



NLC *ommunicator*

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Timely information from the Nebraska Library Commission

[Announcements]

Devra Dragos has been appointed **Nebraska Library Commission Network Services/NEBASE Director**. Devra's responsibilities include providing leadership in the development, promotion, and delivery of a number of statewide technology programs, and directing NEBASE, the state-based OCLC regional service provider for Nebraska that provides delivery of OCLC products and services to member libraries. **John Felton** has been appointed to the **Nebraska Library Commission's Planning and Data Services Coordinator** position. John's responsibilities include coordination of statewide library data collection, analysis, and submission and provision of information and data in support of the Library Commission's administrative, planning and evaluation activities. Congratulations John and Devra.

Nebraska Library Commission members held the annual election of officers. **Mary Nelson** was elected Chair of the Library Commission and **John Dale** was elected Vice-Chair. **Jean Ahrens, Patrick Gross, Charles Gordon,** and **Carol Spencer** continue to serve on the Commission. The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is September 10, 9:30 A.M. CT, at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln.

Susan Knisely has been chosen the Library Commission's **2008 Employee of the Year**. Susan's nomination recognizes her dedication and effective working relationships with her teammates and librarians across Nebraska. Susan's exemplary

work on several statewide projects was mentioned in her nomination. Congratulations Susan.

Nebraska public libraries currently without wireless Internet access are invited to apply through the Nebraska Library Commission for a **WiFi Connectivity Equipment Grant**, funded by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. A WiFi router and laptop computer will be provided to successful applicants, to enable them to provide wireless Internet access to their customers in the library. Application materials will be e-mailed to public libraries and information will be available on the Nebraska Library Commission blog, www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/index.html. Contact Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, 402-471-3106, 800-307-2665, msauers@nlc.state.ne.us.

Join us for the **NEBASE Annual Meeting—East** at the Cornhusker Marriot Hotel in Lincoln on **August 12**. The Keynote Speaker this year is Michael Porter, Interactive Strategy Manager from WebJunction. He will speak on "From Science Fiction to Library Science: Info, Interface, Technology and Your Libraries' Future." To register, click on Library Training at the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on NEBASE Annual Meeting.

The Nebraska Library Commission will offer **workshops** during the week of August 18 for library-initiated, community teams that want to learn to use **Return on Investment (ROI)** information as a communication and development tool. Keith Curry Lance, Consultant with the RSL Research Group in

[Announcements]



Denver will train library/community teams:

- August 18—Keene Memorial Library, Fremont
- August 19—Grand Island Public Library
- August 20—Norfolk Public Library
- August 22—Scottsbluff Public Library

To register your library team, click on Library Training at the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on ROI. For more information see the Library Commission's ROI for Public Libraries Wiki, www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/roi4libraries or contact John Felton, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, jfelton@nlc.state.ne.us.

Sign up to join the **Nebraska OverDrive Libraries** group by August 29 to offer your customers access to a variety of fiction and non-fiction, adult and children's audiobooks—currently 700+ titles and continually growing. For more information about subscription year October 2008–September 2009, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/N3/2008/06/join_the_nebraska_overdrive_libraries.html or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, sknisely@nlc.state.ne.us.

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Connectivity Upgrade Grants** to ten Nebraska public libraries. These libraries currently have either no Internet access or dial-up access. The libraries will receive computer equipment and funding

for wiring, labor, and connectivity for two years. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us.

The Nebraska Library Commission and members of the **Open Source ILS Task Force** are seeking libraries to volunteer to participate in pilot open source integrated library system (ILS) project. For more information contact Susan Knisely, see contact information above.

Application materials for **Youth Grants for Excellence** will be available August 15 on the Nebraska Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsabout.html. Grants will be awarded for innovative projects for children and young adults in public libraries. This funding is available for accredited public libraries, accredited public libraries in conjunction with recognized community organizations or agencies where the public library is the lead entity, groups of public libraries, regional library systems, consortia of public libraries, and state-run institutional libraries. Completed applications are due October 10. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us.

WebJunction and Technology Planning overview sessions for public libraries will be presented by the Nebraska Library Commission across the state this fall. WebJunction (www.webjunction.org/) is an online community where library staff meet to share ideas, solve problems, and take online courses. These day-long sessions will be held:

- September 9—Lincoln
- September 11—Kearney
- September 23—Norfolk
- September 25—Scottsbluff

To register, click on Library Training

[Announcements] **[continued]**

at the Library Commission's Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on Web Junction and Technology Planning. For more information contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission OCLC Member Services Coordinator 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665, cburns@nlc.state.ne.us.

Twenty-seven Nebraska undergraduate and graduate students were awarded **Nebraska Library Commission scholarships** this summer. The scholarships are supported by a grant funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) *Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program* and designed to help recruit and educate the next generation of Nebraska librarians. Due to state and federal funding considerations, **master's-level scholarships will not be funded in Fall 2008**. Future scholarship rounds may be limited until additional funding can be identified in 2009. For more information see www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org.

