State Library of Iowa

FY10 Annual Report
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

From a State Library Program - “A Sense of Place: Landscaping for Public Libraries Using Iowa’s Native Plants.”

December 2010
Mary Wegner, State Librarian
A Message from
State Librarian Mary Wegner

The State Library’s mission includes promotion of excellence and innovation in library services, and in keeping with that role I want to highlight a significant national research report about how people use public library computers. This study - Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries - is important because it describes the first large-scale investigation of why customers use library Internet computers and how this computer use affects their lives. The report was released in April 2010.

Public libraries have become critical digital hubs, places where Iowans can compete more effectively for jobs, improve their health, find key government services, and manage their finances. Public library computer users include not only those who cannot afford their own connections, but also those who find the library Internet provides an easier, faster, friendlier or more effective way to go online.

Researchers found that the main uses of public access computers are:

- To communicate with friends/family and maintain personal connections (60%)
- To focus on education and training issues (42%)
- To deal with career and employment needs, including job searching and resume development (40%)
- To find information on health and wellness topics (37%)
- For e-government links; to connect to government programs and services (34%)
- For civic engagement; to learn about politics, news and the community (33%)
- To manage personal finances or for commercial needs (25%)

The study reports that nearly one-third of Americans age 14 or older used a public library computer or wireless network to connect to the Internet in the past year. In our state, this translates to 711,377 Iowans making use of their public library computers or network.

It is essential to note that 67% of the computer users received assistance from library staff or volunteers. This illustrates that, in order to meet Iowans’ technology needs, the presence of the librarian is as significant as the availability of the computers. Helpful library staff members add the human touch that enhances computer use, and it is these very important librarians who assure that Iowans are able to fully participate in the digital age.

The study was conducted by the University of Washington and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Findings were based on a national telephone survey and Web survey responses from customers of more than 400 public libraries nationwide, including several in Iowa. An additional 319 interviews were conducted on site with library users, non-users, library employees, funding agencies and other community agencies in four case study locations around the country – one of which was Marshalltown, Iowa.

The full report is available at http://tascha.washington.edu/usimpact.

In closing, I’d like to quote Kee Malesky, librarian at the National Public Library headquarters in Washington D.C. She writes, “I’ve always believed that being a librarian is a vocation, a calling, and not just a job. What we do matters in the world.” Speaking for all of Iowa’s librarians – who offer caring and expert services at our college, public, school and special libraries - I couldn’t agree more.
Some say goodbye...and some say hello

Robin Martin was named Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator in September 2009. Robin served as director of the Geisler Library at Central College, Pella, from 1987 to 2007 and is currently librarian emerita there. She is the founder and director of the Geisler Library Writers Reading Series program, member of the Iowa Center for the Book Advisory Council, member of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Advisory Council, and past president of the Iowa Library Association.

Jackie Kokke retired from the State Library in March 2010. Jackie began as a clerk typist in the library’s audio/visual unit in 1978. She became a library associate in the audio-visual unit until it closed. Jackie then became the ICN scheduler in Library Development.

Karon King began working for the state in 1979. She began in the Department for the Blind, moved to the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, then the Iowa Historical Department before settling with the State Library in 1989. Karon spent many years assembling patents and trademark databases, and helping the public with patent research. Karen retired in April 2010.

Beth Henning started her career as coordinator of the State Data Center (SDC) program, State Library, in December 1989 and retired in June 2010. The State Data Center is a cooperative program with the U.S. Census Bureau which increases the availability of census data in Iowa and helps people use it. Beth developed the SDC Web site of demographic and economic statistics about Iowa and answered requests for data, in addition to working with the Census Bureau on Iowa population estimates and promoting the decennial census in the state.

Doug Stephenson began working at the state Law Library in June 1971 and moved to the main library in December 1998. Over a span of 30 years, Doug served under four law librarians and a half dozen state librarians. He has been responsible for delivering mail and other items around the campus complex, shelving library materials, and weeding government documents. Doug retired in June 2010.

Karen Randleman, youth services consultant, began her position at the State Library in January 2008 and retired in June 2010. Karen traveled around the state offering summer reading workshops for youth services librarians, planned the biennial Kids First Conference, helped write the summer reading manuals used in 49 states, and served as a resource for librarians around the state.

