

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

BIENNIAL REPORT

1965 - 1967

Lincoln, Nebraska

To the Honorable Norbert T. Tiemann
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, 1965, through June 30, 1967 as required by Section 51-403, Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943.

Some statistics from the 1963-65 biennium are included for comparison purposes as they indicate increases in the workload.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Holquist, Chairman
Nebraska Public Library Commission.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Members of the Commission

1965 - 1967

	Term Expires
Mrs. James L. Sellers, Lincoln, President	1970
Mr. Thomas C. Quinlan, Omaha, Vice-President	1967*
Mrs. Roy Peters, Thedford	1971
Mr. Russell Harris, Holdrege	1969
Mr. Floyd B. Wright, Scottsbluff	1968
Mr. Robert Holquist, Omaha	1972**

*Term ended June, 1967.

**Appointed June, 1967.

BIENNIAL REPORT

Nebraska Public Library Commission

1965 - 1967

Nebraska Public Library Commission established in 1901 to serve as the Library Agency for the State of Nebraska has the responsibility for encouraging and assisting in the establishment, organization and improvement of public library services; and for the development of a genuine state-wide program of library service.

The Commission of five members, appointed by the Governor for terms of five years, establishes the administrative policies of the agency. Changes in membership of the Commission during the biennium include the reappointment of Mrs. Roy Peters in June, 1966 to a full term; and the appointment of Mr. Robert Holquist in June, 1967 to succeed Mr. Thomas C. Quinlan.

Commission members serve without salary but travel expenses to Commission meetings are paid.

The Programs, Sub-Programs and Activities of the Commission functioned well during the 1965-67 biennium as is evident from the statistical information provided in the Appendix of this report. The increase of the workload is apparent as the figures are compared to the 1963-65 biennium. The increases in the resources of the university and college libraries and of the public and regional libraries is reflected in the increased number of entries added to the Nebraska Union Catalog. The increased use of the Union Catalog also indicates the increased use of the teletype service which provides quick access to the location of materials in Nebraska and to the Bibliographical Research Center in Denver, which provides locations in the Mountain-Plains

Region. Under the State Aid-Library Development Program bookmobile service was extended to five additional counties; from the Valentine Public Library to northern Cherry County; from the Columbus Public Library to Platte County; from the Scottsbluff Public Library to Sioux County; from Hastings Public Library to Adams County; and from Kearney Public Library to Buffalo County.

Also under this program the Single Picture Lending Service and Group Show service made available original works of art from the University of Nebraska Art Galleries to fourteen public libraries. The second year of the biennium, in recognition of Nebraska's Centennial Year, the Library of Congress made it possible to bring master prints from its collections, seventy-four in all, to eight public library. The seventy-four prints plus prints from the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery in Lincoln were assembled into four shows which traveled in succession to the eight public libraries. An outstanding catalog was developed by the staff of the University of Nebraska Art Galleries. The first show, The Tools and Techniques of the Printmaker, was accompanied by a demonstration of printmaking by an accomplished printmaker.

The second show, Master Prints from the Fifteenth Through the Eighteenth Centuries; the third show, Master Prints from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries; and the fourth show, American Prints from the Eighteenth Century to the Present completed the series, The Art of Printmaking. The response to original etchings, lithographs, woodcuts and engravings from Durer, Rembrandt, Cassatt, Cezanne, Bonnard and others was tremendous.

The State Aid-Library Development Program was enlarged by Congress with the passage of several amendments. A second title was added in 1964 and titles three and four were added in 1966.

Amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act in 1964 added Title II, which provided for grants of federal funds to communities for public library buildings (matching funds to be provided by the qualifying communities); and the first money appropriated to fund this title was in 1965. Grants were made to four Nebraska communities that year, but the full impact of the construction grants was not felt until the 1965-67 biennium. Grants were made to seven communities in the fiscal years 1966 and 1967; Scottsbluff, Kimball, Valentine, Lodgepole, York, and Wilber. As buildings were completed and opened for service, there was in each instance a greater usage of the library by the community; improved services were provided, the library was opened more hours, additional staff added and more books were purchased; greater support was available from the community; and the increased interest in regional service in these communities was apparent throughout the state.

