

## Iowa Library Services Advisory Panel tackles current, future issues facing public libraries

On March 3, 2012, members of the Iowa Library Services Advisory Panel met in Des Moines to talk about several subjects important to Iowa's libraries.

The day began with an Iowa demographics presentation by State Data Center coordinator Gary Krob. In particular, Krob discussed Iowa's slow population growth, the increase in minority populations and the state's aging population, all issues that will affect the services libraries provide to their local communities.

The panel was also apprised about the Iowa Library Association's (ILA) legislative initiatives and changes to the WILBOR/NEIBORS downloadable ebook program. Potential modifications to out-of-state interlibrary loan services were discussed.

The advisory panel was updated on the five year plan for the Institute of Museum and Library Services which allocates federal funding through the Library Services and Technology Act, as well as the agency's own five year plan for statewide services and programs to Iowa libraries.

Advisory panel chair Greg Heid, said the panel "had a marvelous, thorough discussion of issues and ideas of what services and initiatives State Librarian Mary Wegner and her staff are providing now and the possibilities for the future."

Meeting notes are available at <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/ld/a-b/adb/ilsapm>



*Panel Chair Greg Heid and State Librarian Mary Wegner*

## Mark your calendars now!

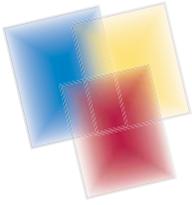
Iowa Library Services (ILS)/State Library has chosen the dates for 2012 Town Meetings. Plan now to attend one in September.

- Thursday, Sept. 6 - Waterloo Art Center
- Friday, Sept. 7 - Coralville Public Library
- Wednesday, Sept. 12 - Mason City Public Library
- Thursday, Sept. 13 - Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
- Thursday, Sept. 20 - Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs
- Friday, Sept. 21 - Urbandale Public Library

Program and registration information will be announced later.

*From left, Kelli Bremer and Eunice Riesberg register people for the 2011 Town Meeting in Waterloo.*





## Iowa Library Association (ILA) celebrates 2012 Legislative Day

ILA members enthusiastically welcomed Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds to the State Law Library on Wednesday, March 7 for Legislative Day. In addition, 71 librarians, 28 Senators and 43 House members attended. Visiting and telling library stories took place in the designated district locations. Conversations between ILA members and legislators throughout the library included encouragement for funding to support the valued services provided to all Iowa citizens.

Said ILA President, Lorraine Borowski, "Thanks for the great turn out. Please continue to contact your legislators and the Governor requesting financial support to carry on the tasks at hand."



From left, State Librarian Mary Wegner, Daniel Boice, Iowa Commission of Libraries and Sen. Tod Bowman



ILA President Lorraine Borowski and ILA Lobbyist Craig Patterson



From left, Sen. Bob Dvorsky, Sen. Joe Bolkcom and Iowa City PL Director Susan Craig



Photo of reception taken from balcony in Law Library

## Children's, teens advisory panels meet to discuss services, programs

In their first joint meeting on March 7, members of the Children's and Teens Librarians' Advisory Councils met in Des Moines with Merri Monks, Iowa Library Services Youth Services Consultant.

The councils were formed in fall 2011 to identify continuing education needs, suggest group purchases, share information pertinent to Iowa's youth services librarians, and support and encourage professional development among youth services librarians in Iowa.

Each council is comprised of 12 members - two from each of the six ILS districts and from libraries of varying sizes. Councils meet in person once a year and via conference calls three times a year.

At the March 7 meeting, members discussed statewide youth services projects, including continuing education (youth services roundtables, Kids First and Youth Services 101), the Iowa Center for Children's Books, the "News Know-how" project, the National Center for Family Literacy grant application, and a mentoring program.



Back, from left, Merri Monks, Maddie Armstrong, Sarah Beth Beaver, Tami Chumbley, Zach Stier, Anna Hartmann, Suzy Niebling, Theresa Snyder, Kelly Stern, Rachel Loutsch, Jeannette McMahon, and Maryann Mori. Seated from left, Karen Neal, Sarah Day, Beth Reineke, Sarah Weiss and Ash Ansah

On July 27, 2011 the governor signed into law the library services reorganization legislation which created one new agency, Iowa Library Services, by combining the Library Service Areas and the State Library. It has been a busy eight months, and it's time to provide another progress report.