Governor Chet Culver appointed Pat Laas in spring 2010 to the Iowa Commission of Libraries. Pat lives in Bettendorf and is a clinical dietitian with the Genesis Health Systems, Silvis, IL. She serves on the Bettendorf Public Library Board of Trustees and the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

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State Library part of study to reorganize Iowa library services

During its 2010 session, the Iowa General Assembly adopted House Amendment 8516 to Senate File 2376, which included the following requirement:

“The library services areas and the state library shall work collaboratively to conduct a study of ways to streamline state-funded library operations and services. The study shall, at a minimum, address the following:

(1) Library service area service delivery strengths
(2) Best practices for delivering continuing education
(3) The use of social networking tools to provide consulting services
(4) Consolidation of bookkeeping and auditing functions
(5) Locally based creative collaborations among all types of libraries.

The library service areas shall collaboratively submit their findings and recommendations in a report to the general assembly on or before November 1, 2010.”

At two meetings held in February-March 2010 to discuss library services reorganization issues, Dale Vande Haar, the Iowa Library Association (ILA) president, proposed that ILA facilitate a study of streamlining library services. Legislators, legislative staff, Library Service Area (LSA) staff, and State Library staff who were present all agreed that ILA would serve as facilitator, and H8516 was subsequently passed. ILA then formed a Reorganization Committee of eleven individuals representing the Library Service Areas, the State Library, and public libraries of all sizes and from all areas of the state.

Mary Wegner, State Librarian, and Monica Gohlinghorst, chairperson of the Iowa Commission of Libraries, were members of the Reorganization Committee and actively participated in the study of ways to streamline state-funded library operations and services.

The study was submitted in November 2010 and is available on the State Library Web site: http://www.statelibraryofi owa.org/about/ILSRR/ilsrr2

Enrich Iowa improves library services for Iowans

The Enrich Iowa Program, administered by the State Library, includes Direct State Aid, Open Access and Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement.

• Direct State Aid for public libraries is intended to improve library services and reduce inequities among communities. Libraries use these funds to provide more books, programs and computers than they could otherwise afford. Direct State Aid funding in FY10 was $1 million from the general fund. 471 of 543 public libraries in Iowa received Direct State Aid in FY10.

• Open Access enables Iowans from participating libraries to check out materials at other participating libraries, thereby providing them with direct access to more materials and information resources. Through Open Access, the state reimburses the loaning library a small amount of the expense involved. State funds supported Open Access with $1,331,697 in FY10, with 585 Iowa libraries participating.

• Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement provides Iowans with equal access to library resources by encouraging and supporting interlibrary loan among all types of libraries. State funding helps offset the costs involved. Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement was funded at $414,370 in FY10. 608 Iowa libraries participated in this program in FY10.

Iowans checked out 4,305,795 library materials through Open Access and interlibrary loan in FY10.
State Library closes medical and patents/trademark depository libraries

The state medical library was officially closed in March 2010 in response to SF2088, the state government reorganization bill. The medical library opened in July 1919 under State Librarian Johnson Brigham. The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa is providing Iowans and Iowa libraries most of the services offered by the state medical library. Dispersal of the medical library’s materials began in May 2010. Iowa health sciences libraries and departments within state government took many books and journals. In addition, a public sale of medical materials was held in June 2010 at the State Library.

Several medical students browsed through the medical collection during the public sale.

After Karon King, coordinator of the patents and trademark depository library (PTDL), retired in April 2010, the State Library was no longer able to provide staff to support the PTDL.

The State Library was designated a PTDL in December 1988. King served as president of the national PTDL Association in 2008 and gave presentations in Iowa, attended regional and national conferences, and taught several classes. She also created the Iowa Inventor’s Database, 1843-2009. The Davenport Public Library has applied to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to become a PTDL. If approved, the collection will go to them.

Iowa Libraries partner with Iowa Workforce Development and others to address needs of unemployed

The State Library and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) co-sponsored “Library Partnership with Iowa Workforce Development” over the ICN in October 2009. The information session was intended to help both library and IWD staff learn more about each other in order to better serve customers struggling with the economy.

During the program, IWD Director Elisabeth Buck and other representatives from her department provided information about unemployed Iowans and the services IWD provides them. Two library staff members - Laura Blaker, Independence Public Library, and Dawn Hayslett, Burlington Public Library - shared their experiences with serving unemployed Iowans and talked about what public libraries can offer them.

In response to requests from libraries, in December 2009 the State Library sponsored two online sessions on navigating the IWD Web site.

