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# President Obama signs Institute of Museum and Library Services Act of 2010; Senate confirms new IMLS director Susan Hildreth

## New Iowa LSTA five-year plan to be developed in 2012

A new law reauthorizing the programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) with some important changes was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 22, 2010. At the same time, Susan Hildreth, previous state librarian from California, was confirmed as director of IMLS. The Institute, an independent U.S. government agency, is the primary source of federal support for the country's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The State Library of Iowa administers federal funds in Iowa.

Updated language calls for IMLS to take a dynamic role in research and data collection and to advise the President and Congress on museum, library and information services. The Act also clearly recognizes how libraries and museums contribute to a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry. New language focuses on the development of essential 21st century skills.

Original sponsors of the Act of 2010 were Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC). According to IMLS officials, the expanded authority facilitates IMLS's evolving role as a partner with other federal agencies. Libraries make outstanding partners in furthering the nation's policy goals in areas including health, education, cultural preservation, the environment and global awareness.



Sen. Tom Harkin

Susan Hildreth's nomination to be director of IMLS for the next four years was confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate. At the time of her nomination, Hildreth was



Susan Hildreth

director of the Seattle Public Library. Before that she was State Librarian of California. Hildreth is active in the American Library Association and served as president of the Public Library Association in 2006.

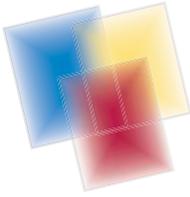
State Librarian Mary Wegner said, "I am delighted that Susan Hildreth has been named the director of IMLS. She is a strategic thinker who has a deep knowledge of the opportunities and challenges that libraries face. She will be an excellent spokesperson on the many ways that our nation's libraries enrich our citizens."

The directorship of the Institute alternates between individuals from museums and libraries.

Through the Grants to States program, IMLS provides federal LSTA funds to state libraries, including the State Library of Iowa, using a population-based formula. In Iowa, LSTA funds are used to support statewide services and programs such as the SILO Locator and Interlibrary Loan, online reference databases – FirstSearch and EBSCOhost, the statewide summer library program, the Iowa Center for the Book, and more.

Mary Wegner and Sandy Dixon attended the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States Annual Conference March 14–16, 2011, in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference focused on the LSTA five-year evaluation and five-year plan due in 2012 which are required to receive the federal funds. Another topic of particular concern to Iowa and many other states was "maintenance of effort" (MOE). MOE is the state funds spent by a state library to support LSTA priorities. In order to receive full federal funding, the state must meet the MOE requirements. Due to budget cuts at the state level, the State Library of Iowa will lose a portion of its federal funds this fall and will lose more if state funding is not restored.





## Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner



### Federal funds help Iowa libraries provide high-quality services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides federal funds to each state library through the Grants to States Program. The funds must be used to promote continuous improvement in library services in all types of libraries; to facilitate access to library resources for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry; to encourage library resource sharing; to enhance the skills of the library workforce; and to promote literacy, education and lifelong learning.

Each state library is required to develop a five-year plan which establishes goals and priorities for the expenditure of the funds. The State Library's current Five Year Plan is available at <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/about/lsta/plan08/view>. An evaluation of our activities associated with the current plan is due to IMLS in March 2012. A new five-year plan, which will cover FY13-FY17, must be submitted to IMLS in June 2012. We'll notify the library community when we begin to evaluate the previous plan and develop the new plan – your participation will be an essential part of the process.