In 1966 Congress passed amendments providing for Title III and Title IV to the Library Services and Construction Act. Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation was enacted to provide funds for the establishment of a complete network of cooperating libraries which would make possible a systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic and special libraries to provide a system of service to legitimate demands from a reader or a user from one type of a library through the resources of any other library. Thus by a more effective utilization of existing and augmented resources a higher level of service would be available.

Congress over a period of ten years beginning with the Library Services Act, Title I, in 1956 had passed legislation and provided funds to assist in the improvement of all types of libraries. With the enactment of Title III,

Interlibrary Cooperation, local planning could now proceed across the total range of libraries.

Title III was funded for the first time in fiscal year 1967. The funds were limited and were designated specifically for planning and research. The members of the Library Development Committee of the Nebraska Library Association were appointed as the Advisory Committee for Title III. The Committee recommended that two interlibrary cooperative projects be studied: 1. teletype installation which encourages close cooperation among all libraries of each region, (Library Development for public libraries is based on the state plan, Regional Organization for Nebraska Libraries), and 2. a feasibility study for centralized processing for all libraries. A sub-committee was appointed to work closely with the Commission and the Midwest Research Institute, Inc., in the preparation of a feasibility study.

Title IV, Specialized State Library Services was divided into two parts. Title IV-A was passed by Congress to enable the states to begin a concentrated drive to strengthen library services to patients, inmates and residents of penal institutions, patients or residents of residential training schools, orphanages, or general or special institutions or hospitals operated or substantially supported by the state and students in residential schools for the handicapped who by reason thereof require special education, operated or substantially supported by the state. Title IV-A was funded for the first time in 1967 with monies available designated for research. A representative from each institution involved in the Title IV-A program was appointed to membership on the Advisory Committee. A workshop was held for the Advisory Committee at which various plans were discussed for the program. The Committee made definite recommendations to the Commission and endorsed the study of ongoing institutional library services as a basis for future planning.

Miss Phyllis Hochstettler of the Oregon State Department of Education, formerly school librarian in North Platte was employed to direct the institutional library study. A written report will be prepared for the use of the Commission, the librarians and administrators of the institutions involved in the program.

Title IV-B. Library Services for the Physically Handicapped, the second specialized state library service provided for library services for "physically handicapped residents of the United States certified by competent authority as unable to read normally printed material as a result of physical limitations". An amendment to existing statutes providing that the library services now available through the Library of Congress to the Blind were extended to the physically handicapped (as defined above) was passed by Congress in 1966.

These two Acts made it possible for the Commission to loan recorded books (Talking Books) from its Library for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped certified by competent authority as unable to use conventional printed materials.

Funds appropriated in 1967 to fund Title IV-B were limited and designated for research. An Advisory Committee for Title IV-B was appointed with representation from associations, educational institutions and public libraries working with the physically handicapped comprising the membership.

Mr. Robert Bray, Chief of the Division for the Blind of the Library of Congress and Miss Elizabeth Hage, librarian of the Prince George County Library, Hyattsville, Maryland, served as resource personnel for the first meeting of the Advisory Committee. At this first meeting plans were approved for a study to be made "to determine the number of potential users of the service, pertinent

data regarding their distribution, age, sex and other significant factors to ensure that the user will be well served".¹

A graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska contracted to do the research and write the study.

Summary

Two articles published in 1967 summarized the productivity of library activities in Nebraska in the period between the publication of the first state plan, Regional Organization for Nebraska Libraries, 1962 and the revision of the plan in 1967.

Miss Ellen Lord, Chairman of the Library Development Committee and Librarian of the University of Omaha, in the introduction to the revised plan said, "The accomplishments of the past five years and the challenge for future progress make apparent the need for future planning. The first plan provided a successful foundation for stronger and broader library service throughout the state. Under plans and policies which it outlines twelve regional systems are developing and six others have been projected. Cooperation in many forms has been undertaken successfully. Librarians, trustees and the general public have been made aware through demonstrations and conferences of Nebraska's potential for library service to all of its citizens."²

The following statistics were prepared by Jane L. Pope, Library Consultant, Nebraska Public Library Commission, working with the revision committee.³

¹Sallach, David. A Survey of the Physically Handicapped of Nebraska - The Parameters of Expanded Library Service.

²Regional Organization for Nebraska's Public Libraries: A Plan with Minimum Standards, Revised, 1967. Part I, Nebraska's Plan for Library Service, p. 1.

