



Footnotes¹

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February-March 2004

University library branches out beyond campus to provide programs

Faculty and staff at St. Ambrose University in Davenport are reaching out to people of all ages and backgrounds in their community to provide opportunities for life long learning and fellowship. The programs include SAU-READ, CommUniversity and a book discussion program for senior citizens.

Barbara Kuttler, a reference librarian in the university's O'Keefe Library has facilitated St. Ambrose University-READ (SAU-READ) for three years. Titles and themes are chosen by Owen Rogal, professor of English, who leads the discussions.

About a third to half of the members of SAU-READ are faculty, staff and their spouses; the rest are from the community. Kuttler said she would like to draw more than the one or two students who attend, but thinks most of them are too busy with required reading.

"I was drawn to librarianship as a way to stimulate interest in reading books, primarily," said Kuttler. "Many academic libraries appear to have deemphasized that in recent years in favor of teaching people how to perform quick and efficient searches for specific information bytes.

"But literature can have such an impact on one's experience and attitudes, which is one of the traits that makes us human," said Kuttler.

Kuttler also emphasized the social role of SAU-READ.

"Reading is a solitary activity. Gathering as groups to discuss a common read enables one to hear what other minds brought to the same text, sometimes with wildly different perspectives, or providing insight which can completely change one's interpretation of the book. And it's just plain fun, socially," said Kuttler.

Owen Rogal agreed with Kuttler's assessment of reading discussion groups and especially SAU-READ.

"The people who attend believe passionately in learning to love the written word. They live intense intellectual lives, they are verbal, articulate, and a complete joy to work and talk with," said Rogal.

SAU-READ sessions are held in the O'Keefe Library.

"I think that libraries should be at the center of our cultural and educational institutions and I will do anything to promote their importance," said Rogal. "The book group is in part promotional. I want to get people into the library."

O'Keefe Library Director, John Pollitz, talked about how SAU-READ fits the institutional mission.

"Academic libraries should do all they can to facilitate the intellectual conversation that takes place on campus," said Pollitz. "SAU-READ is a great way to do that. It represents a truly interdisciplinary means of discussing ideas and issues. Barb and Owen are wonderful at working together to create a program that brings people from all corners of the campus and local community together."

In addition to his academic responsibilities and SAU-READ, Rogal is also active in CommUniversity, which provides literature classes to mostly retired students. The program has been in existence for 25 years. Rogal said he finds teaching for CommUniversity "stimulating, invigorating, eye-opening and inspiring."

Students often show up "primed for friendly, constructive conversation and debate," said Rogal. "They read closely, ask penetrating questions and develop interesting theories of their own."

CommUniversity classes are held Sundays in February and are sponsored by local institutions, including St. Ambrose, Augustana, Scott Community College and Black Hawk Community College and several local religious organizations. Courses have included "Explorations that Capture the Jewish Soul," "Explorations in Women's Theology," and "Reading and Writing the Short Personal Essay."

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The university library staff also participate in a reading program at Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI), a senior activity center in Davenport. When the head of CASI wanted to start a book discussion group, Pollitz was approached for help in organizing it. Pollitz turned to Kuttler for assistance. The group has been meeting every month since April 2002.

"This group never wants to take a break!" Kuttler exclaimed. "Many are avid library users who prefer to check their books out from local libraries rather than purchase them.

"Depending on the book, it can serve as a springboard for reminiscence and I just sit back and enjoy the flow of oral history," said Kuttler. "Most of the participants come on a fairly regular basis and they seem to genuinely look forward to the discussions. They are a high point in my month, too," she said.

State Library Receives Gates Training Program Grant for Libraries

The State Library was recently notified by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that it has been awarded a \$139,950 Training Program Grant from the Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to promote long-term sustainability of public access computing in public libraries and to assist the State Library in meeting the ongoing needs of public libraries for training in the use of information technology resources.

