

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2018–
June 30, 2019
Year in Review
FY2018-19
Vol. 24 No. 1

Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Nebraska Library Commission Expands Personal Finance Collections to Aid Consumers Following Devastating Floods

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The Nebraska Library Commission expanded personal finance e-book collections available through public libraries following receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. The additional resources helped ensure that residents had the information they needed when making critical money decisions as they repaired, rebuilt, and cleaned up following the March 2019 flooding.

"When disaster strikes, the community comes together," said NLC Director, Rod Wagner. "We want everyone to know that their library is both a welcoming convening place and a location where our families can obtain unbiased information to guide financial choices that will have lasting impact."

It is estimated that consumer financial fraud costs Americans more than \$50 billion a year, according to FINRA Foundation research. Financial

fraud is especially prevalent following major natural disasters. Financial fraud makes tough times all the more difficult for people recovering from the trauma inflicted by disasters.

FINRA Foundation President Gerri Walsh noted, "Recovery follows disaster, but the path to recovery can be smooth or very bumpy. And financial fraud can be one of the biggest potholes along that road. The Nebraska Library Commission is working to make sure your library has information to help people avoid the financial potholes and bring the route to recovery into sharper focus."

For more information about the FINRA Foundation or this grant, contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission's Technology & Access Services Director, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.



Disaster Planning and Recovery

As the floodwaters began to recede, many communities in our state worked to assess and repair the damage left behind. Staff at the Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems were in contact with Nebraska libraries. With great relief, we heard that minimal damage was reported to the public libraries in affected areas; some wet carpet and a few flooded basements. The Commission also provided information on disaster planning, materials preservation, and helping residents find information on disaster recovery.



From the Director... Commission Partnerships Thrive

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to present this report covering many of the activities, events, and initiatives over the past fiscal year. There are the on-going services the Commission provides toward its statutory mission of statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library services, and there are new initiatives that contribute to Nebraska residents' quality of life.

Among many of the Commission's activities this past year, the Commission's Library Innovation Studios project completed the second year of the three-year grant. Appreciated are the libraries, librarians, volunteers, and community members that have hosted the project, served as trainers, and those that have used makerspace devices to create a wide variety of items. The project has had many successes. Those successes are the result of the contributions of the project team. Their creativity, dedication, and hard work have demonstrated results beyond those of the project's original goals. Notable are the contributions and support from project partner organizations – Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems. The public libraries selected for project participation are key to the project's success. Results from the initial library participants reflect the enthusiasm, effort, and creativity of library staff, volunteer trainers, local project partners, and community members.

The Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program administered by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services continues to be a vital resource to supplement state funding in support of many Nebraska Library Commission services.

The Library Commission's efforts depend on the contributions of

(continued on page 4)

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

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 Library Commission Funding July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

State of Nebraska Funds	\$3,744,893
Federal Funds	\$1,525,481
Cash Funds	\$14,146
Total	\$5,284,520

Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$1,870
Collaborative Summer Reading Program	\$4,752
Continuing Education & Training	\$3,938
Electronic Information Resources	\$345,416
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	\$60,603
Library Innovation Studios	\$161,410
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	\$20,899
OverDrive Downloadable Books	\$221,600
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software (Bibliostat)	\$4,125
Regional Library Systems	\$479,684
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships	\$43,800
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$355,966
United for Libraries (ALA Membership)	\$3,660
Youth Grants for Excellence	\$25,624
TOTAL	\$1,731,476

Commissioners Guide Library Commission

Members of the Nebraska Library Commission (commissioners) are appointed by the governor for three-year terms. By tradition, but not statute, the six commissioners are appointed from Nebraska's four regions. With regional re-organization several years ago, the practice has been to appoint members from each of the state's four regions plus two members appointed on an at-large basis. Appointments reflect the intent to have representation in consideration of the agency's statewide promotion, development, and library services coordination of library and information services.

As the agency's governing board, commissioners meet for reports and updates on current and up-coming trends, issues, and activities. During the past fiscal year, commissioners considered and approved the agency's 2019-2021 biennium budget request, received reports and discussed the three-year federal Institute of Museum and Library

Services (IMLS) funded Library Innovation Studios project grant, and IMLS funded Sparks Project (Nebraska Schools and Libraries – Breaking the Ice & Igniting Internet Relationships). Review of the Commission's major service programs, federal library programs, agency budget, and personnel updates are regular agenda items. Commission members serving this past fiscal year were Debby Whitehill Bloom (Commission vice-chair), Omaha; Michael LaCroix (Chair), Omaha; Lois Todd-Meyer, Lincoln; Charles (Chuck) Peek, Kearney; Arunkumar Pondicherry, Lincoln; and Sandy White, Sidney. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month. Exceptions to that schedule are in consideration of special events during the year such as Nebraska Library Advocacy Day.

For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings.

Library Commission Staff Transitions, FY 2018-19

Arrivals

- **Holly Atterbury**, Library Reader's Advisor (8/15/2018)
- **Jan Jolliffe**, Western Library System Director (10/1/2018)
- **Sue Bilcroft**, Accountant (12/01/2018)
- **Kayla Henzel**, Staff Assistant I (12/10/2018)
- **Shoshana Patocka**, Librarian (4/08/2019)

Departures

- **Mary Jo Ryan**, Communications Coordinator (9/10/2018)
- **Allison Badger**, Librarian (10/9/2018)
- **Tan Ngo**, Accountant (12/01/2018)
- **Nicholas Westra**, Book Circulation Technician (6/21/2019)
- **Scott Scholz**, TBBS Director (6/7/2019)

Reassignments

- **Tessa Terry**, Communications Coordinator (9/17/2018)

The following Commission employees were recognized in 2018 for their loyalty and valuable contributions to state government.

- Vern Buis** – 45 years
- Bonnie Henzel** – 30 years
- Susan J. Knisely** – 20 years
- Anna M. Walter** – 10 years

2018 Excellence in Leadership Award Recipients



Tan Ngo
Nebraska Library
Commission
Accountant



Cynthia Nigh
Nebraska Library
Commission Library
Innovation Studios
Project Assistant

Ed. Note:

Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Biennial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newsletter**. Fill out the form at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/enews> to stay abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly email in your inbox with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the email message to read the complete content of the blog post and to comment.



Are you missing out on important library information?

Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newsletter* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.

nlc.nebraska.gov/enews

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission, <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

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From the Director...

(continued)

many organizations and individuals. Thanks to all who serve on the State Advisory Council on Libraries, and partner organizations – Regional Library Systems, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska School Librarians Association. Library services in Nebraska are best when these organizations work together for mutual benefit and toward the purpose of serving Nebraskans.

Nebraska libraries – public, school, college/university, and special – make significant, beneficial and positive differences in the lives of Nebraskans. Stories coming from Nebraska libraries are meaningful and inspiring. The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to support the work and efforts of the thousands of library workers, volunteers and supporters who contribute their time, talent and efforts to Nebraska library services.

Rod Wagner 🗨️

Staff Reviews Posted Weekly

Starting with an idea to share the books that Commission staff are reading, staff posted 52 reviews on the Nebraska Library Commission blog during the fiscal year. They join the global community of readers who post what they are reading every Friday – a book, magazine, blog post, or bus schedule – staff share what they are reading to celebrate and promote reading. Since Nebraska Library Commission staff have varied tastes, the posts during this fiscal year covered nearly every genre: non-fiction, memoir, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, history, horror, graphic novel, young adult, “chick lit,” historical fiction, biography, self-help, thriller, classic, cookbooks, and more. Check out the Friday Reads reviews on the Commission blog at www.nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/ or on the Commission Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibraryCommission. 🗨️

Nebraska Library Commission Announces Public Library Accreditation

Nebraska Library Commission’s Library Development Director Christa Porter announced in February the accreditation of sixty-three public libraries across Nebraska. Porter stated, “We are dedicated to helping Nebraska libraries meet Nebraskans’ information needs, opening up the world of information for citizens of all ages. The Library Commission continues to work in partnership with Nebraska libraries and the regional library systems, using the Public Library Accreditation program to help public libraries grow and develop.”

