

M E E T I N G A G E N D A

Technical Advisory Committee to the [State Records Board](#)

Tuesday, July 10, 2007
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
501 Building – Conference Room 4B
501 S 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

AGENDA

Meeting Documents: Click the links in the agenda
or [click here](#) for all documents (xx Pages, xxx KB).

Grant Reviews

1. Office of the CIO - [Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network](#)
2. Nebraska Supreme Court – [Automation for the Nebraska State Library](#)
3. Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission – [On Line Campaign Statement Filings](#)
4. Nebraska Interactive – [Google Search Engine Funding](#)

Nebraska State
Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

John Gale
Chairman
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APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION (State Agency Grant Application)

State Agencies desiring grants from the Nebraska State Records Board for projects to improve access to state government information should complete this application and follow any procedures outlined in this application and any accompanying materials.

I. Grant Summary

1. **Name of agency applying for grant:** Office of the CIO, Dept. of Administrative Services
2. **Title of project:** Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network

3. Brief Description of Project

This proposal is for partial startup funding of a two-year project to establish a collaborative, intergovernmental Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services portal for Nebraska. GIS/geospatial data is data that contains information about the physical location (street address, latitude/longitude, etc.) of data elements. This type of data is used for a wide variety of governmental applications, and can be mapped and/or integrated with other data based on common or proximate locations.

This geospatial data portal will help users to find existing data, and arrange for interactive data access and exchange between state, local, federal agencies, the private sector and the general public. The project will also utilize the latest online GIS (Geographic Information System) technologies to provide a foundation upon which public agencies can build their own agency-specific online public information mapping and geo-analytical applications using data drawn from multiple agencies. The project will not duplicate existing agency online efforts, but will instead provide interactive links to those existing services. Where agencies do not currently provide online data access or online mapping services, the project will provide those agencies with the opportunity to make their data available through the data-sharing network.

3. **Grant request amount:** \$25,000 for two years (\$50,000 total)

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** _____

II. Grant Detail

I. Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description)

This project will develop a Nebraska enterprise-level geospatial web portal, with Internet mapping and data services capabilities, to serve the users of Nebraska related GIS/geospatial data and enable those users to efficiently and reliably find, access, display, and build public information applications utilizing the geospatial data maintained by a wide variety of state, local and federal agencies. Among the characteristic to be built into the design of the portal are the following.

Distributed System. The project will create a distributed system which will allow public agencies the option of either copying data to and serving data from an enterprise-level data repository or allow agencies to arrange for online linkages, through the geospatial portal, to their existing online data and/or mapping services.

System Designed for Range of User Needs. The project will develop a system, which will over time seek to address a wide range of expected user needs including both secure and non-secure data access. A system designed to provide both user-friendly front-ends with limited geo-analytic tool availability for non-sophisticated GIS users and also provide agencies with access to and support for a wide-range of geo-analytic tools upon which the more GIS sophisticated agencies can develop customized applications.

Online or Desktop Use. The system will allow users to find, access, and download available geospatial data onto their desktop. The system will allow users to display and conduct geospatial analysis online using data from multiple sources and/or the system will allow users to perform geospatial analysis on their desktop while accessing desired datasets via the network.

Compatibility with Existing Infrastructure. The GIS component of the proposed system will be based on the ESRI product, ArcGIS Server 9.2 and the system's database management functionality around SQL Server software available thru the Office of the CIO. These two popular OTS software packages will insure a high degree of compatibility with existing infrastructure, database formats, and the knowledge base of agency technical staff. To further enhance compatibility, efforts will be made to also comply with Open GIS standards where practical.

Collaborative Development Model. Initial development will be a collaborative effort based primarily in the Office of the CIO and the University of Nebraska Center for Advanced Land Management and Information Technology (CALMIT), with active partnerships and collaboration from several state and local agencies. The Office of the CIO will provide the formal institutional home and oversight for the project and will enter into an interagency agreement with UNL-CALMIT to provide technical support services for the project. The Office of the CIO will bring to this project its supportive relationships with the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee and the NITC State Government Council, its project management capabilities, its SQL Server capabilities, its flexible organizational capabilities for IT project management, and its experience in implementing interagency IT project. UNL-CALMIT will bring to this project its in-house GIS expertise, its organizational flexibility in hiring needed GIS technical support and management, and its access to a professional and student community exposed to the latest innovations in GIS technology. It is proposed that an intergovernmental advisory committee will be convened by the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee to provide on-going technical and policy guidance for the development and maintenance of this enterprise-level service.

Data Sharing Arrangements. Facilitating data-sharing is at the heart of this proposal. To further facilitate data-sharing, participating agencies will be encouraged and assisted in the development of formal metadata. Metadata is data about data and serves to document, in a formal way, public datasets so that they can be reliably, and correctly, used by others who were not the original data producer. Efforts will also be made to arrange for written data-sharing agreements so that the conditions under which data can be shared and used will be outlined in advance.

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Need for Dedicated Technical Support. From the beginning, the potential project partners have highlighted the need for dedicated technical support resources in order to be successful over the longer term. This grant application is focused on putting in place a mix of initial startup funding to enable the hiring of or contracting for the technical lead/support resources necessary to implement the enterprise-level infrastructure and to work with the existing technical staff of participating agencies to plan and implement data sharing standards and protocols.

See Attachment I for additional Project background and Project deliverables and timelines.

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

General Public will gain enhanced online access to public information from a wide variety of state and local agencies and in many cases the information will be more intuitive and understandable because it will be presented in a graphical mapping format and combined with other related data.

Public agencies will gain reliable access to current geospatial data that is maintained by others agencies (state and/or local) and to an online enterprise-level geospatial applications development platform.

Public agencies that currently do not have the technical expertise, hardware, software, and/or collaboration agreements with other agencies will gain an enhanced ability to display and analyze geospatial data at a greatly reduced startup cost for the agency,

Private Sector will gain enhanced online access to public information in a more intuitive and graphically enabled format more suited for making their business decisions.

3. Timeline for implementation (specific completion date must be provided, grant funds lapse if not expended prior to completion date).

This proposal is asking for partial start up funding for a two-year project implementation timeline. Because one significant component of the project involves hiring or contracting for a technical lead person who has a skill set which is not widely available, it is possible that once the funding is committed, it may take some time to secure the services of such an individual and therefore, we are asking for each \$25,000 grant a 1-1/2 year completion date timeline from the awarding of the grant (thru Jan. 2009 and Jan. 2010).

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

The proposed start-up funding for this collaborative project, is also collaborative. In addition to this requested two-year funding commitment from the State Records Board Grant to Improve Access to Public Information, funding is proposed from the NITC Government Technology Collaboration Fund, the US Geological Survey, and both cash and in-kind contributions from state agencies. Below is an overview of those contributions.

PROPOSED OVERALL TWO-YEAR STARTUP FUNDING PACKAGE

US Geological Survey Grant	\$43,000	one-time hardware/software funds <i>already obtained</i>
State Agency Partners - Cash *	\$60,000	\$30,000 for each of the first two years of the project
NITC Collaboration Fund	\$150,000	\$75,000 for each of the first two years of the project
State Records Board	<u>\$50,000</u>	\$25,000 for each of the first two years of the project
Total two-year budget	\$303,000	

* Does not include the extensive in-kind contributions that are expected from state and local agencies in the form of technical support to integrate their data and systems (see below).

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STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS. Twelve state and local agencies signed a Project Charter outlining the concept and vision for this collaborative endeavor, upon which this application is based. The Project Charter included the assumption that participating agencies would contribute in-kind technical services to establish and maintain connections with their IT systems and their data — in addition to being actively engaged in defining the specifics of the enterprise data sharing network and any related web services, protocols, standards, data sharing agreements, etc. While it is expected that the number of participating agencies will grow, this initial twelve is used as a conservative base upon which to estimate agency contributions to the project.

