton Foundation which indicated that young adults in the 18-29 age group were least supportive of libraries and saw libraries as becoming less important in the future. Because Generation Y adults now are a key group of library users, many librarians believe that retaining their interest will be critical to the future of public libraries. Some libraries, for example, have accounts and characters online in Second Life. (To learn more about the Library Commission's presence in Second Life, see the Commission's Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Commission Blog in the left column and search on Second Life; scroll down to view entries.) Other libraries answer reference questions in MySpace. For more information about Library Commission activity in new technology/Web 2.0 activities, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/service/index.html

The survey results also show that Americans want and expect information about government programs to be available on the Internet. People have different preferences for dealing with government, however, depending on the issue they face. They prefer to use the Internet for information queries, but prefer to speak to someone directly when addressing more personal matters.

In the Benton survey the public saw libraries as appropriate for low-income, low-access computer users (defined as those with either dial-up or no home

(continued on page 12)

Nebraska Memories Goes on the Road

Libraries and museums now have an easier way to add images of Nebraska cultural heritage materials to Nebraska Memories at www.nebraskamemories.org, thanks to a \$2,300 grant to the Library Commission from the Nebraska State Records Board. The funds were used to purchase a laptop computer to accompany a portable scanner and storage drive for "Nebraska Memories on the Road," the newest phase of the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project, which is a cooperative effort to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials and make them available on the Internet. Original manuscripts, diaries, photographs, sheet music, maps, posters, movie film, and oral histories from the 1890s to the 1970s are among the materials included.

With "Nebraska Memories on the Road," Library Commission staff will make introductory visits to potential participants to explain participation requirements and assist with selection of materials. The new equipment will enable staff to make follow-


up visits to scan and complete metadata onsite.

Many institutions have collections of photos or documents that would greatly enhance Nebraska Memories. Lack of staff time, equipment, and expertise to scan and create metadata, or funds to outsource the work, can be a barrier to getting started with

a project. It may also be difficult to bring or send fragile materials elsewhere. This newest effort is expected to add to the collection that documents the rich history of Nebraska and its residents.

If your library or museum would like

to participate in the Nebraska Memories Project, call us and we will schedule a time to visit with you and your staff. This would be an opportunity to take a closer look at materials you would like to add and get answers to your questions about the process. After the initial visit we can schedule a time to bring the mobile scanning operation to your location.

For more information contact Shannon White, see contact information on page 5, or Beth Goble, see contact information on page 1. 




Albion Public Library, circa 1920s

Keller Appointed to Research Committee

Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, was appointed last year to the American Library Association Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS). The committee includes representatives from academic, public and state libraries, as well as ALA staff, and facilitates research and related activities for ALA, in particular those related to library statistics. The group met in Philadelphia during the ALA Midwinter Conference where plans were made to sponsor a program at the annual conference to be held in California, in June. It will focus on how qualitative research methods have been used to design new and renovated library spaces, with guest speakers from public and academic libraries.

In addition, the group discussed the ALA-CORS Research Series of publications. The series was established in 2006 through ALA Editions with the ALA Office for Research & Statistics as series editor. The group discussed the scope of the publications, their purpose, and publication details, as well as establishment of an editorial board.

Two publications have been released in the series: Rebecca Watson-Boone's *A Good Match* and *Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2006-2007*. For more information contact Kit Keller, Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us. 

Earn CE Credit with Free Teleconferences

The College of DuPage again this year is producing teleconferences on library development and policy issues that are available by satellite downlink and Webinar. The Library Commission has purchased a statewide license for Nebraska library staff to participate free of charge in the teleconferences.

The remaining teleconferences in the series are:

Soaring to Excellence: "Trends, Fads or Folly: Spotting the Library Trends That Really Matter"

Friday, April 11, 2008, 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Central Time



This program examines how popular trends are impacting libraries – and what libraries are or should be doing to integrate these trends into their services (e.g., gaming is an obvious activity that libraries are using to draw the younger generation into the library).

Library Challenges and Opportunities: "Tools of Engagement: Attracting and Engaging Library Users"

Friday, May 9, 2008, 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Central Time

What are the most creative libraries doing to engage current and potential users of the library? Join us as we explore great new ideas for reaching and engaging users and look at some results of users' involvement in shaping library services, programs, and spaces. This program will go beyond PR, to involving our various communities of users in shaping the libraries of the future.



Participants earn 1.5 continuing education credits per program—invite neighboring library staff, library board, and/or local community organizations to participate in the teleconference and related discussion and receive double CE credit for the event.

To register for these programs, see the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar at www.nlc.state.ne.us; click on Library Training in the left column and search on College of DuPage. Participants will receive an automatic e-mail about one week before the program giving Webcast URLs and satellite coordinates. Participants do **not** need to register with College of DuPage.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator; see contact information on page 6. ❖



Summer Reading Workshops Offer Programming Ideas

Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator Sally Snyder is conducting Summer Reading Program workshops around the state to introduce this year's theme—"Catch the Reading Bug." The 2008 teen theme is "Metamorphosis @ your library®".

