

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

BIENNIAL REPORT

1967 - 1969

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, 1967 through June 30, 1969 as required by Section 51-403, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943.

Some statistics from the two previous bienniums are repeated for purposes of comparison.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Holquist, Chairman  
Nebraska Public Library Commission

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Members of the Commission

1967 - 1969

	Term Expires
Mr. Robert W. Holquist, Omaha, Chairman	1972
Mr. Russell Harris, Holdrege	1969
Mrs. Roy Peters, Thedford	1971
Mrs. James L. Sellers, Lincoln	1970
Mr. Floyd Wright, Scottsbluff	1968
Mr. Donn Bieber, Schuyler	1973
Mrs. Richard Aldrich, Holdrege	1974*

\*Appointed June, 1969

## BIENNIAL REPORT

Nebraska Public Library Commi-sion

1967 - 1969

The Nebraska Public Library Commission has served as a department of state government for two-thirds of a century. Nebraska citizens desiring a State Library Agency to assist communities in establishing, organizing and improving local library services, requested the Nebraska State Legislature to create such an agency. The Act establishing the Nebraska Public Library Commission was passed by the Legislature in 1901.

The Commission of five members, appointed by the Governor for terms of five years, established the administrative policies of the agency. Changes in the membership of the Commission during the biennium include the appointment of Mr. Donn Bieber in June, 1968 to succeed Mr. Floyd Wright; and the appointment of Mrs. Richard Aldrich in June, 1969 to succeed Mr. Russell Harris.

A major function of the Commission is to assist in the improvement of library services in the state. To perform this function continuing study and planning are necessary.

### Planning and Research, 1967-1969

The planning and research studies which were initiated in the last quarter of the 1965-1967 biennium were carried forward in this biennium. The Advisory Committee for Titles I and II of the Library Services and Construction Act in revising the 1962 plan, Regional Organization for Nebraska's Libraries was cognizant not only of the progress made in five years under this first plan but also of the need for further planning.

The revised plan, Nebraska's Plan for Library Service, Section I, outlines new standards for regional libraries based on the American Library Association's Minimum Standards for Library Systems, 1966. Some changes were made in boundaries and in patterns of cooperation. Adjustments were made to create regions more completely harmonious with expressed preferences in alignment and natural access in several areas.<sup>1</sup> In those regions extensive in size three units of the system have been projected to act as cooperating branches of the regional system. The revised plan places greater emphasis on cooperative alignments to provide a flexible operative network of all types of libraries. Nebraska's standards are minimum based on a knowledge of Nebraska's potential. It is anticipated that additional sections will be added to the plan as standards and plans are developed for other types of libraries. Section I of the revised plan is Regional Organization for Nebraska's Public Library; and it has been adopted as the basis for the Commission's programs for library development and construction.

The Advisory Committee for Title III had recommended a research study of centralized processing for all types of Nebraska libraries; and a contract was negotiated with the Midwest Research Center in Kansas City, Missouri, to make an initial examination of the current content of the acquisition and cataloging programs in the state, as well as cost studies of technical services.<sup>2</sup> A sub-committee was appointed to work closely with the research members of Midwest's staff assigned to the project. Mr. Frank Lundy, Director

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<sup>1</sup>Regional Organization for Nebraska's Public Libraries, Section I, of Nebraska's Plan for Library Service, 1967, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Renfro, Kathryn R. Nebraska Centralized Processing, Mountain Plains Library Quarterly, Winter, 1969.

of the University of Nebraska Libraries, Miss Kathryn Renfro, Assistant Director of the University Libraries, and Miss Jane Pope, Consultant, Nebraska Public Library Commission were the members of the sub-committee. Kathryn Renfro in an article for the Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly gives a comprehensive account of the background for this study; the demographic aspects of Nebraska which would effect such a program; and the recent suggestions which led to the recommendation for this study. Phase I of the study was completed early in 1968. It reported important facts about the current operations in Nebraska's libraries; inter-title duplication; technical processing cost data; estimates of future operation, number of titles to be processed, and size of book budgets for 1968 and 1970.<sup>3</sup> The facts strongly indicated the need for centralized processing. The Library Development Committee in its capacity as the Advisory Committee for Title III, after study and consideration decided that an additional analysis of the data collected was necessary. The committee further recommended that an exploration of standardization in the cataloging product to be acceptable to all types of libraries should be undertaken, and the development of a program with specific proposals to be presented for state legislative action.<sup>4</sup>

An Interim Study, Part I analyzed the information and conclusions of the feasibility study and Part II developed a guide which could serve as a basis for future planning.<sup>5</sup>

A Study of Existing Library Services in Nebraska State Institutions prepared on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Title IV-A of the Library Services and Construction Act was completed late in 1967. The

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<sup>3</sup>Midwest Research Institute. Feasibility Study of Centralized Processing for Selected Functions in the State of Nebraska. Nebraska Public Library Commission. 1968 ms.