Public libraries in Nebraska are accredited for a three-year period. Accreditation of public libraries is a cyclical process, with approximately one-third of all libraries scheduled to apply for re-accreditation each year. The **Nebraska Library Commission** congratulates the public libraries listed below as they move forward toward the realization of this vision for the future: “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.”

Nebraska Public Libraries Accredited through December 31, 2021

Ainsworth Public Library
 * Arlington Public Library
 Auburn Memorial Library
 Alice M Farr Library (Aurora)
 * Bayard Public Library
 Beatrice Public Library
 Karlen Memorial Library (Beemer)
 Bennington Public Library
 Broadwater Public Library
 Broken Bow Public Library
 Central City Public Library
 Clarkson Public Library
 Clearwater Public Library
 Crawford Public Library
 Culbertson Public Library
 Bob and Wauneta Burkley Library (DeWitt)
 Elmwood Public Library
 Emerson Public Library
 Fairbury Public Library

Genoa Public Library
 Gibbon Public Library
 Gothenburg Public Library
 Grand Island Public Library
 * Sioux County Public Library (Harrison)
 Hartington Public Library
 Hastings Public Library
 Hildreth Public Library
 Holdrege Area Public Library
 Hooper Public Library
 Lied Imperial Public Library
 Kimball Public Library
 Lincoln City Libraries
 Loup City Public Library
 Madison Public Library
 Jensen Memorial Library (Minden)
 Mitchell Public Library
 Morton-James Public Library (Nebraska City)
 Newman Grove Public Library
 Norfolk Public Library
 O’Neill Public Library
 Oshkosh Public Library
 Palisade Public Library
 Sump Memorial Library (Papillion)
 Pilger Public Library
 Plainview Public Library
 Ponca Carnegie Library
 Schuyler Public Library
 * Scotia Public Library & Heritage Center
 Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
 Scribner Public Library
 South Sioux City Public Library
 Stromsburg Public Library
 Superior Public Library
 Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library
 Valentine Public Library
 Gardner Public Library (Wakefield)
 Weeping Water Public Library
 John A Stahl Library (West Point)
 Struckman-Baatz Public Library (Western)
 Dvoracek Memorial Library (Wilber)
 * Lied Winside Public Library
 * Maltman Memorial Public Library (Wood River)
 Yutan Public Library

The **Nebraska Library Commission** would also like to congratulate six of these libraries on earning accreditation for the very first time. Those libraries are indicated with an * asterisk.

For more information on public library accreditation in Nebraska, contact Christa Porter, christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2665. 🗨️

Council Advises Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission established the State Advisory Council on Libraries to advise on statewide library development, planning, services, and federal library programs – including input on the Library Commission’s Library Services and Technology Act five-year plan and programs.

The council met three times during FY 2018-19 – in July, November, and March. Meetings included discussion topics related to current and emerging trends and issues. In addition, meetings included updates from Commission staff and from Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Librarians Association representatives. The council’s November 2018 meeting included a discussion of “Libraries and Librarians as Community Engagers – School, Public, College / University.”

The Council met in March 2019 following Nebraska Library Advocacy Day morning activities and included a report and discussion regarding the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force and reauthorization and funding of the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

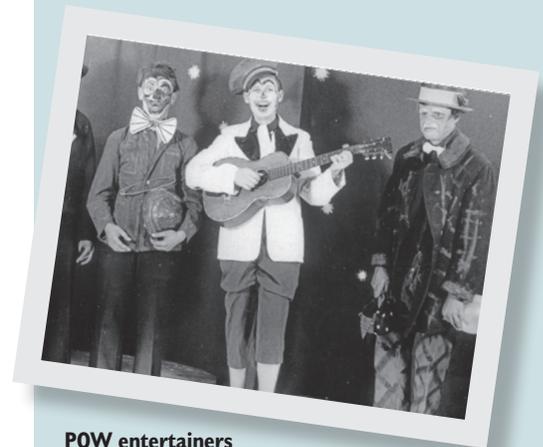
Council meetings include time for members to comment on their library’s, organization’s, or community’s successes and challenges. Council members’ input is important to gaining information and understanding about local conditions from across Nebraska.

The Library Commission appoints Council members representative of all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska and including librarians, library trustees, educators, and library supporters.

State Advisory Council members serving during FY 2018-19 included:

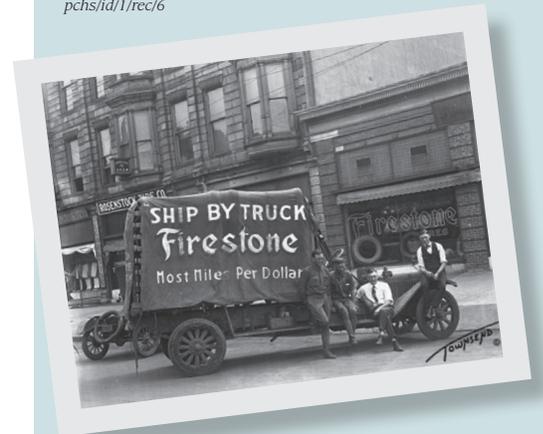
- Andrew Cano**, Lincoln (NLA representative 2018)
- Jessica Chamberlain**, Norfolk Public Library (Council Vice-Chair 2019)
- Scott Childers**, Southeast Library System, Lincoln
- John Dale**, Lincoln
- Susan Franklin**, Perkins Library, Hastings College
- David Graber**, Conn Library, Wayne State College
- Pat Gross**, Bayard
- Gail Irwin-Joann Jackson**, Fairmont
- Beth Kabes**, ESU Coordinating Council, Columbus
- Cecelia Lawrence**, North Platte Public Library (Council Chair – 2018)
- Lori Long**, Gothenburg Jr/Sr High School
- Laura Marlane**, Omaha Public Library
- Rebecca McCorkindale**, Gretna (NLA representative 2019)

- Dana Morgan**, Leyton High School, Dalton
- Lisa Olivigni**, Lincoln City Libraries, Eiseley Branch
- Courtney Pentland**, District Professional Library & Information Center, Omaha (NSLA Liaison)
- Tom Pfeifer**, Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln
- Julie Pinnell**, Cochrane-Woods Library, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln
- Charlene Rasmussen**, Wayne
- Allison Reisig**, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff
- Angie Richeson**, (NSLA representative 2018)
- Sky Seery**, North Platte High School (Council Chair 2019)
- Noelle Thompson**, Scottsbluff Public Library
- Matthew Williams**, Kearney Public Library



POW entertainers

Source: Phelps County Historical Society
<http://memories.ne.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/pchs/id/1/rec/6>



Firestone coast to coast truck

Source: Townsend Studio
<http://memories.ne.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/ts/id/40/rec/39>

Nebraska Memories

Nebraska Memories offered access to digitized Nebraska-related primary source materials, including glass-plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, documents, and oral histories at <http://memories.nebraska.gov>. New items added this fiscal year included donated images of Peru College, which celebrated its 150th year, and the surrounding area.

Library Commission staff will work with Nebraska cultural institutions to scan and describe their collections. Private donations of materials are also scanned and added to this online database. For more information or to consult on materials for inclusion, contact Devra Dragos, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.

