



Connect Nebraska

Digital Opportunities

Libraries as Digital Equity Partners

Wednesday, January 18

11:00 a.m. CT

We will begin shortly. Please type your name in the chat. This will help us track attendance. If you would like to receive info on webinars, please also put your e-mail in the chat or e-mail anne.byers@nebraska.gov.



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Libraries as Digital Equity Partners

Wednesday, January 18

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Speakers:

- Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission
- Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission
- Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System
- Amanda Sweet, Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska State Digital Equity Planning initiative is part of the [Connect Nebraska Broadband Initiative](#). The planning grant is being led by the [Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO](#) in partnership with the [Nebraska Regional Officials Council \(NROC\)](#) and the [Nebraska Library Commission](#). This initiative was funded by a Digital Equity planning grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).



Nebraska Public Libraries

- 271 public libraries in Nebraska, plus 19 branch locations and 7 bookmobiles
- Service areas vary, with some serving towns, counties, or multiple geographic (LSA – legal service area)
- 60% of libraries serve populations of less than 1,000 persons. Only 3.3% (9 libraries) serve populations of more than 25,000

Nebraska Public Library Data Collection

- Data is collected from 246 libraries annually (public library survey)
- Data collection is part of national program by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Nebraska's current data collection cycle runs from November 14, 2022 to February 17, 2023 (published April/May)

Survey Methodology and Questions

- Survey collects data on wide range of topics (revenue, expenditures, library collections, services, technology, and staffing)
- Advantages: Years of data collected and published for comparative purposes
- Disadvantages: Details are sometimes lacking

Examples of Relevant Data Collected

- Programs offered by the library by targeted group (e.g. Pre-K, children's, YA, adult, and general interest)
- Wi-Fi availability, internet speed, ISP, number of internet computers, computer uses, and public meeting rooms

More Examples of Relevant Data Collected

- Makerspaces: Yes or No, and makerspace items (check box)
- IMLS Grant: The Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities
- Hosted by 35 rural and small libraries to support participatory learning experiences with makerspaces
- <https://nlc.nebraska.gov/libraries/maker/orglist.asp>
- Technology training on makerspace items (formal/informal)

Supplemental Data Collection/Survey to Covered Populations

- Design taking place now, with expected collection to start soon
- Questions will focus on more detail than the PLS, and more detailed asset inventories
 - Specific internet connected devices provided by the library, age of equipment, etc.
 - Specific needs of the community served
 - More detailed program information

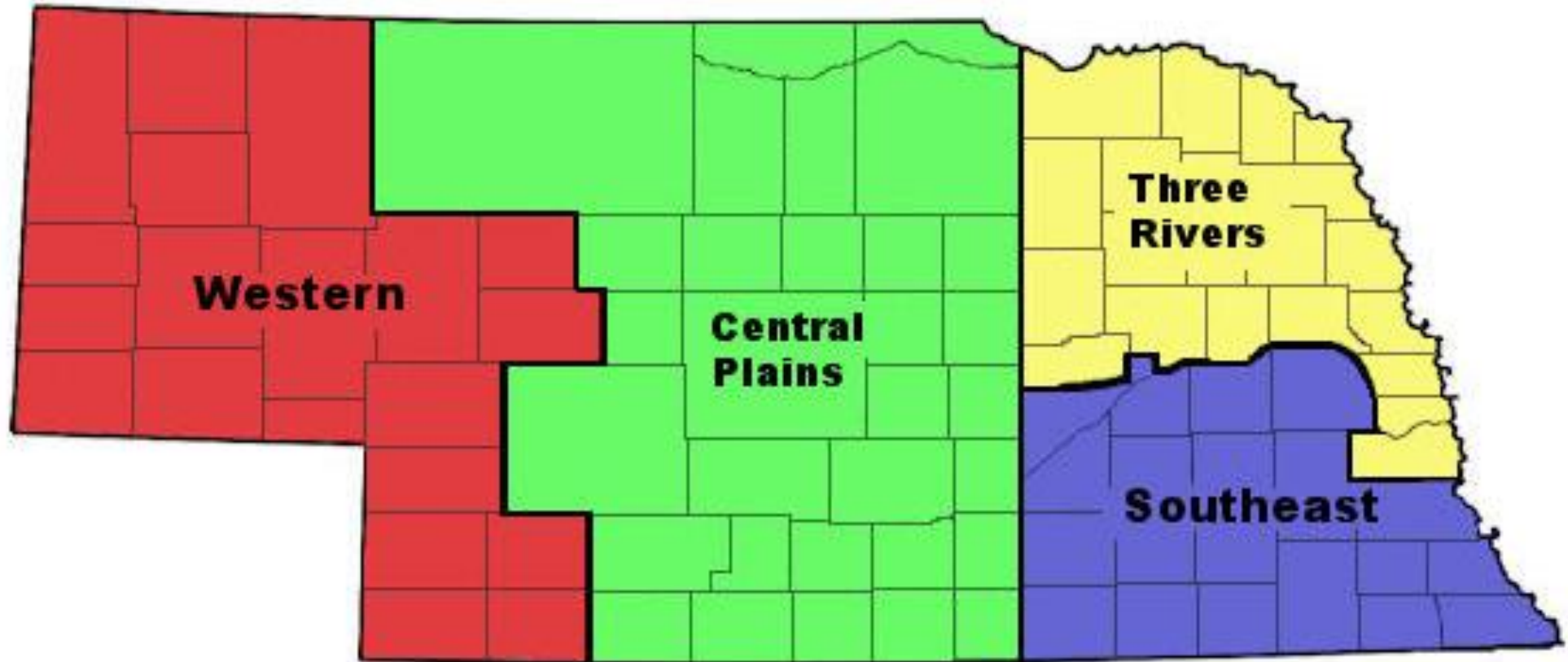
Questions?

