

Iowa Library Services Update

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In this issue:

- **Iowa Publications Online** gets an update
- Is everything really available on the **Internet**?
- Explore the **Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970** online
- Iowans will read and discuss the **2013 All Iowa Reads** selection
- Take a winter break to see **unique art** at the Main Library during January

Iowa Publications Online (IPO) has an updated look and improved functionality at <http://publications.iowa.gov/>. IPO is a digital archive for Iowa state documents, including materials from 65 state agencies, from annual reports and financial reports to rules, regulations and research findings. This rich database of state information has over 12,500 titles and is growing daily. One new feature of the service allows you to click on “Latest Additions” to see what titles, and how many, have been added recently.

Does your agency permanently archive its state documents? You can check by clicking on “Browse Repository” and then “Department”. The Auditor’s Office has deposited more than 2,200 documents, taking advantage of the free and permanent online storage that IPO provides for all state agencies.

Agencies can deposit their own materials using the interactive software. Information is available on IPO’s home page, or you can contact: Margaret Noon, Margaret.noon@lib.state.ia.us, 515-281-4315, 800-248-483.

It might seem that everything you need is available for free on the Internet, and there certainly is a lot of great information there. However, IaLS’ information professionals have received almost 7,000 requests for information since January – information that our customers could not find using the Internet. We are frequently asked for information about starting a business in Iowa, for help in the navigating the *Code of Iowa*, for access to specific journal articles that may be on the Internet for a fee, and for help finding the right contact information at a state agency.

If you need assistance answering a question contact our reference staff at:

- General Reference: 515-281-4102, 800-248-4483 or email is@lib.state.ia.us
- Legal Reference: 515-281-5124, 800-248-4483 or email law@lib.state.ia.us
- Live chat: www.statelibraryofia.org

IaLS staff receive frequent calls asking for access to the **Digital Sanborn Maps**. These maps show detailed information for Iowa cities covering the time period 1867-1970. Originally they were commissioned to estimate risks for insurance companies. Sanborn Maps are valuable historical tools for historians, architects, genealogists and anyone who wants to learn about the history, growth, and development of Iowa cities, towns, and neighborhoods. They include information such as the outline of each building, the size, shape and construction materials, heights, and function of structures, and the location of windows and doors. The maps also give street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers. Go to www.statelibraryofiaowa.org, click on "Log In To Online Resources" and select "Digital Sanborn Maps".

IaLS provides access to these maps for our customers. Anyone who lives in Iowa can access them using their IaLS library card. To request an IaLS library card, go to www.statelibraryofiaowa.org and click on "Get a State Library Card".

The purpose of the **All Iowa Reads** program is to encourage Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single book in the same year. The 2013 All Iowa Reads selection is ***The Year We Left Home*** by Jean Thompson. Iowa's libraries of all types will hold discussions of this book throughout 2013.

Jean Thompson is the author of *Who Do You Love: Stories*, a 1999 National Book Award finalist for fiction, and the novel *Wide Blue Yonder*, a New York Times Notable Book and Chicago Tribune Best Fiction selection. Jean's work has been praised by Elle Magazine as "bracing and wildly intelligent writing that explores the nature of love in all its hidden and manifest dimensions."

In *The Year We Left Home*, Thompson sketches the travails of an Iowa family over three decades. It is an intriguing tale of a family in the small town of Granada, Iowa; a fine story with much humor, striking details and characters so well developed you can almost see them on the page.

For more information about the 2013 All Iowa Reads program, and this selection, visit www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air. Check with your local public library to participate in programs related to this book.

The art works of **Jennifer Mitchard** will be exhibited at IaLS' Main Library during the month of January, 2013. Mitchard says of her work: "My recent works have been portraiture and figurative works. I use contour lines to explore faces and bodies, creating images of people that are just slightly abstract. It is a process of turning a person into a fine art piece, so that people will see the image in a new way. My drawings are fast and organic and they rarely change throughout the creation of the painting. I use acrylic paint on wood with marker."

Mitchard's work is currently being exhibited at La Mie Bakery on 42nd Street in Des Moines. To see examples of her work visit her website at www.jenmitchard.com/p/paintings.html.

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

Other services that IaLS offers:

- It's easy to find out what books, journals, videos, etc, IaLS has by checking our online catalog at <http://catalog.lib.state.ia.us>.
- Materials can be sent to state employees' offices. When you find something that you want in our catalog, simply click on "Request Item" and enter your IaLS card number. Be sure to fill in the note field to tell us where to send the material.

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