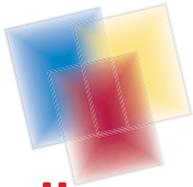
How is the federal money spent in Iowa? It is used to support many of the State Library's statewide services and programs, including the following:

- To make FirstSearch and EBSCOhost online reference databases available to all Iowa libraries at an affordable price
- To provide a statewide union catalog (the Iowa Locator) and a customized statewide interlibrary loan program (SILO ILL) used by 712 Iowa libraries of all types
- To offer annual training and materials for the Summer Reading Program, and to employ a youth services consultant for Iowa libraries
- To operate the programs of the Iowa Center for the Book, including All Iowa Reads and Letters About Literature
- To provide value-added statistics about Iowa, including data from the U.S. Census Bureau and state agencies, through the State Data Center
- To manage Iowa Heritage Digital Collections, an online repository of Iowa history and culture which brings together digital resources of Iowa libraries and museums
- To provide legal reference services to Iowa libraries and their customers
- To operate Iowa Publications Online, which makes state government publications permanently available to the public through a single portal

Due to state funding cuts over the past two years, the State Library is in jeopardy of losing a significant percentage of our federal funds because the state is not meeting "maintenance of effort" requirements. You have told us that the federally funded services described above help Iowa libraries provide high quality services to your customers. When the Iowa Library Association asks you to contact your legislators to support state funding for library services, please be sure to respond.

### Rees offers health information class at DMPS

State Library staffer and former medical librarian, Pam Rees, is teaching "Finding Reliable Health Information on the Internet" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tues., April 5 at Hoover High School, Des Moines, IA. The class is part of the Des Moines Public School's Community Education spring offerings. The cost is \$15 for the one-day session. Call 515-242-8521 or register online at [www.dmced.org](http://www.dmced.org).



## Excellence in Academic Libraries Award goes to Grinnell College

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) announced the recipients of the 2011 Excellent in Academic Libraries Award to three colleges: Grinnell College Libraries; the Luria Library, Santa Barbara City College; and the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

The award recognizes the staff of a college, university and community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution.

"Receiving [this award] is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty and community," said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen K. Davis.

The Burling Library (Grinnell College) customized the ACRL information literacy standards to create a focused, coherent and successful information literacy instruction program, said Erika Linke, chair of the 2011 selection committee.

"The selection committee was impressed with the student mentors program - one example of many connecting the library with students and faculty. The activities of the library demonstrate a continuous effort to improve, adapt, reshape and respond to new expectations," said Linke.

Richard Fyffe, the Samuel R. and Marie-Louise Rosenthal Librarian at Grinnell College, said he was "delighted to be recognized with this award."

"It is testimony to the hard work, creativity and dedication of all the library staff over many years. We have worked especially hard to be sure that we, our programs and our services remain deeply integrated with campus learning, teaching and research. As libraries continue to evolve, our commitment to the college's liberal-arts mission and programs helps to ensure our effectiveness."

Each winning library received \$3,000 and a plaque, to be presented at an award ceremony held on each recipient's campus.

The State Library offers congratulations to the staff at Grinnell College Libraries for this national honor.



*Burling Library, Grinnell - Photographer Hedrick Blessing*

## Iowa partners with other states to get discount for literacy stations

State libraries around the country took up Kansas State Librarian Jo Budler's suggestion to get a multi-state discount package on Advanced Workstations in Education (AWE) Early Literacy Stations. Twenty-eight of the units are now in Iowa public libraries.

Designed as a standalone system with 46 English edition or 62 bilingual Spanish edition software programs pre-installed, the AWE Early Literacy Station provides educational content that covers seven curricular areas specifically focused for children from the toddler stage through second grade. All instructional content is aligned to national education standards and has received top ratings in professional journals. The system was meant to spark the interest of youngsters with a colorful keyboard, tiny mouse, and generous flat screen with built-in speakers.

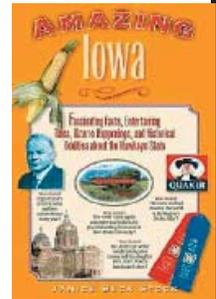
"We are happy that we were able to add the Literacy Station and at a discounted price," said Johnston Public Library's children's librarian Kinney Carnahan. "I had actually looked into it before, but it always seemed like too big of a splurge. The group rate made it more feasible."

"We see many children using the station," said Carnahan. "It appeals to younger children who are into Dora the Explorer and some of the other popular characters. We have also noticed some of the parents are being more actively engaged and helping their child with the learning process. I know that many parents are glad to have their children playing on a computer that is not just some game, but an actual learning tool."

