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Commission approves five-year strategic plan for Iowa Library Services

Mission:

Iowa Library Services (IaLS) provides leadership for Iowa libraries and expands access to information for Iowans.

Thanks to the help of several groups and input from the Iowa library community, a new mission statement and five-year strategic plan for Iowa Library Services (IaLS) was approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

Work on the plan began several months ago by IaLS Management Team members Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Sandy Dixon, Program Director for Library Support Network; Barbara Corson, Program Director for Specialized Library Service; and Gary Krob, State Data Center. They began by evaluating the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plan of 2008-2012. This document is submitted every five years to the Institute of Museum and Library Services which must approve it before IaLS receives federal LSTA funding.

Surveys of stakeholder groups (public library staff, academic library staff, Advisory Panel members, and IaLS staff) were conducted in March and April. Strategic planning consultant John Langhorne analyzed responses to the survey and discussed results at an Advisory Panel meeting on April 17. He led panel members through exercises in which they drafted goals and identified seven overarching themes: collaboration; libraries as community centers/places; shared digital resources; children and schools; best practices/information & idea exchange; continuing education; and more and different ways of communicating.

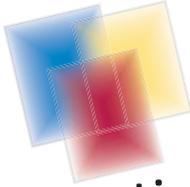
Members of the Commission of Libraries, the governing board of Iowa Library Services, met with Langhorne on May 3 and reviewed both the process and a preliminary draft of goals and objectives. The goals and objectives were then shared with the entire Iowa library community and feedback was requested. After reviewing feedback from both IaLS staff and stakeholders around the state, Management Team members developed the final draft of goals, objectives and strategies (action steps) which was approved by the Commission.

The new plan can be found at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/about/sp>.

New goals for FY13-FY17 are:

1. Equip Iowa libraries to build community and enhance quality of life for Iowans
2. Strengthen the capacity of Iowa libraries to provide the best possible library service to Iowans
3. Maximize library services for Iowans through enhanced collaboration to benefit Iowa libraries of all types
4. Deliver access to Iowa Library Services' collections
5. Foster a culture of innovation and collaboration within Iowa Library Services

"I want to thank the many Iowa librarians who took part in the development of this plan," said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "We now have an excellent foundation to guide us as we work to provide leadership for Iowa libraries and expand access to information for Iowans."



Dixon retires leaving legacy of accomplishments

After 28 years and a very distinguished career, Sandy Dixon is retiring June 28.

Dixon began her career at the State Library in August 1984 as a continuing education consultant. Her first assignment was to develop a certification program for public librarians which she did with help from an advisory committee that included Mary Wegner, now State Librarian, who worked at Iowa Methodist Hospital at the time. The program began in 1986.

As part of certification, Dixon said the State Library established the Public Library Management (PLM) classes.

"PLM classes were held statewide using the community colleges' Telenet system which was like talking on a telephone," said Dixon. "There were no computers. We dictated letters and other documents."

Around 1995, the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) emerged and PLM and other classes became visual as well as auditory - a much more interesting experience for all.

Dixon also coordinated the Open Access Program. It started as a pilot project in 1989. The first year included 72 libraries with 65,000 transactions. In 2011, the program had 600 participating libraries and over 4 million transactions.

There were several other advancements during Dixon's tenure. The Internet became a commonly used resource. The State of Iowa Libraries Online (SILO) grant was awarded in 1995 which connected libraries electronically and led to SILO Interlibrary Loan and the SILO Locator. Dixon wrote and edited several iterations of the Trustee Handbook over the years. She became an actor during Town Meetings, an event that also began during her tenure, playing Marie Osmond, a grocery store clerk and a contestant on Survival in skits that were popular and educational. To recognize her many achievements, the Iowa Library Association named her Librarian of the Year in 1993.

In 1999, the Direct State Aid program was signed into law. That same year, Dixon received her masters in library science. For several years she worked on grants through the Gates Foundation; one brought computers to public libraries and another developed the PLOW websites.