At the same time that Iowa Library Services is transitioning into our new organizational structure, we are also coping with severe budget cuts – a loss of more than \$1.3 million in state funding, or 37%, over the past three years. We are working hard to provide the services that Iowa librarians most need and value, while dealing with a significantly reduced budget.

Six district offices around the state were open by the first of August, and were fully staffed by the first of September. District office staff has made in-person visits to more than 320 public libraries in the past six months.

Continuing education (CE) offerings for Iowa librarians are still going strong. Consultants from the district and Des Moines offices are busy jointly developing more online and more in-person training for the coming year. Online roundtable discussions were offered statewide for the first time, with 53 attending the Public Library Directors' Roundtable, 47 at the Youth Services Roundtable and 19 at the Adult Services Roundtable. Anyone who has ideas for CE topics is encouraged to contact your district office staff or Alysia Peich, CE Coordinator in the Des Moines office.

The Iowa Small Libraries Online Conference (ISLOC) continued, and was once again a big success. This year's conference, in January, presented "The CRUX of the Matter: CReating User eXperiences that Matter" and included keynote and concurrent sessions, poster sessions and exhibits. Attending were more than 240 librarians, all happy to be able to take CE in the warmth of their offices on a cold winter's day.

A team of staff members (Karen Burns, Sandy Dixon, Marie Harms, Jet Kofoot, Bonnie McKewon, Jay Peterson, and Eunice Riesberg) met for several months to develop future plans for NEIBORS and WILBOR. Each of the consortia will continue, and the staff team worked to make the two more consistent in pricing, amount of content, and availability of MARC records. While pricing issues took time and patience on everyone's part, agreements with libraries have recently been finalized and distributed. WILBOR/NEIBORS informational web pages have been added to the Iowa Library Services website.

To keep the communications channels open, each of our district offices produces a weekly newsletter that reports on statewide and district news. In addition, Iowa Library Services news is reported in Footnotes, on our website, on Facebook pages, and through our e-mail lists.

The Library Resource Technicians in each of the district offices have assumed responsibility for providing technical support for PLOW and other SILO services, due to the loss of a position in the SILO Ames office.

The Iowa Library Services Advisory Panel was formed and has met three times. Members are offering very helpful feedback, and are currently working with us on the development of a strategic plan for the agency. See page two for more information.

As promised, we solicited comments from the Iowa library community, through surveys of both academic and public librarians, to help evaluate the current Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) five-year plan for the expenditure of federal funds, as well as to help develop the next five-year plan.

"I'm proud of all of the staff at Iowa Library Services for their commitment to providing great service to Iowa libraries and to Iowans, as well as for their flexibility and creativity during the past eight months", said State Librarian Mary Wegner.

Additional background information about reorganization is available at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/q-s/reorganization>.

## Law Library carefully restores documents from 1700s

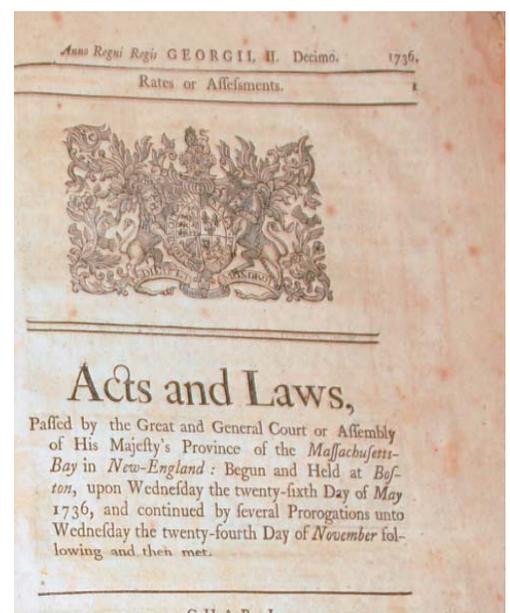
Legal documents from the American colonies in the 1700's are being cleaned and placed in special acid-free boxes in the A.J. Small Special Collections Room of the Law Library.