Participants in these workshops, cosponsored by the Regional Library Systems, learn about best reads for teenagers and younger readers, and Marci Retzlaff from Norfolk Public Library shares ideas for storytime and lap-sit programs, and programming for older kids including crafts, reader's theater, games, songs, and activities. Nebraska children's librarians also have an opportunity to share ideas, tips, and tricks with the group.

All public libraries receive one copy of the summer reading program manual at no charge, and may purchase promotional materials. The Library Commission offers videos for check-out complementing the summer reading program theme. Using videos lends alternative formats to summer programs and may encourage reluctant readers to join in the fun. There is no charge for using the videos; libraries pay only return postage.

For more information about summer reading materials or to reserve videos, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/summerreading/srp.html.

To register for a workshop, see the Library Commission Website, Library Training, www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp, select All, search on Summer Reading.

For more information contact Sally Snyder; see contact information on page 2. ❖

Gates Foundation Grants Scheduled for 2009

Nebraska public libraries are slated to participate in the latest round of Gates Foundation grants in 2009. The "Opportunity Online" hardware grants are for public libraries serving communities with "high concentrations of poverty and at risk of having outdated technology." A local 25% match will be required and library staff will be expected to engage in advocacy training to help raise awareness in their community about their library's services and increase local support and funding for technology services.

In the U.S. to date, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has invested \$320 million in grants and other support to train thousands of library staff and install and sustain computers in public libraries

in all fifty states and U.S. territories. The Opportunity Online hardware grants are expected to be the last round of grants given by the foundation to support computer upgrades for U.S. public libraries with vulnerable technology.

Nebraska libraries had an excellent experience with the first round of Gates hardware grants and look forward to repeating the experience in 2009. As Library Commission staff learn more regarding the Gates funds for Nebraska public libraries, we will pass along the news.

For more information contact Shannon White; see contact information on page 5. ❖

Accreditation Enhances Public Library Services

Each year the Nebraska Library Commission processes accreditation renewals for about one-third of the state's accredited public libraries. In this same process, unaccredited libraries are invited to submit applications for accreditation. Accredited public libraries are eligible for direct state aid payments, and may apply for a variety of grants that can provide funds to enhance library programs and services.

As of October 2007, 170 public libraries met the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation* (available at www.nlc.state.ne.us/Statistics/accred.html). Of those, fifty-eight met the Enhanced Accreditation Guidelines, and sixteen met the Excellent Accreditation Guidelines. Achievement of these advanced levels translated into an additional \$33,100 in state aid payments for those libraries. And even more important, the achievement of those levels of accreditation indicates the availability of improved programs, services, and in some cases, funding, in Nebraska public libraries.

For more information contact Kit Keller; see contact information on page 10.



Study Shows Young Adults Use Libraries Most

(continued from page 10)

access), and libraries operated on the same idea, focusing on bridging the "digital divide" by providing computer access and training to people who do not have it. However, the Pew survey shows that while libraries have worked to become the place to go for those who cannot afford a computer or an Internet connection, people with high access are equally likely to turn to libraries for government information. Instead of making libraries less relevant, Internet use seems to create a hunger for information that libraries help satisfy. For more information see www.pewinternet.org and search on Pew Internet: Libraries Report.



More Libraries Receive 'Dollars for Data' Funds

In the three years since the Dollars for Data incentive payments began, the response rate to the annual public library statistical survey has increased, previously ineligible libraries have received direct state aid, and the aggregate data about Nebraska public libraries is more complete.

The Library Commission began Dollars for Data, a state aid grant program, in 2005. The \$250 payment is made to unaccredited public libraries that completed the annual public library statistical report, providing answers to at least all of the federal data elements on the report, using the Web-based survey provided through Bibliostat Collect™.

The purpose of this incentive program is to encourage more public libraries in Nebraska to submit their annual statistical data, which helps provide a more accurate picture of library services and funding in the state, and allows for more reasonable guideline expectations based on broader input from libraries of all sizes. Online provision of public library data is an important step in a library's ability to become accredited. Accredited libraries are eligible for a larger direct state aid payment, as well as for a variety of competitive grant programs offered throughout the year by the Library Commission.

The payments also allow smaller libraries to add equipment and materials they otherwise couldn't. **Betty Niewohner**, director of **Snyder Public Library**, says her library's Dollars for Data payment will be used to purchase a new computer. "This will be the first time a brand new computer has ever been bought for public use," she said. "The computers we have are from people who purchase a PC for their home and give us the old, which usually need lots of repairs. This will be a great improvement and should blend in nicely with our recently remodeled library."