Commission Supports Downloadable Reading

In this fiscal year, the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries consortium included 173 member libraries with 117 of those libraries serving populations of less than 2,000, the smallest serving 136. Library customers downloaded 347,394 audiobooks and 408,791 eBooks. Nebraska eReads funding, approved by the Legislature for the Nebraska Library Commission's biennium budget, provided Nebraska OverDrive Libraries with an additional \$92,451 to purchase materials. The total Nebraska eReads funding of \$201,600 was divided by the consortium, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries based on the size of their legal service areas.

OverDrive now allows Advantage libraries, those who purchase copies of items for their customers use, to share those items with customers from other libraries within the consortium. During this fiscal year, shared items from nineteen Advantage libraries checked out 72,668 times.

The Library Commission coordinates and supports the OverDrive service for Nebraska OverDrive Libraries and contributed funds for materials purchased. Any legally-established public library (population under 100,000) was invited to participate. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov or Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, contact information on page 5. ➡

Nebraskans are *United for Libraries*

United for Libraries is a division of the American Library Association. United for Libraries provides its members with a variety of information and educational resources and services. The Nebraska Library Commission supports United for Libraries memberships for all of Nebraska's public libraries and regional library systems. Membership enables libraries access to expert advice and information for library staff, library trustees, foundations, friends of libraries, and library advocates.

United for Libraries is a national network of library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses. No one has a stronger voice for libraries than those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them. The mission of United for Libraries is to support those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries.

With statewide membership, Nebraska has a special website to access resources, webinars, online training, and publications. Nebraska's United for Libraries membership provides access to these resources at no charge to libraries. Resources include:

United for Libraries

Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations
A division of the American Library Association

• eLearning

- **The Voice of America's Libraries newsletter**
- **Discussion Forums** for tips, questions, advice, and more – Friends (public, school, academic), Trustees, Foundations
- **Publications** (books, fact sheets for Friends and Foundations, Library Board Practical Guides, Tip Sheets, Toolkits, and more)
- **Trustee Academy 2.0** (five online courses)
- **Short Takes for Trustees** (series of 10 short videos (8-10 minutes each))
- **Webinars** (monthly member forums and recorded webinars)

For more information, see United for Libraries at <http://www.ala.org/united/> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, rod.wagner@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665. ➡

Continuing Education Programs Provided

The Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support Nebraska libraries in their efforts to improve library service by providing continuing education (CE) and training for library staff members. The Commission sponsored or underwrote 239 events, which were attended by 684 Nebraska library staff and board members during the fiscal year. These training activities included the annual "Big Talk from Small Libraries" online conference, Basic Skills courses,

NCompass Live webinars, and training for the Cataloging Certificate program. Training also included learning activities and sessions for community planning, E-Rate, and summer reading. Nineteen online Basic Skills classes were offered with 196 participants, who attended one or more classes.

For more information about continuing education, contact Holli Duggan, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, holli.duggan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665. ➡



Nebraska Library Innovation Studios Makerspace Partnership

Five more Nebraska libraries have been selected to host Nebraska's Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities makerspaces. They join the 26 initial libraries chosen in October, 2017 and December, 2018. The Nebraska Library Commission was awarded a National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for this partnership project with the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL), Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, Regional Library Systems, and local public libraries.



Library Innovation Studios Instructional Designer Max Wheeler trains at Bridgeport PL on the CNC router.

The project uses Library Innovation Studios makerspaces hosted by public libraries to support community engagement and participatory learning experiences by providing access to technology and innovative learning tools not readily accessible locally. This is expected to stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skills development, and local economic development.

"Nebraska's public libraries are the natural gathering points for people to come together to share materials, knowledge, and experiences," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. "Whether the materials and tools are high tech or low tech, digital or analog, art

or science, the focus is to create, invent, tinker, explore, and discover using the tools, materials, and knowledge available. Libraries have always been dedicated to community partnership, collaboration, and the free exchange of ideas—makerspaces are the next step in that progression."

This project began July 1, 2017 and will conclude June 30, 2020. For more information about the project or equipment that will be featured in the rotating makerspaces, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios>, or contact JoAnn McManus, Library Innovation Studios Project Manager, joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [grant #LG-95-17-0046-17].

The newly selected library partners that will host one of the four rotating makerspaces are:

- La Vista Public Library
- McCook Public Library
- Superior Public Library
- Nelson Public Library
- Lied Pierce Public Library

They join those selected over the last two years:

- Plattsmouth Public Library
- Ainsworth Public Library
- Ashland Public Library
- Crete Public Library
- Loup City Public Library
- South Sioux City Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Broken Bow Public Library
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Platte Public Library
- Ravenna Public Library
- Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
- Wayne Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Central City Public Library
- Nebraska City Public Library
- Kimball Public Library
- Beatrice Public Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Chadron Public Library
- Blue Hill Public Library
- Hastings Memorial Library, Grant, Nebraska
- Plainview Public Library
- Verdigre Public Library
- Laurel Community Learning Center

State Aid to Libraries Distributed by Commission

The Library Commission supported public libraries during the year with total payments of \$354,873 (2018: \$363,927; 2017: \$363,569) - in direct state aid, including *Dollars for Data* and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual *Public Libraries Survey* online, and their local funding must be at least equal to the lowest annual local income from the three previous years (maintenance of effort) or state aid is proportionately reduced. Nine additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid this year.

Direct State Aid. In 2019, 178 public libraries received state aid payments (169 in 2018) and 144 of these libraries earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of Gold or Silver accreditation status (132 in 2018).

Incentive Payments. Additional direct state aid payments, based on the amount of funds received from another public entity, were made to 85 libraries in 2019 (81 in 2018).

Dollars for Data. The Library Commission awarded payments of \$200 to 47 (56 in 2018) unaccredited libraries that completed and submitted the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, sam.shaw@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665. 

Kreutz Bennett Grants Awarded to Small-Town Public Libraries

A partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) resulted in seven grants to seven public libraries, thanks to the generosity of a lifelong educator, the late Shirley

Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln. Each year the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, accepted proposals for matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations of fewer than 3,000. During the fiscal year, \$42,367 was distributed. **Facilities Grants** supported construction of new or expanded library buildings and renovation or restoration work and **Enhancement Grants** allowed for improvements in library services, including a STREAM children's program, Makerspaces, and materials and resources for after-school programming.

The Nebraska Community Foundation and the Nebraska Library Commission screened applicants for eligibility and provided guidance for

those invited to submit proposals. Each year, the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund advisory committee, made up of Kreutz Bennett's nieces and nephews, reviewed applications and awarded funding to match every local dollar raise. For more information, contact

Christa Porter, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665

Grants Awarded

- **Axtell Public Library**, \$20,000: renovation
- **Crawford Public Library**, \$700: Community Needs Response Plan
- **Genoa Public Library**, \$1,000: elementary programming
- **Lied Randolph Public Library**, \$2,900: equipment
- **Paxton Public Library**, \$10,000: renovation
- **Sutton Memorial Library**, \$6,767: computers
- **Yutan Public Library**, \$1,000: materials 



NCompass Live Webinars Remain Popular

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT.

During this fiscal year 49 episodes of *NCompass Live* were broadcast with 672 live attendees. Audience members watched from across the United States and Canada.

NCompass Live sessions were presented by Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest speakers from public, academic, and school

libraries in Nebraska, as well as from Arizona, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee, and Washington.

More than 535 archived sessions are recorded and available for viewing at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/NCArchivist.asp>. For the list of upcoming sessions, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/>. To suggest a topic for *NCompass Live*, contact Christa Porter, contact information above. 