In 2004, Sandy became head of Library Development and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) coordinator. Today Sandy is Program Director for the Library Support Network, overseeing the work of 11 consultants and many more staffers.



Sandy receives a gift from Fran Fessler, IaLS, Des Moines



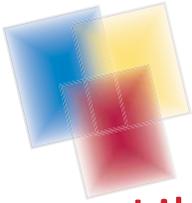
Sandy at her retirement party

"Sandy's work has truly made a difference in the quality of library services available in our state," said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "I want to express my profound admiration and appreciation to Sandy for all she has meant to the Iowa library community over almost 30 years. What a wonderful career."

Said Dixon, "In reflecting on the past, what I see is a profession and community of people who are always evolving. Always pursuing the next thing to improve library services. Making sure libraries stay relevant and that they play an important role in their communities. This is why I am optimistic about the future of Iowa Library Services. We have a history of embracing the future and we have the staff to lead us there."

"Most of all I will remember the great people I have worked with over the years," she said. "I've had the opportunity to meet many library directors and to see so much of our beautiful state. I don't know of another group of people who are more dedicated and who love their work as much as we librarians do," said Dixon.





Summer Library Programs are underway



Photo by Merri Monks, IALS Youth Services Consultant

Kids sign up for West Des Moines' Summer Library Program at the Valley Junction farmer's market recently.

Libraries around the state are gearing up for a fun-filled program this year based on the following themes:

- Children: Dream Big -- Read
- Teens: OWN the Night
- Adults: Between the Covers

23 chosen for Leadership Institute 2012

A new group of Iowa library leaders will emerge this summer after taking part in the Iowa Library Association (ILA) Leadership Institute 2012.

Every two years, ILA offers training to its members who will become enthusiastic leaders in their libraries and communities, and more involved in ILA.

Many librarians who participated in the institute have gone on to hold significant posts in ILA, serving on various committees and subdivisions, as well as becoming leaders in their communities. Iowa Library Services is proud that Merri Monks, Youth Services Consultant, Des Moines, was chosen to take part in this year's institute.

In addition to ILA, the institute receives monetary contributions from Iowa Library Services, the ILA Foundation, several ILA committees and subdivisions, as well as individual donors.

This July marks the fifth Leadership Institute, all of which have been facilitated by Maureen Sullivan who is known for her exceptional knowledge of leadership skills. Sullivan, who will be inaugurated as president of the American Library Association later this month, has more than 20 years of experience as a consultant on organization development and work redesign, strategic planning, managing change and establishing learning programs.

ILA says that Iowa's future depends on educated, information-literate citizens. Libraries help create and sustain the essential habit of lifelong learning. Strong library leaders are essential to the evolution of great libraries. This comprehensive leadership development program ensures that its members are prepared to actively shape the future of Iowa libraries.

Accepted into this year's ILA Leadership Institute are:

Karen Burkett-Pederson – Bondurant Community Library
 Jennifer Deberg – Hardin Library for the Health Sciences
 Julia Dickinson – St. Ambrose University Library
 Erin Fitzgerald – Marshalltown Community Schools
 Andrew Fuerste-Henry – Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque

Sam Garchik – Regina High School Library
 Liza Gilbert – Davenport Public Library
 Endya Johnson – Waterloo Public Library
 Molly Keating – Hiawatha Public Library
 Brandie Ledford – Sac City Public Library
 Kara Logsden – Iowa City Public Library
 Susan Macken – Oelwein Public Library
 Susan Mannix – LeClaire Community Library
 Becky Miller – Waterloo Public Library
 Merri Monks – Iowa Library Services
 Amy Muchmore – Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque
 Mary Murphy – Perry Public Library
 Jenny Parker – Dubuque County Library
 Amy Power – Fort Madison High School
 Beth Reineke – Estherville Public Library
 Elisa Topper – Bettendorf Public Library
 Merideth Willett – Davenport Public Library
 Jamie Williams – Ericson Public Library, Boone



Iowa libraries chosen to take part in “News Know-How” Project

A new initiative will provide more than 20 Iowa students - through their public libraries - basic news literacy skills and the tools to become news media ombudsmen in connection with the 2012 presidential campaigns.