In the first year of the program, twenty-seven libraries qualified and received the payment. During the following year, eight of those libraries were able to meet the accreditation guidelines. In 2006, the number of libraries receiving the Dollars for Data payment again was twenty-seven, but included eight libraries that had not qualified in 2005. In 2007, two additional libraries submitted statistics. In 2008, forty-five libraries received Dollars for Data payments. Of these, twenty-two of the libraries had not previously received the payment, and many submitted statistics online for the first time.

The goal, of course, is to have a 100% response rate for Nebraska, and Library Commission staff are always looking for other ways to encourage and assist libraries with data collection and reporting.

Libraries receiving 2008 Dollars for Data payments were:

Ansley Township Library
Arcadia Township Library
Arlington Public Library
Arthur County Library
Bartley Public Library
Bayard Public Library
Beaver City Public Library
Beaver Crossing Community Library
Benkelman, Dundy County Library
Big Springs Public Library
Bruning Public Library
Byron Public Library
Callaway, Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library
Carroll Public Library
Clearwater Public Library
Columbus Public Library
Culbertson Public Library
Dakota City Public Library
Davenport Public Library
Daykin Public Library
Farnam Public Library
Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
Harrison, Sioux County Public Library
Hay Springs, Cravath Memorial Library
Hayes Center Public Library
Lewellen Public Library
Louisville Public Library
Lynch Public Library
Mason City, Sunshine Township Library
Merna, Brenizer Public Library
Milligan Public Library
Minatare Public Library
North Loup Township Library
Oconto Public Library
Palisade Public Library
Palmyra Memorial Library
Plymouth Public Library
Potter Public Library
Rising City Community Library
Sargent Township Library
Snyder Public Library
Stratton Public Library
Sutherland Public Library
Wauneta Public Library
Wilsonville Public Library

For more information contact Kit Keller; see contact information on page 10.





Institute Brings Together Nebraska, Latin American Librarians

Even librarians from Latin America and ten from Nebraska participated in an international library leadership institute in Nebraska in October 2007. "Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community" was a joint project between the Nebraska Library Commission, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, and the Illinois State Library, with funding provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The project's aim was to bring together mid-career librarians from the United States and foreign countries to explore commonalities and differences, and to teach leadership skills. Participants addressed issues of concern (such as preservation and technology) to improve and enhance skills and their ability to work with colleagues from other countries and cultures in addressing common challenges.

Librarians from Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, and El Salvador gathered with Nebraska librarians to learn cross-cultural communication strategies, develop an understanding of librarianship and the world community, focus on leadership issues affecting librarians regardless of country, and build global professional relationships.

The group spent two days in Lincoln participating in sessions led by Library

Commission Technology Innovation Librarian Michael Sauers; Kathryn J. Deiss from the Association of College and Research Libraries; Mary Ann Mavrinac, chief librarian at the University of Toronto at Mississauga; and Clara Budnik, Executive Director of the Democracy and Development Foundation in Santiago, Chile. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Love Library director Joan Giesecke and staff hosted a tour and library services presentation.

Following activities in Lincoln, the group traveled to Kearney to attend the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) annual conference where the international librarians led a program session with information about libraries in their home countries. While in Nebraska the international visitors toured Boys Town in Omaha, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Love Library, and Stuhr Museum in Grand Island.

A result of the Institute was formation of international work teams. **Steve Fosselman**, director of **Grand Island Public Library**, reported that his team has ventured into the brave new world of MySpace to collaborate on leadership in teen services.

For more information about the activities and participants, see the institute wiki, <http://thinkout.pb.wiki.com>. ➔

"After spending a few days with Central and South American colleagues, I was left with two strong impressions. Librarians have a strong finger on the pulse of their countries. They understand well the cultural and political nuances impacting good library services. In addition, size doesn't have to matter—libraries are all about service. Fine librarians worldwide are astute at recognizing the services needed by their clientele and pursuing a method for meeting the need.

"Thinking Outside the Borders' proved to be a refreshing reminder that the world can be both big and small at the same time. The physical distances may be great, but within a profession, the issues are very similar." — Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

"I look forward to my continuing association with these wonderful international librarians and who knows, maybe someday we will meet again but in the meantime they hold a special place in my heart!" — Steve Fosselman, Director, Grand Island Public Library

"I enjoyed spending time with librarians from other cultures and gaining a feel for how libraries are viewed in other cultures. This can be helpful when assisting recent immigrants to the United States in understanding what their expectations of us may be so we can better meet their needs." — Jodene Glaesemann, Branch Supervisor, Bess Dodson Walt Branch, Lincoln City Libraries



Is It Spring Career Fair Time at Your School?

When students are thinking about careers, do they entertain the idea of becoming a librarian/media specialist? We are looking for librarians, media specialists, career counselors, library supporters, and others who would like to staff exhibits at local career fairs to help young people think of library careers when they plan for their future.