NCompass ▶ live

Duplication on Demand is Here

Beginning in October of 2018 the National Library Service (NLS) provided the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) with a new way to deliver books to our patrons, Duplication on Demand (DOD). The equipment, which included a printer, duplicator, and a PC, provided by NLS, allows the TBBS to duplicate individual cartridges for each patron. TBBS officially started using the duplication on demand system on October 25th.

Prior to DOD, one cartridge equaled one book. If a patron wanted five books, TBBS sent that patron five individual cartridges. However, with DOD, TBBS can now customize a cartridge with multiple titles on a single cartridge for each patron. This new system streamlines the check-in/check-out process and eliminates the need for shelving and storing books.

How this system works is quite simple. Books are uploaded to a national database called Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). This database is administered by NLS and includes every book that NLS has recorded. Regional libraries, such as the Talking Book and Braille Service also have the ability to upload books to BARD and make them available to every patron across the nation. The new PC, which is linked to the BARD database, creates the new cartridges for each patron.

These new cartridges are created

for patrons in two different ways: either ad-hoc or turnaround. An ad-hoc or "spur of the moment" cartridge is a cartridge that includes books that a patron has specifically requested by calling their reader's advisor or have added to their request list. Ad-hoc books are created immediately. Turnaround or automatic fulfillment book orders are books that are created through the duplication on demand system through a process in which patrons are periodically analyzed and book orders are generated for qualified books in their request.

Once the cartridges have been duplicated, a bar code on the back of the cartridge is scanned and a mail card is printed. Both the cartridge and mail card are inserted into a box and are ready to be mailed. When the cartridge is returned, staff simply scans the cartridge back in to the system and it can be reused.

Not only does Duplication on Demand clear-up space in a patron's mailbox, but it also saves staff time, as well. Staff is no longer needed to walk the stacks to find individual books to send to patrons, nor are they needed to shelve books when returned. This frees up staff time to devote to other jobs and projects.

For more information, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs/> or contact Gabe Kramer, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director, gabe.kramer@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6242, 800-307-2665.

End of an Era

Imagine a library full of books. Now, imagine that same library, but with empty shelves. That is the new reality at the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS). With the advent of Duplication on Demand, the need for physical copies has disappeared.

Beginning in February of 2019, the National Library Service (NLS) started the Recycling 4 Reuse (R4R) program. Cardboard boxes were sent to network libraries, of which the Talking Book and Braille Service is one, that could hold forty-four talking books apiece. Since February, TBBS has returned our original quota of 1600 boxes to a recycling center in Kansas plus an additional 500 boxes that we were able to send because another network library was not able to meet their quota for the federal fiscal year, which ended on September 30. TBBS was then granted permission to return the last of their physical talking books, roughly 240 boxes to a recycling center in Pennsylvania.

TBBS used more than 75 volunteers who donated more than 1,800 hours to complete this project on time. If you do the math, that's 2,340 boxes, each filled with 44 books, which equals 102,960 total books.

For more information, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs/> or contact Gabe Kramer, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Director info on left.



Gabe Kramer, Nebraska Library Commission's newly appointed Talking Book and Braille Service Director

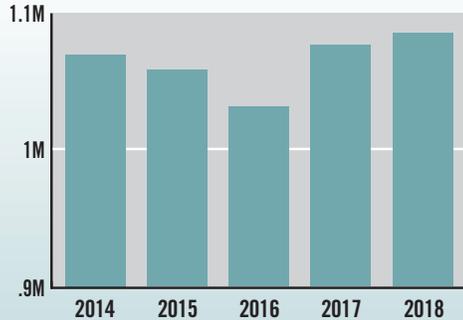
License Allows Libraries to Show Movies

Public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries was made possible by the statewide license funded by the Nebraska Library Commission through Movie Licensing USA, at a cost of 20,899 for the fiscal year. With this license,

motion pictures were shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries. For more information see [www.nlc.nebraska.gov/discounts/motion picture.asp](http://www.nlc.nebraska.gov/discounts/motion_picture.asp) or contact Susan Knisely, contact on page 6.

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

Registered Borrowers



Expenditures on Electronic Materials



Collection Size



Total Collection Expenditures

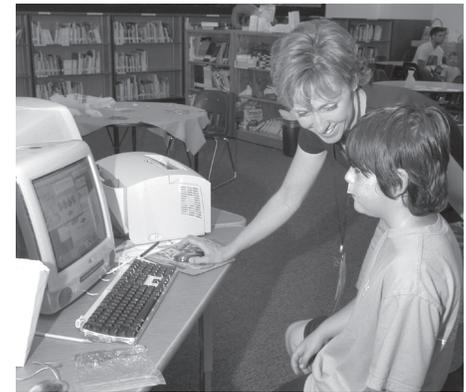


The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 9,216 public libraries in the United States. In Nebraska, there are 273 public libraries plus 8 bookmobiles and 19 branch facilities. Five libraries in the state are combined with public schools and three are combined public/academic libraries. The 2018 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 95% of eligible libraries. The results provide a dependable measure of overall library service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of eBooks and Audiobooks used has continued to increase, with 173 libraries participating in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium (one more than last year). There are at least two participating libraries in every non-metropolitan legislative district in the state. Looking at Internet connectivity in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates an increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 5.5% increase in libraries offering connection speeds in excess of 6 Mbps. While 78 Nebraska libraries meet or exceed the FCC definition of broadband (24 MBPS), there was a 30% increase in libraries meeting this standard in 2018 compared to 2017.

Overall circulation of material has increased slightly between 2017 and 2018 (4.6%), and uses of non-print resources have increased by 29.2%. Greater numbers of library programs (2.5% increase from 2017 to 2018) and increased attendance (up by 3.5%) indicate that public libraries continue to actively engage community members in learning events at all age levels. Collections of video materials (physical) rose by 5.6% compared with 2017.



Other trends revealed by the results of the 2018 Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 176 Nebraska Public Libraries loaned eBooks – that's 64% of Nebraska public libraries. The population served by these libraries is 1,554,623 or 81% of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 6,787,454 items (this does not include electronic items such as eBooks and Audiobooks that are leased)
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,817
- Public libraries loaned 12,968,382 items in FY 2018-19
- Number of registered library users: 1,106,944
- Number of public library visits per year: 7,441,203
- Libraries providing wireless Internet access: 93% of reporting libraries
- Libraries delivered 35,963 programs, attended by 886,519 people
- Libraries with a website: 177 or 76% of reporting libraries
- Nebraskans paid only \$38 per capita in 2018 for public library service
- Nine Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2018 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*.

(continued on page 11)

The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

Selected Library Statistics, FY 2016 through FY 2018

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	1,028,691	1,089,599	1,106,944	7.61%
Total Visits	7,739,334	7,705,428	7,441,203	-3.85%
Items Borrowed	12,520,871	12,397,754	12,968,382	3.57%
Items Borrowed per Capita	8.13	7.87	8.19	0.64%
Internet Computers for Public Use	2,802	2,875	2,817	0.54%
Libraries Providing Free Wi-Fi	216	220	216	0.00%
Number of Programs Offered	34,404	35,081	35,963	4.53%
Library Program Attendance	814,126	856,183	886,519	8.89%
Number of Books in Collection	5,613,746	5,547,502	5,565,128	-0.87%
Number of Print Subscriptions	10,661	10,625	9,465	-11.22%
Number of Audio Materials	237,111	234,102	239,272	0.91%
Number of Video Materials	352,393	365,746	386,351	9.64%
Total Materials held	6,866,710	6,739,329	6,787,454	-1.15%
Annual Hours Open	438,437	444,803	445,215	1.55%
Legal Service Area Population	1,539,445	1,574,606	1,584,326	2.92%
Local Government Revenue	\$54,887,603	\$57,521,060	\$60,113,687	9.52%

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are more than **7.4 million** annual visits to Nebraska Public Libraries (not including virtual and online library visits).ⁱ That's more than **82 sellouts** at Memorial Stadium.

Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **97%** offered **FREE** public Internet access
- **93%** offered **FREE** Wi-Fi
- **1,660,079** uses of Electronic Materials (eBooks and Audiobooks) in 2018
- **23,502** Children's Programs offered, with **698,689** attendees. **11,858** of these programs were focused on early (pre-K) literacy, with more than **266,702** attendees
- **3,736** Young Adult Programs offered, with **52,450** attendees
- **8,725** Adult Programs, with **135,380** attendeesⁱⁱⁱ

Nebraska Public Libraries Provide Access to and Assistance Using New Technology

- **192** offered color printing
- **187** offered document scanning
- **18** offered 3D printing
- **35** offered vinyl cutting
- **71** offered tablet computers
- **70** offered access to early learning technologies
- **40** offered access to recreational games
- **21** offered access to robotics
- **38** offered access to smart technologies
- **35** offered access to developmental technologies
- **193** offered general computer training
- **169** offered online database training
- **156** offered social media training
- **161** offered training for online government programs
- **104** hosted community engagement events
- **141** offered assistance with locating health information online
- **156** hosted social events for adultsⁱⁱⁱ

SOURCES:

ⁱ 2017-2018 Nebraska Public Library Survey (95% reporting)

ⁱⁱ 2017-2018 Nebraska Public Library Survey (95% reporting)

ⁱⁱⁱ 2017-2018 Nebraska Public Library Survey (95% reporting)

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

Circulation of Adult Downloadable Materials



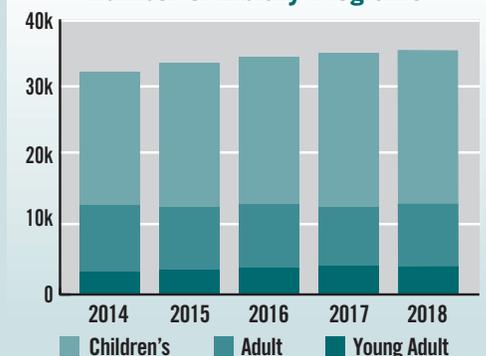
Circulation of Childrens Downloadable Materials



Total Library Program Attendance



Number of Library Programs



PIIONEER

Commission Supports Pioneer Consortium

Pioneer, the open-source consortium of Nebraska libraries, continued to expand the cooperative catalog, as well as provide software improvements to facilitate the effectiveness of the catalog and cooperative activities among the members. During the fiscal year the consortium included twenty-four libraries, including libraries in Alma, Arapahoe, Atkinson, Axtell, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Brunswick, Central City, David City, Dundy County, Franklin, Grand Island, Grant, Hildreth, Holdrege, McCook, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Superior, Valley, Valparaiso, and Western Nebraska Community College. Libraries chose to join as an alternative to replacing current and stand-alone catalog systems with another proprietary system at greater cost.

The consortium employs the open source software Koha, a reasonably-priced Integrated Library System (ILS) that serves as the basis of a growing union catalog and could lead to a statewide catalog in the future. The consortium worked cooperatively with other library consortia across the country using the same software.

For more information see <https://nepioneer.com> or contact Christa Porter, contact information on page 8. For membership information contact Steve Fosselman, sf@gi.lib.ne.us, 308-385-5333.

Significant funding for this project has been provided through grants from the Nebraska Library Commission, funded through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. 



Nebraskans Find Information through NebraskAccess

NebraskAccess is the Nebraska Library Commission's public resource portal for Nebraskans leading to information databases, evaluated websites, government publications, and more. Timely information is provided through seasonal "Hot Topics" and "What's New" links, as well as "Nebraska FAQs" which are created when the Library Commission Information Services reference librarians receive the same Nebraska-related question more than once.

Free, 24/7, full-text access is available to thousands of magazines and journals, biographical information, and genealogical information. Nebraskans logged in outside of libraries with either a password from the library, their Nebraska driver's license, or State ID.

They used this service to complete work or school assignments, research health and medical topics, keep up on current events, trace family histories, make personal and business economic decisions, and explore hobbies and other topics of personal interest.

See <http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov> to check out the offerings in NebraskAccess. For more information contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.

NebraskAccess databases are funded through the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. 

Number of searches undertaken in the statewide subscription databases between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019:

Biography Reference Bank & Center	4,402,478
Consumer Health Complete	145,458
FirstSearch/WorldCat Discovery	1,714,449
Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia	1,691,862
GreenFILE	1,663,896
Legal Information Reference Center	1,393,150
MasterFILE Complete	3,061,947
MyHeritage	172,887
NoveList Plus	840,551
NoveList Plus K-8	35,016
Point of View Reference Center	1,304,994
Primary Search	1,669,935
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	1,742,892
Science & Technology Collection	1,672,401
Small Business Reference Center	1,187,426
Topic Overviews K-5	43,434
Topic Overviews Public Libraries	128,322



NEST 529 College Savings Rewards 15 Summer Readers in Capitol Ceremony

The Nebraska Library Commission continued to support library services to children and young adults. During FY 2018-19 the Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program with training and materials. The Library Commission supported statewide workshops, organized by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book-talks across the state. The Library Commission supplied manuals, booklists, and material on the Library Commission website to complement the themes, 2018: "Libraries Rock!" and 2019: "A Universe of Stories." As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium (consisting of all fifty states, the District of Columbia and five territories), the Library Commission contributed funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading>. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service.

In collaboration with the Nebraska State Treasurer and the First National Bank of Omaha, the Commission promoted the NEST Read to Win \$529! Drawing. Thirty children/teens received \$529 NEST College Savings Scholarships as part of the Summer Reading Program, see <http://nlc>.

nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading/scholarshipdrawing.aspx.

The Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems invited children and teens across the state to read and discuss the same book, providing Book Club Kits to facilitate group reading and activities. The 2019 **One Book for Nebraska Kids** was *A Long Pitch Home* (Charlesbridge, 2018) by Natalie Dias Lorenzi. The 2019 **One Book for Nebraska Teens** was *The Boy in the Black Suit* (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2016) by Jason Reynolds. See <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/OBOK> for information and activities.

\$23,254 was awarded to public libraries in Youth Grants for Excellence. Funded projects provided early literacy programming, robotics technology and programming, STEM/STEAM-focused materials for activities for children and families, basic astronomy education for youth, afterschool programming for elementary school children, establishing a Teen/YA Advisory Board, and more. These grants gave Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions, providing a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, sally.snyder@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665.

Commission Provides Interlibrary Loan Service

Libraries in Nebraska without adequate staff or funding to provide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service for their customers relied on the Nebraska Library Commission to find and borrow books from other libraries for them. This allowed even the smallest public libraries and school libraries in our state to meet the needs of their customers, supplying materials for everything from serious research, to keeping up on their favorite fiction series. In times of diminishing acquisition budgets, ILL helped libraries that did not have the funds to buy every book their customers wanted. Public libraries used ILL services to supplement book club selections with additional copies, including large print and audio versions.

School libraries used ILL to obtain books in languages other than English to help teach students whose first language is not English. School libraries also used ILL services to obtain multiple copies of books for classes, as well as books for individual research papers. Home-school families use ILL through their public libraries to give their children as many educational options as possible. The Library Commission also provided ILL for Nebraska state government agencies, which allowed them more flexibility with their journal subscription decisions, while still ensuring access to up-to-the minute, mission-critical information. State agencies used ILL services to keep up on the latest general research and recent discoveries in their field, and to do their own research for a variety of proposals, projects, and problem solving. Advances in electronic article-sharing (Article Exchange) helped libraries and agencies receive articles more quickly and streamlined permissions and licensing concerns.