<sup>4</sup>Renfro, Kathryn R., op.cit.

<sup>5</sup>Hemphill, Frank B. An Interim Study, April, 1969 ms.

scope of the study was defined as: (1) to determine the present status of library services in the sixteen state institutions involved in the program; (2) to examine the extent to which available resources from outside agencies were being used; and (3) to prepare a written report with recommendations. The profiles of the institutional libraries covered: materials and equipment; personnel; facilities; and services. The institutions were grouped by functions: Penal and Correctional Institutions; Mental Institutions; Medical Facilities and Homes; and Educational Institutions.

The recommendations were comprehensive and included: (1) the appointment of an Institutional Library Consultant; (2) the development of state standards for library service to state institutions; (3) the exploration of all areas of cooperation, in both the informal and contractual bases between institutional and public libraries; (4) the full utilization of materials and services available from the Nebraska Public Library Commission; (5) the evaluation of staff libraries to determine the feasibility of developing relatively small collections in individual institutions and to rely heavily on interlibrary loans from established collections; (6) consideration of the possibility of closer coordination of all libraries within each institution; (7) the planning of workshops for public librarians to alert them to the opportunities for service and to help them develop an understanding of the library needs of institutional readers; (8) the development of priorities for the use of Title IV-A funds, with the highest priority being given to those libraries which have an ongoing program of service or a well-developed plan which is an integral part of their treatment and rehabilitation programs; (9) the critical evaluation of all collections in terms of readers' needs and interests and the establishment of a small current basic reference collection in each library.

A Survey of the Physically Handicapped of Nebraska - The Parameters of Expanded Library Services was prepared on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for Title IV-B. The scope of the survey was set by two conditions. The first was that the Commission's Library for the Blind in extending its services to the physically handicapped was faced with the problem of how to reach those persons eligible for the service. The second problem was that there was no data describing the number of individuals within Nebraska suffering from disabilities of any kind.<sup>6</sup> To tap the resources of information that would most likely have knowledge of individuals with physical limitations (those meeting the specific definitions of Congress), three sources were selected. These were: (1) all physicians in Nebraska who would come into contact with the physically handicapped (types of practice; cardiovascular disease, general practice, neurological surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatric cardiology and physical medicine and rehabilitation); (2) all nursing homes and closed institutions (State Hospitals), in Nebraska; (3) all county offices of public welfare in the state.

A comprehensive questionnaire was developed and sent to nine hundred and seventy potential respondents; seven hundred and fifty-six physicians; ninety-three public welfare offices; and one hundred and twenty-one nursing homes. A total of 41.92% of the forms was returned and the data was analyzed. A total of six hundred and eighty-three physically handicapped was reported.

To make the distribution clear and meaningful the State of Nebraska was subdivided into seven regions and pertinent data about each region determined. Maps and charts were developed showing distribution, age groups, sex and institutionalization.

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<sup>6</sup>Sallach, David A. A Survey of the Physically Handicapped of Nebraska - The Parameters of Expanded Library Services, Lincoln, 1967.

Programs, Sub-Programs and Activities functioned well during the biennium. The statistical information provided in the Appendix of this report indicates the steadily growing use of the library. It was to be expected that there would be a large increase in the circulation of the books for the blind with the extension of the service to the physically handicapped (provided for by the new Title IV-B of the Library Services and Construction Act). Some two hundred and eighty physically handicapped persons have become regular users of the service. The persons whose names were made available from the questionnaires which were returned for the Survey were contacted by letter, and nursing homes and public libraries were visited in those communities where the Survey had located a considerable number of physically handicapped persons.<sup>7</sup> Not all persons eligible for this service under the new law necessarily care to use recorded books (Talking Books) but the Commission is responsible for making the service known to these people and to serve those who wish to read.

Some public librarians are cooperating in this program and have asked for exhibits and/or deposits of Talking Books. The name of the Activity has been changed to the Library for the Visually and Physically Handicapped. During the biennium new equipment was purchased including a Viking Duplicator, and Books In Large Print were added to the collection. The continuing use of volunteers who record materials not otherwise available (with the permission of copyright holder) increases the depth of the collection.

