

Nebraska State Representative Report July 13th, 2002

◆ **Calling all Convention Goers! Why not visit beautiful Lincoln, Nebraska this fall? Get out your calendars and mark these important dates!**

The Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Educational Media Association cordially invite you to join us for "Nebraska Libraries: Leading, Linking, and Learning" October 23-25, 2002, at the joint NLA/NEMA fall conference to be held at the Cornhusker Hotel and Convention Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Visit the following conference web site for conference planning committee contacts, exhibitor and pre-conference information, and NLA award information:

<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/conference/index.html>

Detailed program information and printable registration forms will be available on the web site in August and published in the upcoming issues of *Nebraska Library Association Quarterly* (NLAQ) and *Nebraska Educational Media Association News* (NEMA News).

◆ **Nebraska Long Range Plan for Library Services 2003 - 2007**

A draft of the Nebraska Long Range Plan for Library Services 2003 – 2007 is now available. This plan, based in part on the findings from the Making a Difference @ your library™ public library visits, was discussed at the meeting of the State Advisory Council on Libraries on June 21st, 2002. During the afternoon session, a forum was provided to gather input on the Nebraska Long Range Plan for Library Services. We invite you to attend and assist us in this planning process. For a print copy or more information, contact Nancy Busch at the Library Commission, 402-471-4002, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ***nbusch@nlc.state.ne.us***.

◆ **2002 NEBRASKA BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION**

The 2002 Nebraska Book Festival Committee announces the Festival's first Student Writing Competition. The competition is open to all interested Nebraska middle school and high school students. Prizes will be awarded at the Friday evening Awards Banquet on September 13. The 2002 Nebraska Book Festival's theme, "A Sense of Time, A Sense of Place," has been chosen as the theme for the competition.

Students are asked to think of a certain time or place in history that is particularly inspiring to them and to write about that experience in one of the three literary formats.

The Central Nebraska Writer's Network has written the guidelines for and will judge the Student Writing Competition. The 2002 Nebraska Book Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, with funding from the Nebraska Humanities Council. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14, at Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. CDT. For questions regarding the Festival, please contact Diane Haney, Festival Coordinator, 308-384-6209, e-mail: ***greenacre@charter.net***, or Pam Snow, Festival Chair, e-mail: ***phsnow@kdsi.net***.

◆ **Bricks and Boards: Hammering Out Library Buildings Workshop August 10**

Nebraska's Regional Library Systems, with the support of the Nebraska Library Commission, will present a workshop on planning library building projects, "Bricks and Boards: Hammering Out Library Buildings," on August 10 at Concordia University, Seward, from 8:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. CDT. Discussion will cover renovation and new building projects. Library staff and supporters involved in or anticipating building projects are encouraged to attend.

Format: Lecture, Question & Answer, Panel, Exhibits.

Registration Contact: Carol Speicher, Administrator, Northeast Library System, 402-564-1586, 800-578-1014, 3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601-2334, fax: 402-564-7977, e-mail: speicher@nol.org.

◆ **New Electronic Benefit Program Materials Available from Nebraska Health and Human Services System**

The Health and Human Services System (HHSS) Finance & Support Department has contacted the Nebraska Library Commission regarding training materials they have available for the new Electronic Benefit Transfer program. Clients will use a plastic debit card instead of food coupons, for example. Of particular interest are 15-minute training videos in English and Spanish intended to be shown to clients available in regular, captioned, and continuous loop formats. Wallet cards, posters, and brochures are also available. Librarians can request multiple copies of the cards and brochures if they have customers who would take them.

◆ **Midwest Internet Institute July 29-30, 2002 (posted: 6/13/2002)**

The Midwest Internet Institute, a two-day conference held on July 29-30, 2002, in Lincoln, Nebraska is now an approved program for Library Continuing Education. Participants in this 6th annual event will include educators from K-16, Technology Coordinators, Administrators, School Board members, City Librarians, and anyone interested in how the Internet is used in the educational process.

Find out more about the sessions, optional hands-on workshops, and nationally known speakers at: <http://mii.lps.org>.

◆ **State Data Center's Thirteenth Annual Summer Conference: August 22**

Stay current with the latest data products, methods of access, and applications! Learn about the 2000 Census results, population trends, and more! Breakout sessions include **Census Basics**, **Kids Count**, **State and Federal Government Publications**, and **State and Local Population Trends**, among others. Register on or before August 12 to pay \$45, after August 12 the cost is \$55. Conference materials, lunch, and refreshment breaks are included in the cost of this all-day conference (8 a.m to 4:30 p.m.). Visit the Center for Public Affairs Research Web page <http://www.unomaha.edu/~cpar/> to view or print the Nebraska State Data Center's Thirteenth Annual Summer Conference brochure, which includes registration form and contact information.

◆ **New Republican Valley Library System Administrator**

Kevin Leapley has accepted appointment as **Republican Valley Library System Administrator**, effective June 17, 2002. He most recently served as Automation Librarian for the Plum Creek Library System in Minnesota.