For more information on ILL services, contact Lynda Clause, Nebraska Library Commission Interlibrary Loan Staff Assistant, lynda.clause@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4018, 800-307-2665.



E-rate Discounts Support Technology Access

Nebraska schools and libraries received over \$9.6 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during E-rate Funding Year 2018 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) through the Universal Service Fund (E-rate) program.

Nebraska libraries were awarded \$209,670 in discounts. Discounts ranged from 10 to 90 percent, with 60 of the state's public libraries participating, including the Regional Library Systems. 60 libraries were awarded Internet Services discounts, 3 libraries were awarded Internal Connections discounts (services providing high-speed connectivity throughout the library building), and 3 libraries were awarded Voice Services discounts. 55 of the participating libraries had 60 to 80 percent discounts applied to their bills.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the local level of need, and the County's Rural or Urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska public library staff to assist with E-rate applications. For more information about E-rate support in Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/> or contact Christa Porter, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2265. For more information about the E-rate program, see <http://www.usac.org/sl/>

Compass

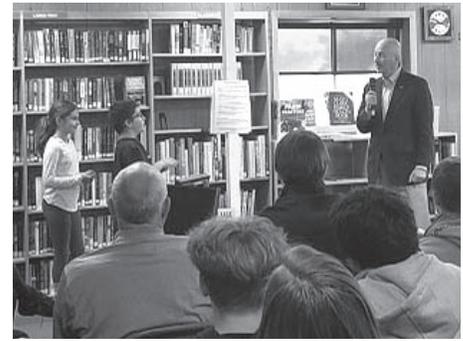
Partnership to Help Close the Homework Gap

High-speed Internet access is essential to Nebraska schoolchildren and a partnership between schools and libraries in six Nebraska communities demonstrated an innovative way to ensure that children can complete homework assignments and projects. The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), was awarded a \$25,000 Sparks National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Six Nebraska communities were selected to participate in the grant project: Bancroft, Bayard, Genoa, Imperial, Verdigre, and Wymore. Using fixed wireless technology, the public libraries offered the school districts' students and staff the ability to access the school district network within the public library. The project began June 1, 2018 and will conclude on May 31, 2019.



Students use Homework Hotspots at Verdigre Public Library

The *Sparks! Nebraska Schools and Libraries – Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships* grant supported six Nebraska rural school districts and public libraries working together as partners to increase Internet speeds at the public library. They used fixed wireless technology to provide additional Internet to the library, augmenting the current Internet service. Up to one gigabit (1,000 Mbps) of Internet speed was



Gov. Pete Ricketts answers questions at Bayard Public Library's open house.

provided for a designated Homework Hotspot for school district students and staff. The goal was to help close the homework gap that rural students face when attempting to finish homework and school projects without a reliable Internet source at home. The libraries used the school districts' network to augment existing Internet service, supplementing it with high-speed Internet access for K-12 students and staff in these school districts so that students could complete homework assignments, collaborate in groups on research projects, accessed online instructions, worked on special projects, and undertook other digital learning activities. Libraries held open house events to promote the new Homework Hotspots. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts attended the Open Houses in Verdigre and Bayard and addressed the critical need to provide high-speed internet for all residents in rural communities.

"As Nebraska students and teachers embrace digital learning, Nebraska public libraries look for new partnership models with schools to ensure equal access to digital learning resources for all students. Students need broadband services outside of school and during after-school hours. Libraries fill the gap." Said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [IMLS grant: LG-99-18-0018-18].



\$44,800 in Internship Grants Awarded to Nebraska Public Libraries

Nebraskans once again reaped the benefits of the energy and creativity of Nebraska young people as they served as interns in their local public libraries. The **Nebraska Library Commission** awarded **Nebraska Library Internship Grants** totaling \$44,800 to forty-six Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants supported public library interns, who contributed to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

Student interns learned about library work as they shadowed staff, assisted with day-to-day library operations, and implemented special projects. Some of the activities that students participated in include:

- planned and implemented programs such as summer reading programs for all ages, storytime sessions, book discussions, and teen/tween activities;
- facilitated partnerships with the Neihardt State Historic Site, Mid-Plains Community College, and YMCA;
- organized Makerspaces and Maker Clubs, as well as other STEAM learning activities;
- created book displays, bulletin boards, and craft activities;
- assisted with outreach events outside the library;
- updated the library's website and social media sites (Facebook, Pinterest, blogs, etc.);
- assisted with circulation activities, book selection, and collection management;
- taught technology classes and assisted library customers with electronic devices, research, and Coding Clubs;
- created flyers, newsletters, newspaper articles, and other promotional materials; and
- assisted with verbal and written Spanish/English communication.

The following Nebraska public libraries were awarded 2019 internship grant funding:

Alma, Hoesch Memorial Library
 Arlington Public Library
 Atkinson Public Library
 Bancroft Public Library

Bayard Public Library
 Central City Public Library
 Clarkson Public Library
 Columbus Public Library
 Cozad, Wilson Public Library
 Franklin Public Library
 Fremont, Keene Memorial Library
 Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
 Kimball Public Library
 Laurel Public Library
 Leigh Public Library
 Lincoln City Libraries (6 branches)
 Madison Public Library
 McCook Public Library
 Minden, Jensen Memorial Library
 Morrill Public Library
 Norfolk Public Library
 Oakdale Public Library
 Papillion, Sump Memorial Library
 Ponca Carnegie Library
 Shelby Community Library
 Sidney Public Library
 Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library
 Valley Public Library
 Verdigre Public Library

Additionally, twelve public libraries participating in the Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities" (LIS) project also received 2019 internship grant funding. The interns hired in these libraries primarily worked with this LIS makerspace grant. These libraries include:

Beatrice Public Library
 Blue Hill Public Library
 Central City Public Library
 Chadron Public Library
 Geneva Public Library
 Grant, Hastings Memorial Library
 Hastings Public Library
 Kimball Public Library
 Laurel Community Learning Center
 Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
 Plainview Public Library
 Verdigre Public Library

Funding for the project is supported and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

A Sweet take on Library Technology

Pretty Sweet Tech is a new NLC blog covering pressing issues and the rapidly growing need for technology in the library. It's written by Amanda Sweet, Nebraska Library Commission's Technology Innovation Librarian. In 1991, there was one website in existence. As of 2018, there are over 1.7 billion websites on the internet. Today,



NLC's Library Technology Blog

there are over 4.3 billion internet users worldwide. The internet has changed how people communicate, access information, learn new skills, buy and sell goods, and so much more. How can we stay safe and healthy in this digital landscape? The digital needs of our communities have changed.

Technology has grown so fast that everyone in the community is going to be searching for low-cost ways to learn and practice new skills. Libraries add value to the community by providing access to new technology and information resources to learn the skills of the changing workforce. *Pretty Sweet Tech* helps this cause one blog post at a time, covering everything from resources to learn basic computer skills, to encouraging "coding" and technology creation in the library. The best technology is a tool designed to help people. With over 35 posts, librarians can subscribe to learn how libraries can help communities thrive in a digital world at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/category/pretty-sweet-tech/> or contact Amanda Sweet at amanda.sweet@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3106.

Library Commission Hosts Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book—supporting the following projects:

Celebration of Nebraska Books.

Each fall, the Celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska book selection; honored winners of the Jane Geske, Mildred Bennett, and Nebraska Book Awards; and announced the choice for next year's One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the events.