- Published data:
- <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stats/data.aspx>
- Sam Shaw
402-471-3216
sam.shaw@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Regional Library Systems

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems consist of four non-profit corporations governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region. The four systems were established to provide access to improved library services through the cooperation of all types of libraries.

Four Regional Systems



Four System Directors

Central Plains Library System

Denise Harders, Director

2727 West 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901

denise.cpls@gmail.com
402-462-1975
800-569-4961

Southeast Library System

Scott Childers, Director

5730 R. Street, Suite C1
Lincoln, NE 68505

scott.childers.sels@gmail.com
402-467-6188
800-288-6063

Three Rivers Library System

Tammi Thiem, Director

11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com
402-330-7884
800-627-7884

Western Library System

Cindy Osborne, Director

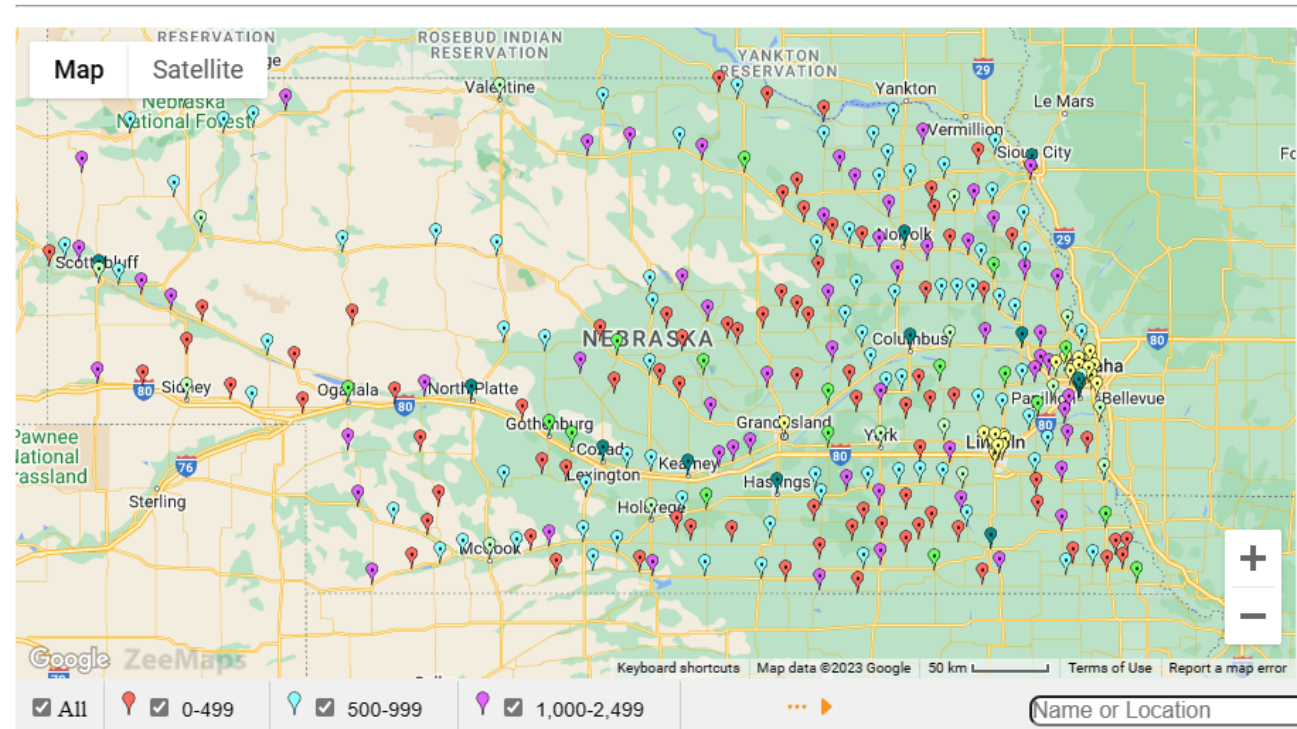
615 S. Beltline Hwy West
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov
308-632-1350
888-879-5303

270 Public Libraries

Library Data Services - Public Library Map by Service Population

An interactive map of public libraries in Nebraska is shown below. Clicking on a map marker will bring up an "info bubble" containing statistical data from each library. You can filter by service population in the legend at the bottom. Clicking on the double arrows in the upper right portion of the map brings up a list of all libraries. Data is based on most current available.