## Reminder: State Library has interesting, diverse books, digital collections on Iowa

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. [View books in the Iowa Collection.](#)

These books can be checked out from the State Library. Any Iowan can register for a State Library card. State employees can request that books be sent directly to their offices by clicking on the Request Item button alongside the title of the book in the online catalog. Follow the links from the Iowa Collection page.



### Iowa Heritage Digital Collections

The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections is an online repository of Iowa history and culture, maintained by the State Library of Iowa, which brings together digital resources of Iowa libraries, museums, historical societies and other cultural institutions to enhance access to and preserve long-term accessibility of these valuable materials.



*African Americans in Iowa Collection*

Cultural institutions which can create collections to deposit include:

- Libraries of all types
- Historical societies
- Museums

[Start here for more information.](#)



## 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 for the Main Library.

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:

"I'm trying to find a job in Iowa and was hoping you might have a suggestion?"

"I'm looking for the state of Iowa Web site that provides information about underground storage tank certificates."

"I'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."

## Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Nicole Annis, Keosauqua  
Amy Bates, Belmond  
Rene Blessman, Polk City  
Nan Bonfils, Boone  
Vicki Christensen, Anita  
Rochelle Cory, Dallas Center  
Margaret Dempsey, Ames  
Brianna Glenn, De Soto  
Jennifer Gogerty, Slater  
Laura Hanson, Adel  
Nicole Harris, Graettinger  
Lisa Hartman, Sabula  
Rebecca Heth, Waukee

Heather Hildreth, West Des Moines  
Heather James, Lynnville  
Sarah Lamb, Collins  
Elizabeth Kinder, Algona  
Susan Mannix, LeClaire  
Cynthia McCan, Richland  
Rick Meyer, Waukon  
Mary Parker, Sloan  
Marilyn Pinta, Manly  
Laura Weston, Elliott  
Meredith Willett, Davenport  
Peg Wurth, LeMars



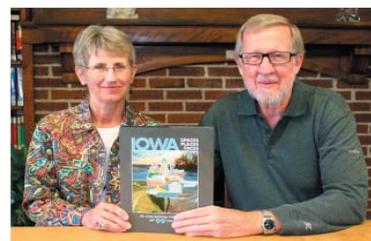
## In the neighborhood? Plan to attend State Library classes during National Library Week

Anyone can improve their information research skills and enhance their job performance by attending the following one-hour classes during National Library Week at the State Library of Iowa.

On Wednesday, April 13th, the State Library will have a lunch-time Book Talk. Carson and Connie Ode will talk about their book, *IOWA - Spaces, Places, Faces: an Entertaining Ride Through All 99 Counties*. For more information about the book and the Book Talk, [click here](#).

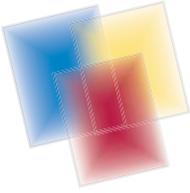
All classes will be taught in Room 310 in the Ola Babcock Miller Building, corner of E. 12th and Grand, Des Moines.

Register online for the classes using the [State Library's online catalog](#). (Scroll down for the class titles.) Any problems with registering should be directed to Fran Fessler, 1-800-248-4483, 515-281-5790, [fran.fessler@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:fran.fessler@lib.state.ia.us).



Connie and Carson Ode

Digital Sanborn Maps  
Elder Rights in Iowa  
Get the Most from EBSCOHost  
Google Goodness: How to Get the Best Results From Your Web Searches  
Information for Everyone: Finding What You Need on the Iowa State Government Websites  
Maximize Your Effectiveness: Using Webinar Software  
Open Meetings Law: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities  
Public Records Law: Keeping the Balance  
Reliable Health Information – Where Can I Find It on the Internet?  
Save Your Documents: Iowa Publications Online  
Searching FirstSearch Databases  
State Archives and Records Program  
Understanding the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey: What They Mean for Iowa Data Users  
Using the Iowa Administrative Code Online  
Using the Legislative Web Site



## Letters About Literature 2011 Iowa Winners Announced

After a record breaking year of entries, 18 students have been named Iowa winners in the Letters About Literature (LAL) national reading-writing promotion sponsored by the Iowa Center for the Book and the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores.

