

ARCHIVES

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
COMMISSION

BIENNIAL REPORT  
1963 - 1965

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, 1963 through June 30, 1965 as required by Section  
51-403, Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943, Vol. 3A,  
Reissue of 1960.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. James L. Sellers, President  
Nebraska Public Library Commission

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Members of the Commission

	Term Expires
Mrs. James L. Sellers, Lincoln, President	1970
Mr. Thomas C. Quinlan, Omaha, Vice-President	1967
Mrs. Roy Peters, Thedford	1966
Mr. Russell Harris, Holdrege	1969
Mr. Floyd B. Wright, Scottsbluff	1968

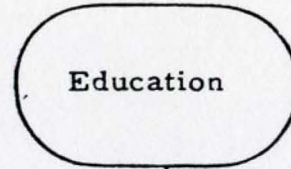
Louise A. Nixon, Executive Secretary

STATE OF NEBRASKA

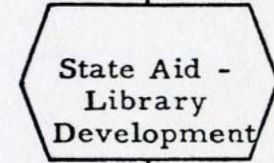
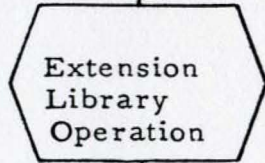
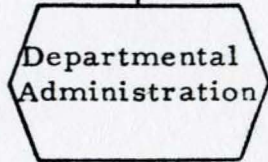
Program Chart

Agency: Nebraska Public Library Commission.

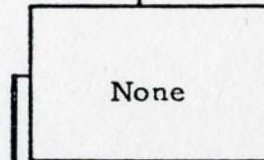
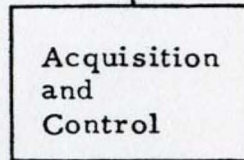
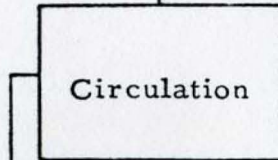
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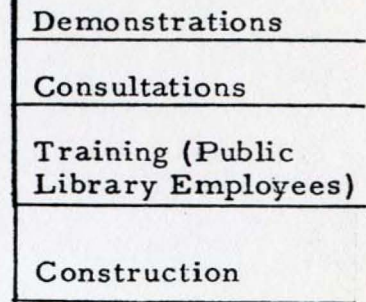
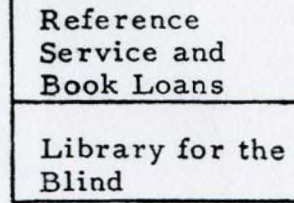
Programs:



Sub-Programs:



Activities:



## DESCRIPTIONS

### Programs:

Departmental Administration. The overall internal administration and supervision of the department; the promulgation of policy and regulations; printing materials and supporting administrative services, including the expenses of the commission.

Extension Library Operation. The operation of a central library which acquires, maintains, catalogues and loans library materials.

State Aid - Library Development. The financial, technical, and professional assistance provided to political subdivisions of the State for the purpose of improving established libraries and building libraries in those areas where the population served justifies construction.

### Sub-Programs:

Circulation. Loans of books, films and braille and recordings for the blind, and printed materials made available to public libraries and individuals. A mailing service is operated to facilitate the loan and return of these items.

Acquisition and Control. Activities associated with acquiring and cataloguing library materials, such as making an analysis of books needed in a balanced library system; studying book reviews; purchasing books and other library materials; cataloguing books and films and locating them within the library; and the maintenance of a system which will facilitate inventorying.

### Activities:

Reference Service and Book Loans. A reference service is made available to assist local libraries and the general public in finding answers to their inquiries; supplements the resources of local libraries with loans of books and audio visual equipment.

Library for the Blind. Makes loans of recordings, braille printed books, magazines and other publications; keeps individual records on the material each blind person has read so that duplication of loans are avoided; keeps the blind advised of current books and recordings and obtains, through loans from the Library of Congress, the desired printed matter and recordings.

Demonstrations. Operation of bookmobiles to encourage people in local communities to develop an adequate library, to demonstrate the service county and regional libraries can perform for local libraries, and to provide a library service in areas which are too small to maintain an adequate library.

Consultations. A continuing professional service made available to help local libraries with specific problems, may include consultants in library architectural design and other professional services not part of the Library Commission.

Training (Public Library Employees). A training system designed to give basic training to local librarians who have not been trained in library science, includes advanced library training for employees of the commission's staff whose duties are in the public library developmental field. On a shorter training basis, includes workshops and other training systems to help the large and/or better established libraries.