◆ **Nebrask@ Online for Business Unveiled May 20 (posted: 6/4/2002)**

The State of Nebraska's official business portal, Nebrask@ Online for Business is open for business. The Web site is located at <http://www.Nebraska.gov/business>. The State of Nebraska's Web site can be accessed at www.Nebraska.gov, www.nol.org, and www.state.ne.us.

◆ **Children's and Young Adult Library Services Videoconference July 26**

The Nebraska Library Commission is celebrating our second year of offering interactive videoconference discussions on topics of particular interest to librarians who work with children and/or young adults. Since interest in the program is so high, more videoconferences will be provided in 2002. The following videoconference is scheduled:

Delivering Services to Spanish-Speaking Children and Dia de los Niños (Day of the Children) July 26th, 2002

The videoconference will be held from 1:00–4:00 P.M. CST, and is an informal discussion meeting to share ideas and concerns about events that are part of the yearly library calendar for youth. It also provides an opportunity to interact with colleagues from other parts of Nebraska. A variety of videoconference site locations have been established to minimize travel requirements. Locations include Ainsworth, Chadron, Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, North Platte, Omaha, O'Neill, Scottsbluff and Wayne. There is no charge for attending.

◆ **Software Purchasing Discount for Public Libraries and School Media Centers**

The Nebraska Department of Education negotiated a contract for purchase of Microsoft software products with Software Plus located in St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition to Microsoft products and licenses, Software Plus offers a substantial academic discount on other manufacturers such as Adobe, Symantec, Macromedia, The Learning Co., Knowledge Adventure, Inspiration and much, much, more. Software Plus offers academic pricing from virtually all software, peripheral and hardware manufacturers.

◆ **Training and Continuing Education Grants Accepted Beginning June 15**

Beginning **June 15**, the Nebraska Library Commission will accept applications for state-funded Training and Continuing Education Grants. These grants will be awarded to projects providing training and continuing education for Nebraska library personnel and supporters, ensuring that every public library in Nebraska has skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve the citizens' information needs.

Deadline:

Completed Application Packets submitted: July 15.

Grants awarded: To be determined pending outcome of special session of Nebraska Legislature.

For more information see:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/conedgrants/aboutcegrants.html>

◆ **Nebraska Library Association Offers New Benefits**

The year the Nebraska Library Association Committee is hard at work seeking discounts for card-carrying members of NLA at various bookstores, restaurants, and hotels across the state. These are the establishments people prefer, according to a questionnaire on the NLAALL listserv.

Members are enjoy important benefits including professional development, scholarship and awards, and legislative advocacy. More information on this benefits effort will appear in the fall issue of the Nebraska Library Association Quarterly, and on the NLA website:

<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA>

◆ **NLA C&U research grant awarded**

Paul S. Hoffman (MPLA member) and Judellen Thornton-Jaringe, both faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, were awarded a \$500.00 research grant by the College & University section of the Nebraska Library Commission. Hoffman and Thornton-Jaringe will be implementing an online poll to solicit feedback from faculty and graduate assistants at UNL's Teacher College on ways in which their library-supported, education-related Web site can be improved in scope, currency, design best practices, organization, etc. Responses will be used to redesign the site, and a paper documenting the process will be written for submission to a professional journal. Hoffman and Thornton-Jaringe hope their experiences will be transferable to other library liaisons wishing to update their subject-specific Web sites.

Ord Elementary School Children top 1,000,000 Pages

Challenged by school faculty, and utilizing an Electronic Bookshelf program, this year's students at Ord Elementary School surpassed a goal of reading 1,000,000 pages from books owned by the school. As of May 10th, 2002, more than 1,047,385 had been read. This is a significant increase from the 775,034 pages read during the 2000-2001 school year.

◆ **New Officers for the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA)**

This year's officers for NEMA are Deb Grove, President-Elect; Sharon Anderson, Secretary; and Gail Formanack and Karla Wendelin, Board Members At-Large.

◆ **"Continue The Success" Institute**

"Continue the Success" was the theme of the 19th Annual Library/Media Institute held at Wayne State College on June 6th-7th. Sessions were offered on a wide variety of topics to meet the needs of school media specialists, librarians and trustees.

◆ **Southeast Library System Training Extravaganza**

The Southeast Library System held its "Training Extravaganza" on May 31st, 2002. The event consisted of a whole day devoted to training for every member of library staff. Sessions were provided on customer service, books reviews, hands-on computer training, personal safety in the library, and other topics.

◆ **News From Gretna Public Library**

The Gretna Public Library kicked off a new program for seniors in celebration of National Library Week. LEARN @ Your Library is a monthly activity session that mixes entertainment and social interaction with education programs. LEARN (Learning Entertainment And Reading Niche) will feature travelogues, book talks, speakers and videos that will cover a variety of topics of interest for people age 55 and older.

◆ **News From Wahoo Public Library**

The Wahoo Public library celebrated National Library Week by updating the reading section at the Saunders County Jail as a way of helping inmates "pass the time."

Respectfully submitted by,
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