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BIENNIAL REPORT
of the
NEBRASKA
PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

July 1, 1946 through June 30, 1948

STATE OF NEBRASKA

BIENNIAL REPORT

of the

NEBRASKA

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION



July 1, 1946 through June 30, 1948

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

December 8, 1948

Honorable Val Peterson
Governor of Nebraska
State Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear sir:

We are pleased to present herewith the biennial report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission for the period ending June 30, 1948.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Charles W. Andrews
President

BIENNIAL REPORT
of the
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

JULY 1, 1946-JUNE 30, 1948

Introduction

During the two year period covered by this report the Nebraska Public Library Commission has furthered its function as the state's library extension agency, continued supplementary services to the public libraries of Nebraska from its book collection and professional personnel, and provided direct library service to schools, clubs, and individuals in parts of the state without local public libraries.

Commission Membership

The department has been guided in its policy making by a commission of five members appointed by the Governor to serve for five years. The present commission membership with date of expiration of term is:

Mrs. Charles W. Andrews, Omaha, President, 1952
Mr. Merle Kingsbury, Ponca, Vice-President, 1951
Mrs. Chester Hugo, Gothenburg, 1949
Mr. E. L. Meyer, Alliance, 1950
Mr. Thomas E. Adams, Jr., Beatrice, 1953

Mrs. Andrews was appointed to the Commission in 1947 replacing Mrs. Ruby Northup whose term expired in June 1947. Mr. Adams served as president for the year 1946-1947 and Mrs. Hugo was president during 1947-1948. Mrs. Andrews was elected to the office in October 1948.

The Commission held six meetings during the period of this report: September 10, 1946; February 13, 1947; May 23, 1947; September 30, 1947; January 20, 1948 and April 20, 1948. Record of the proceedings is shown in the minutes of the meetings.

Staff

The Library Commission staff during the two years of the report consisted of four professional librarians and four

clerical workers. A fifth librarian in the position of general assistant and field worker, was added in September, 1948. Present professional personnel is as follows:

Miss Clara B. Johnson, executive secretary

Miss Anita Proffitt, assistant secretary

Miss Adeline Huwaldt, general assistant and field librarian

Miss Olsie Anderson, assistant in charge of school and community loans

Miss Lora Bolton, cataloger

The clerical employees are Mrs. Jean Thiellen, stenographer, Miss Lois Martin, typist and Miss Joyce Stemper, typist. The shipping clerk position is filled by two part time students, John Dennison and Harvey Headley.

There was one change in the professional staff during the biennium. Miss Sarah Richmond, assistant secretary, resigned effective July 1, 1947, and was replaced by Miss Anita Proffitt in September of 1947. Turnover in the clerical staff was frequent and the problem of training clerks in the library routines of the department was a continuous one for the librarian supervisors.

Administrative Activities

Library Commission activities at the administrative desk were varied. Among them were the distribution of the annual statistical blanks to the public libraries of the state, collection and tabulation of the reports. These statistics from the public libraries serve as basic information for study of established services and will be discussed later in paragraphs concerning tables 4 and 5. Questionnaires were sent to school and college libraries to secure facts for tables 2 and 3.

The executive secretary prepared the library statistics for inclusion in the **Nebraska Blue Book** and furnished copy for the paragraphs descriptive of her department.

Eight quarterly issues of the "Newsletter to Nebraska Librarians" were prepared. The letters carry news of interest to librarians from the national, state and local professional fields and keep the recipients in touch with the services of the Nebraska Public Library Commission. The mailing list totals 650 persons including librarians of Nebraska's school, college and public libraries, trustees, and friends. The letter

is also sent on exchange to other state library extension agencies, to several library schools, and to national library agencies.

Articles concerning library service in the state were written for publication in the Library Journal, Nebraska Educational Journal, Nebraska Agriculture, Legion Auxiliary Star, and Agricultural Extension Service News.