The “News Know-how” project, supported by a grant from the American Library Association, seeks to create partnerships and collaborations for a nonpartisan, critical analysis of news and information. In addition, high school students, with public libraries as their “newsrooms,” will learn how to distinguish facts from opinions, how to check the source and validity of news and information, and how to identify propaganda and misinformation.

Public libraries in the following Iowa communities are participating: Algona, Burlington, Carroll, Decorah, Dyersville, Grinnell, Knoxville, Sibley, Sioux Center and Washington.

“In today’s mass media environment it is critical that students are taught to analyze news coverage,” said Barbara Jones, director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. “Through the support of libraries under this initiative, students will be given the tools to assess the accuracy and credibility of news and information access across various media and platforms. They will also be encouraged to practice news literacy by engaging with the media in their communities.”

Other participants in the project are the Chicago Public Library; Oak Park, Illinois Public Library; and the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. Iowa is the only participant offering a statewide program.

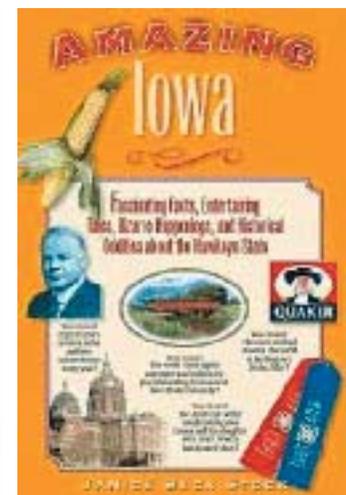
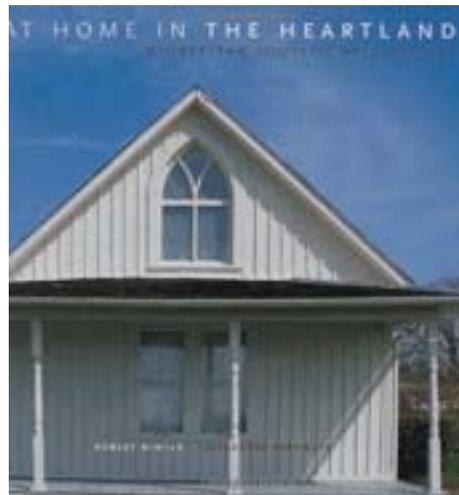
The project’s goals are (1) to bring high school students together with librarians and journalists for nonpartisan critical analyses of news and information; (2) to train high school students to understand news creation, ethics, fact-checking, and all the components of the news; (3) to promote civic engagement about media issues; (4) to use public libraries as trusted community centers for checking facts, reading the news, creating the news, and discussing media issues with friends and neighbors; (5) to train public librarians to make news literacy part of their library information literacy program; (6) to use a rigorous university assessment team to evaluate the project so that it can be replicated and studied; and (7) to use a variety of technologies, old and new, to create the news in all formats.

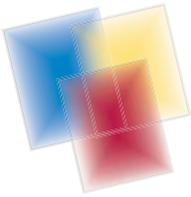
Students will create digital presentations focusing on one or more aspects of their experience and the lessons they learned from the project.

Iowa-related books offer timely, fun information

Iowa Library Services (IaLS) collects non-fiction books about Iowa and Iowans for its 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.](#)

The books can be checked out from IaLS, Des Moines Office. Any Iowan can [register for a State Library card](#). Let the library help you plan a wonderful summer trip in Iowa!





Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner



The 2012 Iowa General Assembly passed two appropriations bills that provide funding to support Iowa libraries. The Governor has signed both of the bills. The education appropriations bill, SF2321, restores \$500,000 to Enrich Iowa funding for libraries.

This funding will be divided proportionately among the three Enrich Iowa programs: Direct State Aid to Public Libraries; Open Access; and Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement. This means that your Enrich Iowa checks this fall will be, on average, about 18 percent larger than last year.