Cash Contribution:

Total of \$30,000 per year from state agencies for initial two-year startup period **\$60,000**

In-Kind Labor - estimate:

Technical: 12 Partner Agencies x 160 hrs x \$35/hr *(includes benefit costs)* \$67,200

Policy: 12 Partner Agencies x 20 hrs x \$35/hr (data sharing agreements, financial) \$8,400

OCIO GIS Coordinator 1st yr.-1/4 FTE (520 hrs) + 2nd yr.-1/8 FTE (260 hrs) x \$35/hr \$27,300

In-kind labor total (conservatively estimated) \$102,900

In-Kind Hardware/Software: 12 x \$10,000 \$120,000

(Project will leverage and connect with IT systems of all partner agencies)

In-Kind Data: 12 x \$50,000 \$600,000

(This will be the key contribution from partner agencies. Datasets cost from \$10,000 to over a \$1,000,000 to develop and maintain. Many agencies will make available multiple datasets, for example Sarpy County has provided a list of 20 datasets they would likely make available through this system).

Total Cash and Conservatively Estimated In-kind Agency Contributions **\$882,900**

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

No

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

No

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

This project will establish a new collaborative, enterprise-level, data-sharing and public information service for the State of Nebraska and lay the foundation for its long-term sustainability. It is always difficult to get startup funding for new enterprise-level information services and the State Records Board Grant to Improve Access to Public Information, (in combination with the NITC Government Technology Collaboration Fund) seems well suited to be a partner in jump-starting such a data sharing service. There are several state and local agencies that are currently providing agency-specific online geospatial data and services. Many of these agencies have expressed support for the development of an enterprise-level system, but have also noted that they do not have as part of their statutory mission, the provision of these services on an enterprise level. Integrated into the overall project implementation design are steps to identify and document the resources that will be required to sustain the project beyond its initial implementation phase and steps to work with participating agencies to define a funding model that will provide for those on-going support costs.

8. 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)

- Enhanced access to geospatial data. There are many datasets maintained by state agencies that are not currently easily available to the public. For example, if you lived in Scottsbluff and wanted to get a copy of a close-up rendering of the current school district boundaries in the county, where would you go to get easy access to this somewhat dynamic information?
- Improved data interface—more intuitive and user-friendly. A picture is worth a thousand words and the ability to provide a mapping/graphical representation of large tabular datasets frequently conveys the impact of that data more readily than any other presentation method (i.e. a HHSS map of West Nile cases, <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/wnv/maps06/humans.pdf>)
- Enhanced information by combining data from multiple agencies. Frequently combining data from multiple agencies can generate more useful information. In the Scottsbluff school district boundary example above, those boundaries lines would potentially be more useful if they could be combined with digital property parcels lines maintained by county government.
- Improved consistency of public policy implementation across agencies. It is not uncommon for state, local, or regional public agencies to have overlapping public policy responsibilities in similar arenas (i.e. water policy). It is also not uncommon for these agencies to be working from slightly different datasets or information base. The proposed data-sharing network would enhance the likelihood of them working from the same dataset and thereby enhance the consistency of public policy implementation.
- Increased state / local collaboration. The increased ability of state and local agencies to readily share data directly impacts their ability to collaborate. For example, a state web application that mapped local sites available industrial economic development, combined with information related to transportation, sewer, and water infrastructure could provide a real boost to economic development opportunities.
- Enhanced online applications with addition of graphical/mapping component. Many current and future online applications/services could be made more informative with the addition of a related mapping service of the information/service provided. For example, an online application providing a listing of nearby doctors who will accept new Medicare patients could be greatly enhanced by providing a mapping of the search results.

9. 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)

There are currently over 100 statewide, regional and local geospatial datasets, and thousands of aerial and satellite images, now available for Nebraska. Collectively, these datasets probably currently total at least 50 Terabytes (Tb) of disk storage (note that 10 Tb = printed collection of the Library of Congress). These data constitute an invaluable resource for the State. There is currently no central access point to find and access this wealth of Nebraska-related data.

It is also important to note that the number of datasets and data volume will increase annually as new data are digitized, more agencies adopt GIS, and existing datasets are updated. As more agencies use GIS, the demand for data access will increase as well. This growth trend is particularly noteworthy as more local governments adopt GIS technology and state agencies desire ready access to these highly accurate local datasets for state-level applications. This trend towards an increasing demand for online GIS capability and data access will also be

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heightened as more agencies become comfortable with the concept and the reliability of the proposed Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing Network. This will likely result in more data being made available thru the Data Sharing Network and more agency applications being built based on the availability of that Network.

The following project objectives outline some of the ways that this effort will improve the efficiency of state agency operations and facilitate collaboration among state agencies, with other public institutions and with the private sector.

- 1. Create Data-sharing Network.** Create an online geospatial data-sharing network, which will allow public agencies to share their geospatial data with other public agencies and/or the public and the private sector via live interactive links to their most up-to-date data.
- 2. Develop Data-sharing Security Protocols.** Develop data access security protocols and mechanisms for the geospatial data-sharing network, which will enable data-sharing agencies to allow either full open public access and/or password-controlled access to specific datasets and/or functionalities.
- 3. Provide Enterprise Internet Mapping Services.** Implement an enterprise-level online GIS Internet mapping service to enable public agencies to share/publish/display their geospatial data and to enable users to combine, map, analyze, display and download geospatial datasets from multiple agencies.
- 4. Establish Enterprise Geospatial Data Repository.** Develop an enterprise-level geospatial data repository, which will allow public agencies to maintain up-to-date copies of selected agency geospatial datasets on enterprise data servers and provide online access to those datasets through the data-sharing network and/or the GIS Internet mapping service.
- 5. Empower Public Agencies.** Strengthen the capability of public agencies to fulfill their missions by providing them with new tools to develop customized, agency-specific online GIS applications through the utilization of the enterprise-level infrastructure, technical support, and access to data from multiple agencies that will be provided by this project.
- 6. Improve Public Services.** Improve public services by enabling the general public and other agencies to access and display an agency's information via a more user-friendly, intuitive graphical map interface rather than tabular data formats. Make public policy implementation more consistent and coordinated across state and local agencies by making commonly needed, up-to-date data more readily accessible to all.
- 7. Save Public Resources.** Save public resources by making these public investments for hardware, software, and technical support resources at the enterprise level and thereby minimize the need to duplicate these investments at every public agency. Save resources by reducing the likelihood of duplicate data investments, by making it easier to reliably find and access similar geospatial data that is available at other agencies. Save resources by developing data-sharing protocols at the enterprise level instead of the individual agency-to-agency level, which would then need to be revised or synchronized when other agencies' data-sharing protocols conflict.
- 8. Facilitate Data-sharing.** Facilitate data-sharing between public agencies at the state, local and federal level by making it easier to find and access data of the specific type of data needed that may be available at another agency. Facilitate data-sharing by requiring data listed on the data-sharing network to be documented with formal metadata (data about the data). Facilitate data-sharing by arranging, in advance, specific data-sharing agreements, which outline the understandings related to sharing of a specific dataset.

III. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

Hardware / Software. While the final decision on hardware and software will be deferred until the lead technical staff for the project can have input, preliminary decisions have been made, which have provided some of the foundation for this proposal. The two primary software components are the online GIS data/mapping server and the database management system. The Working Group has preliminarily decided to base the GIS component on the relatively new version of ESRI ArcGIS Server 9.2, which was designed specifically for this type of application. ESRI is the GIS software vendor used by the vast majority of the state and local partners in this project. The use of this software will make it very likely that the software used by these project partners will be compatible with this online GIS server engine and that the project partners will be familiar with the software tools. The one significant exception to this pattern is the Nebraska Department of Roads that primarily uses Intergraph and GeoMedia GIS software. However, NDOR also uses ESRI products and feels comfortable that data-sharing protocols can be arranged. It is expected that a relatively high-end server will be required for the hosting the ArcGIS Server software.