³Pope, Jane L., Nebraska Report. Mountain Plains Library Quarterly, November, 1967, pp. 22-26.

Figures from the 1961 Lancour-Goldstein Survey - Nebraska Libraries Face the Future which had been compiled from exhaustive questionnaires, were used as the base because they were comprehensive. The 1967 figures were compiled from various sources and are certainly indicative of the productivity of the six years. Areas common to all types of libraries used for comparison were: physical facilities, personnel, material collections, services and use, and financial support.

Physical Facilities

The 1961 Survey commented on the majority of public library buildings as "overaged, overcrowded, unattractive, and poorly lighted" and recommended that a state-wide library building consultant service be provided by the Nebraska Public Library Commission. Since 1964 a building consultant is part of the Commissions program, and federal construction funds with local matching funds are available for public libraries. With the new public buildings built during this six year period, financed entirely from local funds and those financed in part with federal funds, there have been 25 new buildings added or underway.

New library facilities for colleges and universities, including major additions have been made in twelve academic institutions. School space has improved greatly but there are no figures compiled at this time.

Personnel

Trained library personnel remains a problem, as it does in every other state. In 1961 there were "only eight professionally trained librarians outside Lincoln and Omaha" in public library service. In 1967 there are fourteen, and there are now regional librarians or regional library consultants in all but three regions. The educational stipend program instituted by the Commission in 1964 has brought eight new trained librarians into the program. Higher standards for school accreditation are having an affect on school libraries...

the number of graduate librarians is changing rapidly.

Books and Non-Book Materials

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>per cent of increase</u>
Public Libraries	2,291,073	2,727,352	19%
College and University Libraries	1,510,374	2,135,383	41%
School Libraries	581,122	1,077,603	85%
Total	<u>4,382,569</u>	<u>5,940,338</u>	<u>35%</u>

Services and Use

In 1961 there were four bookmobiles operating in the state - one in Omaha, two in Holdrege and one in Bassett. In 1967 ten regions now have bookmobile service with fourteen in operation in the state.

The film collection at the Commission now numbers 347 films which are available to the public library audience. Films and filmstrips are available to the school user through the University of Nebraska Audio-Visual Department.

Talking Books are being extended to the physically handicapped who are unable to hold books or other reading materials.

A Single Picture Lending Service and Group Show Service has been established in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Art Galleries and fourteen public libraries are participating in the program.

Teletype services have been established in fourteen regional centers where they link public, school, college and university libraries to the Nebraska Union Catalog. An experimental project linking telephones in rural library communities with the teletype installations in regional centers, via collect calls, has proved most successful and will be expanded.

Comparative figures on use, circulation figures, are available for public libraries. Total circulation in 1961 was 4,912,073 volumes and in

1967 was 6,587,284, an increase of 34%. Per capita circulation increased from 3.48 to 4.39.

Financial Support

Local support for public libraries increased 54% from \$1,236,474 in 1961 to \$2,109,320 in 1967. Support for college and university libraries has increased 56% from \$1,368,738 to \$2,135,383. Support for schools generally has risen from \$90,000,000 to \$150,000,000 (prior to state aid).

APPENDIX

STATISTICS

Books Purchased and Withdrawn - Commission's Libraries

Books in Library, July 1, 1965	113,586
Books added during the biennium	6,785
Books withdrawn	2,466
Books in Braille and recorded books Library for the Blind	10,000
Total books in libraries, June 30, 1967	127,905

Circulation

	<u>1963-1965</u>		<u>1965-1967</u>	
	Requests	Volumes	Requests	Volumes
Reference	27,361	102,518	27,663	107,988
Community and school loans	4,143	168,660	3,627	154,982
Books for the Blind	50,754	65,639	64,958	86,395
Totals	<u>82,265</u>	<u>336,817</u>	<u>96,248</u>	<u>349,365</u>

Films

	<u>1963-1965</u>	<u>1965-1967</u>
Number in collection	273	304
Number of showings	3,968	5,256
Audience	185,454	270,235

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1967

Appropriations

State funds	\$ 146,592
Cash funds	44
Federal funds	1,068,368
Total funds	<u>\$1,215,004</u>

Expenditures

Salaries	\$ 391,695
Capital outlay	698,811*
All other operating expenditures	124,498
Total expenditures	<u>\$1,215,004</u>

*Included funds distributed for public library construction grants.