In addition, the State Library sponsored a continuing education session, “Recession Relief,” in November 2009 over the ICN. Justine Shaffner, a consultant with BCR, addressed how libraries can effectively use their resources to help their community with job searches, finances, economic development, resources for the needy, medical insurance, unemployment and government forms.
Task force charged with revising public library standards

A Public Library Standards Advisory Task Force was convened in January 2010 to revise the State Library’s Standards and Accreditation program. The program exists to encourage the ongoing development of high quality public library services in Iowa. The task force worked with State Library staff to review existing standards in light of best practices and current trends, and to develop the 5th edition of In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards. In Service to Iowa is the basis for the Standards and Accreditation program as well as the Direct State Aid program. The group met monthly and shared a draft of the revised standards with the library community. The Iowa Commission of Libraries approved the new standards.

Highlights from 4th to 5th editions

- Change in collection section from quantitative to qualitative
- Integrate community analysis into strategic planning standard
- Make the big 3 statistics Tier 1 requirements
  - Circulation - books and other items checked out
  - Door count - number of people who enter the library
  - Computer use - number of people who use the library’s computers
- Enhance technology requirements
  - Web presence - have a Web site
  - E-mail address - have a library e-mail account
  - Optional standards for wireless and computer replacement schedule
- Enhance programming breakdowns by age
- Retain high accessibility standards

In FY10, 346 of Iowa’s 543 public libraries met enough standards to be accredited.

Task Force Members

Standing from left are Scott Dermont, State Library; Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Karen Randleman, State Library; Jet Kofoot, Central Library Service Area (LSA); Sue Padilla, Newton Public Library; Betsy Thompson, Sioux City Public Library; Bonnie McKewon, Northwest LSA; Nathan Clark, Emmetsburg Public Library; Becky Rike, Corning Public Library; and Emily Weaver, Perry Public Library. Sitting from left are Sandy Dixon, State Library; Daniel Boice, Iowa Commission of Libraries; and Susan Macken, Oelwein Public Library.

Communities benefit from having certified librarians

In FY10, 63 public librarians successfully completed Public Library Management I and II classes to become certified through the State Library’s Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians. Iowa now has 951 certified public librarians. The program is intended to:

- Improve library service in Iowa by developing the skills of public library directors and staff
- Encourage public librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop their skills through basic and continuing education
- Provide recognition for public librarians
- Enhance the public image of librarians and libraries
- Provide guidelines that public library boards may use in developing staff hiring policies

Librarians have good reasons for becoming certified. The Direct State Aid program for public libraries, part of Enrich Iowa, requires certification of the library director. Certification demonstrates a commitment to the library profession and to improving professional skills and career advancement.
Iowa Publications Online (IPO) exceeds 8,000 documents

The State Library is committed to capturing the digital documents of Iowa’s state agencies and placing them on an easy to use Web site, Iowa Publications Online. In December 2009, the number of documents available to the public topped 8,000. More than 2,217 publications were added in FY10.

In addition to the digital publications agencies provide, State Library staff scan, digitize and deposit high demand paper documents, such as The Debates of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Iowa, assembled in Iowa City on January 19, 1857. Staff also scan paper state documents as they get used in order to place more desired content in the digital repository.

In FY10, there were 1,310,141 Web hits on IPO demonstrating Iowans and others’ interest in accessing digital documents from Iowa government agencies. Visit IPO at http://publications.iowa.gov/.

State Data Center staff educate Iowans about 2010 Census

The 2010 Census Iowa Roundtables continued in FY10 with representatives from the State Library’s State Data Center, other state agencies, Councils of Government (COGs), cities and non-profits discussing updates on census operations in Iowa and sharing ideas to promote census awareness in the state.

In August 2009, the University of Iowa Libraries sponsored a workshop covering the important changes that researchers and information providers needed to know about the 2010 Census. Participants went on virtual tours of the resources and had hands-on practice with web-based information sources. State Data Center staff were presenters at the event.

State Data Center staff also developed a 12-page 2010 Census section on its Web site with supporting materials and links to census information.

116 public libraries signed partnership agreements with the U.S. Census Bureau to help promote the 2010 census in their communities. More than one-third of the 2010 Census Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted sites in Iowa were located in public libraries. Iowans were third in the nation (78%) to complete and mail back census forms.

Live Chat = Instant Answers

Librarians in both the main library (Miller Building) and the law library (State Capitol) answered some 10,000 questions in FY10, the majority of which were about state laws and state government. Though telephone calls and e-mails continue to be the most used technologies for asking questions, “Live Chat” now handles about 30 percent of total information requests.

People can now “talk” to a reference librarian via the Web and receive live feedback to their questions. The “Live Help” feature is located on both the State Library’s and the State of Iowa’s Web sites. It presents a seamless interface to state government for Iowa citizens, and saves both state agencies and libraries time in researching questions outside their scope.