HF2337, the funding bill for Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), includes \$150,000 to be allocated from IWD "to the state library for the purpose of licensing an online resource which prepares persons to succeed in the workplace through programs which improve job skills and vocational test-taking abilities." State of Iowa purchasing rules required us to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) before this online resource can be purchased. We should be able to announce the results of the RFP in July, and will act as quickly as possible to get the online resource purchased and available to Iowa public and academic libraries.

While the legislators did not cut the operating budget for Iowa Library Services (IaLS), neither did they increase it. With a flat budget for the coming year, required but unfunded salary increases and a 37 percent decrease in funding over the past three years, IaLS continues to struggle with limited resources. The budget cuts affect the level of service that IaLS is able to provide Iowa libraries in such areas as purchasing databases for libraries, supporting library infrastructure through the SILO interlibrary loan program and the PLOW program, and offering courses and workshops for librarians and trustees.

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](#).

Rebecca Ahrendsen, Clarion
Cynthia J. Davis, Spirit Lake



Librarians meet with Iowa's Senators, Congressmen

Federal funding for libraries is essential for Iowans to receive the services they need. That was the message four Iowa librarians took to Iowa's Senators and Congressmen in Washington, DC on April 23 and 24 for the American Library Association's Library Legislative Day.

Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Lorraine Borowski, Decorah Public Library Director and ILA President; Allison Galstad, Coralville Public Library Director; and Sonja Ferrell, Ottumwa Public Library Director attended the annual event.

Each told how federal funding affects what they are able to offer customers, including EBSCOhost, SILO interlibrary loan, Summer Library Programs and training, Iowa Publications Online and Putting Libraries on the Web (PLOW).

They explained that the money is essential now at a time when more people than ever are using their libraries to find jobs, use the Internet, and save money on books, movies, entertainment and other resources.



From left, Sonja Ferrell, Mary Wegner, Rep. Loeb sack, Ted Wegner (ALA Washington, DC staffer), Allison Galstad and Lorraine Borowski

Iowa winners honored in Letters About Literature contest

2,276 Iowa students submitted entries in the 2012 national Letters About Literature (LAL) contest. LAL is a national reading and writing program sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores. [The Iowa Center for the Book](#) is the local sponsor.

To enter, students in grades 4 through 12 write a letter to an author explaining how that author's work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. Readers respond to the work they have read by exploring the personal relationship between themselves, the author, and the book's characters or themes.

Iowa students entered their letters into a national pool of 59,000 students. Ninety Iowa teachers and teacher librarians coached their students. Eighteen children entered individually. Only five states had more entries than Iowa.

At Level I (grades 4-6) - 679 Iowa students entered with six statewide winners and honorable mentions, and 25 finalists.

At Level II (grades 7-8) - 1,226 Iowa students entered with six statewide winners and honorable mentions, 29 finalists and 20 semi-finalists.

At Level III (grades 9-12) - 371 Iowa students entered with six statewide winners and honorable mentions, and 17 finalists.

A reception for winners and honorable mentions was held in the Iowa Library Services Des Moines office on May 4. State Librarian Mary Wegner, Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator Robin Martin, and guest speaker, award winning author Dori Hillestad Butler, participated in the celebration.

Martin is on the left and Hillestad Butler is on the right of each student.

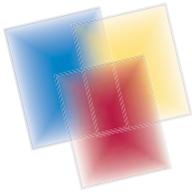


*First Place Level I:
Wyatt Johnson
Book: *The Outsiders*
School: Merrill
Middle School,
Des Moines
Grade: 6*

*First Place Level II:
Bekah Bass
Book: *Harry Potter*
School: Holmes Junior
High, Cedar Falls
Grade: 7
Unable to attend
ceremony.*



*First Place Level III:
Diana Zhang
Book: *The Orphan's
Tales: In the Night
Garden and In the
Cities of Coin and Spice*
Individual Entry, Ames
Grade: 11*



News from around the state

More Iowa librarians retiring

Lorna Caulkins is retiring from the **Drake Community Library, Grinnell**, after 40 years of service. She began working at the library in 1972 and became director in 1982. Caulkins capped off her many years of service by leading the campaign for the city's new LEED certified library which opened in 2009.