Iowa students entered their work into a pool of 70,000 student letters nationally. Eight-five Iowa teachers and teacher librarians coached their students. A half-dozen children entered individually. Only 10 states had more entries than Iowa. In the seven years that Iowa has participated, the state has had five national winners. Out of 2,253 Iowa entries, only 148 were returned from the National LAL office for a third round of judging. The following Iowa students have won highest recognition this year:

### Level I Grades 4-6

Juliana Osgood, Marshalltown, 1st Place

Claire Cappaert, Des Moines, 2nd Place

Neve Scott, Dubuque, 3rd Place

Honorable Mentions: Amy English, Dubuque; Carrie Fink, Dubuque; Nathan Firkins, Des Moines

### Level II Grades 7-8

Claire Eide, Des Moines, 1st Place

McKenna Haase, Carlisle, 2nd Place

Michael Mims, Fairfax, 3rd Place

Honorable Mentions: Allison Bellows, Cedar Rapids; Jazz Niehaus, Maquoketa; Danielle Strubbe, Rock Valley

### Level III Grades 9-12

Amy Dew, Muscatine, 1st Place

Megan Phillips, Spencer, 2nd Place

Channing Tackaberry, Washington, 3rd Place

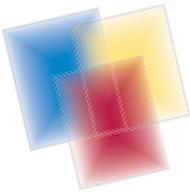
Honorable Mentions: Sarah Day, Grundy Center; Mary Reeves, Davenport; Britany Thorpe, Carlisle

As first place winners in Iowa, Osgood, Eide, and Dew will compete for national honors to be named in April. Once permission forms arrive, all winners' and finalists' names, grades, schools and letters will be posted on the Iowa Center for the Book website.

Letters About Literature cultivates independent readers through inviting children in grades 4-12 to write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, contemporary or classic--explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. For more information, visit [www.iowacenterforthebook.org](http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org).

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents  
**LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE**   
Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program.





## News from around the state

### More librarians choose to retire for some R&R

Susan Kling, former director of the Marion Public Library, retired February 18 after 24 years. She shepherded the library through a new building project during her tenure and was named Iowa Library Association Member of the Years in 2010.

Carole Winkleback retired after serving 16 years as the director of the Marshalltown Public Library. "The library is a wonderful place and has been a wonderful place to work, Winkleblack told the *Times-Republican*. "I know it's going to stay strong."

Joan Schultz will retire in May from the Upham Memorial Library in Fredericksburg after serving as director for 34 years. "I started as the children's librarian in 1977 and became director in 1991. Thirty-four years is a long time of loving my job. It's time to travel with my husband," said Joan.

Denise Crawford stepped down after 30 years at the Glenwood Public Library. She had been library director since 1992, and looks forward to spending more time with her five grandchildren. She started volunteering for the library when she was a high school junior. After taking time off to raise her children, she returned full time in 1980 as administrative assistant. Denise said, "I am looking forward to spending more time with our five grandchildren...and golfing!"

Janet A. Peterson retired from her position as library director at Dunkerton in late January 2011. She had been in the position for over 22 years and said she was looking forward to "my time for me and my family and friends."

Children who visit the Carroll Public Library are getting used to a new face since Nancy Pudenz announced her retirement in December 2010. Nancy had been children's librarian for 15 years. "I'll miss working with the kids and young people the most," Nancy said in the Carroll Daily Times. "After being here 15 years, I've watched a lot of them as they've grown up and graduated from high school."

After graduating from Des Moines Technical High School, Jane Horn found her lifelong career at the Des Moines Public Library. She retired in December 2010 after 46 years with the downtown library. "When I think of the old building and then look around the new one, I have no idea how we crammed so much stuff into that place," Horn said. [Quote from *The Des Moines Register*.]

After 34 years of hard work and dedication to the Perry Public Library, assistant director Ginnie Peters retired on January 9, 2011.