Technology Solutions Considered...

- Lending Hot Spots and Laptops

No, because

Only Part-Time Staff

Learning How to Troubleshoot Equipment

Cost of Replacements

Cost of Service Sustainability

Ongoing Considerations

- Senior Citizens
 - Need computer assistance and private rooms
 - Telehealth Appointments
 - Financial Advisors and Tax Preparers
 - Zoom Meetings
- Parents and Grandparents
 - Public and Private Schools require Internet access
 - K-12 homework resources and turning in assignments
 - School Calendar
- Nontraditional College Students
 - Many Online Students go to the Public Library
 - Need space without distractions
 - Need headphones or study room

Programming at Libraries

- Individual instruction for using a computer (Daily in most libraries)
- Wilson Public Library, Cozad
 - Wilson Public Library was recognized with a Spotlight Award as part of the ***Libraries Lead with Digital Skills***, an initiative of the American Library Association and the Public Library Association for their successful implementation of Google classes for businesses in Cozad. The library was able to host five different classes open to all of Dawson County that focused on verifying businesses through Google My Business; helping owners use Google Search and Google Maps to connect with customers and increase traffic to their businesses; teaching time saving content tips for social media marketing and showcasing the Google Primer App as well as YouTube; and presenting Google Analytics to gain insights about how customers engage with businesses online. The Wilson Public Library strives to offer programs that meet the digital needs of the community and is committed to build on this program in the future. (June 2020)
- Grand Island Public Library
 - This library has a fully-equipped Makerspace. They have made it accessible to the community through a collaboration with Central Community College's Extended Learning program. Individuals may sign-up for an "Introduction to the Makerspace" series through CCC.
- Ravenna Public Library
 - Ravenna also has a permanent makerspace, including a laser cutter, a vinyl cutter/plotter and heat press. In addition, the Catherine Ripp family donated an Accucut quilt pattern cutting machine along with a sewing machine and embroidery machine. They have recently purchased a Cricut Maker, as well. Classes are offered regularly.

Technology Resources for Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission—Teaching Technology

<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/Tech/teaching/overview.aspx>

STEM Community Platform

<https://stemplatform.aiminstitute.org/>

Meaningful Impact Hub—Artificial Intelligence

<https://meaningfulimpacthub.com/artificial-intelligence/>

Meaningful Impact Hub—Virtual Reality

<https://meaningfulimpacthub.com/virtual-reality/>

Alliance Public Library Digital Skills Resources—Example of a library using a kit of resources developed by Amanda Sweet

<http://libraries.ne.gov/alliance/resources/digital/>

Questions?

Next steps and discussion questions

- Review the library assets in your region and the state.
 - Do libraries in the region have adequate broadband?
 - Do libraries have adequate internal connections?
 - Do libraries have up to date computers available?
 - Are libraries open during convenient hours?
 - Do libraries offer technical support?
 - Do they offer classes?
 - Do they have a maker space?
- What barriers do local libraries face in improving digital equity services?
- How could library assets and services be improved?

Upcoming Webinars

Date	Topic
Jan. 25	Digital Equity Needs of Older Adults and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jina Ragland, AARP Nebraska, Nebraska Library Commission• Cynthia Brammeier, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services State Unit on Aging• Carla Frase, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging
Feb. 1	Benchmark Data and Precision Ag <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Byers, Nebraska Information Technology Commission/OCIO• Don Linqvist, Linqvist Technologies
Feb. 8	Bye

Upcoming Webinars

Date	Topic
Feb. 15	Access to Digital Devices <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian Whitacre, Oklahoma State University• Beverly Lahlum Taylor, Digital Express, Metropolitan Community College
Feb. 22	Broadband Availability, FCC Broadband Map, Plans for Nebraska Broadband Map, and Coordination of BEAD and Digital Equity Outreach
March 1	Bye

Upcoming Webinars

Date	Topic
March 8	Makerspaces and Digital Equity Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Sauers, Do Space• David Martin, Nebraska Innovation Studio• Public library TBA
March 15 – May or June	TBA



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For updates and more information

nitc.nebraska.gov

@NITCcommunity1

E-mail anne.byers@nebraska.gov

Contact your local economic development district for information about regional planning efforts.