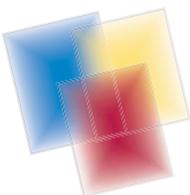
Tom Keyser, Iowa Library Services (ILS)/State Library Des Moines office is a certified archivist who has worked with Ellen Bridenstine of the Law Library to maintain the historical papers.

Barb Corson, program director for Specialized Library Services, said Keyser and Bridenstine have cleaned, repaired and boxed 342 items at the Law Library (including the 1700's documents) and Keyser has also cleaned and repaired 66 books in the Main Library.

"When I started working at the library, I never dreamed that we would be able to do this type of preservation work. We're fortunate to have Tom's expertise and Ellen's help," said Corson.

To view more photos, visit our Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/49SKLnj>.





## Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner

As State Librarian, I have been asked to serve on the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee. The objective of the committee is to establish a core group of broadband advocates, providers and consumers from across Iowa to function as a statewide clearinghouse and provide input and vision for Iowa's broadband initiative.

Connect Iowa is our state's Broadband Initiative program, working in public-private partnership with state government's Iowa Economic Development Authority in leading the effort to increase high-speed Internet access and use so that Iowa remains competitive in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century.

Libraries, as Community Anchor Institutions, can play an important role in the further development of broadband in our state. Connect Iowa and the Iowa Association of Regional Councils of Government are partnering on a statewide community engagement program to increase broadband access, adoption and use. Local technology teams are being formed. Local librarians need to be at this table! Watch for additional information – coming soon from Iowa Library Services – about this new opportunity for local librarians to work with other community leaders on broadband issues.

Mary Wegner  
State Librarian



## 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](#).

Justin Armbruster, Des Moines  
Kim Banes, Elberon  
Catherine Calaway, Randolph  
Tanya Campbell, Dayton  
Jill Clark, West Union  
Virginia Cooper, Rake  
Sonja Ferrell, Ottumwa  
Christine Garrow, Scott County Library System, Eldridge  
LeAnn Gerken, Little Rock  
Sara Glenn, Coralville  
Frankie Hannan, Missouri Valley  
Amy Hill, Melbourne  
Barbara Hoogveen, Lynnville  
Holly Karlen, Norwalk  
Susan Kellogg, Grand Junction  
Maggie Kutsunis, Davenport  
Elena Lanz, Maquoketa  
Kim Limond, Clinton  
Dorothy Marckmann, Fontanelle  
Mary McColloch, Dexter  
Beth Mosher, Clinton  
Raquel Nelson, Alta



Deb Olson, Dows  
Susan Pratt, Milford  
Denise Preston, Keota  
Alexandra Reiling, Davenport  
Katherine Rich, Fredericksburg  
Michelle Richmond, Davenport  
Christina Riedel, Cedar Rapids  
Sarah Rosenblum, Marshalltown  
Melissa Schwebach, Johnston  
Erin Sehorn, Kalona  
Janene Shannon, Lost Nation  
Sherri Stevenson, Aurelia  
Donetta Stewart, Auburn  
Zach Stier, Boone  
Olivia Stoner, Marion  
Tegan Stringfield, Burlington  
Patricia Suntken, Meservey  
Dawn Thompson, Wadena  
Jessica Warembourg, Corydon  
Sarah Weiss, Pomeroy  
Leah White, Minburn



## Collection of Lincoln documents, letters second largest west of Mississippi

*Now viewable on Iowa Heritage Digital Collection*

More than 80 documents and letters written to or signed by President Abraham Lincoln are now available for public viewing on the Iowa Heritage Digital Collection (IHDC) website ([www.iowaheritage.org](http://www.iowaheritage.org)). IHDC is an online archive of Iowa history and culture, maintained by Iowa Library Services (ILS)/State Library, 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.

In 2008, the State Historical Society of Iowa participated in a collaborative project of the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield, Ill) to identify, digitally capture, and publish all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime. Nearly 100 documents from the Society's manuscripts and state government archives collections were identified and digitized on-site by the Lincoln Presidential Library as part of the project.