Jane Geske Award. The Center for the Book selected **Humanities Nebraska Prime Time Family Reading Time** in 2018 to be honored for their effectiveness and dedication to literacy and literature in Nebraska. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and long-time active member of many Nebraska library and literary activities. In 2018, the Presidential Award was presented to Twyla Hansen for her many contributions as Nebraska State Poet and for excellence in promoting poetry and writing.

Mildred Bennett Award. The 2018 award was presented to **Mary Jo Ryan**. She was honored for her contributions to Nebraska writing and for her service in support of Nebraska's writers and readers—following in the footsteps of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder

and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

Letters about Literature.

Nebraska students were recognized by Governor Pete Ricketts for their letters to authors that influenced their lives. In this national reading/writing contest, young readers wrote letters to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves.

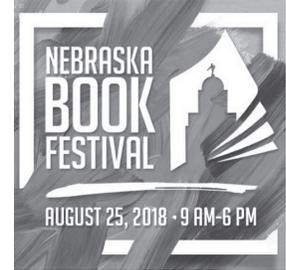
For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. With funding provided to the Nebraska Center for the Book by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and support from the Nebraska Library Commission, grants for Letter-Writing Clinics were awarded to introduce students to the Letters about Literature contest and letter writing techniques. For a complete list of librarians and teachers awarded \$300 grants, see http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL_Grant/2018/index.aspx.

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Tessa Terry and Devra Dragos were joined by volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC, to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC. Every year they share information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors.

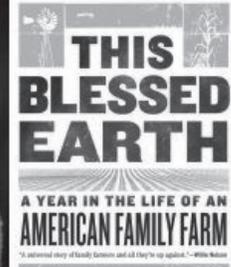
Nebraska Book Awards.

Nebraska books were honored in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These books were written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html>.

Nebraska Book Festival. The Nebraska Book Festival returned to Lincoln in Fall 2018 with author presentations, vendors, writing and publishing workshops, and family programming. Presenters included editors Mary K. Stillwell and Greg Kosmicki, as

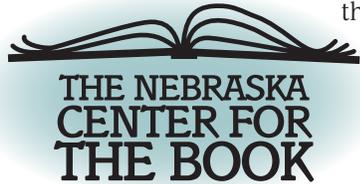


well as several poets from the 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Nebraska Poetry*.



One Book One Nebraska. The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of titles for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. The 2019 One Book One Nebraska selection was *This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm* by Ted Genoways. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html>.

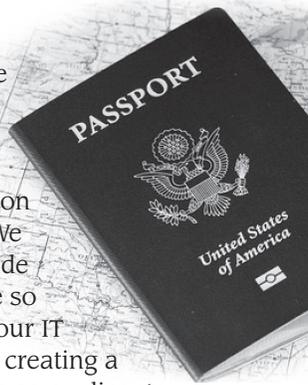
For more information about Center for the Book activities, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>, or contact centerforthebook@nlc.state.ne.us



Providing Passports at the Nebraska Library Commission

Sitting at the Reference Desk on a day like any other, Joe Leier (Customer Service Manager from the Colorado Passport Agency) walked into the Library Commission and asked if we would consider becoming a passport facility. Some of our local post offices were no longer providing the service and Joe was recruiting libraries to provide more locations. After talking it over with staff, we said yes and received training from the Department of State. This August marks one year of providing passports and we have met many interesting people. Our youngest applicant was 4 months old and we have helped entire families with applications for upcoming international travel. Providing passports has also given us

a small revenue stream as each application provides us with an execution fee of \$35.00. We could not provide passports quite so easily without our IT staff, Vern Buis creating a booking system so applicants can sign up online by completing a checklist of necessary items needed for a successful appointment. If you are interested in learning about becoming a passport library, you can watch our *NCompass Live* session recorded this past June: nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgID=18439



Book Clubs Have More Choices!

To keep up with the growing demands from book clubs, the Library Commission has responded by acquiring several new titles for the collection. To help your group read a holiday themed book in December; we have purchased many new titles but we still encourage making those selections early. (Browse **Holiday-Theme** Books here: nlc.nebraska.gov/Ref/Bookclub/). We have also purchased some current titles that are getting quite a lot of attention including *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *Educated* by Tara Westover, and *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. There is a **Browse New Additions** search feature at the bottom of the page to search for what's new. If your book is not available, check out the new **Read Alikes** feature that will lead you to other books in our collection.

The Nebraska Library Commission circulated over 15,000 book club titles this past year and expect this year to be even busier. With over 1,800 titles in our collection, there is something for every age group. We have fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, and DVDs so you're sure to find something for your group to read and discuss. Please keep in touch with us about your book group discussions and titles we should consider adding to our collection.

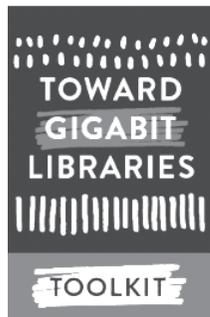
For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/> or contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, lisa.kelly@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4015, 800-307-2665.

NCompass Live: Improving Internet Access In US Libraries: the 'Toward Gigabit Libraries' Project

Learning how to Improve Internet Access in US Libraries with the 'Toward Gigabit Libraries' Project was featured on the Nebraska Library Commission's free *NCompass Live* webinar.

While much worthy attention has been paid to improving "last mile" connectivity for rural and tribal libraries, it's the last 100 meters (the network inside the building) that is often overlooked and in need of improvement.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) - funded 'Toward Gigabit Libraries' Project aims to address that problem through a self-service toolkit suitable for even the most novice of library workers. In straightforward, easy-to-understand language, the toolkit is designed to take lay people through technical concepts and tasks to create a Broadband Improvement Plan for each library. The plan is designed to help the library where it's needed



most – including improvements to hardware, software, and configuration, suggestions for training and education, resources to advocate for better connectivity, and more. Fresh from the overwhelmingly successful pilot implementation of the toolkit in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Alaska, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, the presenters share the results of the pilot, lessons learned, and how this free toolkit applies to libraries of all types and sizes.

Presenters included: Carson Block, Library Technology Consultant; Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission Library Technology Support Specialist; Tom Rolfes, Education IT Manager, Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

For more information, contact Christa Porter, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665

Library Commission Supports Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$479,684 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's Regional Library Systems during this fiscal year. These nonprofit organizations, governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region, worked to improve library services through cooperation among all types of libraries and school media centers within each system area. Each system offered a variety of services including newsletters, library staff meetings, training resources, workshops, consulting, and planning assistance. With the support of the Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to area libraries:

Resource Sharing. A wide variety of reading and learning formats were loaned or centrally provided.

Consultation. System directors consulted with member libraries in person, in print, and digitally.

Continuing Education (CE). The Systems coordinated training for Nebraska library staff and volunteers.

System Highlights included:

Central Plains Library System (CPLS)

- Consulted via telephone, email, and in person on many topics including E-Rate, programming, policies, certification of staff and accreditation of libraries, cataloging, weeding, and collection arrangement.
- Conducted 2 week long, system-wide weeding projects, with 40 libraries participating.
- Coordinated workshops for school and public librarians about Makerspaces, Kapco Book Repair, E-Rate Discounts, Summer Reading Program, Customer Service, and Accreditation.
- Participated in cooperative projects including Youth Services Retreats and NLA Section Meetings.
- Cleaned 112 audio, video, and game discs and repaired 20 book bindings to keep items circulating from member libraries' collections.

- Circulated 82 Professional Journals and provided 14 journal articles through electronic delivery, in addition to routing 68 periodicals.

- Circulated 715 audio books, 59 book kits, 7 Breakout EDU kits, 2 Robotics kits, and 4 Golden Sower Book kits, with cutting equipment being used

18 times and button machine being used 20 times.