Two circulars were prepared for the Home Extension Office, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, "A Club Meeting with Books" and "Nebraska Needs County and Regional Libraries." These were issued as extension circulars for use by farm women's study clubs.

Releases for newspaper publicity reported Commission meetings, visits of staff in the field, and participation in the Nebraska Library Association meetings.

Opportunity to present the work of the department and the program for library extension to people of the state was provided when the executive secretary was speaker at meetings of a number of organizations, the Nebraska County Superintendent's Association, a P.E.O. Chapter, Woman's Club, Associated Women of Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Library Association, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, and at a class at the Kearney State Teachers College. Several radio speeches were also given.

Exhibits were used as a public relations device to acquaint residents of the state with the work of the state library extension agency. A three panel screen exhibit was designed for the Cornhusker Caravan, a truck exhibit that toured county seat towns of Nebraska under sponsorship of the Extension Service, College of Agriculture.

Advisory service was extended to librarians, members of library boards and citizen groups interested in improvement of local library facilities. Personal conferences, correspondence, field visits and helps regarding library techniques from the book collection contributed to this service.

Talks about the work of the department and conducted tours through its offices were given to four college classes, to visiting rural school groups, to delegations from the state Library Association, to Girls' State and to Boys' State representatives, and to individuals from this and other states who made visits.

The staff assisted Dr. Robert D. Leigh when he surveyed the department in March, 1948, as a part of the Public Library

Inquiry, a nation-wide survey under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council, financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Information was provided the American Library Association offices and committees through questionnaire answers, and statistics were sent the Library Service Division, U. S. Office of Education for periodical reports.

Although there continues to be a serious shortage of professional librarians the Library Commission has endeavored to serve as a placement agency to assist libraries to secure qualified librarians.

Finance Statement

The Library Commission receives a biennial appropriation from the state determined by act of legislature. The budget is derived from the general fund of the state. Appropriation and expenditure for the two year period of this report are as follows:

Amount appropriated for the biennium 1945-1947:

Salaries	\$22,520.00
Maintenance (includes books) ..	23,254.48
Total	\$45,774.48

Unexpended balance July 1, 1946:

Salaries	\$11,845.65
Maintenance	14,078.92

Expended fiscal year 1946-1947:

Salaries	11,835.16
Maintenance	14,078.92
Total	\$25,914.08

Amount appropriated for the biennium 1947-1949:

Salaries	\$31,380.00
Maintenance	22,000.00
Total	\$53,380.00

Yearly estimate pro rata:

Salaries	\$15,890.00
Maintenance	11,000.00

Expended fiscal year 1947-1948:

Salaries	\$13,183.08
Maintenance	6,405.44
Total	\$19,588.52

Total spent during the two years of this report. . . . \$45,502.60

Library Service Activities

Miss Anita Proffitt is in charge of order work, reference and one month's loans. Books are sent from her division as inter-library loans to librarians for requests which they are unable to supply locally. Direct lending to rural residents provides a convenient mail order book service. Reference questions are answered from the many indexes, books, vertical files and from the magazine collection. Supplementary service is given schools in rural and village communities and inter-library loans are sent to urban school and to college libraries. A quarterly list of new books and several seasonal lists were mimeographed for distribution.

Miss Lora Bolton, the cataloger, classified and cataloged 8,005 books during the period of this report. Union Catalog reference and filing are also in her charge. 55,726 cards were received from the 28 contributing libraries representing new book accessions and 9,227 cards were withdrawn. Through the Union Catalog the book resources of the entire state are indexed. The Catalog lists the adult book holdings in university, college, state and large public libraries of Nebraska and now contains 1,711,952 cards. The Union Catalog was searched by the librarian to find the location of books in answer to 2,503 requests during the biennium. Cataloging and bibliographical information was also supplied inquiring librarians by the cataloger.

Miss Olsie Anderson is in charge of the school and community loans sent for three months use. She selects these traveling libraries to suit the needs as designated on the request card of the teacher, the club librarian or sponsor. Summer loans were sent to public libraries on request to stimulate vacation reading for children.