Questions can be interesting:
“T’m trying to find a job in Iowa and was hoping you might have a suggestion?”
“T’m looking for the state of Iowa Web site that provides information about underground storage tank certificates.”
“T’m looking for all of the registered non-government organizations in the state.”

Customers’ replies to staff answers are quite satisfying:
“YES! Thanks. I’ll head down to the local office this afternoon.”
“I love that the state of Iowa has such a cool program [Live Chat].”
“I had searched and searched and found nothing. Thank you very much for your help.”
Iowa children enjoy Summer Library Program

The FY10 Summer Library Program, “Be Creative @ Your Library” drew nearly 95,000 children to programs in public libraries for reading and activities which ranged from quilting to making puppets and cake decorating to tie-dying. Iowa children had a fabulous time being creative at their local libraries this summer.

Wandering musicians at the Avoca Public Library

“Doin’ the Moose” at the Akron Public Library

Tie-dying at the Shenandoah Public Library

Learning how to quilt at the Humboldt Public Library

State Library offers numerous CE courses

State Library staff offered a wide variety of presentations and classes in FY10. Topics included:

- Advanced Customization for PLOW Web sites
- All Iowa Reads: Discussion of Driftless by David Rhodes
- Annual Survey: What You Need to Know
- Book Challenges
- Cataloging: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?
- Census 2010
- Collection Management: Purchasing, Maintenance and Weeding
- Collections: The Foundation’s Gotta Come First
- Customizing Your Web Site
- Early Literacy Story Hour
- EBSCO Administration
- E-mail and Getting Your Web site Started
- E-rate Overview
- Future of SILO
- Information Literacy Education: A National Overview
- Information Literacy in the Public Library
- Iowa Heritage Digital Collections Overview
- July Reports: No More Do Overs
- Library Programs for Adults
- Making the Best of a Shrinking Budget
- Millennials in the Library
- Open Meetings
- Overview of EBSCO
- The Passionate Librarian
- Public Library Management 1 and 2
- Redistricting in 2010
- Searching Antiques through Patents and Trademarks
- Summer Library Program
- Tao and the Art of Reference
- TechAtlas
- Technology Trends in Libraries
- Trustee Essentials
- Using Hard Data to Build Strong Proposals
- WebJunction
The State Library of Iowa received a $98,251 grant in January 2010 to help rural Iowans strengthen their knowledge of and confidence in investing. The grant is designed to build the capacity of 25 rural Iowa libraries to provide effective, unbiased investor education. The State Library of Iowa is the only state library and one of only 19 institutions nationwide to receive this funding in 2010 from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the American Library Association (ALA).

Participating libraries will host face-to-face and online education provided by Iowa State University Extension staff to connect library users to high quality financial resources and information. The online component enables participants to take the classes when it is convenient for them. Ames Public Library, a previous grant recipient, is partnering with the State Library of Iowa to select financial resources for the participating libraries and help train library staff.

The 25 Iowa public libraries were named in March 2010. Three different courses will be offered to Iowans: for those who are first-time investors, for those preparing for retirement, and for retirees. Participating libraries will receive $575 worth of library books and DVDs about investing. Classes will be held in each library in fall 2010 and again in spring 2011.

The libraries chosen to participate are:

- Anita Public Library
- Bayard Public Library
- Buffalo Center Public Library
- Chariton Free Public Library
- Charles City Public Library
- Matilda J. Gibson Memorial Library-Creston
- Norelius Community Library-Denison
- Hamburg Public Library
- Hawarden Public Library
- Robert W. Barlow Memorial Library-Iowa Falls
- Kalona Public Library
- Keokuk Public Library
- Lake City Public Library
- Le Mars Public Library
- Leon Public Library
- Marengo Public Library
- Ross & Elizabeth Baty Public Library-Monticello
- Mount Pleasant Public Library
- New Hampton Public Library
- Oelwein Public Library
- Perry Public Library
- Pocahontas Public Library
- Bertha Bartlett Public Library-Story City
- Robey Memorial Library-Waukon
- Winterset Public Library
State employees benefit from National Library Week courses

State Library staff celebrated National Library Week, April 12-16 2010 by offering diverse courses to about 100 state employees. Classes were:

