

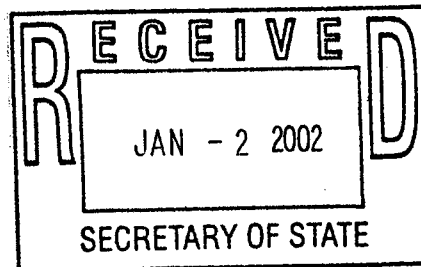
Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium • 1200 N St. • Suite 120 • Lincoln NE 68508-2023 • 402-471-2045 • Fax 402-471-2083



December 31, 2001

The Honorable John A. Gale
Secretary of State
Chairman, Nebraska State Records Board
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509



Dear Mr. Gale:

I am very pleased to submit for consideration of the State Records Board a project grant request for a "Wireless Training Module." This project is intended to significantly enhance the ability of the Nebraska Library Commission to provide computer-based training in Nebraska's smaller communities. The training envisioned through this project will improve online access to government information through libraries and access to Nebraska eGovernment services.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Wagner".

Rod Wagner
Director

Enclosure

Nebraska State
Records Board
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509

John A. Gale
Chairman
(402) 471-8606
<http://www.nol.org>

**APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION**

1. **Name of agency applying for grant** Nebraska Library Commission
2. **Title or brief description of project** Wireless Training Module
3. **Grant request amount** \$25,000
4. **Will there be a fee for accessing records associated with this project?** No
5. **If yes, provide any statutory reference or authorization for the fee** N/A
6. **Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description)**

A *Wireless Training Module* would allow for enhanced statewide access to government information and Library Commission services. Grant funds would be used to purchase up to ten laptop computers, appropriate networking hardware, a printer, and a projector, that will be used to offer online training. The selection of a wireless network will allow for training to be carried out in a variety of geographic locations.

Background

The mission of the Nebraska Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services. As the state library agency, the Commission is an advocate for the library and information service needs of all Nebraskans. The implementation of this project will provide enhanced statewide access to affordable, reliable, progressive, and equitable library and information services for all Nebraskans, regardless of economic status, level of education, or geographic location.

“Today, more than ever before, good decisions depend on good information. Smart communities are information-literate communities. They know how to find, evaluate, and use information in all forms to make good decisions.” Nancy Kranich, ALA President, in *American Libraries*, September 2000

To foster information-literate communities in Nebraska, it is necessary for all Nebraska citizens to have access to reliable, authoritative information resources, and to have the ability to understand and utilize the information. During fiscal year 2000/2001 the Library Commission sponsored 146 continuing education events for over 3,000 participants. Of those programs, only two were held in cities with less than 1,000 population, despite the fact that over 40% of Nebraska libraries serve populations of less

than 1,000. The ability to offer training sessions in a community of any size or location would level the playing field in terms of access to qualitative, current information.

As more information is available online, library personnel must develop the skills, knowledge, and abilities to access this information, and teach those skills to their customers. In order to provide quality information services and make citizens aware of the wealth of information resources available for their use, library staff need the appropriate information technology skills. In the future, more and more government information will be available only online, and citizens are entitled to vital information necessary for informed decision-making. The Nebraska Library Commission currently provides access to a selection of subscription database services (<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/databases>) that provide access to a collection of authoritative information organized for rapid search and retrieval.

Knowledgeable staff are needed to access and use these resources, and to improve the information literacy level of Nebraskans statewide. Appropriate training for library and school media staff will enhance the search and retrieval activities involved in access not only to diverse databases, but also to library catalogs and selected Internet sites. This would result in more efficient use of already existing resources.

Training locations will primarily be small, rural communities throughout the state. Training will focus on three major areas: 1) locating government information online; 2) using public library statistical data available online; and 3) locating and evaluating authoritative online reference resources.

Government Information:

The Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse Service of the Nebraska Library Commission has been helping Nebraskans find government information by collecting Nebraska state agency publications, listing them in our online catalog, and lending them to the public since 1972. Key publications are also filmed and distributed in microfiche format to fourteen depository libraries in Nebraska. The State Publications Online Web page (<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pilot.html>) currently provides immediate full-text access to over 600 state government publications.