A preliminary decision has also been made to build the system's database management functionality around SQL Server software. Drivers for this decision include: costs; the availability of SQL Server software and related hardware, and technical support within the Office of the CIO; the fact that the existing OCIO SQL Server-related hardware/software capabilities would allow for considerable flexibility in starting small, but expanding the system as it grows; and the fact that ESRI ArcGIS Server software is designed to integrate easily with SQL Server software.

Communications. The data communications network will be based on Internet protocols and rely on the existing broadband network to provide connectivity between state and local agencies and existing private Internet connectivity to provide service to the general public and private sector.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- **Conformity with generally accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) should also address NITC technical standards and guidelines.**
- **Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.**
- **Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).**

Standards. The adoption of ESRI ArcGIS Server as a foundation software means from a practical point of view the system will be consistent with generally accepted industry standards, since ESRI is the number one GIS software vendor. However, it is also the intention of the project Working Group to develop the system such that data and mapping services will also be available according to Open GIS standards and therefore be vendor neutral. One of the major NITC technical standards that this project will impact is the requirement that state-funded geospatial data be documented with formal metadata describing the data. Data will not be made available on the Data Sharing Network unless it is documented consistent with the NITC Metadata Standard.

Compatibility with Existing Infrastructure. This project will be designed to build upon and be compatible with existing infrastructure wherever practical. Existing online data and mapping services provided by public agencies will be linked through the portal. The adoption of ArcGIS Server and SQL Server software will enhance system compatibility as they are widely used. The data communication network will be based on existing services and protocols. The portal will be designed to work and communicate with national geospatial portals such as The National Map, Geospatial One-Stop, and the ESRI Geography Network. Efforts to comply with Open GIS standards will also increase the level of compatibility with systems that maybe somewhat less in the mainstream.

Reliability and Scalability. The adoption of ESRI ArcGIS Server and SQL Server software to should provide this proposed system with a considerable level of reliability, security, and scalability as these are leading OTS software designed with these considerations in mind. The adoption of the new version ArcGIS Server 9.2 raises some concerns of possible “bugs” to be worked through. However, since ESRI is the number one GIS software vendor and this software is a key ESRI initiative, it is likely that there will be considerable support available through ESRI to solve those problems. The Working Group decided that even given these likely problems with a significantly new software product, it did not make sense to design a new system around yesterday’s technology. The proposed project is designed around the Office of the CIO SQL Server capability in part because the Working Group felt that the OCIO would take on much of the burden of providing the reliability, security, and scalability on the DMS side.

Security. One of the early project implementation foci will be developing the data/network security protocols that will allow participating partners to feel comfortable in selectively sharing geospatial data and services over the Data Sharing Network. Tools to provide that data security are available in both the ArcGIS Server and the SQL Server software and efforts will be made to build upon existing security protocols built into the state’s network.

3. Describe how technical support will be provided.

The bulk of the proposed project costs are associated with an interagency agreement between the Office of the CIO and UNL-CALMIT to provide GIS Project Management and Technical Support for this project. The focus of this agreement will be to secure the services of a GIS Project Manger/Programmer who has the experience and skills required to lead, train and implement the GIS portal web site using ESRI ArcGIS Server software. Also available to the project will be the technical services of the SQL Server DMA on staff at the Office of the CIO. The GIS Coordinator for the OCIO will lead the policy/coordination and data sharing components of the project. As noted before, as part of the initial two-year project implementation, an assessment will be made of the specific needs for on-going technical support and a funding model developed to provide that support. Below is the preliminary project budget, which illustrates these technical support resource commitments.

Interagency Agreement with UNL-CALMIT for Project Technical Support

Project Mgr/Programmer/GIS Support (100% FTE)	\$75,000	\$150,000
Principal Investigator (.05 FTE)	\$6,000	\$12,000
Subtotal - direct personnel costs	\$81,000	\$162,000

Fringe Benefits (28%)	\$22,680	\$45,360
Supplies	\$1,000	\$2,000
Computer Support and Services	\$3,150	\$6,300
Travel	\$4,000	\$8,000
Communications	\$1,000	\$2,000
Subtotal - personnel and other direct costs	\$112,830	\$225,660

Indirect Costs (10%)	\$11,283	\$22,566
Subtotal UNL-CALMIT Interagency Agreement Costs	\$124,113	\$248,226

Other Costs Beyond Univ. Interagency Technical Support Agreement

Estimated Hardware & Software Purchase Costs		\$43,000
OCIO SQL Server and Technical Support Costs	\$6,000	\$12,000

Two-Year Project Budget Total		\$303,226
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IV. CONTACT INFORMATION, SIGNATURE

Contact person for any questions regarding this application: Larry K. Zink

phone #: 402-471-3206 E-mail: Larry.Zink@cio.ne.gov

Signed this 26th day of June, 2007 
Agency Director

Please Return to: State Records Board 440 So. 8th, Suite 210, Lincoln, NE 68508

A Proposal to

Establish a Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and
Web Services Network



The image shows a screenshot of the Nebraska.gov website's geospatial data sharing network page. At the top left is the Nebraska.gov logo with the tagline 'The Official Website of Nebraska'. To the right is the title 'GEOSPATIAL DATA SHARING WEB SERVICES NETWORK'. Below the title is a world map graphic. To the right of the map is a list of services: FEDERAL GEOSPATIAL DATA, EROS DATA CENTER, ESRI GEOGRAPHY NETWORK, GOOGLE MAPS, and VIRTUAL EARTH. Below this list are three columns: MAPS (blue header), DATA (green header), and HELP (orange header). Each column contains three lines of placeholder text. At the bottom left is a small map of Omaha, Nebraska, with a location marker for 'Quest Center Omaha'. At the bottom center is a telephone icon with the text 'ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER'. At the bottom right is the text 'GEOSPATIAL BLOG'.

Graphic: courtesy of Jeff Arnold, Geogage

Attachment I

Project Background

A high percentage of the decisions made in government and industry, and many day-to-day decisions made by individuals, are substantially based on analyses of geospatial data. These include decisions related to property valuation and taxation, redistricting, drought management, grazing management, school bus routing, economic development, water pollution mitigation, water rights management, soil conservation, wildfire risk assessment, dispatching emergency vehicles, homeland security, law enforcement, public health and literally hundreds of others. GIS technology cuts across virtually all of the social and natural sciences, business, agronomy, medicine, planning, law, emergency services, engineering and computer science – in short, every area of endeavor in which maps have traditionally been employed. Today, GIS is one of the fastest growing information technologies.

Much of the power of GIS lies in its ability to facilitate integration and analysis of data from multiple sources. As the use of GIS has expanded across Nebraska (Table 1), the need for users to quickly and reliably identify, access and share data across institutional and jurisdictional boundaries has become acute.