The State Library plans to provide training for librarians at eight locations around the state, in fall 2004 and again in spring 2005. Thirteen laptops (a portable computer lab) will be purchased, along with a data projector, which will be used to provide this training. Training materials for public libraries will also be purchased.

In the fall of 2004, the State Library will provide an ICN session on information literacy skills (being able to find and evaluate information) and the role of the public library in helping Iowans become more information literate. Also in fall 2004, the following training sessions will be offered: Teaching Computer Skills, Tech Support on the Fly, and Security in the Real World. The spring 2005 courses will be Librarian's Internet Toolkit for Kids, Designing Usable Web Sites, and Intro to Web Page Development. Courses were selected in response to needs expressed at the time the Gates computers were installed in Iowa libraries, and also to coordinate with State Library and Library Service Area goals.

The State Library is also providing a \$3,000 sub-grant to each of the seven Library Service Areas so that they can provide customized technology training, designed to meet the specific needs within each LSA, to supplement the statewide training. Iowa's libraries continue to play a critical role in connecting Iowans to the world via the Internet.

State Library's Iowa inventors database featured at national seminar

Karon King, patents specialist at the State Library, attended the Patent and Trademark Depository Library's annual training seminar in Washington, DC. in March. She participated in a roundtable discussion on how to develop databases for state patent holders.

In 2000, King created a database of Iowa inventors that is available on the State Library's web site at <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/app/cgi-bin/patents>. The information covers the years between 1843 and 1974 and contains more than 50,000 entries. It can be searched by last name, city, title, beginning year, ending year, and patent number. Patents filed after 1975 can be searched by state on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's website, <http://www.uspto.gov>.

Roundtable participants heard how King and others developed their local databases. For more information on the database, or patents and trademarks in general, contact King at (515) 242-6541; 1-800-248-4483; karon.king@lib.state.ia.us.

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Standards Revision Update

The Public Library Standards Advisory Task Force is in the process of reviewing current standards in light of known best practices and current trends to develop the 4th edition of In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measure of Quality. During the four times the task force has met, it has reviewed and discussed each of the third edition's 88 standards. The task force will meet again in April and a draft of the proposed fourth edition will be available in May for comment by the public library community. In addition to encouraging written comments, the State Library will schedule an ICN session to provide a time to discuss the draft.

After gathering comments, the task force will meet again to discuss possible revisions. When completed, the fourth edition will be forwarded to the Iowa Commission of Libraries who will be asked to approve it at the August meeting.

The Standards and Accreditation Program exists to encourage the ongoing development of high quality public library services in Iowa. The members of the Public Library Standards Advisory Task Force are: Linda Adams, Arlington and Fayette public libraries; Joyce Amdor, Norelius Community Library, Denison; Susan Craig, Iowa City Public Library; Monica Gohlinghorst, Council Bluffs Public Library and Iowa Commission of Libraries; Vicki Hibbert, Clive Public Library; John Lerdal, Pleasant Hill Public Library; Vicki Myron, Spencer Public Library; Emily Navarre, Southeastern Library Services; Deb Tobias, East Central Library Services; Berta Van Ekeren, Monroe Public Library and Iowa Commission of Libraries; Mary Wegner, State Librarian; and Gerry Rowland and Sandy Dixon, State Library.

Waverly library honored at ICN celebration

In celebration of 10 years connecting Iowans to the world, the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) held a reception February 3 at the State Capitol.

Patricia Coffie, director of the Waverly Public Library, received a plaque from Governor Tom Vilsack for sharing information about the values of the ICN in her library. Coffie and the library were also featured in new ICN brochures.

During the reception, it was noted that the Waverly Public Library's ICN room is used an average of once every three days for programs. The fiber carries the library's long distance telephone service, telecommunications transport for all computers, Internet services and interactive video conferencing.

(Although the ICN cannot afford to print and mail brochures to Iowa libraries, they can be downloaded and printed from

<http://www.icn.state.ia.us/temporary/icn10year/10yearwebpage.html>.)