Barbara Peterson, who has served as director of the **Council Bluffs Public Library** for the past eight years, is retiring at the end of June. According to CBPL board member, Monica Gohlinghorst, the library has flourished due to Barbara. Said Gohlinghorst, "Barbara's leadership, dedication, friendship and humor has allowed the library to grow in many ways."

Sarah Stephens, longtime **Scranton** public librarian, was honored at a retirement reception on May 15. A good sized crowd attended to extend their best wishes to Sarah.

Ellsworth Library Director Janet Adix will begin retirement in late June. Janet is known as a real go-getter when it comes to advocating for her library, writing grants and acquiring funding.

C.J. Thompson retired from the **Kling Memorial Library, Grundy Center**, on June 1. In a newsletter, C.J. wrote "This library is a great service to Grundy Center. The patrons are terrific and I will miss every one of them. The staff and volunteers made working here fun and not like work at all."

Hank Zaletel, librarian for the **Iowa Department of Transportation**, Ames, is retiring August 1. Hank began his duties on April 3, 1978.



From left, Jefferson Public Library Director Jane Millard and Terry Clark, Assistant Director and Children's Librarian

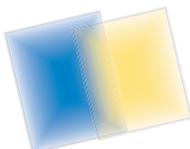


Merri Monks

Jefferson Public Library's float won first place in the non-commercial category of the city's Bell Tower Festival Parade. The brightly-colored float promoted the annual children's Summer Library Program and encouraged children to participate. Merri Monks, youth services consultant for Iowa Library Services, was invited along for the ride with library director Jane Millard and her staff.

"We always get a lot of cheers as the float passes by, and we enjoy hearing the children call out, 'It's the library float!' The children begin asking us a couple weeks before the parade what this year's theme is going to be, but we keep the theme and decorations a secret until parade morning," said Millard. "The librarians all wore their 'Dream Big ... Read!' t-shirts, so the children get to see the shirt they will earn for participating in the summer program."

Big plans are also in place for the adult summer program. On July 2, under a full moon, the library has arranged for a nighttime ride to the top of the Bell Tower (160') where adults will tell ghost stories.



Alison Ames Galstad, Coralville Public Library Director, was recently chosen as one of the 2012 Women of Influence by the Corridor Business Journal in Coralville.

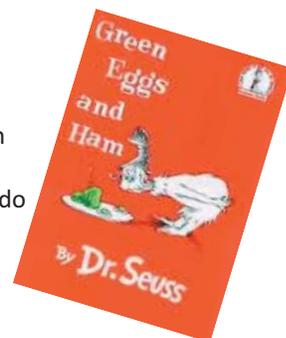
The Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, is the recipient of a \$1 million gift from the late James Mutschler, an avid library user.

The Telegraph Herald reported that the library board has established a trust fund in his name and earmarked the money toward the expansion of services.

Meatloaf with green eggs and ham on top. Baklava and cheesecake topped with brussel sprouts. These are a few of the items students at Dordt College in Sioux Center entered in the library's Edible Book Contest in April.

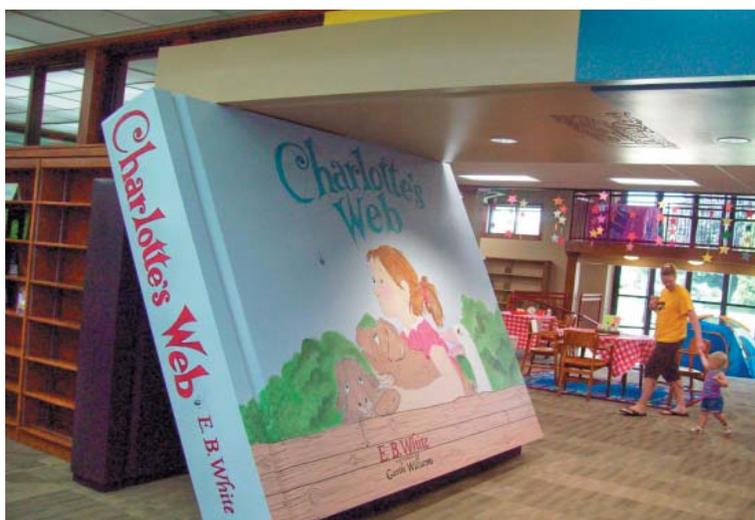
Entries are sought that are related to books and constructed from something edible. Entries can refer to a scene or a character from a book, be a pun on a title, look like a book or just have something to do with books.