Table 1. Some Nebraska Agencies Using GIS

Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Lincoln Electric System
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	Hastings/Adams County
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Lincoln/Lancaster County
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	Omaha/Douglas County
Nebraska Department of Roads	Grand Island/Hall County
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	Scottsbluff/Scotts Bluff County
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	Kearney/Buffalo County
Nebraska National Guard	Sarpy County
Nebraska Natural Resources Districts	Merrick County
Nebraska Department of Property Assessment and Taxation	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Nebraska Public Service Commission	U.S. Geological Survey Nebraska Science Center
Nebraska Public Power District	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Nebraska State Data Center, University of Nebraska-Omaha (census data)	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency (Nebraska Office)
Nebraska State Surveyor's Office	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Nebraska Office)	Resources Conservation Service (Nebraska Office)
Omaha Public Power District	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency (Nebraska Office)

The challenge of facilitating broad and easy access to the growing array of geospatial data is not limited to Nebraska. Most states and federal agencies, and many local governments are struggling with how best to address this need. The federal government has taken the lead in attempting to resolve such issues among federal agencies. The most noteworthy efforts include **Geodata.gov (Geospatial One-Stop)** (<http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>) operated under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and **The National Map** (<http://nationalmap.gov/>) developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), a private GIS software firm, provides the **Geography Network** (<http://www.geographynetwork.com/>). These portals generally provide a variety of tools to facilitate searches for data and often allow users to view and download data. Datasets developed by federal agencies are often readily accessed with these sites, but data from state and local governments is only sporadically available.

Many states have, in recent years, developed geospatial data portals that emulate, and often improve on, services offered by the national portals. Such sites are tailored to meet specialized needs of each state's agencies and other clients.

Table 2. Some Existing State Geospatial Data Portals

- California Spatial Information Library – <http://gis.ca.gov/index.epl>
- North Carolina One Map - <http://www.nconemap.com/>
- Delaware Geospatial Information Clearinghouse - <http://maps.rdms.udel.edu/Portal/>
- Arkansas GeoData Clearinghouse - <http://www.geostor.arkansas.gov/Portal/index.jsp>
- Missouri Spatial Data Information Service - <http://www.msdis.missouri.edu/>
- Kansas Geospatial Community Commons - <http://www.kansasgis.org/>
- Wisconsin Land Information Clearinghouse - <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisclinc/index.php>
- Arizona GeoData Portal - <http://agic.az.gov/portal/main.do>
- Kentucky GeoPortal - <http://kgsweb.uky.edu/arcimsSearch.asp>

A few agencies in Nebraska have made significant efforts to assist GIS users in identifying and accessing selected data. On a statewide basis, the most noteworthy is the work of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR), which has continually enhanced its Data Bank over the past 20 years (<http://www.dnr.ne.gov/databank/geospatial.html>). The Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) of UNL has also provided a web site that assists users in finding and acquiring geospatial data (<http://csd.unl.edu/general/gis-datasets.asp>). The Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln uses IMS (Internet Map Server) technology to provide access to selected satellite imagery and to datasets on land use (<http://www.calmit.unl.edu/cohyst/>). The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) has recently begun to implement an IMS (Internet Map Server) site to access some of that agency's data.

Locally, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County have been leaders in developing user access to local government GIS data (<http://ims.lincoln.ne.gov/gisweb/home.htm>). The City of Omaha/Douglas County, Sarpy County, Scottsbluff County, and others are also developing online access portals to local GIS data. And regional agencies such as the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District have implemented extraordinarily useful IMS-based tools such as NRD MapMaker (<http://www.lpnrd.org/projects/gis/mapmaker.html>).

Although several Nebraska agencies have made much progress in GIS and some provide online access to geospatial data, no site currently provides anything close to comprehensive access to the Nebraska-related geospatial data maintained by local, regional, state and federal agencies. At the present time, no Nebraska agency is charged with the responsibility for operating such a site or funded to provide such services.

Because of the lack of such a comprehensive Nebraska geospatial portal, it is often difficult for agencies to find and arrange for access to needed existing data. It is also difficult to assure that one agency has a copy of the most recent version of a dataset that is maintained by another agency. Consequently, many agencies expend considerable technical resources in finding, accessing and maintaining up-to-date versions of existing geospatial datasets, or in some cases duplicating existing datasets. While it will undoubtedly take a period of time to develop the interagency relationship that will allow anything near a comprehensive geospatial portal to be developed, this intergovernmental project is designed to put in place the technical foundation and the initial intergovernmental coordination and agreements necessary to build and sustain such a portal.

Project Implementation Approach

This project proposal has been developed by the Office of the CIO, in conjunction with, and in response to, an NITC GIS Shared Services initiative jointly sponsored by the NITC State Government Council and the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee. This GIS Shared Services initiative was most recently outlined in the NITC's Statewide Technology Plan, *Digital Nebraska: Envisioning Our Future 2007 Update*.

Implement Geographic Information System (GIS) as a shared service.

Action: *Develop a plan for the coordinated delivery of Internet mapping services by state agencies, with the objectives of making GIS services and existing GIS/geospatial data readily available to a broader array of agencies, improving data access and services to the public, minimizing unnecessary duplication of effort, providing data and system backup, and where appropriate, provide for a coordinated security system, including the possibility for limited data access and password protection.*

Following the initial adoption of the GIS Shared Services Internet Mapping Action Item, the Office of the CIO took the lead in convening a broad-based, intergovernmental Project Team to further develop the concept and define a conceptual approach for implementation. In 2006, this Project Team developed a Project Charter, which outlined a broad interagency vision for a Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network. This shared vision included a multi-year implementation process and recognized the need for dedicated technical staff to sustain the effort. A listing of the key members of that Project Team is provided below.

Project Team: NE CIO: Steve Henderson, Information Technology Manager, Office of the CIO
NE GIS Steering Committee/CIO: Larry Zink, GIS Coordinator
NE Dept. of Natural Resources: Steve Rathje, Senior Analyst
NE Dept. of Environmental Quality: Dennis Burling, Info. Technology Manager
and Paul Yamamoto, Infrastructure Support Analyst Senior
NE Dept. of Roads: Jon Ogden, Business Technology Support Manager and
Steve Brown, GIS Manager
NE Health and Human Services System: Chris Chalmers, GIS Coordinator
NE Emergency Management Agency: Sue Krogman, Information Tech. Admin.
NE Game and Parks Commission: Sudhir Ponnapan, GIS Specialist
NE Dept. of Agriculture: Tom Jensen, Div. Administrator, Ag. Laboratories and
Craig Romary, Environmental Programs Specialist
UNL-Center for Advanced Land Mgmt. Info Tech.: Chad Boshart, Project Mgr.
Lincoln/Lancaster County: Jim Langtry, GIS Manager, County Engineer's Office
Omaha/Douglas County: Mike Schonlau, GIS Coordinator
Sarpy County: Eric Herbert, GIS Coordinator

Although, as previously noted, some federal agencies and other states have implemented geospatial data portals, the work is technically and administratively complex. The Project Team believes that establishing a fully functional **Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network** would take two/three years of effort and dedicated full-time staff. The Team proposed that the project be implemented in phases, each phase designed to achieve concrete deliverables and provide specific advances in interagency data exchange capabilities. Each project phase will build on the previous phase(s). For example, sensitive data will not be available through the data exchange network until the later phases of the project, after security and permission protocols have been developed and tested. As part of this learning and building process, it is expected that the design of the project phases will evolve over time.