Public Library Statistical Data:

The Library Commission has contracted with Informata.com (www.informata.com) for two data-related products, Bibliostat™ Collect and Bibliostat™ Connect. This company works closely with the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and the Federal State Cooperative System (FSCS) group of State Data Coordinators to understand the data definitions, collection issues, and edit check process. Approximately thirty-six states other currently contract for Connect, and twenty-four contract for Collect.

Bibliostat™ Collect is a Web-based product developed to facilitate the submission of public library statistical information. The online form is designed to mirror the traditional

paper form. This *Wireless Training Module* would allow library staff from any community, regardless of size and location, to learn how to use this online data survey.

Bibliostat™ Connect is patent-pending Web-based software that enables users to access and manipulate library-specific databases without requiring proficiency in spreadsheets or databases. It allows for simple, yet powerful statistical analysis of the data so users can get more information from it. A component of the training offered with the *Wireless Training Module* would be instruction on the use of the public library data available through Bibliostat™ Connect. This data can be used to illustrate community information needs and services in comparison to local, regional or national peers. This program allows for peer comparison of income, hours, services, staffing, and many other standardized data elements collected nationwide.

Authoritative Online Reference Information:

The Nebraska Library Commission's Electronic Library (www.nlc.state.ne.us/nsf/nel.html) provides a directory of resources related to a wide variety of subjects, including agriculture, job and career information, census and statistical data, and many other topics.

7. Please describe who the beneficiary or recipient of this service will be and projected activity for access or use of the proposed service.

There are several levels of beneficiaries of this *Wireless Training Module*. The primary audience will be public and school library staff members statewide. Training sessions will also be opened, at the discretion of local sponsors, to interested community members in order to build a broader base of knowledgeable Nebraskans. Nebraska citizens will ultimately benefit from having better informed and more computer-literate library staff as a resource in their communities.

8. Estimated timeline for implementation.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Summer 2002 | Evaluate, select and purchase equipment; preparation of training materials. |
| Fall 2002 | Schedule statewide training sessions; these will be offered continuously using the <i>Wireless Training Module</i> . At the end of one year, training materials will be assessed and updated, if necessary. |
| Winter 2002/Spring 2003 | Review and update training materials; provide online version of training materials. |

9. Agency contribution to project (labor, equipment etc.)

The Library Commission will contribute the staff time of several professional staff members who will prepare the training materials and offer statewide workshops. The Library Commission will also cover travel costs for all workshops, and any fees incurred when offering the workshops. The Library Commission will contribute all communication costs, including making training materials available online.

10a. Has this project ever been submitted as a budget request (explain)?

No, this project has not been submitted as a budget request. The need for a *Wireless Training Module* became particularly apparent with the implementation of the Bibliostat™ products from Informata.com. The contract for these products was signed in June of 2001, with training and implementation taking place in the fall of 2001. At the same time, a special session of the Nebraska Legislature resulted in reductions in state agency budgets. The Library Commission's Operations and Aid Program budgets were reduced by 4% in the current fiscal year (FY2002) and 5% in fiscal year 2003. Agency funding for Information Technology was cut commensurately. The Library Commission's IT budget is committed to maintaining the current agency infrastructure, so that funds are not available for this project.

10b. Does the project require additional statutory authority (explain)?

No.

10c. Why is the grant money needed for the project, and, if applicable, how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended?

See response to 10a above. Costs that might be incurred once the grant money is expended include possible computer upgrades. These should be minimal and will be covered with existing agency resources, since agency system upgrades have recently been completed. Also, other grant opportunities will be investigated should the need arise. The other components of this training project will not involve any costs other than those already listed as part of the agency's contribution to the project.

11. Please describe how this project will enhance the delivery of state agency services or access to those services (you may attach a separate sheet if needed).

