

BIENNIAL REPORT

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Lincoln, Nebraska

To the Honorable Ralph G. Brooks
Governor of the State of Nebraska

Dear Sir

We are pleased to present herewith the biennial report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission covering the period from July 1, 1957 to June 30, 1959 as required by Section 51-403, Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

This report also carries total figures for the 1955 - 1957 biennium.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas E. Adams, Jr., President
Nebraska Public Library Commission

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Members of the Commission

	Term Expires
Thomas E. Adams, Jr., Beatrice, President	1963
Mrs. Chester Hugo, Gothenburg, Vice President	1959
Earl Meyer, Alliance	1960
Mrs. Barton Kline, Chadron	1961
Mrs. Gordon Randall, Omaha	1962

Louise A. Nixon, Executive Secretary

BIENNIAL REPORT

Nebraska Public Library Commission

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Organization and Responsibility

The Nebraska Public Library Commission is the official library extension agency of the state. Established in 1901, it is governed by sections 51-401 through 51-410, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, Vol. 3A, Reissue, 1952 and Supplements.

The administrative policies of the agency are established by a governing board of five members, appointed by the Governor, for five year terms. These five commissioners serve without pay, except for traveling expenses when attending to the business of the Commission.

The Commission employs an executive secretary who is required by law to be a "trained, qualified and experienced librarian", to administer the work of the agency.

Functions

The functions of the Public Library Commission are to promote, encourage and improve public library service in Nebraska. The Statutes list powers and indicate the services to be established to carry out these functions.

Services

Book Collection - The book collection of the Nebraska Public Library Commission was started in 1901 to provide book loans for newly organized public libraries, for rural and community schools and for direct loans to individuals living in rural areas or communities that had no local public library service. The collection has grown slowly through the fifty-eight years. The emphasis has been on adult nonfiction, to provide the loan materials to public libraries which they could not afford to purchase. The book collection has been greatly strengthened

during the current biennium, as some Library Services Act money has been used for this purpose under Project B.

Loans - The Commission loans books, periodicals, pamphlets to public libraries on a one month basis and longer term book loans, (three months) to the very small community libraries. Longer term loans are available to rural schools and to schools in communities which have no local public library. Direct loans by mail are also provided to the sparsely settled areas in the state, where no library service is available.

Reference Service - This service is provided to public libraries wishing to use it. Reference materials are loaned from the Commission's collection for short periods of time, to be used in the local library only. In addition materials are copied (Thermofax) and reference questions answered. This service to the public libraries is given special attention by trained reference librarians on the staff.

Union Catalog - The Nebraska Union Catalog was deposited with the Nebraska Public Library Commission in 1938. The catalog is used extensively to locate books for inter-library loans. The Commission has assumed the cost of maintaining the catalog and the twenty-eight member libraries supply the entries (author cards for each book added to their collection) on a quarterly basis. A list of the twenty-eight member libraries is appended to this report. The extensive use of the catalog and the cooperation of the member libraries in loaning books to all the libraries in the state is indicative of its value. Statistics on its growth and use will be found in the statistical section of this report.

Library for the Blind - Loans of Talking Books and books in Braille to the legally blind of Nebraska is another service established by the five member Commission who believe that it is clearly as much the responsibility of the state library agency to supply library service to this segment of the population as it is to provide direct library service to those people who have no local public library service.

The Public Library Commission was designated as a Regional Library for the Blind in 1952. As such it receives Talking Books and Books in Braille from the Library of Congress. The Commission employs the librarian and a full time assistant to administer the service.

Reference service is provided to legally blind students and materials are borrowed on interlibrary loan, such as hand transcribed materials on technical and professional subjects. Statistical information on the use of the service is given later in this report.

Consultant Service - The law governing the Commission specifies that the Commission shall provide advisory services and technical assistance to all communities requesting such services. In addition to special consultants, other professional members of the staff are available for specialized assistance to librarians, library trustees, community groups and governmental officials.

LSA Demonstrations - With funds made available under the Library Services Act, Federal Law 597 (1956) the Commission has been able to provide demonstrations of improved library services in two regions of the state. One, the South Central Regional Library in Holdrege is a demonstration of a system of libraries to increase the effectiveness of the many, small libraries in the area and to extend their services to new regions. The second is a demonstration of bookmobile service from an established county library, the Rock County Library, to two adjoining counties having no local library service, Keya Paha and Loup counties.

LSA funds are matched by the current expenditures of the Nebraska Public Library Commission supplemented by expenditures of local libraries in the demonstration areas.

The Commission administers the funds during the period of a demonstration and acts as consultant and advisor for the demonstration libraries.

Priority for demonstrations is given to those areas where there is: the greatest willingness among libraries to combine into larger units of service, (2) a feeling among library personnel and authorities for the extension of library service; and (3) the greatest possibility that a permanent library program will succeed after the demonstration period.