Preliminary Project Implementation Plan and Steps

Year 1

- Identify/hire a Project Manager and technical support staff
- Identify other project staff and obtain commitments of time/resources via MOAs with collaborating agencies (e.g., CIO, NDNR, DOR, UNL)
- Conduct systematic review of existing state and federal prototypes (services, navigation, administration, institutional structure, funding)
- Conduct detailed user needs assessment
- Identify datasets currently available from local, state, regional and federal agencies and establish custodians for each
- Initial development of standards (e.g., data exchange, network, documentation)
- Initial assessment of security needs
- Identify requirements for hardware and software
- Develop initial proposal for overall Project Architecture
- Identify minimum subset of datasets and services to be incorporated into initial phase
- Insure targeted datasets are documented with FGDC-compliant metadata
- Initial specification of administrative model and staffing needs
- Initiate data-sharing agreements process
- Acquire hardware and software needed for Phase I
- Establish network for data exchange
- Initiate agreements with USGS (The National Map) and FGDC
- Build and populate repository storage as necessary
- Build and populate Phase 1 web site for data exchange
- Conduct initial requirements analysis for operations and maintenance
- Hold workshops for users – training and system assessment
- Prepare a report detailing lessons learned, standards adopted, and needs to be addressed during the next project phases

Year 2

- Conduct performance analysis of Phase 1 accomplishments/prototype portal (user's assessment)
- Enhance automated data access with additional non-sensitive data (e.g., aerial and satellite imagery, dynamic data such as climate and drought data)
- Refine requirements for operations and maintenance and acquisition of initial dedicated technical staff resources
- Finalize processes for moving data between participating agencies
- Finalize standards development
- Finalize security processes and protocols
- Finalize administrative model and needs (long term funding plan)
- Finalize data-sharing agreement protocols
- Finalize requirements for operations and maintenance
- Initiate sharing of web-mapping services and base geospatial information from the open public access/view component of the project with GOS and *The National Map*.
- Hold workshops for users – training and system assessment
- Prepare a report detailing needs to be addressed during the next project phases

Year 3 (beyond current project proposal timeline)

- Implement recommendations, standards, and protocols
- Implement secure sharing of sensitive data within the network
- Implement and expand public view component (map services)
- Implement procedures for long-term maintenance and enhancement of the Nebraska Geospatial Data Sharing and Web Services Network. (including funding model)

Nebraska State
Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

John Gale
Chairman
(402) 471-2745



**APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION
(State Agency Grant Application)**

State Agencies desiring grants from the Nebraska State Records Board for projects to improve access to state government information should complete this application and follow any procedures outlined in this application and any accompanying materials.

I. Grant Summary

1. Name of agency applying for grant Nebraska Supreme Court

2. Title of project Automation for the Nebraska State Library

3. Brief Description of Project

This project is to both automate and make Internet-accessible the Nebraska State Library's holdings and collection. Currently, these holdings are maintained in a manual card catalogue system, and are not available to the public through computer access nor through the internet.

3. Grant request amount \$24,475.00

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 _____

II. Grant Detail

1. Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description)

We plan to automate the holdings of the Nebraska State Library, and make those available to both State of Nebraska office holders and employees as well as the public by accessing the catalogue through the Internet and by use of a dedicated cataloguing computer at the Nebraska State Library environs. The total cost of this project is \$24,475 (see attachment 1 for the budget). We have acquired two bids from reputable library automation companies for this project. The project will include transferring library holdings and records from both hard copy cataloguing system and MARC records into the automation cataloguing software; rental of space on the company's automation server; acquiring and programming two dedicated computers for cataloguing - one for the Library Director and one for the public; and training of the Library Director on the automation software at the company's headquarters. The Library will own the records; the company will maintain the records through the Library's computer system. Library records since 1999 have been made computer readable, so significant staff time will be dedicated to making all holdings acquired prior to that time computer readable.

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

The project's beneficiaries include State of Nebraska office holders, such as the Nebraska Supreme Court Justices, the Judges of the Court of Appeals, District and County Court Judges, the Governor, the Legislature, all other state employees; members of the Bar Association; and the general public. Projected activity is estimated to begin with 100 Internet "hits" per month and increasing each month over time and daily use of the automated computer card catalogue.

3. Timeline for implementation (specific completion date must be provided, grant funds

lapse if not expended prior to completion date).

The estimated timeline for implementation is March 31, 2009.

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

Library staff will continue to commit significant personnel hours to the tasks of implementation, including making the Library holdings and records computer readable; scanning and integrating hard copy records into the automation software; data entry. Staff of the State Court Administrator's Office is committed to hours and labor to coordinate the implementation of the project.

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

The need for automation of the Nebraska State Library has been included in budget discussions with the Nebraska Supreme Court; however, limited legislative funding has perennially kept this budget item off the funded list.

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

Yes, approval is required from the Nebraska State Library's board of directors, who by Neb.Rev.Stat. Section 51-103 are the Justices of the Nebraska Supreme Court. Approval has been granted.

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

With the tight budget of the State, the grant funds are the best source for the Nebraska State Library's automation goal. This is essential in order to enhance the knowledge and use of the Library's vast holdings and collection. Ongoing costs of server rental and record maintenance will be included in the Library's annual budget.

8. 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)

All state agencies will have access to the holding of the Nebraska State Library from their own office computers. This would be especially helpful, not only to the Justices of the Supreme Court, but the Attorney General's Office, attorneys and members of the legal divisions of state agencies whose offices are not in the Capitol. They will have access to research the Library's holdings without leaving their office. This will be a time saver to all individuals, and will provide 24-hour access to these records.

9. 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) Automating the Library's collection will greatly improve the efficiency of Library staff. When cataloguing, incoming material cards will not have to be hand-typed and filed. The system will let us know when materials are not received in a timely manner. There will be a greater ability to search by topic. It will track book usage to help update the more used titles. It will track data and run reports in an efficient and timely manner.

2-3) An automated, Internet-accessible State Library system will allow state agency staff as well as other public/private partnerships to collaborate with each other in accessing Library holdings. This will help libraries across the state to help their patrons locate needed reference materials. The catalogue will be available to all colleges and universities; for example, an inquiry from university legal writing and history professors have researched Library resources regarding territorial Nebraska materials before statehood, as well as resources on the other fifty states, with materials going as far back as the 1600s. The Library contains some very old, rare, and unique legal collections for Nebraska and the entire United States. This project will help make this collection public, so others may find very useful information that would otherwise be unknown. In all, this project will bring to light this buried treasure within the holdings of the Nebraska State Library.

III. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

The hardware, software, and communications needed for this project consist of a Client Workstation with the following specifications:

Processor: 1 Ghz or higher

Operating System: Windows 98, Xp, 2000 or higher

Storage: 150 MB free space

Memory: 256 MB or higher

Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.x or higher. Browser must support Cookies and Java Script.

E-Library Specifications: Firewall: TCP Port 80 open inbound and outbound (for E-Library Service), Internet connectivity: Minimum of 30 KB non-latent bandwidth per user.

The current personal computers and network connections in the Law Library already meet or exceed these specifications.

For the general public the requirements would be to have Internet access and it is recommended they use Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher although other web browsers will work with the system.

The catalog application is located on server hosted by an Application Service Provider (ASP). Access to the server is through a secure connection over the Internet. The ASP will provide the necessary software to support this application.

The reason the Law Library made the decision to use a hosted server from an ASP was for a lower cost, high availability and ease of use of the card catalog application. Through minimal technical resources the automated card catalog will be available via the Internet to Nebraskan's and other citizens throughout the world.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- **Conformity with generally accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) should also address NITC technical standards and guidelines.**
- **Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.**
- **Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).**

There are not any technical issues with the proposed project. The system conforms to library standard Z39.50. Z39.50 is designed to enable communication between computer systems such as those used to manage library catalogues.

III. Technical Information, #2, *continued*

The current version of Z39.50 is more properly known as North American standard ANSI/NISO Z39.50-1995, Information Retrieval (Z39.50): Application Service Definition and Protocol Specification, or as the matching international standard ISO 23950:1998, Information and documentation — Information retrieval (Z39.50) — Application service definition and protocol specification. The current release is version 3 of the ANSI/NISO standard, and dates back to 1995. Version 3 is the dominant version of Z39.50 utilized in Europe, although a number of North American sites continue to use the earlier version 2.