Daniel Stowell, director and editor for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project, provided the following statistical information about the collection of documents at the State Historical Society of Iowa (Des Moines) and on IHDC:

It is among the 20 largest collections the staff of the Lincoln project has worked with out of more than 300 participating manuscript sources. With the exception of the holdings of the Huntington Library in California, it is the largest collection west of the Mississippi. The 1843 letter from Lincoln to Martin S. Morris is among the oldest 300 letters that have survived in the president's own hand.

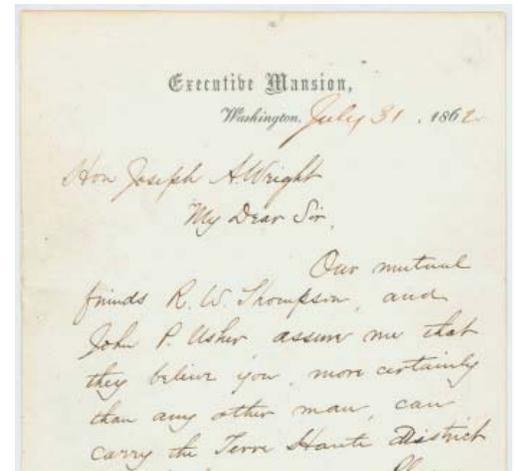
"The most valuable and significant piece in the collection is Abraham Lincoln's acceptance speech to the Congressional committee that officially notified him on March 1, 1865, of his re-election," Stowell said. "This brief speech of only 119 words is filled with classic Lincoln expressions of confidence and humility. Together, the Lincoln documents housed at the State Historical Society of Iowa present an interesting portrait of the nation's 16th president."

"Now these documents, including Lincoln's acceptance speech, can be viewed online by anyone with access to the Internet – either at home or at their local library," said Barb Corson, Program Director for Specialized Library Services (ILS), who oversees IHDC.

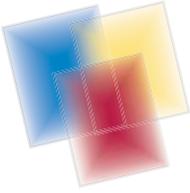
The goals of the IHDC are to:

- Maintain an open, publicly accessible, virtual collection relating to Iowa history and culture
- Identify ongoing and planned digitization projects relating to Iowa's cultural heritage
- Provide the technical infrastructure for the sustainability of electronic collections
- Provide training and other resources necessary to enable organizations to participate in the initiative
- Encourage preservation of original materials selected for electronic distribution

View this collection and others in the Iowa Heritage Digital Collection at: <http://www.iowaheritage.org/>



*Letter from Abraham Lincoln to Joseph A. Wright regarding Wright's prospects in an United States Congressional race in western Indiana dated July 31, 1862. Wright, a former Indiana governor, was at the time filling a vacancy in the United States Senate created by the expulsion of Indiana's Jesse Bright for disloyalty; Wright chose not to run for office in 1862. Autograph Letter [Signature missing].*



## Part of China VP's reception held in Law Library

Gov. Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds welcomed Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping with a reception at the Capitol when he came to Iowa on February 15 as part of his visit to the United States.

Vice President Xi visited Iowa in 1985 as a Hebei Province party official, and was the director of the Feed Association of Shi jiazhuang Prefecture. He will become China's president later this year.

During a trade mission to China last September, Gov. Branstad met with Vice President Xi, and discussed at length the vice president's 1985 Iowa visit. The vice president informed the governor that he was impressed with the hospitality and friendliness of Iowans, and named a number of Iowans he met.

A reception was held at the Iowa Capitol for Vice President Xi that included the Law Library. The following are some photos from the reception.



*Chinese VP Xi with Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad*



*From left, Barb Corson, Iowa Library Services, with Pioneer employees*



*The glass floor in the Capitol rotunda changed colors during the dinner.*



*Flags in Iowa Capitol rotunda*



*Senator Jack Hatch with guests at the reception*

## News from around the state



**Karen Keninger**, former library director for the Iowa Department for the Blind before taking the position of department head, has been appointed director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress. Her position started on March 26 in Washington, DC.