The Nebraska Library Commission project, "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies," is funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services *Librarians for the 21st Century* initiative to increase the number of qualified professionals and recruit future librarians for employment in Nebraska libraries. It is designed to attract promising high school and college students to the profession.

If you would like to help with this effort, contact the Nebraska Library Commission now to reserve a recruiting kit. The kit includes everything needed to set up a display at a career fair: a poster with tear-off return cards and tripod, print materials, and a DVD of a sixty-second PSA that can be played on a laptop continuous loop. For information or to reserve a recruiting kit, contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Research Analyst, 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: jfelton@nlc.state.ne.us.

What is **LibraryThing**

by Kit Keller,
Nebraska Library Commission
Planning and Data Services Coordinator

Here's how LibraryThing (www.librarything.com) is described on its "About" Web page:

LibraryThing is an online service to help people catalog their books easily. You can access your catalog from anywhere—even on your mobile phone. Because everyone catalogs together, LibraryThing also connects people with the same books, comes up with suggestions for what to read next, and so forth.

When I first read about this online "catalog" for books I was less than interested. I'd heard some of the terms used—tagging, folksonomy, thingology, clouds. Really, I hadn't heard anything that described for me what it is, and how it can be used. Then at the American Library Association conference last June I attended a session where one of the presenters was Tim Spalding, creator of LibraryThing. He was part of a three-person panel discussion, and was clearly the draw for this crowd of several hundred people. As he described LibraryThing, and showed screen shots of the Website, I began to imagine a lot of ways this would be useful.

LibraryThing seems to be the library catalog equivalent of Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org). People contribute their own catalog terms (tags) and the words used for this are "in their own words" (folksonomy). "Folksonomy" is described (in Wikipedia) as "the practice and method of collaboratively creating

and managing tags to annotate and categorize content."

One immediate use I thought of was to list in LibraryThing the books I read for our weekly radio show on community radio. The show, "BookTalk," airs at 6:30 P.M. (CT) on KZUM (89.3 FM), and also is available live through Web-streaming audio at www.kzum.org. I've participated in this show since 1996, and over those years we've talked about hundreds of books and interviewed many authors. So that evening I created "my library" in LibraryThing. I started listing the books I had read most recently; adding books is a pretty easy process. I've never looked for a book in LibraryThing that wasn't already there—even a really obscure family history. I experimented with adding some tags (descriptions), but mostly I just added titles as I finished a book. This created a very handy way to view books I've recently read, along with some annotations and pictures of the covers. I can select books from the list for our radio program, and when friends and family ask "What are you reading? What's good?" I just point them to my LibraryThing collection:

www.librarything.com/catalog/kitkeller.

Explore this handy tool and I think you'll find it's easy to use and very cool. There are many other aspects—finding people who read like I read, for one. As creator Tim Spalding says, "If the buzz page doesn't convince you, you cannot be convinced. Go away."

For more information contact Kit Keller; see contact information on page 10.

Motion Picture License Renewed

The Nebraska Library Commission has again funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries. With this license, through Movie Licensing USA, Inc., motion pictures may be shown as part of library services and program-

ming in libraries through September 30, 2008.

For more information, contact Sally Snyder; see contact information on page 2 or see www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/motionpicture.html.

E-Rate 101

What is E-rate? It's the term used to describe the Universal Service Fund Telecommunications Discount program, which provides discounts to help schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. Discounted telecommunications rates for libraries and K-12 schools became available when President Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in which schools and libraries were designated as universal service providers.

What services are covered by the E-rate discount? Schools and libraries are eligible to apply for discounts of 20% to 90% on a number of telecommunications services. The discounts may be applied to services such as telephone lines, Internet access, and basic maintenance of eligible equipment, as well as internal connections including network cabling, hubs, routers, or servers.

How is the level of discount determined? It's determined by the percentage of students eligible for either a free or reduced price lunch under the national school lunch program. Schools need not participate in the national school lunch program to receive the E-rate discount.

How does the process work? Briefly, there are seven steps involved in obtaining the E-rate discount:

- A school or library develops a technology plan (see accompanying article)
- School or library files FCC form 470
- School or library selects a service provider
- School or library files FCC form 471
- Universal Service Administrative Company reviews the request and

issues funding commitment decision letters to the school or library and the service provider

- School or library files FCC form 486
- Universal Service Administrative Company reimburses the service provider for the discount portion

What is a technology plan? The technology plan specifies how schools and libraries plan to integrate the use of the technologies into their curriculum and activities. It should include the quantity, type, and timetable for acquiring hardware, software training, maintenance, and other infrastructure components. The plans must receive independent approval. The Nebraska Library Commission is the certified approval entity for Nebraska libraries.

How do I write a technology plan?

There are many resources available to help librarians write a technology plan. See the Library Development Services page on the Library Commission Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/erate/universal.html and the accompanying article on technology planning assistance.