- The formal home of the standard is the Z39.50 Maintenance Agency, hosted by the United States' Library of Congress.
- This technology is in conformance with NITC standards and existing institutional and statewide infrastructure.
- This application provides for a secure Application Service Provider (ASP)-hosted hardware and software solution that is protected by a secure firewall. The ASP's data center has restricted access and entry is proximity card protected. The ASP provides secure state of the art servers with RAID technology. All client data is backed up nightly and secured at two off-site vault locations.
- The ASP provides network servers that are monitored daily for performance and stability, with both event notifications and manual inspections. All data center systems are protected from power-failure by a minimum of four hours of battery backup power. In addition, in the event of a power grid failure, the ASP has its diesel powered generator with automatic switchover, for continuous, uninterrupted power.
- The ASP has multiple high-speed, fail-over T-1 communications lines providing broadband connectivity to the Internet backbone. The ASP has a Tier I ISP service for Internet connectivity.
- The ASP offers three types of encryption services to provide secure communications with the client workstations.

3. Describe how technical support will be provided.

Client workstations will be supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts Information Technology staff. The server hardware and software are supported by the ASP on a 24x7 basis. The ASP provides for live person telephone and email support. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) case database is used to track progress on trouble tickets. A management escalation process is in place for open cases. The ASP does provide a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for clients.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION, SIGNATURE

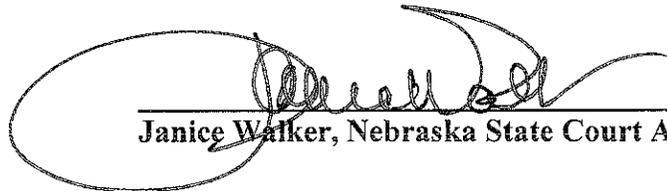
Contact person for any questions regarding this application:

Marie Wiechman, Director, Nebraska State Library; phone: 471-3189;
mwiechman@nsc.state.ne.us

Alternate contact:

Bill Miller, Deputy Director, State Court Administrator's Office; phone:
471-3049; bmiller@nsc.state.ne.us

Signed this 25th day of June, 2007.



Janice Walker, Nebraska State Court Administrator

Please return to:

State Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

Nebraska Supreme Court
Nebraska State Library Automation Grant Application
June 22, 2007

Attachment 1

Nebraska State Library Automation Budget – June 2007

Library Software and Automation Costs

Software & application	\$ 4,095.00	
Professional services	\$ 1,300.00	
CatExpress fee <i>(Through FY 2010)</i>	\$ 1,400.00	
Rental fee for server - library catalogue <i>(Through FY 2010)</i>	\$10,000.00	\$16,795.00

Equipment for Automation

Computers 2 @ \$1,500 each <i>(Dedicated cataloguing computer for Library Director and for public – 1 each)</i>	\$ 3,000.00	
Printer <i>(Dedicated printer for Director's cataloguing computer)</i>	\$ 500.00	
Scanner <i>(Dedicated scanner for cataloging and automation of files and holdings)</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,000.00

Supplies for Automation

Book truck	\$ 400.00	
Labels and misc. automation supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 700.00

Staff Training Expenses

Training at headquarters – fee	\$ 500.00	
Airfare	\$ 700.00	
Hotel \$200.00 per day	\$ 600.00	
Food \$40.00 per day	\$ 120.00	
Cab fare <i>(Travel expenses for one person)</i>	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,980.00

Total		\$24,475.00
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Nebraska State Bar Association

"Helping lawyers help people"



June 7, 2007

John Gale, Secretary of State
Chair
Nebraska State Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: The Nebraska State Library Grant
Proposal from the Nebraska State Records
Board

Dear Mr. Gale:

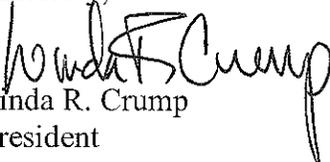
I would like to support the proposed project of making the card catalog of the Nebraska State Library available online.

Geography should not be a barrier for citizens, lawyers, and court personnel who want to obtain information. In an effort to conserve energy, people should avoid undertaking trips that might prove fruitless. How much more practical it is to be able to research a library's holdings online, and then take the steps needed to obtain the materials that you know exist, are available, and are what you need.

The internet is one of the few modern inventions that really can make a significant difference for people conducting research. In a geographically large state like Nebraska having only a few urban centers, being able to obtain important information through a website means not having to drive four to eight hours one way to look through a card catalog. Before making that trip, those seeking legal or historical information can check online to see if the State Library has what they need. Then they can take steps to check out the book or arrange to view the materials.

This would be a great resource for all Nebraskans.

Sincerely,


Linda R. Crump
President

Nebraska Library Commission



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

June 14, 2007

Nebraska State Records Board
c/o Secretary of State
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509

State Records Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Nebraska State Library's proposal for funds to automate and provide an online catalog of the State Library's holdings. An online catalog is essential to managing the library's collection and providing an effective mechanism to locate library holdings. The online catalog will also allow for remote access for those needing to find State Library resources, including resources unique to the State Library and not held in other Nebraska libraries. An online catalog will result in a significant improvement in service to the researchers needing the State Library's resources.

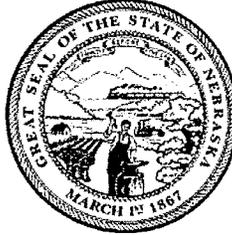
Sincerely,

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

Rod Wagner
Director

Nebraska State
Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-2745

John Gale
Chairman



**APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION**
(State Agency Grant Application)

State Agencies desiring grants from the Nebraska State Records Board for projects to improve access to state government information should complete this application and follow any procedures outlined in this application and any accompanying materials.

I. Grant Summary

1. **Name of agency applying for grant** Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (NADC)

2. **Title of project** On Line Campaign Statement Filings

3. **Brief Description of Project**

The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission has several forms which are filed with them at various times throughout the year. This project is intended to provide the ability to file both the Political Action Committee (PAC) forms, and the B-7 (Report of Political Contribution from Corporations, Unions, or Other Associations) online.

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

NSRB Grant Application
Page 2

II. Grant Detail

1. Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description)

*Please see attached DESCRIPTION #1

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

*Please see attached DESCRIPTION #2

3. Timeline for implementation (specific completion date must be provided, grant funds

lapse if not expended prior to completion date).

It is intended that this project be launched on January 31st, 2008. This date will begin the next filing period for NADC forms to be submitted.

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

The NADC currently has an established database that will continue to be utilized as the main repository for data received electronically through the online submission of filing statements. In addition to the ongoing support of the database NADC also has committed to maintaining and providing the process for posting the information on their Web site. It will also continue to provide the personnel required to review and vet the information before insertion into the data base.

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

No, The agency does not have a specific budget request set up at this time.

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

No (Statute 49-14, 141)

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

*Please see attached DESCRIPTION #3

8. 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)

Please see attached DESCRIPTION #4

9. 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:

Agency efficiency will be greatly improved through this project. Nebraska.gov has already provided adequate back end functionality to house this data but a significant limitation to getting this information is the large amount of manual intervention required to populate this data into the system. Currently the NADC personnel manually enter the information from these forms. With the potential of 2600 – 6000 filings received for just these two forms per year the agency is anticipating that these personnel resources will be able to be reallocated to other duties as necessary. This will greatly improve the NADC's efficiency with relation to this and other obligations to serve the public.

As previously stated this new online eGovernment service will allow this information to be processed much quicker than previously possible. This time savings is a critical step in improving NADC's ability to speak directly to the public's need for greater government transparency.