Important Dates - 2004

April

- April 14-15 - Westgate Lecture - Des Moines
- April 16 - ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, Central College, Pella
- April 18-24 - National Library Week
- April 20 - Iowa Commission of Libraries meeting, Des Moines
- April 27 - Patrick Jones Workshop (Anamosa)
- April 28 - Patrick Jones Workshop (Ames)
- April 29 - Patrick Jones Workshop (Carroll)
- April 30 - Public Library Management I applications due at State Library

May

- May 3-4 - National Library Legislative Day - Washington, DC
- May 27-28 - Iowa OCLC Users' Group meeting - Storm Lake
- May 31 - Memorial Day holiday (State Library closed)

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Letters About Literature contest winners announced

Winners of the 2004 Iowa Center for the Book Letters About Literature (LAL) writing contest were recently announced. LAL is a reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers can select authors from any genre - fiction or non-fiction, contemporary or classic. The program has three competition levels: Level I (grades 4 through 6, Level II (grades 7 and 8) and Level III (grades 9 through 12).

This is the first year the Iowa Center for the Book has participated in the contest. Iowa had a total of 671 entries. There were 28 semifinalists in Level I, 51 semifinalists in Level II and 18 semifinalists in Level III.

Level I: Grades 4 through 6

Winner: Haley Hermanson

Book: "Hear o Israel" by Terry Treseder

School: Parkview Middle School, Ankeny

2nd Place: Anna McNulty

Book: "Rainbow Boys" by Alex Sanchez

School: Merrill Middle School, Des Moines

3rd Place: Grace Murray

Book: "Bat 6" by Virginia Euwer Wolff

School: Weber Elementary School, Iowa City

Level III: Grades 9 through 12

Winner: Lori Cannon

Book: "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold

School: Keokuk High School

2nd Place: Danielle Leigh Meyer

Book: "Freak the Mighty" by Rodman Philbrick

School: Armstrong Ringsted

3rd Place: Jennifer Kock

Book: "Oh, The Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss

School: A-H-S-T High School, Avoca

Contest winners' letters will be judged at the national level with winners announced in April 2004.

Iowa judges were Sally Van Dorin, Elizabeth Nygaard, Catherine Perkins, Pat Schnack, Diane Findlay, Donna Niday, Pegi Bevins and Mary Kay Shanley.

Level II: Grades 7 and 8

Winner: Jonathan Hahn

Book: "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain

School: Central Community Junior High School, Elkader

2nd Place: Oakley Stamps

Book: "Little House on the Prairie" by Laura Ingalls Wilder

School: Corning Junior High School

3rd Place: Krista Morris

Book: "So Much to Live For" by Lurlene McDaniel

School: Corning Junior High School

Libraries receive free CDs from settlement

More than 57,000 music CDs will be distributed at no charge to 277 public and 27 academic libraries by early summer as part of a settlement with major recorded music distributors and some large retailers who allegedly used certain marketing methods in the late 1990s that violated antitrust laws.

The Iowa Attorney General's office, along with other attorneys general in the U.S., entered the settlement of litigation and worked with the State Library of Iowa to identify Iowa libraries that wished to receive the CDs and is implementing the distribution plans.

The minimum number of CDs distributed to each library will be 100. Libraries were not able to select specific titles. A consulting firm will use a computerized random selection program to distribute the CDs directly to libraries. The number of CDs each library receives was determined proportionally on a basis of population served.

The deadline for signing up to receive the CDs was February 27, 2004.

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U of I library school offers several summer classes

The University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science is offering several classes for graduate credit and/or professional development this summer. They include:

- Organization of Resources
- Web Search Engines
- Online Information Systems
- Collection Management
- School Library Media Center Administration
- Information Literacy

Participants do not have to be enrolled in the school to attend. For registration information, contact Jane Bradbury, jane-bradbury@uiowa.edu. A complete course listing with dates and times is available at <http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Elibsci/semesters/summer2004.htm>.

