

Hastings Memorial Library in Grant received internship grant funding in March 2013. The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association recently awarded 21st Century Librarian internship grants totaling \$20,250 to 18 Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns, who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

"The internships offer valuable work and learning experiences for the interns and helpful assistance to the participating libraries," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. "We thank the participating libraries for their contributions to the internship program and we wish this year's group of interns the very best for great and worthwhile experiences."

Funding for the project is provided through a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered through the Nebraska Library Commission. Such funding helps the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Library Association continue to support the missions and goals of libraries across Nebraska and statewide efforts to recruit the next generation of Nebraska's librarians.

Student interns will learn about library work as they shadow and assist with day-to-day library operations and implement special projects. Interns will lead youth summer reading program activities, conduct training sessions to teach senior citizens to use technology, facilitate book discussion activities, help develop and update library Website and Facebook pages, create young adult library programs and spaces, work on publicity materials for library programs, sort and preserve archival materials, and assist in a host of other worthwhile activities.

In 2012, interns brought their technology skills to the forefront, much to the appreciation of the library staff, library customers, and community:

- One intern taught library users how to check out and download eBooks to their devices.
- Another intern researched best practices for effective Website design.
- A third intern assisted library users with utilizing computer programs to complete projects.

"I learned that librarians work very hard to stay abreast of changing technology, cultures, and, of course, books. I had no idea our library had so many online databases to offer," commented one of the library's interns.