Library-Community Project - This special service was made possible by a grant from the American Library Association of \$12,000. The project extended over a two-year period and the Hastings Public Library served as the project

library. A qualified librarian was employed to serve as the L-CP Director for the state. Surveys of the library and the community were conducted and the local Community Study Committee with the members of the public library board studied the services of the Hastings public library in relation to the findings of these surveys. The Community Survey Report has been published and copies are available at the Commission.

Through district library meetings and a L-CP Workshop other public libraries learned of the objectives and progress of the project.

Conferences and Workshops - During the biennium two conferences and one workshop were held, all made possible through gifts of funds. The Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. granted funds for a Second Rural Reading Conference and a Governor's Conference for Public Library Trustees. The Library-Community Project funds paid for the workshop.

The Second Rural Reading Conference held in May, 1958, was designed to encourage more purposeful use of books for information, inspiration, enjoyment and continued education. Public librarians and Home Extension Club Reading Leaders met together as in the first Rural Reading Conference.

The Governor's Conference for Nebraska Public Library Trustees called by Governor Victor Anderson, discussed the role of the public library as an active force in today's society and reassessed the qualifications, selection, duties and position of a library trustee. This conference was held May, 1958.

The objectives of the Community Study Workshop were to clarify the public library's educational function and to instruct librarians and trustees in the techniques and reasons for community study. This Workshop was held in February, 1959.

Publications - The Nebraska Public Library Commission is required by statute to collect reports from public and school libraries, annually. These statistics are published annually. In addition the Commission publishes a Newsletter to Librarians and Trustees; a Trustees Manual; reports of the Library-Community Project Surveys; and leaflets on the various services of the Commission.

Exhibits - The Commission organizes and circulates a Traveling Exhibit of Children's Books. Books for the exhibit are gifts of the publishers and are provided through an agreement sponsored by the Children's Book Council.

The High School Art Exhibit assembled by the Association of High School Art Teachers is loaned only to public libraries. Its popularity has continued.

Appropriations and Expenditures - Statistics on the funds available to the Commission for the biennium from appropriation, grants and gifts and their expenditure are listed on the following pages.

S T A T I S T I C S

Books Purchased and Withdrawn

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1957

Books in the Library, July 1, 1955	87,759
Books added during biennium	11,900
Books withdrawn	5,875
Total books in library 6/30/57	93,784

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Books in the Library, July 1, 1957	93,784
Books added during biennium	13,813
Books withdrawn	2,650
Total volumes in Library, 6/30/59	104,947
Books purchased and processed for LSA demonstrations, 1957-1959	13,499

Circulation

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1957

	Requests	Volumes
Reference and one month loans	22,391	79,428
Community and school loans	4,179	158,479
Books for the Blind	19,050	29,712
Totals	45,620	267,619

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Reference and one month loans	22,313	77,986
Community and school loans	4,290	162,755
Books for the Blind	24,904	37,351
Totals	51,507	278,092

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1957

Appropriation, tax and cash funds	\$ 129,814.16
Grant of funds from Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.	4,230.00
Federal funds	40,000.00

Expenditures

Salaries	92,524.00
Books	21,400.00
Other operating expense	27,714.00
Total Expenditures 7/1/55 to 6/30/57	\$ 141,638.00

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Appropriation		128,000.00
American Library Association Grant (L-CP)		12,000.00
Grant, Woods Foundation Inc.		4,920.00
Federal Funds (Library Services Act)	\$166,659	
Includes \$32,406 unexpended funds	<u>32,406</u>	199,065.00

Expenditures

Salaries	162,924.00
Books	82,639.00
Other operating expenses, including equipment	95,505.00
Total expenditures 7/1/57 to 6/30/59	\$ 341,068.00

UNION CATALOG REPORT

July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1957

Accessions	69,383
Withdrawals	17,475
Total added	51,908
Total cards in Catalog, July 1, 1957	1,940,768
Requests searched (Nebraska)	3,196
Out of state requests searched	378
Requests located	2,486

July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1959

Accessions	77,349
Withdrawals	17,588
Total added	59,791
Entries in Catalog, June 30, 1959	2,000,529
Requests searched (Nebraska)	3,841
Requests searched out of state	286
Requests located	2,774

NEBRASKA UNION CATALOG

Member Libraries

State Library	Lincoln
Beatrice Public Library	Beatrice
Doane College	Crete
Fairbury Public Library	Fairbury
Falls City Public Library	Falls City
Fremont Public Library	Fremont
Midland College	Fremont
Grand Island Public Library	Grand Island
Hastings Public Library	Hastings
Hastings College	Hastings
State Historical Society	Lincoln
State Teachers College	Kearney
Lincoln City Library	Lincoln
Nebraska Public Library Commission	Lincoln
Union College	Lincoln
Nebraska Wesleyan University	Lincoln
Nebraska City Public Library	Nebraska City
Norfolk Public Library	Norfolk
North Platte Public Library	North Platte
Omaha Public Library	Omaha
Creighton University	Omaha
Joslyn Memorial Art Museum	Omaha
University of Omaha	Omaha
State Teachers College	Peru
Scottsbluff Public Library	Scottsbluff
University of Nebraska	Lincoln
College of Medicine	Omaha
State Teachers College	Wayne