The **Republican Valley Library System**, headquartered in Hastings, is seeking a new director. Former director Sherry Houston is moving to the Omaha area to work as a school library media specialist. Details on the position and application information are available on the Library Commission's Now Hiring Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/jobbank/JobShow.asp?JobID=1204.

If you wonder what sorts of questions are fielded by the Library Commission's reference staff, find out in nearly real-time by checking out the **Commission's Reference Department Twitter account**, http://twitter.com/NLC_Reference. Questions are posted as they are answered, but answers are not supplied. Customer identification

information is not posted to protect confidentiality. Twitter is a free service that helps people stay connected by posting short messages via the Web, phone, or Instant Messaging.

The **2008 Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) conference** is set for **October 15-17** in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The theme is *Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age*. Information about the conference is available at the Conference Website, www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html. Information about the reception on Wednesday, October 15, 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the International Quilt Museum is available at www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/Quilt_Museum_Gala.pdf. For more information contact NLA Executive Director/Conference Secretary Kathy Thomson, 308-324-2151, katet323@msn.com.

The **2008 Nebraska Book Festival**, scheduled for **October 17-18**, will be held in downtown Lincoln. The Nebraska Book Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Secretary of State, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information see www.unl.edu/NCB/current_festival.html or contact Michael Cartwright, 402-471-4006, 800-307-2665, mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us.

Would you like to **receive this newsletter as a link in an e-mail**? In order to curb our rising postage costs, the Nebraska Library Commission would like to e-mail *NLCommunicator* to our customers that would prefer to receive it electronically. If you would like to receive your copy of subsequent *NLCommunicators* via e-mail, please e-mail Maria Medrano-Nehls, mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us.

[Blog]



Join the conversation on the **Library Commission Blog**, see www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC for more details and further discussion about:

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- ***From Awareness to Funding: A study of library support in America.*** OCLC was awarded a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to explore attitudes and perceptions about library funding and to evaluate the potential of a large-scale marketing and advocacy campaign to increase public library funding...latest OCLC report, *From Awareness to Funding: A study of library support in America.*

 - **“Pimp My Bookcart” Contest On.** Unleash teen creativity and win a new Smith System book truck!... Decorate a book truck and send a picture of your library ride to *Unshelved* by October 31.

 - **NLC gets more Twitter press.** *School Library Journal* has published a great introductory article to Twitter. The Commission’s first Twitter stream gets a mention under the heading of “Those Tweeting Libraries.”

 - **FREE! *Education of a Wandering Man.*** As part of the centennial Louis L’Amour celebration, Bantam is giving away hardcover editions of L’Amour’s *Education of a Wandering Man.*

 - ***See to Reader Now Available to Nebraska Public Libraries.*** ...highlight the resources offered to Nebraska’s young people through their local libraries, with the understanding of how healthy eyes are vital to the ultimate benefits of reading.

 - **Apply by September 19 to host “Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery.”** Are Nebraska libraries good sites for a traveling exhibit designed to create awareness of astronomy’s contributions to society and culture, stimulate young people’s interest in astronomy and science...

 - **Is Fall Career Fair Time in your Community?** ...We are looking for librarians, media specialists, career counselors, library supporters, and others who would like to staff exhibits at local career fairs...

[Training]

Class	Date: Location
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 1: eLibrary	Aug. 8: Kearney
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 2: BIP & Fiction Connection	Aug. 8: Kearney
● NEBASE Annual Meeting 2008- East	Aug. 12: Lincoln
● Assigning Library of Congress Call Numbers	Aug. 14: Lincoln
● Return on Investment (ROI) Training for Library Community Teams	Aug. 18: Fremont
● Return on Investment (ROI) Training for Library Community Teams	Aug. 19: Grand Island
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 1: eLibrary	Aug. 20: Elkhorn
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 2: BIP & Fiction Connection	Aug. 20: Elkhorn
● Return on Investment (ROI) Training for Library Community Teams	Aug. 20: Norfolk
● Understanding MARC 21 Bibliographic Records	Aug. 22: North Platte
● Return on Investment (ROI) Training for Library Community Teams	Aug. 22: Scottsbluff
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 1: eLibrary	Aug. 27: Lincoln
● Database Roadshow 2008- Part 2: BIP & Fiction Connection	Aug. 27: Lincoln
● Understanding MARC 21 Bibliographic Records- Day 2	Aug. 29: North Platte
● NEBASE Hour	Sept. 3: Online Session

**Click on Library Training on the Nebraska Library
Commission Website for more Fall training events**

Continuing Education (CE) Credits for the above training events are issued by the Nebraska Library Commission as part of the Nebraska Public Librarian and Board Certification Program.

For more information about any of the above training events or to register, see the Nebraska Library Commission Training Portal, on the Library Commission Website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, click on Library Training.

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Nebraska Library Commission

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September is Library Card Month.
See Announcements, www.nl.c.state.ne.us



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