- Reliable Health Information – Where Can I Find It on the Internet? - Pam Rees
- Get the Most from EBSCOHost - Jay Peterson
- Survey of Popular Social Networking Websites - Jay Peterson
- Searching FirstSearch Databases - Barb Corson
- Google Goodness: How to Get the Best Results From Your Web Searches - Scott Dermont
- Iowa Population Trends - Beth Henning
- Save Your Documents: Iowa Publications Online - Tom Keyser
- Digital Sanborn Maps - Tom Keyser
- Maximize Your Effectiveness: Using Webinar Software - Alysia Peich
- Westlaw: Using Advanced Features - Cory Quist

State Library receives “The Extra Mile” Certificate

William P. Angrick II, director of the Citizens’ Aide/Ombudsman’s office, sent State Librarian Mary Weigner a letter and certificate as a “personal thank you for the help you and your staff have been to my staff and the citizens of the state of Iowa this past year.”

Wrote Angrick, “From the perspective of my staff and me, you all have done a great job!” In conjunction with their annual report, Angrick said he and staff like to recognize Iowa’s state and local government employees who have gone “The Extra Mile” in providing services to the public.

Iowa Library Commission Chair, Monica Gohlinghorst, noted “what a wonderful acknowledgement of the State Library staff.”

“This only validates and confirms what I have known for quite some time that the State Library staff delivers top quality service,” said Gohlinghorst. “They are a group of very hard working individuals, always going above and beyond to help others.”

The Iowa Collection

The State Library collects non-fiction books about Iowa and Iowans for its Iowa Collection. From vibrant cities to serene small towns and unique scenery, discover the history, heritage, people, pastimes, and nature of the Hawkeye state. Anyone with a State Library card is welcome to check out these books.
State Library makes great strides towards goals of FY09-11 Strategic Plan

On October 24, 2008, the Iowa Library Commission approved a three-year strategic plan for the State Library of Iowa. The plan’s five goals are 1) promote high quality library services for all Iowans through the use of technology; 2) strengthen the capacity of Iowa libraries of all types and sizes to provide the best possible library service to Iowans; 3) build the capacity of Iowa libraries of all types and sizes to prepare Iowans for a bright future and enhance Iowa’s quality of life; 4) ensure access to unique Iowa collections; and 5) tell the library story that libraries of all types and sizes enrich Iowa and make Iowa a desirable place to live, work and play. FY10 results can be found at http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/about/sp08/fy10strateg/slsp10.

Landscaping with native plants program sponsored by State Library

For many Iowans, the public library is the heart of their community, important as a community gathering place as well as a source of books, information and Internet access.

That’s why it made sense to State Library staff to provide a program for Iowa libraries titled “A Sense of Place: Landscaping for Public Libraries Using Iowa’s Native Plants.” Inger Lamb, former president of the Iowa Prairie Network and a professional designer of native plant landscapes, taught the class in February 2010. It was presented over the Iowa Communications Network in 16 locations around the state. Forty-one individuals attended the program with 31 public libraries represented.

The following was asked on the class evaluation form: “We’re interested in what you plan to do now that you’ve attended this class. Please tell us about your project.”

Some of the responses were:

• “I would like to develop an area on [our] library grounds that would show the community, children and adults alike what our native area looked like. I want to label the plants with their names and include other interesting facts to make it as informative as possible.”

• “Because of our limited sunny areas around the library entrance, we are going to continue the cottage garden concept, but try to incorporate some more prairie plants.”

• “We would love to have a currently unused area of lawn behind the library turned into a prairie patch (this would go well with the city’s current sustainability initiative).”

Photos on the front of this report were taken at the Drake Community Library, Grinnell, IA.
Photos below are from the Clinton IA Public Library.
An eventful year for the Iowa Center for the Book

Robin Martin took off running in September 2009 as the new Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator. The Center, housed in the State Library, has a number of inspiring programs for Iowans.

Letters About Literature

A ninth grader from Spencer, IA, Austin Helmink, was Iowa’s fifth national winner in the annual Letters About Literature (LAL) contest sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and Target Stores. Helmink won a cash award of $1,000 from the Library of Congress and Target Stores for the library of his choice, the Spencer Public High School library.

To enter, students in grades 4 through 12 write a letter to an author explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s way of thinking about the world or themselves.

More than 69,000 letters were submitted at the national level. 1,811 were from Iowa students. In Iowa, there were 426 entries in Level I (grades 4-6), 996 entries in Level II (grades 7-8) and 389 entries in Level III (grades 9-12). A reception for Iowa’s winners, finalists and honorable mentions was held April 30 at the State Library with Iowa’s Poet Laureate Mary Swander speaking.

