

Nebraska Public Library Commission

Lincoln, 10 Ap. 1903.

To trustees of Nebraska libraries:-

I am forwarding to your library some announcements of the several library summer schools and training classes. You will find these announcements in the custody of your librarian, who is requested to preserve them for your perusal.

There are a number of these summer schools for librarians that can be recommended to you as doing excellent work. You will notice that the library commissions of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin conduct training classes for the benefit of the librarians of their respective states. Applicants from other states will be received if there is room after their own people are provided for, and I am now corresponding with these commissions with reference to admitting Nebraska candidates. Only persons holding library positions or under appointment to such positions are eligible to these classes. The work is not offered as a substitute for a thorough training, or as a short cut to professional librarianship. There is no such short cut. The summer classes are instituted to better the library service in the several states-- not to train would-be librarians.

Nebraska libraries need better service than they now have. With a few exceptions, not only have the librarians had no training, but there is almost no incentive for study and improvement. The salaries paid are too low to attract the most capable people, and the average Nebraska library is obliged to worry along with unbusinesslike methods and unskilled attendance.

One of the obligations imposed on this commission by law is to assist, by all possible means, in the "establishment of libraries where none exist, and the improvement of those already established". The time is not yet ripe for the establishment of a summer school of library science in Nebraska. There are too few libraries to make it necessary, and our funds are too limited to admit of so doing. The most that we can do this year is to call your attention to the desirability of training for your librarian, and to urge that you see to it that your librarian has an opportunity to attend one of the summer