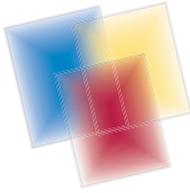
From the Orange City Sioux County Capital-Democrat



Renovations to the Kothe Memorial Library, Parkersburg, include these wonderful oversized books leading into the children's area.

The artist has not finished all the books, but the two on top will be The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Curious George. The book to the left of Charlotte's Web will be Treasure Island, according to library director Marty Stahl.





The Washington Free Public Library found a prized treasure when stored books belonging to Hiram Scofield were found.

The books had been donated by Scofield, a Washington attorney and Civil War general, and most are dated between 1820 and 1910.

Library Director Debbie Stanton said there are about 150 books in the collection from authors such as Charles Dickens and Mark Twain.

According to a local historian, Scofield is said to have had the largest collection of books west of the Mississippi when he lived in Washington.

The books are being inventoried and Stanton hopes they can be part of a rotating display in the future.

Stanton said there are beautiful art books with full-color images, something not commonly seen when the books were published.

From the Washington Evening Journal

Marshalltown Public Library recently received the first Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Chicago.

The grant, in addition to local support from MechDyne Corporation, will offer students kits in the areas of robotics, sound science, simple machines and bridges, as well as more than 70 books and DVDs that focus on physical science topics for a broad age range.

StoryWalk, a project of the **Friends of the Indianola Public Library** and Indianola Park Friends, is a fresh, new concept for those who like to read and walk. Laminated book pages on posts are located along a local park path. *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* was the first book chosen for the ongoing project.

Books are cut apart and laminated. The pages are then attached to poles so that families can read and walk together.

"I know a lot of people cringe at the thought of actually cutting a book apart," said library director Joyce Godwin. "But I can't think of a better reason to do it than this."

From the Indianola Record-Herald & Tribune

"Imagination Takes Flight" is the title of the new sculpture gracing the entrance to the **Council Bluffs Public Library**.

The bronze sculpture, which features several large books piled on top of each other, is the work of Omaha sculptor Matthew Placzek. The books have titles of well known classics.

The piece stands 9 feet tall, weighs 1,500 pounds and is located on a patio with benches and more landscaping than the original space.

Speaking to a crowd at the unveiling, Placzek said of the books in flight, "May they inspire education and unlock the world of imagination."

Said library director Barbara Peterson, "I just love it. Reading is not just about knowledge, it's to spark your imagination."

From the Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil



Once a week between May and August, children visiting the **Musser Public Library, Muscatine**, will be read to by local police officers.

Corporal Jim Williams said the department came up with the program because they wanted more chances to meet with youth in the community.

"They see us and wave when we're driving around, but we never get a chance to interact with them," said Williams.

Zarik, the department's new K-9 team member, will also attend storytimes.

Said Betty Collins, children's librarian, "I think it's really great and will be a positive experience for the kids."

From the Muscatine Journal



Congratulations to the **Cedar Rapids Public Library** for being a winner in the 2012 ALA John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. The library's rebranding campaign is helping bring recognition to the rebuilding of the main downtown library, which was devastated in the flood of 2008. The library turned the tragedy into an opportunity, inviting the community to broaden its expectations of a great library and recognize the tremendous library experience available today. The campaign saw a 36 percent increase in library cards issued, a 54 percent increase in program participation and a 44 percent increase in website visitors.



**Happy
Independence
Day
from
Iowa Library
Services
Staff**