The total number of books circulated as traveling libraries represents a count of one for each book loaned for the three months period. Actual use would be five or six times the number shown in the statistical tables.

Book collections were also selected for loan to the following state institutions: Penitentiary, Men's Reformatory, Hospital for the Insane, Orthopedic Hospital, Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Women's Reformatory and the Home for Children.

A statistical record of library services is shown in the following table:

Volumes in the Library

Volumes in the library, July 1, 1946.....	71,424
Volumes added by purchase and gift.....	7,965

Volumes worn out and discarded.....	3,134
Volumes in the library, July 1, 1948.....	76,255

Record of Loans

Borrowers	Requests Filled	Books Loaned
Groups of residents.....	311	26,466
Public libraries	1,839	29,360
Schools	1,329	57,174
Other organizations	55	4,916
Study clubs	55	159
Individuals	12,400	35,790
Total	15,989	153,865

The office in room 1508, State Capitol, Lincoln 9, is open from 8 to 12 o'clock and from 1 to 5. It closes at 12 on Saturday. The staff works a 44 hour week.

Taking Stock of Public Libraries in Nebraska

A study of the statistics of public libraries in Nebraska was made after the compilation of the annual reports which are submitted in compliance with the State law by every public library in Nebraska. The compilation is given in tables numbered 4 and 5.

Use of Books

First a study of use of local library books in the counties of the state was made. The following counties have no local public tax supported libraries so record no use of books: Banner, Blaine, Dundy, Hayes, Keya Paha, Loup, McPherson, Perkins, Rock, Sioux, Thomas, and Wheeler.

Reports were not received from libraries in Arthur and Boyd counties so they are omitted.

In the other counties a total of books circulated as reported by the several libraries of each county was taken and using the total population of the county the per capita book circulation was computed. A complete tabulation of the study is shown in the following table:

Per Capita Circulation	County	Per Capita Circulation	County
7.7	Phelps	1.9	Webster
6.5	Grant	1.9	Thayer
4.7	Adams	1.9	Merrick
4.7	Dodge	1.9	Colfax
4.5	Jefferson	1.9	Clay
4.5	Garfield	1.8	Nemaha
4.4	Hall	1.8	Custer
4	Sherman	1.8	Cheyenne
3.8	Lancaster	1.8	Otoe
3.4	Deuel	1.7	Saline
3.3	Wayne	1.7	Dawes
3.3	Madison	1.6	York
3.2	Scotts Bluff	1.6	Morrill
3.2	Hooker	1.6	Logan
3	Richardson	1.5	Greeley
3	Cass	1.4	Sheridan
2.9	Burt	1.4	Polk
2.8	Lincoln	1.4	Johnson
2.8	Gage	1.4	Franklin
2.8	Fillmore	1.4	Dixon
2.7	Stanton	1.4	Butler
2.6	Knox	1.3	Harlan
2.5	Nance	1.3	Frontier
2.4	Valley	1.2	Howard
2.4	Red Willow	1.2	Holt
2.4	Pawnee	1.2	Hitchcock
2.4	Dawson	1.2	Furnas
2.4	Box Butte	1.1	Washington
2.3	Dakota	1.1	Cherry
2.2	Pierce	1	Hamilton
2.1	Kimball	1	Cedar
2.1	Kearney	.9	Sarpy
2.1	Buffalo	.9	Cuming
2	Seward	.8	Brown
2	Nuckolls	.7	Saunders
2	Douglas	.6	Platte
2	Chase	.6	Gosper
2	Boone	.6	Garden
2	Antelope	.4	Keith
		.1	Thurston

A. L. A. Standards

The American Library Association in Post War Standards for Public Libraries, 1943, sets forth minimum standards

which are being used in many states as a goal in plans for library development. Compare the statistics of Nebraska libraries with this statement of standard, an excerpt from the complete study.