Said State Librarian Mary Wegner, "All of these librarians enriched the Iowa library community and provided excellent service to their customers. They will be missed."

*If you or someone you know plans to retire, please contact [Annette Wetteland](#) so they can be recognized in future editions of Footnotes.*

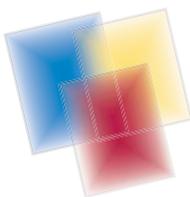
### Dolly Parton gives Jackson County, Ia. youngsters free books

Jackson County children from birth through age five will receive a free book every month thanks in part to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The project is also being sponsored with help from Jackson County libraries, the county library association, local businesses, services organizations and individuals. Additional support is provided by the Maquoketa Area Community Foundation, Early Childhood Iowa and the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

The goal is to raise \$50,000 to provide funding for five years. About 90 percent of the books are hardback, and they are rotated on a five-year cycle to reduce the chance of siblings receiving the same titles.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library Board of Jackson County oversees the project and is made up of members representing Bellevue, Maquoketa, Preston and Sabula libraries. The Imagination Library began in 1996 when Dolly Parton decided to foster a love of reading in her country and ensure that all children have books regardless of their family's income. The program expanded nationally and internationally.

*Story in the Bellevue Herald-Leader*



## Borowski to present at ALA-RUSA preconference

“Effective Library Service to Older Adults Seeking Employment and Volunteer Opportunities” will be presented at the American Library Association preconference on June 24, 2011. Lorraine Borowski, director of the Decorah Public Library, will be on the panel to answer the question of how libraries are responding to the job search assistance needs of older job seekers. The preconference will describe various library programs as well as provide an overview of prospective partners, including resources that may be available through the Workforce Investment Act and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

## Sigourney library’s exercise classes mentioned in national publication

Customers looking for reading material at the Sigourney Public Library may look twice - once a week - at some sweaty exercisers in their library. The national publication, “Governing,” ran an article in its March 2011 issue about how more people are visiting their public libraries for a good workout. With concern about the growing waist lines of Americans, Jessica Mulholland wrote in her article that “...cities are trying new ways to help citizens make fitness part of their normal routines. With more than 16,000 public libraries and branches across the country...there are plenty of places where a health movement could get started.”

Said library director Andi Wallerich, “The community’s response has been extremely supportive and positive. We’ve established a group that motivates, encourages and has fun in the process. By offering this program, we’ve increased awareness of the different programs libraries have to offer.”

Wallerich said she hopes to have yoga and stretching classes by this summer, and noted that the library also has exercise DVDs and carryable exercise equipment available for check-out. “The items have all come from local donations,” said Wallerich, “so I figured we might as well give it a try.”

## What draws the biggest crowds in Waverly?

A survey conducted by a consulting firm hired by the Waverly Leisure Services Commission came up with some interesting statistics: Of the facilities named in the survey, the Waverly Public Library is the most visited institution for the respondents who used the facility more than 10 times in the past year, followed closely by the rail trail, community trails, neighborhood parks, and playgrounds. The city is trying to improve upon the open spaces, parks and other recreational amenities in the area.

## AASL President recognizes Jefferson HS library program

As part of her tour of school libraries nationwide, Nancy Everhart, president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) visited Jefferson High School, Cedar Rapids, on March 17. While there, Everhart recognized Jefferson teacher librarian Becky Johnson.

The Vision Tour is Everhart’s way of showcasing exemplary school libraries across the nation. Jefferson was chosen as “outstanding” by the Iowa Association of School Librarians. By touring exemplary school libraries in each state, Everhart hopes to raise awareness of what outstanding school libraries can do for students, schools and local communities.

Johnson is in her 11th year as a teacher librarian at Jefferson High School, which has about 1,580 students. A National Board Certified Teacher, she serves as a resource for teachers and students, especially in the area of research. Johnson also serves as lead librarian for the Cedar Rapids Community School District doing numerous district-wide efforts, including a middle school community book buddy project and the development of K-12 curriculum and secondary core collection list.