

BIENNIAL REPORT

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION

July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1961

Lincoln, Nebraska

To the Honorable Frank B. Morrison
Governor of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Sir

We are pleased to present herewith the biennial report of
the Nebraska Public Library Commission for the period,
July 1, 1959 through June 30, 1961 as required by Section
51-403, Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943, Vol. 3A, Reissue
of 1960.

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. Barton Kline, Chadron, Vice-President | 1966 |
| Mrs. Gordon Randall, Omaha | 1962 |
| Russell Harris, Holdrege | 1964 |
| Mrs. James Lee Sellers, Lincoln | 1965 |

Louise A. Nixon, Executive Secretary

B I E N N I A L R E P O R T

Nebraska Public Library Commission

July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1961

Organization

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, Vol. 3A, Reissue, 1960 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 Commission members serve without pay, except for traveling expenses when attending to the business of the Commission.

Changes in membership of the Commission during the biennium include the appointment of Mr. Russell Harris of Holdrege to succeed Mrs. Chester Hugo of Gothenburg and of Mrs. James Lee Sellers to succeed Mr. Earl Meyer of Alliance.

The powers and duties of the Commission are: (1) To make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law for the government and operation of the Commission, (2) to appoint an executive secretary, at a salary not to exceed \$7,000, (3) to require the executive secretary to execute bond, (4) to authorize the executive secretary to employ such assistance as may be necessary, (5) to sell or exchange duplicate copies of books and magazines or to deposit them on indefinite loan with any tax-supported library in Nebraska, (6) to prescribe rules and regulations governing the use of books, periodicals and material belonging to the Commission, (7) to accept and administer any gifts, bequests and legacies which, in the opinion of the executive secretary and the Commission, may be of value to it, and (8) to make a biennial report.

The Commission employs an executive secretary who is required by law to be " a technically trained, qualified and experienced librarian," to administer the activities of the agency. No legislative approval of the appointment is required. The term is indefinite and the title of this officer is set by law.

Additional qualifications observed in appointment of the executive secretary include knowledge of state and local government and, where possible, experience in working with the state legislature.

The duties of the executive secretary (Sec. 51-404) are:

(1) to administer the work and activities of the Commission, (2) to purchase books, periodicals, equipment and supplies, (3) to keep a catalog of all books and periodicals, (4) to keep bound and repaired all books, periodicals and papers belonging to the Commission, (5) to keep a record of all books and property and (6) to keep a record of all materials loaned. In addition, the executive secretary is required to obtain reports from all libraries in the state (51-407) and to advise and instruct all libraries and individuals and communities interested in establishing libraries and in improving library service. (51-408)

Functions

To promote the establishment of public libraries and to assist on request in organizing new libraries or improving established libraries. To carry out these functions of guiding and reinforcing local public library service throughout Nebraska the Commission has established the following services:

Services to Public Libraries

1. The Commission offers advisory service to librarians, board members, governmental officials and groups of citizens. This is a growing activity and involves many members of the staff depending on the nature of service requested.
2. Maintains a book collection in the Commission to loan to local public libraries. The emphasis of the collection is on adult non-fiction and reference materials. The collection also contains pamphlet materials and a periodical collection of 250 magazines.
3. Provides reference services for all public libraries. This includes the reproduction of articles on the Thermo-fax, and microfilm reader printer.
4. Operates a film circuit for adults; and loans children's and adult films for spot bookings.

5. Arranges for interlibrary loans through the Union Catalog of 28 university, college, and public libraries. Statistics on the Union Catalog and its services will be found in the statistical section of this report.
6. Provides workshops and conferences and special projects to improve public library services. These are often financed by special grants and gifts.

Services to Schools

Loans to rural schools and to schools in communities with no local public libraries.

Services to the Blind

The Library for the Blind was established as part of the Commission in 1952. Books in Braille and talking books are supplied by the Library of Congress. The Commission is responsible for the administration of the library, employing the librarian and assistants to administer the service.

Services to Individuals

Direct loans by mail are provided to those individuals in the state who do not have access to local library service. This service has been very important in the sparsely settled areas of the state. As regional libraries are established the service to individuals comes through the regional library.

Demonstrations

With the passage of the Library Services Act in 1956 federal funds were made available to the state library agencies in the several states to assist these agencies in further extending library service to the rural areas of the state.

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, plans the demonstrations and acts as consultant and advisor for each demonstration. Much has been accomplished during the first five years of LSA

as reported in Nebraska and the Library Services Act, The First Five Years, 1956 - 1961. The greatest result of the LSA funds has been the renaissance of interest in library development in Nebraska. This quickened interest is evidenced by (1) greater interest in library planning and development on the part of librarians, trustees and lay groups, (2) increased membership in the Nebraska Library Association and the organization of a growing Trustees Section of NLA, (3) passage of needed library legislation, (4) the extensive building program of new buildings for both large and small public libraries, (5) the increasing number of requests for demonstrations of county and/or regional library service coming from rural groups, especially from Home Extension Clubs.