“Public library service should be free and universally available in the United States and its territories.

It is an obligation of the public library to integrate its services with the work of other social and cultural agencies.

In the larger municipal libraries and in county and regional libraries, service should be brought close to the homes of the people through systems of branches, mobile units, and other agencies of communication and transportation. Provision should be made for the organized flow of reference and reading aid questions, inter-loan requests and other services among branches, extension agencies, and the central library.

In evaluating the library as an institution of democracy, all types of service require careful measurement. To use circulation as the only measure of library service is unsound. The information and guidance functions are equally important.

Effective public library service requires a program of public relations and reading stimulation which makes the public aware of library services and encourages the use of these services.

Library service should not be stereotyped in form or pattern but should be focused upon the varying problems of particular communities and changing times. Experimentation should be encouraged, both in kinds of service and in methods of recording and evaluating services.

Age distribution and the educational levels of the population served will affect the standards of library performance from community to community.”

“The essence of the many standards for public libraries may be compressed into three basic elements, all of which are necessary in a planned program of library development:

1. Complete public library coverage
2. Library service of adequate quantity and dynamic quality
3. Large units and cooperation in library service

Registration

"The number of registered borrowers in public library units should meet the following minimum quantitative standards, based on a three year registration period:

For adult borrowers: 20 to 40 per cent of the population 15 years of age and over.

For juvenile borrowers: 35 to 75 per cent of the population from 5 through 14 years of age.

For both adult and juvenile borrowers the per cent of the population registered will tend to rise as the population of the unit served decreases."

Circulation of Books

"The circulation of books for home use in public library units should meet the following minimum quantitative standards:

For adult books: 3 to 10 volumes per capita for the population of 15 years of age and over.

For children's books: 10 to 30 volumes per capita for the population from 5 through 14 years of age.

For both adult and children's books the circulation per capita will tend to rise as the population of the unit served decreases."

Standards of Finance

"The following minimum per capita standards of support are recommended for varying stages of development of library service in areas with 25,000 population and over*:

For limited or minimum service...	\$1.50 per capita
For reasonably good service.....	2.25 per capita
For superior service	3.00 per capita
\$37,500 is the minimum income standard of support."*	

*Revised figures used from **A National Plan for Public Library Service, 1948**, (Chicago, American Library Association.)

The County and Regional Libraries Section of the American Library Association by action taken June, 1948, requires that libraries show a minimum budget of \$5,000 for listing as a county library.

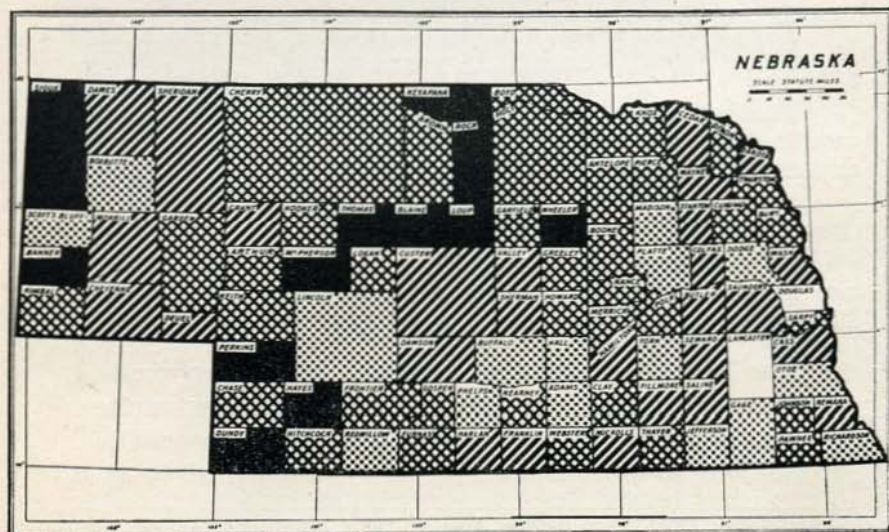
As you can determine in a comparison, no library in Nebraska meets all of the requirements noted in these American Library Association standards.