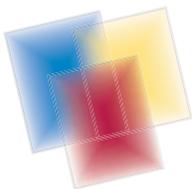
The Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, said "Ms. Keninger's qualifications and experience are superb for this position. She has demonstrated leadership and strategic thinking throughout her career."

Keninger was a member of the Iowa Center for the Book's All Iowa Reads program for several years before coming director for the Iowa Department for the Blind.

**Perry Public Library** hosted the Iowa Department for the Blind's "History of Blindness in Iowa" traveling exhibit in February. The exhibit highlights the daily experiences and historical achievements of blind Iowans. It focuses on the themes of education, employment, community and domestic life, advocacy, and tools and technology. Part of the exhibit is a collection of 60 oral histories from blind Iowans.

Karen Keninger, who was director of the Department for the Blind at the time, said "We hope that people realize blind people are just like everybody else. And with proper training, the sky is the limit."

*Attribution - The Perry Chief*



**Sarah Meyer-Reyerson**, director of the **Waverly Public Library**, was honored as one of the outstanding people under 40 in the Cedar Valley. In a letter to the *Waverly Democrat*, Laura Hemmes, Friends of the Waverly Library, said, "Sarah's dedication is shown in the comfortable atmosphere she provides for patrons and staff, and for the innovative programming available at the library. Her interest in people and her openness to new ideas make the library a vital resource."

**Marshalltown Public Library** celebrated the lending of its one millionth item since moving into its new location three years ago. The lucky patron was honored with a free Nook eReader. "People love the library," said director Sarah Rosenblum. "A lot of new people are coming." The library averages about 800 people a day compared to 350 visitors a day in the old library.

Attribution - *The Marshalltown Times-Republican*

Not many librarians have degrees in chemistry, but **Kay Iverson**, worked as a chemist for several years before switching to the library world. Kay took a position as a director of the newly-opened Peterson Library in the 1980s. In 1994 she became a part-time librarian in **Spencer**, continuing to work in Peterson until a full-time position was offered to her in Spencer. She became interim director in September 2007 and was hired as director in March 2008. She recently retired from the position. She looks forward to reading all the great books she hasn't had time to read while she was employed. Bonnie McKewon, Iowa Library Services, Northwest District Office, said Kay served on her former Library Service Area (LSA) advisory council for years, was on the NW Library Service Area Special Project Consulting Team, and presented many workshops around her region over the years.



Tom Martin, a member of the Iowa City PL Board and the Iowa Commission of Libraries greets Debb Green at her retirement party.

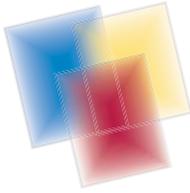
**Debb Green**, children's services coordinator for the **Iowa City Public Library** since 1988, will have to get used to less noise now that she's retired. And she'll miss it. A creative spirit emerges in Green when she works with kids, library director Susan Craig said. "She just goes with the flow," said Craig. "If the kids take her one way during a story time, she's just going to go with them. She is a performer and she works with her audience and tries to give them what they want." Green's last day was February 24.

Attribution - *The Iowa City Press-Citizen*

*Iowa City Public Library is ranked fifth among the top 10 for kids according to Livability.com, a website dedicated to ranking the nation's best cities. The list was pared from 500 cities and features libraries that have "visually appealing spaces for children, a full range of programs, large collections, integrated new technologies and success in getting kids engaged."*

**Kris Koehn** retired after serving 24 years as director of the **Montgomery Memorial Library** in Jewell. Many changes took place during Kris' tenure, including the addition of DVDs and audio books on CDs, and public access computers to name a few. Kris has a good relationship with the local schools, provides a "books in a basket" program for elementary students, and began a summer reading program for youth. At an open house to honor Kris and to welcome her replacement, **Sarah Anderson**, customers received instructions on downloading books to e-readers, mp3 players and i-Pods. Indeed, Koehn introduced customers to the future of library service.