Construction. The construction funds are administered by the Commission as construction grants to local communities.

## B I E N N I A L   R E P O R T

### Nebraska Public Library Commission

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1965

#### Function

As indicated on the preceding chart, the function of the Nebraska Public Library Commission is Education; and its purpose is to promote the establishment of public libraries and to assist, on request, in organizing new libraries or improving established libraries.

The chart delineates the programs of the Commission used in carrying out its functions. The Commission is the official library extension agency of the State, and is governed by Sections 51-401 through 51-410, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Vol. 3A, Reissue, 1960 and Supplements.

#### Administration

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 the membership of the Commission during the 1963-1965 biennium include the resignation of Mrs. Alma Stephens on May 8, 1964, and the appointment of Mrs. Roy Peters of Thedford on June 1, 1964, to fill the unexpired term; and the reappointment of Mr. Russell Harris and Mrs. James Lee Sellers to second terms.

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, (3) to require 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.

An extremely heavy load was added to the administration of the department in the second year of the biennium with the passage of the amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act. For the first time, federal funds were made available for the construction of public libraries and the funds for the extension of library services were increased by 150%

Nebraska's allotment of construction funds for the year 1964-1965 was \$280,141, with an additional \$10,000 of released funds assigned to Nebraska in June, 1965. To qualify for these funds a *Nebraska State Plan for Public Library Construction* was written and adopted; procedures were inaugurated for the granting of funds to communities applying for construction funds.

Four public libraries applied for funds and were awarded grants by the Commission. The five members of the Commission are responsible for the Commission's decision in making these grants.

A new plan for the administration of library services funds was required in order to qualify for the increased funds available under Title I of the Library Services and Construction Act, as the new amendments had removed the restriction that the funds could be used only in areas of under 10,000 population. This change made it possible to develop plans with libraries in cities of over 10,000 population. Nebraska's allotment was increased to \$253,134, with an additional \$2,872 assigned from released funds in June, 1965.

The new budget and accounting procedures adopted by the State were also responsible for increasing the work load of administration. These improvements have made for efficiency and more exact knowledge of costs of individual programs of the department.

### Library Operation

The library of the Nebraska Public Library Commission was founded in 1901. During the 64 years of its existence, a total of 179,586 volumes have been added to the library and 66,000 old and worn out volumes have been withdrawn.

This library serves as the resource collection for the public libraries of Nebraska. Loans of books, films, recordings, books in Braille and talking books are loaned by mail to public libraries, to individuals having no local public library service, and to the legally blind.

The collection at the Commission is becoming more and more a reference and nonfiction collection, as public libraries use the resources of the library for reference and research. During the 1963-1965 biennium the Commission answered 7,946 reference questions.

To improve their services, nine public libraries joined with the Nebraska Public Library Commission in a TWX project financed by LSCA funds. On November 16, 1965, these libraries were connected with the Commission and this new speedier service was inaugurated.

The requests for titles which are not in the Commission library are searched in the Nebraska Union Catalog and the location is sent by TWX to the library wishing to borrow the book.

If the title can not be located in the Union Catalog, the Commission, on request of the borrowing library, will send the request to the Bibliographic Center in Denver, and if not located there, will send the request to the Library of Congress.

Thus in one day, the patron will know whether or not the material is available in Nebraska, in the region, or at the Library of Congress. For persons doing research, lawyers needing information quickly, business men and students, this faster service is invaluable.

The TWX Project is an experiment and will be carefully evaluated at the end of the second year of the project. The libraries included are: Beatrice, Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, and Scottsbluff.

Statistics on books added to the library, circulation figures for books and films, and the use of the Union Catalog will be found at the end of this report.

Requests received by the Commission during the biennium have increased by 16.8%; volumes circulated by 9%; and the searching the Union Catalog has increased until it takes the full time of one person.

## State Aid - Library Development

The combination of construction funds and the greatly increased funds for library development (services) with the removal of the restrictions on use of funds in urban areas has changed the library climate in Nebraska in 1964-1965.

An entirely new dimension was added to the Commission when federal funds for the construction of public libraries were made available. Construction funds are administered by the Commission, but are matched by local funds on a fifty percent local and a fifty percent federal basis.

Four communities had funds available for matching purposes in this first year and grants were made to the Sidney Public Library, the Lexington Public Library, the North Platte Public Library and the Hooker County Library in Mullen. The total allotment of construction funds, \$290,141, was granted to these libraries.