How do I file the required forms?

The forms may be filed on paper or online. The Library Commission recommends that libraries complete and file the forms online because changes can be made easily and are automatically saved on the site. To file forms electronically, see www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp and click on the "Create Form" option.

For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us.

TechAtlas Helps with Technology Planning

WebJunction (www.webjunction.org/) provides useful tools through TechAtlas (<http://webjunction.techatlas.org>) that guide libraries in completing the required elements of a technology plan. Included are articles such as, "Building a Technology Team," and "Practical Steps for Creating a Library Technology Plan." The TechAtlas tool walks you through all of the steps required to create a plan, provides an interactive tutorial for creating the elements, and saves your work in a database from which you can assemble your plan.

Once you're logged into *TechAtlas*, select the *Envision* tab for help in assembling a planning team and establishing a mission statement, vision, goals, and objectives. The *Survey* section leads you through a technology assessment process to evaluate the condition of computer hardware and software, staff and public training needs, and computer security. If you don't have an *Inventory* of your technology resources, this tab will provide the tools needed to create a database of computers, peripherals, software licenses, even online subscriptions. A technology plan must include information about financial resources, and the *Budget* section helps identify funding sources and assign amounts to each objective listed earlier. Finally, once all of the required elements of the plan have been entered, you can review the plan online, e-mail a copy to your technology team for review, or download a copy for editing or printing.

TechAtlas is a great way to start preparing a technology plan and also to keep it up-to-date as objectives change. And, whether a library is applying for E-rate discounts or not, a technology plan can be a valuable guide for planning services and a useful support document when applying for grants that involve technology. For more information contact John Felton; see contact information on page 14.



A Wii tournament brought together members of the Grand Island Public Library teen group and residents of the Grand Island Veterans Home for "Wii-hab."

Get Your Game On! The Why and How of Gaming in Libraries

Don't know much about gaming, but want to know how it can benefit libraries? Not sure what kinds of services your library could offer (especially on a limited budget)? Are you an avid gamer who would like to offer services but you need help convincing others? Just want to hear what other libraries are doing?

The Nebraska Library Commission is offering a daylong workshop on gamers and how gaming can be used in the library on April 17 in Lincoln. There currently is a waiting list, but those interested in attending are encouraged to add their names to the list.

Gaming has tremendous potential for libraries to reach out to new users, offer new services, and help complement efforts in community-building, information literacy, and other areas.

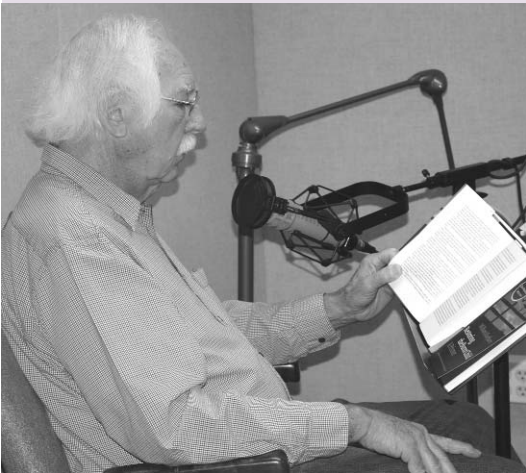
In addition to presentations by Library Commission staff members Christa Burns, Michael Sauers, and Susan Knisely, librarians from around Nebraska will share how they are using gaming to attract and retain their

library users. The panel includes Karen Choy from Keene Memorial Library in Fremont; Julie Humphrey, Walt Branch Library, Lincoln City Libraries; and Janice Rihn from Grand Island Veterans Home Library.

Participants will be able to try out some of the games, including Wii Sports–Tennis, Baseball, Golf, Bowling, and Boxing; Dance Dance Revolution–PlayStation 2; Guitar Hero III–Xbox 360; and Rock Band–PlayStation 2. The workshop will end with the chance to win prizes in a gaming mini-tournament.

After evaluating the first workshop, the Library Commission plans to offer this workshop in other locations around the state. Dates and locations will be announced later.

To join the waiting list, see the Library Commission's Website at www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Library Training in the left column and search on "Get Your Game On." For more information contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission OCLC Member Services Librarian, 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: cburns@nlc.state.ne.us. ➡



State Poet Bill Kloefkorn records *Restoring the Burnt Child* at the Nebraska Library Commission studios.

2008 One Book One Nebraska Under Way *(continued from page 3)*

The site also includes information about how to schedule Kloefkorn for an event in your community and how to apply for funding from the Nebraska Humanities Council for the author to present the program, *O the Stories We Tell: Did That Really Happen?* See www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/speakersindex.html and www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/hrceligibility.html for application and eligibility requirements.