ILA Legislative Day draws big crowd

The Iowa Library Association Legislative Day, March 9, drew at least 80 librarians and trustees from across the state who visited with their legislators in the law library, State Capitol.



From left, Deanne Henry, First Lady Christie Vilsack and Katherine Von Wald



Senator Kitty Rehberg, left, Kate Martin and Cynthia Lellig.



Senator Neal Schuerer and Linda Fox



ILA President Kay Weiss greeted legislators.



From left, Mary Wegner, Deanne Henry, Senator Larry McKibben and First Lady Christie Vilsack



Representative Mike Reasoner and Ann Coulter

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How About Ignorance Management?

by Marylaine Block

When Peter Drucker was interviewed for the January 12 issue of Fortune, he was asked what he regretted not having done. He said, "My best book would have been one titled Managing Ignorance, and I'm very sorry that I didn't write it."

That struck a nerve with me, because, however complex an endeavor knowledge management is, ignorance management is even more difficult — and maybe even more essential to the survival of libraries.

What kinds of ignorance? Our own ignorance, when we fail to keep up with new ideas and technologies, or fail to think deeply about the ones we've already embraced. And the ignorance of our users and non-users alike, of the full range of resources and services the library offers, and how those services enrich the community or organization it serves.

We need to address the second problem with good customer-centered marketing. There are librarians who believe that libraries don't need to be marketed because they're a universally-acknowledged social good, but that's a dangerous mindset that can keep them from noticing how many businesses would be happy to make a profit by serving our users better than we are. Those businesses are often better than we are at thinking like a customer; the fact that Amazon's catalog is so much better than ours is just one proof of this.

Thinking like our customers means examining the information needs and information-seeking habits of both our library users and our non-users. What are they looking for? How and where are they looking for it? How much do they care about getting good quality information? What frustrates them about searching for information in general, and about using our systems to do so? What are we doing right? Which of our services do they like, and why?

How could the services we are already offering meet those needs? How is the competition meeting those needs? What services are we not offering that could meet those needs even better? How can we do a better job promoting the services that really are serving the community well? What can we do to prove and publicize our economic and educational value? Our value as a community center, and as a promoter of citizenship and democratic values?

Can we answer those questions? What kinds of data do we already have about our users and the community we're serving, and how can we apply that data? What do we not know, and how can we collect that information?

Fortunately, there are easily available resources to help us deal with those questions. For starters, I would recommend Judith Siess' book, *The Visible Librarian: Asserting Your Value with Marketing and Advocacy* [ALA, 2003], and *The Library's Contribution to Your Community: a Resource Manual for Librarians To Document Their Social and Economic Contribution to the Local Community*, published by Southern Ontario Library Services; the web site for this manual <<http://www.sols.org/publications/LCTYC/index.html>> includes a number of online case studies. Webjunction also has a new resource called the Demonstrating Impact Roadmap, <<http://webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1004470>>.

In some ways, the purely internal problem of managing our own professional ignorance is even more challenging, partly because the current economic crisis and staff reductions have reduced the time available for professional training, or even professional reading. I have never yet offered a workshop in which everybody who paid in advance for it actually attended — they couldn't because their library was short-staffed that day, or they got bogged down solving a technical glitch, or a teacher showed up unannounced with his entire class, demanding a demonstration of library databases.

And that's even assuming the library has a budget for professional training; not all of them do, and most of them don't provide enough travel money for all their librarians to attend out of state professional conferences or participate in committee work in their professional organizations. (My own feeling is that, if there's only enough money to send one librarian to one national conference in any given year, the librarians should take turns going, and then report back to the rest of the staff on what they learned.)

In a time of tight budgets, it's probably a little idealistic of me to urge library directors to support James B. Casey's proposal to commit 1.6% of the library budget to professional training [see his article in *American Libraries*, April, 2002, 85-86]. But there are some things we could do, that involve relatively little expense.

One is ordering multiple subscriptions to professional journals, so librarians could read them while they're still current, instead of waiting six months for them to be routed through one overcrowded inbox after another.