2. Facilitate collaboration among state agencies:

N/A

3. Facilitate collaboration between state agencies and other public institutions:

N/A

III. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

N/A

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- **Conformity with generally accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) should also address NITC technical standards and guidelines.**
- **Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.**
- **Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).**

N/A

3. Describe how technical support will be provided.

Technical support for these forms will be provided by Nebraska.gov pursuant to an addendum to the master contract between the Nebraska State Records Board and Nebraska.gov. NADC has committed to a maintenance agreement which provides reoccurring monthly maintenance payments for this service and other currently being provided to NADC through Nebraska.gov.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION, SIGNATURE

Contact person for any questions regarding this application FRANK J. DALEY JR.

phone # 402-471-2522 E-mail frank.daley@nadc.ne.gov

Signed this 6th day of July, 2007

Agency Director

Please Return to:

State Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-2745

DESCRIPTION #1

This project will be implemented in two parts. Part I of this project would allow political action committees (PACs) to file periodic campaign statements electronically (NADC Form B-4). Campaign statements disclose contributions from its members to the PAC and also describe the PAC's contributions and expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question. Part II of this project would allow corporations, unions, and industry, trade or professional associations to file B-7 reports electronically. B-7 reports disclose the filer's contributions and expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question.

Currently, PAC's, corporations, unions, and industry, trade and professional associations have only a paper process to file these statements with NADC. This paper process requires that NADC staff perform the re-entry of data on each filing it receives. This process creates a resource strain on the NADC and creates the potential for higher error rates when re-entering this information as filed.

Business Case:

Part I- Political Action Committees (PACs) are required to file periodic campaign statements (Statute 49-1455 & 49-1459). Campaign statements disclose member contributions to the PAC and also the PAC's contributions and expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question. Currently, PACs file paper campaign statements with the NADC. The NADC staff manually enters the data from the paper reports into an existing data base. Through this re-entry process the information is able to be posted on the NADC's website for public consumption.

Part II- Corporations, unions, and industry, trade or professional associations are required (Statute 49-1469) to file B-7 reports. B-7 reports disclose the filer's contributions and expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question. Currently, these B-7 reports are filed on paper with the NADC. The NADC staff manually enters the data from the paper reports into an existing data base. Through this re-entry process the information is able to be posted on the NADC's website for public consumption.

Currently filers have only one way to file these reports. This paper process is outdated and requires updating to an online filing process. In addition the process that NADC currently utilizes to insert filing information into their central database requires intensive resources.

There are currently 85 registered PAC's who can file from 1 to 7 times per year. This results in a potential of 595 PAC filings per year. NADC also receives one or more filings each year from between 2000 and 3000 NADC Form B-7 filers resulting in 4000-6000 filings that must be re-entered into the database. It is the intent of this project to

streamline this process for both the agency and the filer while making the information contained in each file publicly accessible much quicker than previously possible.

Technical Requirements:

- 1.) Provide a method by which users can register to file on line. Once approved each user will have access to following the process to file the appropriate form online.
- 2.) Allow users to select the form they wish to file
 - a. NADC Form B-4 (Campaign Statement, Independent Committees)
 - b. NADC Form B-7 (Report of political Contributions of a Corporation, Union, or Other Association)
- 3.) Allow users to enter the information requested and submit the filing directly to the agency.
- 4.) Create an administrative application where NADC designated resources can review submissions and edit each filing, if needed, prior to the filing being inserted into the final database. The NADC resources that currently perform data entry responsibilities will also be responsible for reviewing each electronically filed document.
- 5.) Allow the agency the ability to print the completed forms for their permanent files. The Forms that are printed from the electronic filing system will not match the appearance of forms used by hard copy filers precisely. While these forms will not be identical all statutorily required information must be included on each printed copy.
 - a. The printed version is necessary so members of the public will be able to request hard copies in the same manner they do today.

DESCRIPTION #2

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

There are three primary beneficiaries of this project; filers, the general public and the NADC.

There are currently 85 registered PAC's who can file from 1 to 7 times per year. This results in a potential of 595 PAC filings per year. NADC also receives one or more filings each year from between 2000 and 3000 NADC Form B-7 filers resulting in 2000-6000 filings that must be re-entered into the database. It is the intent of this project to streamline this process for both the agency and the filer while making the information contained in each file publicly accessible much quicker than previously possible. Currently the information that is derived from this data is displayed on the internet for public consumption. Moving the filing on line will allow the agency to decrease error rates while getting the information to the public quicker and more efficiently.

The NADC receives 29,410 number of page requests each month

DESCRIPTION #3

The grant money is requested because the NADC is a small agency which has an obligation to make a significant amount of information available to the press and public on a timely basis. Even so, good projects must be evaluated in light of available funding. Sustaining this project is already contemplated in the current and proposed budget. The agency currently has and uses a data base into which campaign finance information is entered. It currently displays this information on its website. The agency, by way of an addendum to the master contract between the Nebraska State Records Board and Nebraska.gov, receives support services from Nebraska.gov. To the extent that continuing technical support is required, it would be obtained through the addendum to the master contract.

DESCRIPTION #4

As stated in Question 2 there are three primary beneficiaries that will see enhanced access as a result of this project.

Filers:

Each filer will benefit by having an additional filing option not previously available to them. An additional benefit for filers filing online will be that the filers will be given more time to file because they will no longer be required to mail in their statements. This allows each filer to submit much closer to the deadline.

Agency:

The agency will benefit significantly because the data from reports will not need to be re-entered by NADC staff. This will save a great deal of time and effort for NADC while also helping to lower the error rate that is inherent during any data entry process. (Statute 49-1464)

Public:

The public will benefit from both the timeliness and accuracy of the data being provided. This system will allow the data in each of the statements submitted online to reach the public view much quicker than previously possible.

Nebraska State
Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508



John Gale
Chairman
(402) 471-2745

APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION (Reinvested Revenue Grant Application)

Instructions: Click using your mouse pointer in the left most area of each text entry field to begin typing your answers. After clicking in your first text entry area you may then use the [Tab] button to advance from field to field or [Shift] + [Tab] to move back to the previous text area.

I. GRANT SUMMARY

1. **Submitted by:** Nebraska Interactive LLC (NI)
2. **Title of project:** Google Search Engine Funding
3. **Grant request amount:** \$25,000
4. **Will there be a fee for accessing records associated with this project? (Yes or No)** No

If yes, please provide any statutory reference or authorization for the fee:

N/A

5. Provide a brief description of the project for which the grant is being requested:

Nebraska.gov participates in a NIC-wide license agreement that utilizes the Google search engine appliance. Providing this highly functional search engine is vital to the success of the Nebraska.gov portal and many state agency Web sites that utilize this program. The Google search appliance brings best of class search capabilities to the state portal and many government Web sites.

In 2005, Nebraska.gov received a reinvested revenue grant that allowed Nebraska.gov to be reimbursed for the state of Nebraska's utilization of the Google appliance.

Nebraska.gov pays a monthly charge that is based on the total number of urls indexed. This allows the state of Nebraska to reap the benefits of having world class search functionality without the expense of total cost of ownership. For 2006 the state of Nebraska indexed an average of 176,000 urls at a monthly rate of \$1010.

The previous \$25,000 grant will satisfy all payments up to March 2007; however, beginning in May 2007 more funds will be necessary to continue to provide this service.

As agencies continue to add more internet content and new agency Web sites are developed for the portal, the number of URL's indexed has the potential to increase from year to year. If the number of URL's increase or the cost for providing the Google appliance service increases, the amount required on a monthly basis to continue providing this valuable resource could increase.

Currently the Google search appliance is an unmatched tool with regard to search functionality. The State and citizens of Nebraska receive an immense benefit from this functionality by

connecting users to the appropriate information on a daily basis. Nebraska.gov would like to continue to support this functionality and add this feature to additional state and local Web sites that have not been implemented. For that reason, Nebraska.gov would like to request a reinvested revenue grant of \$25,000 to secure the Google appliance's availability for the remainder of our current contract with the Nebraska State Records Board (Jan 2009). It is contemplated at the time of this writing that an additional request to continue this funding will be made in the event the master contract between NSRB and Nebraska Interactive LLC is extended for the additional one year period as described in the master contract.