Nebraska librarians pointed out the importance of audio and large-print versions of the book and the University of Nebraska Press graciously granted permission for the Nebraska Library Commission to reproduce the book in audio CD and large-print manuscript formats. These formats will be available for loan only through Nebraska libraries and only in 2008. Reproduction or copying of the book on CD or in large print is expressly forbidden. Nebraska libraries can borrow the book in these alternate formats by contacting the Reference/Information Desk at the Library Commission, 800-307-2665,

402-471-4016, e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us or the Regional Library Systems. Nebraska public and academic libraries can e-mail: jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us to order a copy of the book on CD and/or the large-print version for the library collection. The book on CD and the large-print manuscript are free of charge to libraries, but must be returned to the Nebraska Library Commission at the end of 2008.

One Book One Nebraska 2008 is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press. Local libraries and other cultural organizations are participating in One Book One Nebraska events throughout 2008. A lively discussion is under way on the Nebraska Library Commission Blog. Join the discussion and post your comments at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/books_reading, posting titled "What tools would help libraries take advantage of the One Book One State opportunity?" ➡



Library Commission Pioneers Publishing Effort

Did you know that in February the Nebraska Library Commission launched a project to catalog and digitally preserve Creative Commons-licensed works? In some cases we have also created and cataloged print versions. So far the response has been amazing, even making it to www.BoingBoing.net (the fifth most popular blog on the Internet according to Technorati). This is expected to generate a lot of traffic to the Library Commission Website and word-of-mouth both in- and outside of the library world.

To find out more about this project, check out the Library Commission and BoingBoing posts through the links at www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/2008/02/nlc_tries_creative_commons_1.html

and www.boingboing.net/2008/02/20/library-starts-to-in.html.

Creative Commons issues licenses allowing copyright holders to grant some or all of their rights to the public while retaining other rights. The intention is to avoid the problems copyright laws create for the sharing of information. To learn more about Creative Commons, see its Website at <http://creativecommons.org/>.

For more information about the Library Commission's project, contact Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian at 402-471-3106 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: msauers@nlc.state.ne.us.

Comments across a variety of blogs include:

"Warms the cockles of my heart!"
...Cory Doctorow

"This is truly a public service! Many thanks for taking the initiative."
...Milton Wolfe

"With the recent debates over copyright and intellectual property management, Creative Commons licenses have cropped up as a way for original content creators to share their pieces with the rest of the world via the Web. It looks like a pioneering state library in Nebraska is sharing CC books through

their Website, and even printing some copies when the license allows."
...Monica

"That's a fantastic idea. So obvious when someone else does it first. I've just asked our library (Emory University) to do the same with Cory's and Lessig's CC-licensed books."
...Jazzmodeus

"Congratulations to the Nebraska Library Commission for spearheading an initiative to add Creative Commons-licensed book editions to the library collection."
...Timothy Vollmer

O'Neill Public Library Goes to Scotland

(continued from page 3)

permission. Another Google search led me to the teen-gear review of the book by Brian Farrey on Teenreads.com. Luckily his e-mail address was provided at the bottom of the review. I dashed off an e-mail to Brian for reprint permission, which he granted, but included in his reply that I also needed the permission of his editor, Tom Donadio. In the matter of a few days I heard back from Tom, permission granted!

I thought back on my reading of *The Book Thief*. I wondered how much the teens would know about the time period in which the characters live. Googling "Hitler Youth" took me to The Kevin Morrison Collection at the Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland. What a wonderful resource! The Kevin Morrison Collection contains numerous items relating to Nazi Germany and World War II. One of my favorites is a booklet titled *How to Care for Your Dog and Cat during Wartime*, by Bob Martin. I began an e-mail correspondence with Kevin Morrison and John Powles, Research Collections Managers at Glasgow Caledonian University. I cannot describe just how nice and helpful they have been in supplying information and photographs for our blog. Kevin asked if he could post a news item about our library on his news page. This is how O'Neill Public Library ended up in Scotland. Visit us there at www.gcal.ac.uk/specialcollections/collections/morrison/news.html. While you're there, be sure to have a look around The Kevin Morrison Collection. It is amazing!

Ed. Note:

Contact Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, 402-471-3106 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: msauers@nlc.state.ne.us, to schedule the "I Blog, You Blog, Weblog" workshop on how to create a Blog in your area.

Nebraska Library Commission Profiles

Governor Names New Commissioner

Gov. Dave Heineman has appointed **Charles Gordon** of Fremont to a three-year term on the Nebraska Library Commission, replacing Velma Sims-Shipley who completed two terms on the Commission in October 2007.

A retired high school Social Studies teacher of thirty-one years, Gordon has served on Fremont's Keene Memorial Public Library board of trustees since

1995. He is a recent past-chair of the Nebraska Library Association's Trustees, Users & Friends Section.

One interest during his term as Library Commissioner will be librarian recruitment.