Another is mentoring, both formal and informal. Directors could assign librarians with differing expertise to work together in pairs, with specific goals for what knowledge each should teach the other. Technically skilled librarians who don't do much public service, for instance, could be paired with technically-challenged reference librarians, to teach each other

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How About Ignorance Management?

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some of their specialized skills. If children's librarians and gov docs librarians were paired with reference staff, all of them would learn about resources they either didn't know about or forgot about because they were in separate departments.

Regular staff meetings could be expanded to include a training component. Librarians could take turns at those meetings, sharing some of their specialized knowledge or concerns: new databases, perhaps, or recent additions to the library's web site, new technologies that might have some useful applications in libraries, recent demographic shifts in the population the library serves, new user needs, etc. Library directors could even assign staff to read articles and discuss them.

Another thing librarians can do is create internal weblogs to share knowledge among all library staff (and don't forget that support staff have useful things to teach librarians, particularly about our users' interests, and their complaints about our services and technologies). Staff could use it to alert each other to new reference materials on the shelves or online, special projects they're working on, recent problems that might require new library policies, special resources for recent assignments students are asking about.

And we could do what I suggested a while back, catalog our local expertise [see <<http://marylaine.com/exlibris/xlib195.html>>], the special knowledge each staff member has because of their previous work or education or professional or personal interests. That way, staff members would know who they could approach for advice on particular topics.

Above all, I think that more libraries should include professional development in the job description. Library directors conducting annual performance reviews could work with librarians to choose their learning goals for the coming year, figure out a plan for obtaining that knowledge, and make the necessary accommodations in money and/or released time. The directors could then include progress toward that goal in the next performance appraisal.

Of course it's all very well to say library directors should take responsibility for staff development. What if they don't?

Ultimately, I think, the responsibility is ours. It's our choice to make: grow or stagnate. Professionals do not profess. They PRACTICE, like classical pianists at the top of their profession who still spend hours each day trying to improve their technical and emotional skill. That's why I like John Hubbard's Library Link of the Day <<http://www.tk421.net/librarylink/>>, and Lynette Reville's weblog, One New Thing <<http://nlrp.blogspot.com/>>, which is dedicated to passing on the "one new thing" she's made a point of learning each day. We all have it in us to learn at least one new thing a day.

Managing ignorance isn't easy. But when it's our own, it's within our power.

(Reprinted with permission.) Marylaine Block writes a weekly E-Zine, "Ex Libris: for librarians and other information junkies." Visit her web site at <http://marylaine.com/exlibris>.

NoveList features *Niagara Falls All Over Again*

NoveList is featuring book discussion tips for this year's All Iowa Reads selection, *Niagara Falls All Over Again*, by Elizabeth McCracken. To view the web site, visit <http://trial.epnet.com>. The User ID is iowa2; the password is iec. Click on NoveList. Information about the author, a summary of the book, discussion questions and suggested further reading titles are available.

The site is available for a limited time on a trial basis for non-subscribers. For more information about NoveList and other Iowa Education Consortium product trials, visit <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/news/news/News-2004/iec-online-discounts.htm>.

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Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes February 17, 2004 - State Library of Iowa

(These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries.)

Present: David Boyd, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Paul Roberts, Dale Ross, Berta Van Ekeren.

Staff: Mary Wegner, Mary Cameron, Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Gerry Rowland, Carol Simmons, Annette Wetteland

Visitors: Katherine Von Wald, Coordinator, Iowa Center for the Book, and Karen Burns, Administrator, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area

Meeting was called to order by Dale Ross at 10:05 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

Agenda accepted as presented.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Bradley moved to approve minutes as presented; Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that the State Library was on track for federal spending. He said that the State Library will begin using federal fiscal year 04 funds in April. The new (FY04) federal appropriation provides an increase of \$138,327 over last year's allocation. State funding also remains on track. CBS News donated \$7,000 to the Law Library for their use of space in the library during the January 2004 Iowa caucuses. Cox reported that, at this time, 40% of Enrich Iowa funds have been distributed to libraries. Wegner and Cox will meet with Ted Stilwill, Roger Stirler and others from internal operations at the Department of Education to discuss library funding and overhead and administrative costs.