II. GRANT DETAIL

1. Please describe the project in detail:

Business Case:

As part of the Google search engine license agreement, the cost Nebraska.gov incurs is directly related to the number of portals participating in the NIC Google program and the total number of URLs indexed on the Nebraska.gov portal. NIC negotiated an annual rate with Google, which is allocated to participating portals based on the percentage of total URLs indexed that belong to each portal. The annual rate for Nebraska.gov in 2007 is \$1010.00 per month. This amount has been billed on a quarterly basis.

As content is added to the Nebraska.gov portal, more URLs will be indexed which can potentially increase this monthly fee. The Google search engine searches all Web sites within the Nebraska.gov, ne.gov, nol.org and state.ne.us domains as well as other known domains such as neded.org (Department of Economic Development). The appliance is also available to interested agencies and counties at their request at no charge.

Below are some examples of State Agencies who have recently adopted the Google search functionality within their Web sites. It is important to note that these sites have been indexed as part of the mast indexing. The examples below are sites that have added the ability to utilize this index within their own Web site.

Traditional Web site Searches:

- New Supreme Court Web site
- New Board of Geologist's Web site
- New Secretary of State Web site will use the Google search upon rollout this summer.
- Library Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Workers' Compensation Court (WCC).

Advanced and Unique Google Appliance Uses:

- Nebraska Administrative Code Search (SOS application) has been enhanced to utilize the Google appliance to search effective Rules and Regulations. Results returned by Google greatly enhanced the usability of this search and it was called a "vast improvement" by the SOS Rules and Regulations office.
- Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations – Searching only the rules of the Commission of Industrial Relations
- Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations – The NCIR reporter is a search of all NCIR decisions since 1974. This search is unique in that it allows access to the search based on a Nebraska.gov subscription. This was done at the request of NCIR.

2. Please describe whom the beneficiary or recipient of this service will be and the projected activity for access or use of the proposed service:

The Google search appliance is likely one of the most used resources at Nebraska.gov. Every person who visits the site is a potential beneficiary of the service the appliance provides. Approval of this grant will ensure this essential tool will continue to be available for visitors to both state and local Web sites.

State agencies and local governments will also continue to benefit from this service in that we have been able to think outside the box in how the service can be utilized. The appliance has been used to members only access areas that limit search results to only indexed files within

that secured environment.

In 2006, the Nebraska.gov portal had a total of over 176,000 URL's being indexed. Continuing this service will allow Web sites within Nebraska government to continue leveraging this extreme wealth of information. Users can continue to sort through this wealth of information with a single click of a button.

3. Please provide a timeline for implementation. NOTE: a specific completion date must be provided as grant funds lapse if not expended prior to completion date. (provide answer below)

This appliance was fully implemented after the first grant was awarded. This request will help continue fund the Google search engine appliance for the remainder of the master contract between Nebraska Interactive LLC and the NSRB.

4. What will the NI's contribution to the project be? Provide examples such as labor, equipment etc. (provide answer below)

Nebraska.gov will continue to support this service on an ongoing basis. Support includes continuing to implement the Google search functionality on state and local Web sites as well as ongoing administration of the administrative interface provided through the appliance.

5. Does the project require additional statutory authority? (Yes or No) No

Please explain:

6. Why is the grant money needed for the project, and, if applicable, how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended? (provide answer below)

The grant money is requested so that funds will continue to be available to provide and utilize the Google search engine appliance on the Nebraska.gov portal.

The fees paid by Nebraska.gov to utilize the Google search appliance are based on the average number of URL's indexed through the course of a year. The fee of \$1010.00 per month (billed quarterly at \$3030.00) is based on Nebraska.gov having approximately 176,000 pages indexed. It is expected that the growth of this fee will remain minimal for the life of this grant.

The money expended on this grant will continue to cover only the Google allocation cost incurred by Nebraska.gov for utilization within Nebraska state and local government. This has not been and will continue to be no mark up by Nebraska.gov for providing this service.

As stated prior it is contemplated at the time of this writing that an additional request to continue this funding will be made in the event the master contract between NSRB and Nebraska Interactive LLC is extended for the additional one year period as described in the master contract.

7. Please describe how this project will enhance the delivery of the state agency services or access to those services. (provide answer below)

The Google search engine appliance is quickly becoming an essential tool browsing the states official Web site as well as other state and local sites that currently utilize its functionality. The ability to perform extensive searching enhances the delivery of state agency services and access to those services on the Nebraska.gov portal. Without this functionality citizens and government entity would not find valuable information as easily.

It is important for the state of Nebraska to continue providing such a valuable service for its citizens because it provides a very tangible way for users to sift through the sea of information available to them in a quick and consistent manner. Citizens and state agencies have instant, real-time and in some cases secure access to all the information and knowledge across Nebraska state and local government.

10. Please describe how this project will: (NOTE: you may respond to any or all of these criteria)

a. Improve the efficiency of agency operations:

Agencies improve efficiency by having at their fingertips the ability to find crucial information for their constituents. Customer service can be greatly improved by utilizing the information available through the indexing of all Nebraska government web sites and providing answers for

users needing assistance regardless of which agency they have contacted. If utilized correctly by state agency help desks, each customer support technician can solve many problems, in some cases outside their own agencies by simply leading their constituents to the correct information. The Google search appliance is a public service that benefits everyone who chooses to use it.

b. Facilitate collaboration among state agencies:

As an example, in late 2006 the IMS help desk began to monitor the Nebraska.gov online live help system between the hours of 5pm and 8am. Their willingness to do this has greatly improved the hours in which customer support is available to any user of Nebraska.gov. While the online live help system has been available for a number of years now, IMS had never interacted in this way. Training was required to effectively use this service and help position the individuals who would be answering questions to provide the appropriate level of assistance. During the training, much of the focus was on locating accurate information by using the Google search appliance. During a time of the day when most government offices are closed, these support personnel have access to almost any government related information that has been published on a Web site.

As the states Network Manager, we receive a number of phone calls each day from users who are transferred from one government office to another trying to obtain information. Much of the transferring can be reduced by instructing state employees who have interactions with constituents to utilize Nebraska.gov and the Google search to efficiently locate information and point people in the right direction the first time they call.

c. Facilitate collaboration between state agencies and other public institutions:

N/A

III. TECHNICAL DETAIL

1. Describe the hardware, software and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made: (provide answer below)

The Google search appliance was chosen because Google is by far the most used search interface. As of April 2007 3.6 of 7.3 billion US searches were performed using Google. Nebraska Interactive through NICUSA also continues to provide support of this service using resources from both Nebraska Interactive and its parent company NICUSA.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including each of the following:

a. Conformity with generally accepted industry standards. NOTE: Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) should also address NITC technical standards and guidelines.

N/A

b. Compatibility with existing institutional and / or statewide infrastructure:

Already implemented

c. Reliability, security and scalability. Include future needs for growth or adaptation:

The Google appliance has been a reliable resource for Nebraska citizens. The appliance is hosted in the NIC central data center in Ashburn Virginia. The Ashburn facility is a tier 4 AT&T data facility which conforms to very high industry standards with regards to power, internet connectivity, air conditioning, fire suppression etc.

3. Describe how technical support will be provided: (provide answer below)

Technical support will continue to be provided through Nebraska Interactive LLC utilizing resources from NICUSA as needed. This ongoing support will continue to be at no cost to the State of Nebraska and any agency or local government entity that chooses to utilize this service within their Web sites.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION, SIGNATURE

Contact person for any questions regarding this application: Brian D. Stevenson (General Manager)

Contact phone number: 402-471-6582

Contact email address: brian@nebraska.gov

Singed this _____ day of _____ , _____

Agency Director Signature

Please Return to:

**Nebraska State Records Board
440 So. 8th, Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508**