"I am very interested

in promoting libraries to the people of Nebraska and in seeing programs that will encourage young people to seek library science as a vocation," he said.

Gordon was born in Illinois and lived in Colorado before earning an undergraduate degree from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont and a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Stamp collecting, poetry, classical music, collecting baseball memorabilia, and traveling are some of his preferred pastimes. He just finished reading Ted Kooser's book on valentines and is reading *Above the River*, the collection of poems of James Wright, and *The Music Lover's Poetry Anthology*.

Along with his professional teaching career, Gordon has been active on the Presbyterian Church board, served as president of the Nebraska Alumni Association Fremont Chapter, and served as president of the UNL Cooperative Extension Board of Dodge County.

He received the Community Builders Award in Fremont, twice received the Cooper Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, and was named Fremont Cosmopolitan of the Year in 1997, 1999, and 2007.



Research Analyst Joins Library Commission

John Felton joined the Library Commission in January as Research Analyst, working largely with the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)

Librarians for the 21st Century grant,

which entails conducting recruitment activities, reviewing scholarship applications, mentoring, and producing reports on grant

outcomes. He also assists with reviewing public library statistical surveys and Library Improvement grants. With a significant number of U.S. librarians expected to retire in the next ten years, John says, "I hope that I can play a part, in Nebraska at least, in replenishing those numbers by recruiting new librarians. I also want to use my three decades of library experience to assist newer members of the profession."

Before joining the Library Commission staff, John worked for Lincoln City Libraries for thirty-two years. He started in the reference department and later became Coordinator of Adult Services, a role that eventually expanded to include Reference and then Film Services as well. He was co-chair of the committee that investigated converting to an automated library system and after they purchased a system, the role of co-system manager was added to his position. His role changed again in 1991 when he became Coordinator of Information Services & Technology.

John has been a member of the Nebraska Library Association for thirty-three years, and served as editor of the *Nebraska Library Association Quarterly* for three years. He received his MLS from Emporia State University and a BA in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In his personal life, "I list reading, tinkering with computers and wood-working as my hobbies, but it seems I spend a lot of time fixing things around the house instead," said John. "I love



coffee and the process of making coffee, as evidenced by my obsession with trying every possible method of brewing it," he said. He loves reading mysteries and science fiction, but says some notable non-fiction books he has read include *The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell, *The World is Flat*, by Thomas Friedman, and *The World Without Us*, by Alan Weisman. Right now, he's reading *Accelerando*, by Charles Stross.

TBBS Hires Readers Advisor

Anna Walter began work as Readers Advisor with the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service in early March. A Nebraska native, Anna graduated from Cornell College in Iowa with a major in English and a minor in Art History. Her MLS is from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Anna was introduced to the library field as an eighth grade library assistant at Lefler Middle School in Lincoln.

Libraries resurfaced in her job path in college when she worked as a circulation clerk for Cornell's Cole Library. She said it was the experience there that encouraged her to pursue librarianship as a career. After toying with Archival Science, doing volunteer work at the Nebraska State Historical Society and Love Libraries Special Collections and then working at the Indiana University Archives, she realized "my true love would always be libraries."

She spent time in Costa Rica during college and has traveled through Western Europe twice, been to Canada several times, and been to twenty of the fifty U.S. states. "As you can tell, I enjoy getting around, but still like to come home," said Anna.

Literary endeavors and cinematography are major interests, she said. "I blushingly admit to being an Internet addict," she said. "I spend most of my free time surfing the 'Net and connecting with the online community." She has a keen interest in online literary efforts at fanfiction sites




(continued on page 19)


News of Nebraska Libraries and People

where she reads, writes, and reviews submissions on favorite works, particularly *The Lord of the Rings*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and the Harry Potter books.

"I am also passionate about conservation and environmental issues, and will probably express my opinions on the subject at some point to anyone with whom I spend a long enough amount of time," she said, "although I have never been one to post my political opinions on a blog."

For leisurely reading, Anna prefers primarily romance and suspense fiction. Some of her recommendations include *Blood Red*, a paranormal romantic suspense novel by Heather Graham, plus some of the earlier books in that series. Also *A Rather Lovely Inheritance* by C.A. Belmont, which she called "clever and understated." She also rereads classic fiction for fun, most recently Shakespeare's plays. And, she said, she is slowly working her way through *Starship Troopers*, by Robert A. Heinlein and *The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Superhero*, a biography by William Kalush and Larry Sloman.

Of her new position at the Library Commission, Anna said: "Working closely with patrons and providing a valuable service to the community is something to which I am particularly looking forward. I hope that we will be able to make a difference together." 