4.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Ted Stilwill: Libraries and Community Collaboration

Stilwill talked to the Commission about challenges with regard to schools and libraries and quality of life in Iowa. He gave several examples of staff at the Department of Education are involving communities in discussions and decision-making, and suggested that libraries are an appropriate place for bringing communities together to talk about challenging issues. Wegner asked what he thought about joint school-public libraries and he responded that this is a time for more cooperative programs, not just with schools and libraries but with all types of groups. He gave an example of school lunch programs that provide meals for the elderly who then stay to read to children.

2. Katherine Von Wald: Iowa Center for the Book

Von Wald reported on the national Letters about Literature contest in Iowa. This is the first year the Iowa Center for the Book has participated. Children are asked to write a letter to an author whose book has changed them personally or changed their view of the world. Iowa had 671 entries. The winners (one in each of three age groups) will go to the national competition in Washington DC, and the winners of the national competition will read their letters at the National Book Festival in Washington DC in October. Iowa will honor its winners on April 2 at the Iowa Reading Association/Iowa Association of School Librarians Conference in Des Moines. Iowa judges were Sally Van Dorin, Indianola Public Library; Elizabeth Nygaard, Ames; Katherine Perkins, WOI Radio; Pat Schnack, Iowa City; Diane Findlay, Dallas Center; Donna Niday, Iowa State University; Pegi Bevins, Madrid; and Mary Kay Shanley, Des Moines.

B. Commission Reports

Gohlinghorst reported that a new director has been hired for the Council Bluffs Public Library. Barbara Peterson is from Centralia, Illinois. Van Ekeren updated the Commission on the Public Library Standards Task Force committee and its progress. She and Gohlinghorst are representing the Commission on this committee. Roberts said that staff at Clarke College is participating in this year's All Iowa Reads program. Bradley reported that budget cuts have severely affected Southeastern Community College, including the library. Pfitzenmaier reported that the name of the virtual high school program is now the Iowa Learning Alliance. Courses should be available this fall. Some schools have voiced an interest in summer courses as well. Boyd said his office has had some ICN sessions for students showing oral arguments, after which they participate in a question and answer session. Several schools have also shown interest in touring the new judicial building when they come to tour the Capitol. Ross reported he had been to the ALA Midwinter Conference and would be attending the Public Library Association Conference in Seattle next week.

C. State Librarian's Report

Wegner reported on Access Plus and Open Access funding. The governor's proposed budget calls for level operating budgets for the State Library and Library Service Areas, and an additional \$400,000 for Enrich Iowa to be paid through the state's infrastructure fund. The Supreme Court ruling regarding tax rates for gambling establishments may affect the State Library's ability to pay the remaining 60% of this year's Library Infrastructure funds.

ILA Governmental Affairs Chair, Pat Coffie, director of the Waverly Public Library, and Wegner met with several key legislators last week to discuss library funding. They talked with Senator Doug Shull, new co-chair of the Education Appropriations subcommittee;

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Representative Jodi Tymeson, chair of the House Education Committee; and Senator Steve Warnstadt, ranking member of the Infrastructure Appropriations Committee.

57,000 music CDs will be distributed to Iowa public and academic libraries through the Attorney General's office as a result of a settlement of a national antitrust case involving some music distributors and large retailers. The State Library has worked closely with the Attorney General's office to develop the sign-up procedures and the distribution formula for the CDs.

For the third consecutive Iowa caucuses, CBS News set up a studio in the law library. Broadcasts included Sunday morning's "Face the Nation" with Bob Shieffer (who said he was broadcasting from "the most beautiful room in America"), Sunday evening news with John Roberts, and Monday's "Early Show" with Harry Smith. The law library's spiral staircase was visible in every broadcast. Linda Robertson, law librarian, has established an excellent working relationship with the CBS crew, who have already requested use of the law library in 2008.