- Distributed 8 newsletters.
- Maintained a website, a Pinterest account, and a Library Thing account for member libraries' information.

- Awarded \$4,080 in scholarships.

Southeast Library System (SELS)

- Sponsored or cosponsored 19 continuing education sessions for a total of 1,728 CE hours earned by 356 attendees on topics such as Children's Programming, Makerspaces, Teen Groups, Home Schoolers, Policies, EDGE Initiative, ADA compliance, Youth Services, School Librarians in the Digital Age, succession planning, state law for public libraries, giving and receiving feedback, collection development, Accreditation, social media, determining "fake news" and bias in media, fair use and copyright, and more.
- Conducted 37 on-site training or consulting appointments with member libraries, providing orientation to new library directors on resources available to them through the system and the Commission, weeding assistance, training for boards on topics such as library governance, assistance to foundations of friends groups, help with certification and accreditation, and policy assistance.
- Published 12 issues of the newsletter, with articles and updates from more than 29 libraries of all types.
- Supplied 31 member libraries with more than 940 pages of professional literature on librarianship, municipal activities, and non-profit planning.

- Provided 28 book kits to public, school, and institutional libraries.

Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)

- The system Peer Coordinators Service model continues to develop Tammi Thiem, Genoa Public Library Director; Rosa Schmidt, Oakland Public Library Director, and Lisa Mack, Director at Creighton Public Library provides leadership and links to the library staff in their respective areas. They conduct DiSPEL meetings, video sessions for idea sharing, and problem-solving.
- We added two libraries to the accredited list this year.
- The TRaiLS area supported local staff with \$5,129 in continuing education scholarships. The recipients attended the state NLA/NSLA conference, the COSUGI users group training Harwood Public Innovators Lab for Libraries, the PLA Social Justice and public libraries symposium and the Youth services Retreat.
- Book kits and STEAM kits were loaned to the local schools and libraries. TRaiLS now has 89 titles available for borrowing and 16 STEAM Kits.
- Communication with the area libraries is especially essential, we produced 6 newsletters, the website is used extensively, and we added a YouTube channel to the communications tools for the Three Rivers Library System. As with many things today, electronic media is replacing traditional media, we closed the magazine routing program.
- Conducted 2 significant efforts for staff continuing educations with each presentation being offered 2 times. The focus of presentations was to be convenient to staff, and relevant. We conducted several surveys. The TRaiLS conducted 3 workshops which were recorded for those who were not able to attend, 1 Coffee with Sally focused on new books for young readers, and a session on Chromebooks: The Pros/cons done in conjunction with staff from the ESU7. The third recorded workshop focused on Sam Shaw helping with input for new directors for the BiblioStat Survey.

(continued on page 19)



Commission Supports Regional Library Systems *(continued)*

- The professional staff meets with directors and library boards on several topics including developing foundations from the ground up, reviving and recovering a foundation. Other issues with directors included budgeting and library management.
- The office staff worked on branding for the Three Rivers Library System and developing marking material and image material.

Western Library System (WLS)

- Published 6 newsletters with library articles and photos.
- Traveled more than 10,000 miles doing introduction and consultation library visits on topics including Accreditation, Staffing and Volunteer Planning, Strategic Planning, Board Relations, Friends Group and Foundation Relations, New Teen and Young Adult Programs, Makerspaces, Policies, New Director Assistance and Acclimation, Summer Reading programs, Website presence with Digitization, New Community Outreach Programs, Pioneer project and upgrades, and weeding.
- Cleaned 427 DVD discs for 8 libraries.
- Circulated 7 book kits.
- Distributed reading themed materials to libraries through Cradle Catcher program.
- Repaired 52 books with Cover One book repair system.
- Communicated with area libraries by maintaining a website using WordPress through “Nebraska Libraries on the Web” and weekly announcements via listserv.
- Attended meetings including NLA/NSLA, Lincoln; Spring Meetings; Big Talk From Small Libraries 2018, Lincoln; Youth Service Retreats; and Celebration of Nebraska Books, Lincoln.
- Facilitated 5 WLS board meetings.
- Cosponsored continuing education events including Strategic Planning, Summer Reading Program, Spring Meetings, Pioneer Consortium, Author tours, NebraskAccess, Weeding, NSLA School Librarians Day, E-Rate Discounts, WLS Escape Room, Overdrive Workshop, Community Needs Response Plan, and NLC Library Innovation Studio.
- Awarded \$8,000 grants to member libraries.

Commission Makes Government Information Accessible

The Nebraska Library Commission government information and reference teams continued to provide a variety of government information services throughout the year. Those services were provided in many different forms, such as answering reference questions, research projects, collection development, promotion, and inter/intra-agency cooperation. For example, reference questions included requests for state statutes for elder abuse and exploitation, statutes and contact information about various landlord/tenant issues, and help finding the correct state agency for various questions. Research projects this year included locating an Omaha map of all fiber optic lines, finding Census information for the Chinese population in Nebraska in 1940, and determining when jurisdiction for a state agency switched from one legislative standing committee to another.

Collection development was a continuous process and a major part of providing government information services. The Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse, established by the Legislature in 1972 to collect all Nebraska state agency publications released to the public, includes more than 176,000 items in paper and nearly 13,000 items online—with over 1,200 items added each year. The Federal Documents collection includes more than 47,000 paper items, with almost 600 titles accessible online. As these collections grew, we worked closely with state and federal agencies to fill in gaps and provide documents needed for research. For example, we received items from the Nebraska Department of Education that we didn’t have in our Clearinghouse

collection, provided a 1982 Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station article to North Dakota State University, and used our documents network to locate an Environmental Protection Agency document for an Interlibrary Loan customer. Staff took every opportunity to “scan on demand” any public document that was not available online and added it to our online collection. We also continued retrospective scanning of older state documents (with almost 300 items to date), and made those available online.

Promotion of government information is also an important part of what we do, mainly through blog posts and web pages. Blog entries about state and federal agencies and documents, free information resources webinars, information services for libraries and their customers, and special events (like the 2017 Solar Eclipse) are just a few examples of how we kept the public informed. Web pages with updated resources for topics such as Legal Self-Help and the Subjects Guide to Nebraska State Government also aided the public in finding up-to-date information.

Government Information reference services are available at nlc.ask@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/govdocs/resources.aspx> or contact Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Librarian, mary.sauers@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665 or Bonnie Henzel, Nebraska Library Commission State Documents Staff Assistant, bonnie.henzel@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6285, 800-307-2665.



Nebraska Library Commission

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Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **15,981** items, with book club circulation representing **15,267**.
- ☞ The Library Commission served **934** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **70** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **4,044** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium library customers (from **173** participating libraries) downloaded **347,394** audiobooks and **408,791** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **11,397** images and audio files.
- ☞ **2,624** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **178,789**.
- ☞ **510** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **46,122**.
- ☞ **2624** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **178,789**. These e-docs were accessed **95,674** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **49** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **672** attending live and thousands viewing archived recordings.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission hosted and supported websites for **122** public libraries and **4** Regional Library Systems.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book & Braille Service circulated **108,243** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to more than **3,163** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book & Braille Service recorded **567** magazine issues and **8** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book & Braille Service duplicated **18,682** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book & Braille Service customers downloaded **23,638** audio books **744** audio magazines, **934** Braille materials, and **130** music instruction pieces.
- ☞ Nebraska library staff and board members attended one or more of **239** continuing education classes sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, with **684** total attendees during the fiscal year. This includes **196** who participated in one or more of the **19** online Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **968** library staff participated in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program, up from **934** in FY 2017-18.
- ☞ **178** public libraries are currently accredited, with **63** of them accredited or reaccredited during FY 2018-19.