**Louise Alcorn**, **West Des Moines Reference Technology Librarian**, presented on library uses of QR Codes at the Library Technology Conference in St. Paul, MN on March 14th, followed by a presentation at the Computers in Libraries Conference in Washington, DC on March 21st, along with Christa Burns of the Nebraska Library Commission. The presentation offered a "sampler platter" of quick looks at some free and cheap Web 2.0 tools in use by libraries, including Skype, Pinterest, Meebo Me and Xtranormal. Alcorn said both presentations were well-received.



The **Ocheyedan Public Library** is celebrating its 100th anniversary beginning with a trivia question for the public: On January 12, 1912 the Ocheyedan library was organized by what group of people - A. Unity Circle; B. WCTU, C. the city council; or D. town merchants. The first person to come to the library with the correct answer wins a prize.

On Feb. 1, 1932, the **Pocahontas Public Library** was established. A month long celebration was held in February to honor the 80- year-old library with weekly drawings for prizes, special displays and programs. People could also adopt a book for a small fee for the library's collection.

“Checkout, Grow, Save Seeds, Return”

When staff at the **Barlow Memorial Library, Iowa Falls**, wanted to explore non-print, non-traditional checkouts, the Iowa Falls Seed Library was conceived. Staffer Mary Herold contacted two non-profits in Decorah - Seed Savers and the Pepperfield Project, which each sent the library free seeds. Volunteers put seeds in envelopes and made up a form that people signed promising they would return with clean, dry seeds saved from their bounty of vegetables. Each library cardholder may check out a variety of up to three free seed packets. Herold made a checkout card on an old pocket-type card that has three barcodes on it for the three seed packets. She then made a cataloging record for them. It will be interesting to see if this program “grows” into an annual event.



When **Mediapolis Public Library Director Kim Earnest** made her mind up that she wanted to do something different for this year's Winter Reading Program, she decided to promote WILBOR, the downloadable book program. Earnest decided to put her budget into technology for the program, which was open to all ages. For every 20 minutes of reading, which included homework and listening to audiobooks, the patron could fill out an entry form to win a prize. To meet the interests of all ages, the prizes purchased for preschoolers were 6 vTech v.Readers which were awarded once a week. For 4-9 year olds, they purchased vTech 2 InnoTab Tablets. In addition, they purchased two Kindle Touches, two Nook Touches, a Cruz Tablet, a FunTab Tablet, a Kindle Fire, and a Nook Tablet. For the non-techie readers, a \$50.00 gift card to WalMart was available.

“In years past we typically have around 150 participants. This year we had 327,” said Earnest. “We had the weekly drawings for the little kids and then we had a drawing on the third week for the items we purchased two of, and then we had our final drawings at the end of six weeks. After each drawing, the other entries in the box were pitched and we started over. At the final drawings we had three large garbage bags full of entries,” said Earnest.

The library also purchased six large bags of candy in different varieties. Every person who came into the library could fill out an entry to win a bag of candy. They did not have to participate in the Winter Reading Program to win. Each week we drew a name and they got to pick out the bag of candy of their choice.

“I think our youngest winner was about 2-3 years old and the oldest was beyond retirement,” said Earnest. “It was a great program and I spent the same budget that I would have otherwise. My patrons were thrilled with the prizes. They weren't terribly discouraged when they didn't win because they could see the entries and knew what they were up against.”

A few dozen people attended a ceremony recently honoring the **Washington Free Public Library's** recognition as one of the “greenest” libraries in the Midwest. Bruce Hamous, OPN Architects, presented library director Debbie Stanton with a glass plaque for the library's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The Washington Free Public Library is in an elite group of “green” buildings and is one of the “greenest” libraries in all the Midwest according to Hamous. Among the most noteworthy of the library's energy-efficient features is its geothermal heating and cooling system. The library gets its energy from two sets of earth tubes laid at 15 feet and 30 feet below the square.

*Attribution - Washington Evening Journal*

The architecture of the renovated **Mason City Public Library** was featured in the December issue of *Library Journal*. The magazine published a color photo of the exterior of the Commons area, noting the Commons “highlights the \$9.3 million project.” It was one of eight libraries in the U.S. included in a photo feature titled “Fantastic Facades.” “There are some pretty neat libraries featured in the magazine and that makes this an even bigger honor for us,” said library director Mary Markwalter.