Wegner will meet with John Gillispie, director of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), to talk about the possible sale of the ICN.

She reported that Mary Cameron is currently conducting Summer Reading Workshops at numerous sites around Iowa, and that Sandy Dixon has been asked by the League of Cities to accompany them on a nine city statewide tour this spring and summer to discuss public library funding.

Wegner is working with Bob Anderson, former lieutenant governor of Iowa and current president of IRIS, Inc., a non-profit organization which promotes international education, development and peace through rural initiatives. IRIS has received a grant to develop partnerships between libraries in Bulgaria, Colorado and Iowa and to share information about using libraries as community information centers. The State Library will work with five to seven Iowa partner libraries.

The State Library has stopped microfilming legislative bills and daily journals due to budget constraints. The State Library has also begun charging for filling out-of-state requests for photocopies of articles.

Wegner asked Dixon to report on a Gates Foundation grant. Dixon said the State Library has been awarded a \$139,950 grant from the Gates Foundation that will be used for technology training for Iowa librarians, 13 new laptops for a portable computer lab, training manuals and \$3,000 sub-grants to each Library Service Area for additional technology training in their regions.

D. Library Service Areas Report: Karen Burns, Administrator, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area (LSA).

Burns reported that the State Library and Library Service Areas surveyed public libraries in 2003 to determine the impact of the Reinvention Bill passed by the 2003 Iowa General Assembly, which cut \$60 million from city and county budgets. Seventy-six percent of the libraries (413 of 543) responded. The results showed significant funding problems for libraries. City appropriation cuts to libraries were \$1,659,633 and county cuts totaled \$381,513. Many libraries were forced to reduce hours, closing 15,808 hours this year compared to last year. Because of staff layoffs, 91,520 hours of direct public service to library customers have been eliminated. In addition, \$473,156 in funding for library materials was cut.

Burns also reported on how the LSAs and the State Library are helping libraries meet the challenge of continuing to provide high quality library services to Iowa customers.

5.0 Public Comment

None

6.0 Action Items

A. Name subcommittee to review Commission bylaws

Ross requested that Bradley, Boyd and Roberts serve on a subcommittee to review the Commission's bylaws. Roberts will chair the group. They will report back in April.

B. Name subcommittee to evaluate state librarian

Pfitzenmaier, Van Ekeren, Gohlinghorst, and Ross will serve on the subcommittee to evaluate the state librarian. Ross will collect materials and send a draft to the other members of the subcommittee. They will report back in April and Wegner's evaluation will be processed and submitted to the state in May.

C. Confirm Commission appointment to Iowa Library Association Foundation Board

Ross noted that the Commission needs to appoint a member to the Iowa Library Association Foundation Board. Van Ekeren moved to reappoint Ross as their representative, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

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D. Appointment of at-large trustee to Southwest Iowa Library Service Area Board
Melvin J. Hauser, county supervisor from Carson, Iowa, was nominated to fill the vacant at-large position left by Guy Brace. Roberts moved to accept the nomination, Pfitzenmaier seconded. Motion carried.

7.0 Discussion Items

A. Foundation for Iowa Center for the Book

Wegner reported that she and Van Wald had met with a lawyer to discuss the establishment of a foundation for the Iowa Center for the Book. She asked the Commission how they would like the foundation to function and how many members it should have. Discussion followed. The Commission will have further discussion in April.

B. Open Access program rules

Wegner discussed possible changes to Open Access program rules. An example was distributed and a discussion of problems and solutions followed. Commission consensus was that Open Access program rules should be changed to allow local public library boards the authority to decide not to loan items to residents of a jurisdiction which has contracted elsewhere if the contract amount is not equitable.

8.0 Adjournment

Gohlinghorst moved to adjourn, Pfitzenmaier seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2004, State Library of Iowa.