Federal Funds Received Under Library Services Act,
1957 - 1961

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1957 | \$ 40,000 |
| 1958 | 72,030 |
| 1959 | 89,626 |
| 1960 | 108,519 |
| 1961 | 108,519 |

This money, \$418,694, has been spent on demonstrations of improved public library services in rural areas, (under 10,000 population). Annual reports of these demonstrations are available at the Nebraska Public Library Commission.

To date, demonstrations of improved public library service have been held in the following locations: South Central Regional Library demonstration in Phelps, Harlin, Franklin and parts of Kearney and Furnas county; Rock, Keya Paha and Brown counties cooperated in a joint bookmobile service for the three county area; Thomas county library was established and strengthened in preparation of service to Blaine county; and the Chadron Public Library received assistance looking forward to county-wide library service.

Additional Services

1. The Library Community Project, which was operated under a grant of \$12,000 from the American Library Association August 1957 - August 1959, with the Hastings Public Library serving as the Pilot Library.

Following the successful completion of the Project in the early fall of 1959, two additional communities in Nebraska asked for similar projects: Scottsbluff Public Library and Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library in Falls City. The Commission cooperated and made available the services of the sociologist who had served as Consultant for L-CP in Hastings. The same techniques for surveying the library and the community were used and comprehensive community studies were undertaken. The study of the Scottsbluff Public Library was published and is available, on request, from the Commission.

2. Survey of Library Services in Nebraska

In cooperation with the Nebraska Library Association, the Commission contracted for a fact-finding survey of existing public library resources and services, including the Nebraska Public Library Commission with recommendations for action and future development.

Dr. Harold Lancour, Associate Director of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science agreed to undertake a comprehensive survey and suggested the appointment of three additional members of the survey staff: Dr. Harold Goldstein, Associate Professor of Library Science and Mrs. Kathryn Gesterfield, graduate student in library science, both from the University of Illinois, and Dr. Richard Videbeck, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska.

The work on the survey began in September 1960 and July 1, 1961 was set as a tentative date for completion of the survey. The purpose of the survey as outlined by the Library Development Committee of the Nebraska Library Association was:

- A. To estimate and evaluate the quality of library services in Nebraska at the present time.
- B. To explore the economic, demographic, geographic, political, fiscal, etc., factors which affect library services.
- C. To develop a statewide plan for future action -- such plan to be realistic and include recommendations for action.

The following principles governed the scope of the survey:

- a. The survey should include all public libraries in Nebraska.
- b. The survey should begin with a survey of the Nebraska Public Library Commission.

c. It should include pertinent facts about libraries in the mid-western states--Kansas, the Dakotas, etc. In other words, it should think of Nebraska as one state in the Mountain Plains Region.

d. The survey must include facts about the university, college, school and special libraries. This is necessary to obtain a picture of total resources in the state. The Union Catalog operated by the Commission makes all of these resources an active part of the library picture.

3. 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 exhibit is widely used by school and public libraries, and organizations.

Appropriations and Expenditures

Statistics on the funds available to the Commission for the biennium 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, 1959 - June 30, 1961

| | |
|--|----------|
| Books in Library, July 1, 1959 | 101,658* |
| Books added during biennium | 13,744 |
| Books withdrawn | 6,138 |
| Total books in Library, June 30, 1961 | 109,264 |
| Books purchased and processed for LSA demonstrations, 1959 - 1961 | 4,539 |

Circulation

July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1961

| | Requests | Volumes |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Reference and one month loans | 22,840 | 70,082 |
| Community and school loans | 4,136 | 163,435 |
| Books for the Blind | <u>32,637</u> | <u>44,584</u> |
| Totals for the biennium | 59,613 | 278,101 |

Films - 148

| | Showings | Audience |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Circulation | | |
| Open booking | 703 | 34,716 |
| Circuit | 1,162 | 45,844 |
| Professional | <u>31</u> | <u>1,015</u> |
| Totals | 1,865 | 81,575 |

* Adjusted figure.

UNION CATALOG REPORT

July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1961

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Accessions | 77,759 |
| Withdrawals | 19,104 |
| Net Total of entries added | 58,653 |
| Total number of individual entries in catalog, June 31, 1961 | 2,059,182 |
| Requests searched (Nebraska) | 4,334 |
| Requests searched out of state | 327 |
| Requests located | 3,115 |

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1961

APPROPRIATIONS

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| From tax funds | \$ 128,081.00* |
| Cash funds (Surplus Property) | 938.40 |
| Library-Community Project funds | 831.59 |
| Federal funds | 219,996.00* |
| | <hr/> |
| Total funds available for biennium | \$ 349,846.99 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Salaries | 208,527.00 |
| Books and library materials | 84,815.00 |
| Other operating expenses | 56,504.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total expenditures of biennium | \$ 349,846.00 |

* Reappropriated funds included