- **New Library Directors** include: Axtell Public Library, **Janice Soderquist**; Blair, Dana College Library, **Tom Nielsen**; Broadwater Public Library, **Naomi Loxterkamp**; Elkhorn, Metropolitan Community College, **Lisa Anderson**; Fairfield Public Library, **Melissa Whitefoot**; Friend, Gilbert Public Library, **Jackie Larsen**; Gardner Public Library, **Kathy Muller**; Grant, Hastings Memorial Library, **Jody Snogren**; Madison Public Library, **Carol Kielty**; Morrill Public Library, **Lori Hartman**; Ogallala, Goodall City Library, **Kendra Caskey**; Red Cloud Public Library, **Nancy Sherwood**; Scottsbluff, Summit Christian College Library, **Jennifer Powell**; Seward, Concordia University Link Library, **Philip Hendrickson**; Sutton Public Library, **Shelly Reed**; Talmage Public Library, **Vicki Densberger**; and Taylor Public Library, **Elaine Nekuda**.
- Congratulations **Tami Works**, for twenty-five years of service at the Nebraska Library Commission as a talking book narrator, and for receiving a Library Legislative Day Volunteer Award at the Nebraska Library Association legislative luncheon in February. See photos at www.flickr.com/photos/librarycommission/, click on the legislative day set.
- The **University of Nebraska at Omaha Library Science Education Program** was awarded the Chancellor's Strategic Planning Award for Student Focus. **Dr. R.J. Pasco** accepted the award on behalf of faculty, students, and administrators.
- **Karen Schneider**, who writes the blog at <http://freerangelibrarian.com>, recently posted this comment about the **Nebraska Library Commission Recruitment PSA**: "This is heads and shoulders above most library videos. Stereotype-busting without falling into the trap of creating stereotypes!"
- **Jim Bothmer**, director of **Creighton University Medical Center Health Sciences Library**, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries.
- **John Felton** was recently appointed Research Analyst with the **Nebraska Library Commission** and **Anna Walter** was appointed to a Readers Advisor position with the **Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service**. Welcome Anna and John!
- **Stephen Francoeur**, Baruch College, shared the **Nebraska Library Commission Ask a Librarian Web page** in his slide show presented at the ALA Midwinter Conference (January 2008). It highlights the Twitter feed of Recently Asked Questions at the Library Commission Reference Desk. The page is posted on slide #12 at www.slideshare.net/stephenfrancoeur/social-networking-sites-and-reference-services.
- **Marie Reidelbach**, associate director of the University of Nebraska Medical Center **McGoogan Library of Medicine** presented Fremont's **Keene Memorial Library** with the first "Go Local Nebraska Recognition Award" for their work on the comprehensive listing of Fremont community health services in the Go Local Nebraska database <http://medlineplus.gov/Nebraska>.
- **North Platte Public Library** recently celebrated its library renovation project with a "**Grand Reopening**." The day-long celebration featured a ribbon-cutting, storytimes, luncheon, Teen Café, raffle, and tours.
- The **Reta E. King Library at Chadron State College** is one of seven libraries across the U.S. to host the *Louis and Clark and the Indian Country* traveling exhibit in 2008. This exhibition, sponsored by the American Library Association, will be at the library until April 18. For more information see www.csc.edu/library.
- The American Library Association offers tools to help libraries promote **National Library Week, April 13-19, 2008**. Join the Circle of Knowledge @ your library@ materials (including PSAs featuring Julie Andrews) are available at www.ala.org/ala/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.htm. 

Customers Benefit From NebrasKard Reciprocal Borrowing

In July 2001, the Library Commission initiated the voluntary NebrasKard reciprocal borrowing arrangement for Nebraska libraries, through which participating public and academic libraries can permit registered borrowers in good standing to borrow materials from other participating libraries across the state. Nebraska libraries have a long history of sharing resources for mutual benefit and to meet the needs and interests of their users. The NebrasKard program is an extension of those cooperative resource-sharing efforts.

NebrasKard is designed to benefit library customers who need the convenience of borrowing materials from libraries outside their home communities. Libraries report that many of these individuals either do not have library service in their own community, or that they work, shop, or attend school outside their home community. In 2007, Nebraska libraries reported 956 cards issued—either small keychain cards or stickers



for the customers' home library cards. Circulation ranged from one library reporting yearly circulation of more than 4,500 items to another reporting only six items circulated.

For more information about the NebrasKard program, including the policies and procedures, frequently asked questions, and a list of participating libraries, see the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on NebrasKard. Contact Maria Medrano-Nehls, 402-471-4008 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us to order keychain tags, stickers, and bookmarks. ➡

Local Library Staff Comment about NebrasKard:

"A very great asset to this library—makes the larger libraries in the shopping/working magnet community twenty miles away accessible to my resident patrons and to the non-resident patrons unserved by any other library."

"I think it has been a great thing for us...Great Service!"

"It is very positively received by people who use it. Many of those are "big" users, often families."

"The circulation due to NebrasKard users isn't huge, it doesn't create any problems, and it's very worthwhile in providing access to the people who use it."



Nebraska Library Commission

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