Assistance was given to public library boards in formulating building programs by the Commission's library building consultant.

Sidney Public Library - a new building to be constructed of brick and stone with steel joists. Area 7,900 sq. ft. including garage space for two bookmobiles.

Lexington Public Library - a new building to be constructed of brick and concrete with steel joists. Total area 4,532 sq. ft.

North Platte Public Library - a new building to be constructed of brick and stone with steel joists. Total area including bookmobile garage 18,650 sq. ft.

Hooker County Library, Mullen - new building to be constructed of brick, interior to be cement blocks. Total area 3,432 sq. ft.

The number of demonstrations of regional library service were increased and the TWX Project added as a result of the additional funds for services.

The plans for use of both Services and Construction funds are based on the Nebraska Library Association Plan, *Regional Organization for Nebraska Libraries*, which has made possible the orderly use of these increased funds.

As a result, more communities are asking for improved services and are preparing applications for construction funds; communities without local library services are pushing for demonstrations of county and/or regional libraries. The following regional library systems have been established as a result of demonstrations financed by Library Services and Construction Act funds.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

June 30, 1965

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL LIBRARY - Region XVI

Headquarters Library - Public Library, Holdrege

Member Counties - Phelps, Harlan, Franklin ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), Furnas ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), Kearney (demonstration)

Member Libraries - Alma Public Library; Axtell Township Library; Franklin Public Library; Hildreth Public Library; Holbrook Public Library; Holdrege-Phelps County Library; Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library, Orleans; Oxford Public Library; Wilcox Township Library; Arapahoe Public Library; Jensen Memorial Library, Minden

UPPER SANDHILLS REGIONAL LIBRARY - KBR Unit - Region XIX

Headquarters Library - Rock County Library, Bassett

Member Counties - Keya Paha, Brown and Rock

Member Libraries - Alder Public Library, Ainsworth; Rock County Library, Bassett

LOWER SANDHILLS REGIONAL LIBRARY - Region XX

Headquarters Library - Thomas County Library, Thedford

Member Counties - Thomas, Blaine, Southeastern Cherry, (demonstration in progress in McPherson and Hooker)

Member Libraries - Thomas County Library, Thedford; Hooker County Library, Mullen

WESTERN PLAINS REGIONAL LIBRARY - Region XVII

Headquarters Library - Sidney Public Library

Member Counties - Cheyenne and (demonstration in progress in Kimball)

Member Libraries - Dalton Public Library, Lodgepole Public Library, Potter Public Library, Sidney Public Library, Kimball Public Library (demonstration)

DEMONSTRATIONS OF REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN PROGRESS

UPPER SANDHILLS REGIONAL LIBRARY - Northern Cherry County Unit - Region XIX

Headquarters Library - Valentine Public Library

Member Counties - Cherry County

Member Libraries - Cody Public Library, Merriman Public Library, Valentine Public Library, Wood Lake Public Library

## S T A T I S T I C S

### Books Purchased and Withdrawn - Commission's Library

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1965

Books in Library, July 1, 1963	111,505
Books added during the biennium	5,871
Books withdrawn	3,790
Total books in Library, June 30, 1965	113,586

### Circulation

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1965

	Requests	Volumes
Reference and one month loans	27,361	102,518
Community and school loans	4,143	168,660
Books for the Blind	50,754	65,639
Totals for the Biennium	82,265	336,817

### Films

Number in collection	273
Number of libraries served	56
Number of showings	3,968
Audience	185,454

### Record Collection (gift)

Number in collection	50
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APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1965

Appropriations

From tax funds	\$ 143,801
Cash funds (gifts)	150
Federal funds, Services	<u>359,308</u>
Total funds (except construction) available for biennium	\$ 503,259
Construction funds, federal, Allotment, 1964-1965	\$ 290,141

Expenditures

Salaries	\$ 258,561
Books and materials (library)	122,072
Equipment	44,033
All other operating expenditures	<u>75,721</u>
Total expenditures	\$ 500,387
Construction Fund Grants, 1964-1965	\$ 290,141

UNION CATALOG REPORT

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1965

Accessions	98,497
Withdrawals	17,596
Net total of entries (symbols) added	80,901
Total number of individual entries in the catalog, June 30, 1965	2,207,728
Requests searched	6,820
Requests located	4,717
Requests not located	2,103
Progress on process of combining and filing in preparation for publishing the Union Catalog	492