Study of Library Income

Considering library incomes in the 37 urban communities wide differences are found. Omaha and Lincoln have tax incomes for library services of over \$100,000 a year. Four other libraries, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings and North Platte, have a revenue of between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Twelve others have incomes of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Incomes of the 21 remaining libraries of the urban class range from \$1,500 to \$4,275.

Taking the total number of tax supported public libraries in the statistical tabulation, of the 219 libraries reporting, 18 libraries are receiving over \$5,000 income, 32 are receiving from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and the remaining 169 libraries are receiving incomes of less than \$2,000.

To picture the study of statistics concerning library financing in both urban and rural town classes, the accompanying map is given.



12 counties "blacked out" indicate no tax supported library service in the area.

38 counties have tax support below \$2,000 in any one library of the county. Shown "crosshatched."

- 25 counties have tax support between \$2,000 and \$5,000 in at least one library of the county. Shown "striped."
- 16 counties have tax support between \$5,000 and \$25,000 in any one library of the county. Shown dotted.
- 2 counties, Douglas and Lancaster, have city libraries with incomes exceeding \$25,000. These two city libraries receive incomes over \$100,000 a year. Shown "white."

Study by Population

Table 4 and table 5 list 219 public tax supported libraries in the state. Of that number 37 are in urban areas, that is, in communities over 2,500 population. The remainder, 182 libraries, are in rural communities, by definition, having less than 2,500 population.

The total population of the state is 1,315,834. The population represented in the 219 communities supporting library service is 713,035. This leaves 602,799 people without local libraries or 44% of the people of Nebraska without public libraries in their home communities.

A Program for Library Extension

The need for a more equalized opportunity in the use of books and other public library services by the people of Nebraska as indicated by the black out map above is recognized by leaders in the library profession as well as by leaders of citizen groups in the state which have sponsored library extension as a civic program in Nebraska.

The possibilities for extension of library service in a rural state are centered in the development of county and regional library systems. A regional library is organized to include several counties where population is large enough and resources adequate to provide a free public library service to the people in the entire area. The library system from a central headquarters may operate through stations, branches, a bookmobile, or by a combination of them. Books on many subjects for all ages form a large collection which circulates over the region. Librarians professionally trained supervise and administer the service.

To stimulate interest in the establishment of regional or joint-county libraries, state funds are needed. Regional

library service demonstrations financed by the state have been proposed to provide a community for a period of time with a sample of library service to show citizens how books can be made available, how trained librarians are essential, how the citizens are in control as trustees and how support can be made permanent with tax spread over a large enough area to keep the cost reasonable. The Library Commission request for \$50,000 for regional library demonstration was rejected by the state budget making authorities in 1947.

Citizens' groups in Nebraska, interested in library development, are conducting an information program to let the people of the state know the benefits of county and regional libraries, and to point out the state's responsibility in library advancement.

Additional studies are needed through scientific surveys of Nebraska to show educational, cultural, social and economic groupings within given population areas; book resources; library materials needed; suitable service outlets; and proposed regional boundaries to prepare a groundwork for regional library establishment.

Filling the new position of Library Commission field librarian in September 1948 with the appointment of Miss Adeline Huwaldt, a librarian experienced in county and regional library work, will contribute much to the public relations activities of the department, to an expanded program of field work, survey, and consultant services.

Conclusion

The Nebraska Public Library Commission has through its services of book lending, reference, union catalog service, and advisory assistance, functioned as a state library extension agency within the limits of its budget. An expanded program of field work, survey, and demonstration of regional libraries cannot be undertaken, however, without increases in appropriation for the department or special appropriations for the separate extension projects.

Table 1.