This project will allow for more geographically equitable delivery of Library Commission services. While it is currently possible for interested people to travel to attend any of the training sessions offered by the Library Commission, a *Wireless Training Module* will allow Commission staff to deliver training in communities of all size and locations. This will allow for broader participation of community members, and

wider dissemination of the skills and knowledge about the available information resources.

Currently the Library Commission contracts with System Administrators in six regional offices throughout the state. This *Wireless Training Module* will allow Commission staff to schedule training in many of the rural communities in collaboration with the staff in these regional offices. In addition, Commission staff will contact regional Economic Development offices for input on recommended areas in which to offer training.

12. Please describe how this project will 1) Improve the efficiency of agency operations; 2) Facilitate collaboration among state agencies; 3) Facilitate collaboration between state agencies and other public institutions; Support public/private partnerships in the delivery of public services (you may respond to any or all of these criteria in your answer, attach additional pages if needed)

1) Improve the efficiency of agency operations

Currently the Library Commission offers access to a variety of authoritative online resources, intended to facilitate equitable access to information resources statewide. However, our records indicate that the more populous regions of the state have been the beneficiary of these resources in greater numbers than the rural parts of the state. A *Wireless Training Module* will overcome some of the barriers to equitable access of these resources.

2) Facilitate collaboration among state agencies

These training sessions will promote the use of information services provided by many state agencies, through online access to both agency publications and agency Web sites. Such promotion fosters the growth and development of the concept of e-government.


3) Facilitate collaboration between state agencies and other public institutions

This project will facilitate collaboration between the Library Commission and public libraries and schools. It will also involve collaboration with local, regional and state offices of Economic Development.

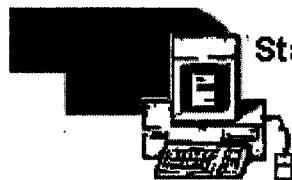
13. Contact person for any questions regarding this application

Name: Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator
Phone: 402-471-33216
E-mail: kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us

Signed this 31st day of December, 2001



Agency Director

Nebraska Library Commission**Government Information Services****State Government
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Agencies listed alphabetically - click on corresponding letter.

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◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** We have discovered incompatibilities between versions of Internet Explorer and versions of Acrobat Reader when loading some PDF files. Specifically, we have noticed problems with the following combinations:

- Internet Explorer 4.01 and Acrobat Reader 3.02
- Internet Explorer 3.02 and Acrobat Reader 3.02
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If you experience similar problems, you may need to contact Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft.



Click on the icon to learn more about accessing Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files if you are blind or vision impaired.

More Places to Look!

Check out the listing of [State Agencies with Internet Sites](#) to find an agency and view additional information available on their sites. You may also start your search from the [State of Nebraska Official Web Site](#).

Want to know what state publications are on our shelves? Browse the [Library Commission Catalog](#). And click here, [Clearinghouse](#), if you want to learn more about the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse!

Nebraska Library Commission**Library Data Services**

Bibliostat™ Collect and Bibliostat™ Connect

The Library Commission has contracted with Informata for two data-related products, Bibliostat™ Collect and Bibliostat™ Connect. This company works closely with the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and the Federal State Cooperative System (FSCS) group of State Data Coordinators to understand the data definitions, collection issues, and edit check process. Approximately thirty-six states currently contract for Connect, and twenty-four contract for Collect.

Bibliostat™ Collect is a Web-based product developed to facilitate the submission of public library statistical information. This product will replace the annual Public Library Statistical Report currently submitted in paper each year. The online form is designed to mirror the paper form.

Bibliostat™ Connect is patent-pending software that enables users to access and manipulate library-specific databases without requiring proficiency in spreadsheets or databases. It allows for simple, yet powerful statistical analysis of the data so users can get more information from it. This product is Web-based.

For a more information about the Nebraska Public Library Profile or other statistical data regarding Nebraska's public libraries, contact: Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us

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Nebraska Library Commission



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Use * at the END of a word to find variations (news*, will find news, newsletter, etc.)

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