

Iowa Library Services/State Library Update

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Legislation reorganizing the delivery of services to our customers became effective on July 27th. The State Library and the Library Service Areas, which operated similarly to Area Education Agencies, were combined to create a **new agency, Iowa Library Services**.

Iowa Library Services continues to have two library locations, the Main Library in the Miller Building, and the Law Library in the Capitol. Our services to state employees, including collections, databases, information delivery, and more, have not changed. Find out about all of our library services at www.statelibraryofia.org/services.

Our services in support of Iowa's libraries have grown stronger, with more coordination, when the office in Des Moines joined forces with six district offices around the state to help Iowa's libraries provide the best possible services to their customers. To find out more about these services go to www.statelibraryofia.org/ld.

The latest contribution to the **Iowa Heritage Digital Collection (IHDC)** is a book published by the Des Moines Public Schools in 1976 entitled *Bicentennial Reflections—The History of the Des Moines Public Schools 1846-1976*. It was written on the 200th anniversary of the birth of the United States by Dr. Robert R. Denny. It is illustrated with

pictures of all the schools and presents in great detail the history of public education in Des Moines including each elementary, junior high and high school that was ever built.

The book begins with a short general history of public education in the United States in the first part of the 19th century followed by the early beginnings of public schools in the Des Moines area. For those interested in the details on the development of the public school system in Des Moines, this 96-page book is a fascinating “must” read. You can find this title under “Places” in IHDC at www.iowaheritage.org/browse.

The Iowa Collection is located in our Main Library in the Miller Building. Recent additions to the collection include a number of titles about **Iowa history**.

Titles include *The Children’s Blizzard*, which is a meticulous account of the blizzard of January 12, 1888, which killed some 500 settlers in the Midwest; *Frontier Forts of Iowa: Indians, Traders, and Soldiers, 1682-1862*, describing the frontier forts that once stood in, or within view of, what is now the state of Iowa; and *We Have All Gone Away*, Curtis Harnack’s emotionally moving memoir of growing up during the Great Depression on an Iowa farm among six siblings and an extended family of relatives.

For descriptions of these titles and many more go to our website at <http://library.booksite.com/7168/nl/?list=CNL13>. State employees may request that any of these items be sent to them. To do so, click on the link “Check our catalog” and then the “Request Item” button. Non-state employees with an Iowa Library Services/State Library card may check out books in person or request them through their local public libraries.

The State of Iowa’s online presence at www.iowa.gov and all of the linked web pages of the various departments, agencies and bureaus are some of the most information rich sources for Iowans on the internet. Sometimes there is so much offered on these web pages that locating a specific answer can be challenging. Finding where a particular database can be accessed online is one of the more difficult searches.

The state has online databases that can let you know where to find a notary, which restaurants have a clean bill of health, if your barber has a current license to practice, or even which livestock brands are in use by Iowa ranchers and farmers. To help Iowans find the information they need in a timely manner, Iowa Library Services/State Library has a **web page that lists online state databases**, by department, with links directly to the database. Check it out at www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/online-resources/iadbs.

You have probably noticed by now that the www.iowa.gov web pages were updated recently with a few changes to navigation. One thing that has not changed is the link in

the upper right hand corner to Live Support. Iowa Library Services' information experts handled more than 1,200 questions last fiscal year from state employees and the general public via live chat. Questions range from "Where do I get a copy of my marriage, divorce or birth certificate?" to "How can I contact a 'real' person at the department of...". Our information experts quickly connect customers with the information they are seeking.

Anyone can use this service, just go to www.iowa.gov and click on the Live Support link.

Iowa Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman employee, **Linda Brudies, will exhibit her beadwork** at the Miller Building during the month of December, 2011. Linda's beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry grabs your attention, showing her attraction to sparkle and glitter. For more information and to see examples of Linda's work go to <http://tinyurl.com/76da3cd>.

For information about upcoming exhibits go to <http://tinyurl.com/86gcsyp>.

The Library is located in the Miller Building at the corner of E. 12th St. and Grand Ave. in Des Moines. Our hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. For more information: 800-248-4483, 515-281-4102, or is@lib.state.ia.us.

Other services that the State Library offers to our customers:

- The Iowa Library Services/State Library purchases books and journals to support state employees. Our collection includes materials on management, government, the environment, public health, computer and software use and much more. To search our catalog go to <http://iowa.ipac.dynixasp.com/> and for assistance finding what you need contact us via live chat, email or phone at www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/askalibrarian.
- Search the online archives of the *Des Moines Register* and the *Iowa City Press-Citizen* by using ProQuest. Go to our website at www.statelibraryofiowa.org, click on 'Log on to Online Resources' in the left sidebar and select ProQuest. Use your Iowa Library Services/State Library card number for access. If you don't have a card go to www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/services/state-library-card to register. Anyone who lives in the state of Iowa is eligible.

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