All Iowa Reads

Author David Rhodes’ book, Driftless, the 2010 All Iowa Reads selection, was by most accounts one of the best choices to come from the Center for the Book’s All Iowa Reads Committee since its inception in 2003.

Driftless publisher Milkweed Press wrote: “Rhodes returns to the midwestern landscape he knows so well, offering a fascinating and entirely unsentimental portrait of a town apparently left behind by the march of time. Home to a few hundred people yet absent from state maps, Words, Wisconsin, comes richly to life by way of an extraordinary cast of characters.”

The purpose of All Iowa Reads is to foster a sense of unity through reading. Iowans statewide are encouraged to come together in their communities to read and talk about a single title in the same year. Libraries, book clubs, schools and other local organizations are encouraged to sponsor discussions of the title.

October 2009 Iowa Author Fair draws throngs to Des Moines area

In October 2009, the Iowa Author Fair “It’s All About Books!,” was sponsored by the Iowa Center for the Book in partnership with the Des Moines Public Library, the Iowa Library Association, and Beaverdale Books (a local independent bookstore). The event drew nearly 500 people to the Des Moines Public Library where they met with 52 participating Iowa writers, purchased their books, and had them autographed. Beaverdale Books sold 407 books and 82 different titles. It’s thought that the fair was the largest gathering of Iowa authors under one roof in Iowa’s history.

Record number attend National Book Festival in DC

An estimated crowd of 130,000 attended the 9th National Book Festival in Washington, DC in September 2009. Iowa’s delegation at the Pavilion of the States included Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator Robin Martin, Iowa City Public Library Director Susan Craig, State Library staffer Annette Wetteland and Perry Public Library Friend, Julie Scheib. All took turns staffing Iowa’s table in the Pavilion, which included literary information about the state.

Craig was honored at a Centers for the Book reception the night before the Festival for her contributions toward Iowa City’s selection as the third UNESCO City of Literature in November 2008. UNESCO’s purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture. The only other UNESCO Cities of Literature are in Melbourne, Australia and Edinburgh, Scotland.
Town Meetings focus on “The Passionate Librarian”

What does it mean to be a passionate librarian? What impact does a passionate librarian have on the level of support for the library? Why is it important to be able to describe how librarians transform lives? 340 Iowa librarians got answers to these and other important questions during the September 2009 annual Town Meetings. State Library staff, with help from Iowa’s Library Service Areas, held meetings in Creston, Storm Lake, Mason City, Coralville, Waterloo and Urbandale. State Library staff performed “It’s a Wonderful Library: Changing Lives in Bedford Springs,” which emphasized the important roles librarians play every day in their customers’ lives. The three afternoon breakout sessions were The Future of SILO, Library Programs for Adults and WebJunction/Tech Atlas.

The State Library Players in “It’s a Wonderful Library...” are, from left, Jay Peterson, Marie Harms, State Librarian Mary Wegner, Sandy Dixon and Alysia Peich.

FY10 Service Statistics

- Main Library, Law Library and State Data Center reference contacts: 10,439
- Library Development consulting contacts: 10,993
- EBSCOhost database searches by Iowans: 20,176,798
- Courses and presentations by State Library staff: 77
- Total course attendance: 807

The Locator and Interlibrary Loan

The Iowa Locator is the statewide union catalog used by the public and libraries to locate library items. It represents the holdings of 667 Iowa libraries and contains 3,889,357 titles and 15,621,866 holdings. Libraries borrowed 108,197 books and other materials from each other in FY10 using the SILO interlibrary loan system.
Use of Iowa Public Libraries

Iowa Public Library Card Holders
19% increase since FY00

67.3% of Iowans were registered card holders in 2010.

Iowa Public Library Checkouts
17% increase since FY00

Iowa Public Library Visits
40% increase since FY00

Source: State Library of Iowa Public Library Statistics, FY00 to FY10
State Library of Iowa

Main Library
1112 E. Grand Ave.

Law Library
1007 E. Grand Ave.

Mary Wegner
State Librarian

Barbara Corson
Program Director, Library Services

Sandy Dixon
Program Director, Library Development

Gary Krob
State Data Center Coordinator

Alan Schmitz
SILO Coordinator

Annette Wetteland
Communications Coordinator
and Annual Report editor

2010 Iowa Commission of Libraries, the governing board of the State Library: Back row left, Janet Mohs, Dan Boice, Kevin Fangman and Tom Martin. Front row left, David Boyd, Monica Gohlinghorst, Jann Freed, Patricia Laas and State Librarian Mary Wegner.

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