STATE LIBRARIES

Department	Location	Volumes	Librarian
Legislative Council Reference Library.....	Lincoln	30,000*	Louise Nixon
Nebraska Public Library Commission.....	Lincoln	76,255	Clara B. Johnson
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln	60,000	James C. Olson
State Library.....	Lincoln	121,290	George Turner

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U. S. GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture.....	Lincoln	17,725*	Marie Gould
Veteran's Administration Hospital.....	Lincoln	4,455	Mrs. Emily M. Gardiner

*Includes pamphlets

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Joslyn Memorial Art Museum.....	Omaha	4,225	Mrs. Elizabeth Averill
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Table 2.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

School	Location	Volumes	Librarian
College of St. Mary.....	Omaha	8,594	Sister Mary Joan
Concordia Teachers College.....	Seward	12,536	Renata Koschmann
Creighton University	Omaha	45,000	Mary Ruth Booth
Dana College	Blair		Aagot D. Hoidahl
Doane College.....	Crete	33,029	Ruth Kraemer
Duchesne College.....	Omaha	19,775	Mother Grace Connolly
Hastings College	Hastings	36,300	Ruth D. Harris
Luther College.....	Wahoo	7,866	Aina Abrahamson
McCook Junior College.....	McCook	3,455	Hazel W. Furman
Midland College.....	Fremont		Marguerite S. Kaufman
Nebraska Central College.....	Central City	6,300	Mrs. R. C. Campbell
Nebraska Wesleyan University.....	Lincoln	37,720	Mrs. Ethol Bishop
Omaha Municipal University.....	Omaha	82,863	Ellen Lord
State Teachers College.....	Chadron	30,000	Kathryn L. Buck
State Teachers College.....	Kearney	37,098	Floy Carroll
State Teachers College.....	Peru	54,189	Nellie M. Carey
State Teachers College.....	Wayne	36,875	M. Lois Crouch
Union College.....	Lincoln	43,164	Floda Smith
University of Nebraska.....	Lincoln	450,000	Frank A. Lundy
York College.....	York	19,569	Maybelle Taylor

Table 3.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Information from the Annual Report, September, 1948

Town	Librarian	Volumes
Alliance	Mrs. Vivian Andrews	4,972
Aurora	Alta Louise Otto	950
Beatrice		
Junior High School	Alice Potter	5,100
Senior High School	Mrs. Beth Kline	3,719
Broken Bow	Mrs. Ralph Thompson	
Columbus		
Junior High School	Eleanor Texley	
Senior High School	Mary R. Rankin	3,447
Fairbury	Mrs. Helen Boone	4,000
Fremont		
Junior High School	Hildegarde C. Lindblad	2,279
Senior High School	Marian Bader	3,700
Gering	Mrs. Amanda McHenry	5,375
Grand Island		
Barr Junior High School		
Senior High School	Catherine Glade	6,729
Walnut Jr. High School	Eleanor Faudel	5,000
Hastings		
Junior High School	Glen H. James	3,753
Senior High School	Marie Heiss	
Holdrege	Laura Beichley	
Kearney		
Elementary School	Hazel Shostrom	12,220
Junior High School		3,375
Senior High School	Amy Figard	4,818
Lincoln		
College View High School	Mrs. Anna Bergman	2,653
Everett Jr. High School	Freida Schmeling	1,998
Irving Jr. High School	Arvilla Lange	4,300
Lincoln High School	Emma E. Snyder	8,170
Northeast High School	Mary Burnham	4,600
Whittier Jr. High School	Mrs. Lois Holmgren	5,000
Norfolk	Dorothy Mae Korn	5,308
North Platte	E. Marjorie Smith	3,167
Omaha		
Benson High School	Alice Horsfall	8,046
Central High School	Mrs. Hazel Stewart	26,537
North High School	Mrs. Elma Simpson	9,000
South High School	Ivae Walker	
Technical High School	Iva Winterfield	
Scottsbluff	Ethel Pflug	4,009
Sidney	Verna Robinson	2,781