The accelerated growth of the Union Catalog apparent in 1965-1967 biennium continued in 1967-1969. Statistics for the two previous bienniums 1963-1965 and 1965-1967 are repeated for purposes of comparison. The workload of the

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<sup>7</sup>Sallach, David. op.cit.

Acquisition and Control Program in maintaining the Union Catalog increased 87% over 1963-1965. The use of the Union Catalog also continued to accelerate. Requests searched by the Reference Activity increased 133% over the 1963-1965 biennium. The Reference Activity is responsible for this service which involves in addition to searching, verification of author and title, and if not located in the Union Catalog forwarding the request via teletype to the Bibliographical Center for Research in Denver for location in the Mountain-Plains region.

Books added to the library collection in this biennium included two special collections: the Glen I. Anderson library of early Nebraska history and the other Books In Large Print for "tired eyes".

Under the State Aid-Library Development Program bookmobile service was extended from seven public libraries: Hastings Public Library to Webster County; Norfolk Public Library to Madison County; Omaha Public Library to Douglas County; Hooker County Library to southern Sheridan County; Scottsbluff Public Library to Scotts Bluff County; Kimball Public Library to Banner County; and Auburn Public Library to Nemaha County.

Construction grants for new public library buildings were made to seven communities: McCook; Imperial; Bridgeport; Thomas County, Thedford; Rock County, Bassett; and Fremont. Approval was given to the Broken Bow application for a grant to be made as soon as funds become available.

The teletype services were transferred to Interlibrary Cooperation activity, (Title III) and five additional libraries were added to the system; University of Nebraska, University of Omaha, Auburn Public Library, Valentine Public Library and Fairbury Public Library. The University of Nebraska Medical College Library established teletype service during this biennium. Close cooperation exists

between the medical library and the sixteen regional libraries having teletype services. The telephone-teletype service (TELE-TWX) experiment in the South Central Regional Library in the 1965-1967 biennium was extended from the Kearney Public Library to the public libraries in Buffalo and Dawson Counties and from the Norfolk Public Library to the public and college libraries in Madison and Wayne Counties.

Institutional library services (Title IV-A LSCA) were given limited funding for the fiscal years 1968 and 1969. An institutional library consultant was employed, a graduate librarian with county and regional library experience. Advice and assistance were given to institutional librarians and administrators on budgeting the funds available, on book selection, and on equipment to be purchased.

At the request of the Men's Reformatory in Lincoln (part of the Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex) for assistance in reorganizing the library, a special effort was made to classify and catalog the collection. Some assistance was available from the resident librarian and a resident typist. The head of the institution cooperated fully, purchasing additional reference materials, periodicals and paper books as recommended by the consultant to meet the needs of the residents of the institution.

Four public libraries participated in the institutional library program, providing special services: Omaha Public Library for the School for the Deaf; the Beatrice Public Library for the State Home for Children; the Kearney Public Library for the Boy's Training School; and the Cozad Public Library for the Nebraska School for Trainable Mentally Retarded Children.

STATISTICS

Books Purchased and Withdrawn - Commission's Libraries

July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1969

Books in Library, July 1, 1967	117,905
Books added during the biennium	7,259
Books withdrawn	5,374
Books in braille and recorded books Library for the Visually and Physically Handicapped	17,664
Total books in Libraries, June 30, 1969	137,454

Circulation

July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1969

	<u>Requests</u>	<u>Volumes</u>
Reference	27,346	145,146
Community and school loans	2,525	110,865
Books for the Visually and Physically Handicapped	87,324	121,319
Totals for biennium	117,195	377,330

Films

Number in collection	330
Number of showings	6,788
Audience	336,592

UNION CATALOG STATISTICS

	<u>1963-1965</u>	<u>1965-1967</u>	<u>1967-1969</u>
Accessions	98,497	174,191	184,602
Withdrawals	17,596	25,365	25,388
Net total of entries added	80,901	148,826	159,214
Total number of individual entries in Union Catalog	2,207,728	2,356,554	2,515,768
Requests searched	6,820	10,708	14,396

APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1969

Appropriations

State funds	\$ 191,408
Federal funds	1,517,189
Total funds	<u>\$1,708,597</u>

Expenditures

Salaries	\$ 509,612
Capital outlay	997,160*
All other operating expenditures	201,825
Total expenditures	<u>\$1,708,587</u>

\*Includes \$2,038 book bill vouchered for payment.