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## Wegner to retire after 13 years and significant accomplishments

Since becoming assistant state librarian in August 2000, Mary Wegner has been a catalyst for the many changes the Iowa library community has faced as they moved forward with new initiatives and technology changes. In December, she will retire as state librarian, a position she has held since November 2001.

“Having served now for many years on the Iowa Commission of Libraries, I’ve seen Mary’s leadership in several key areas including funding and, of course, reorganization. While Mary has had many successes, what has most impressed me has been how after setbacks she takes up the fight again with cheerful intensity,” said Dan Boice. “She has been an outstanding advocate for all of Iowa’s libraries.”

Prior to her present position, Wegner was director of the health sciences library for Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Iowa Lutheran Hospital. In 1999, she served as president of the Iowa Library Association. But it’s her tenure as state librarian that has had the biggest effect on library service in Iowa.

“In my short period of time working with Mary as chair of the IaLS Advisory Panel, I have come to admire the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that she embodies for excellence in the provision of library services to the public, school and academic communities,” said Greg Heid, IaLS Advisory Panel Chair and director of the Des Moines Public Library. Mary’s ability to bring people together to communicate, her ability to understand the dynamics of negotiation, her attention to all aspects of an issue, and her adeptness in the political processes have made a real difference in library services throughout the state. Mary brought a new vision to the state library that has served Iowa well for many years. Her legacy will continue to guide us as we advance into the next decades of library services to citizens.”

Lorraine Borowski, director of the Decorah Public Library and past president of the Iowa Library Association, said “Mary Wegner has been a strong advocate for Iowa libraries during her tenure as state librarian. Her ability to respectfully negotiate with legislators both at the state and national levels has helped bring statewide changes that benefit all libraries and the Iowa citizens they serve. Her wealth of knowledge will be missed but not forgotten as libraries continue to enjoy the initiatives she worked hard to secure for the citizens of Iowa.”

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Robin Martin, coordinator of the Iowa Center for the Book, said “Without Mary’s guidance and passionate support, Iowa Center for the Book programs such as All Iowa Reads and Letters About Literature would not have become part of the fabric of Iowa libraries and schools. In the midst of her enormous responsibilities as state librarian, she has always found the time to champion our mission.”

Advancements during Wegner’s career include:

- EBSCOhost provided at a discount to public and academic libraries; LearningExpress Library provided at no charge to public and academic libraries;
- development of Iowa School Library Program guidelines and adoption by the Bureau of Educational Examiners of new teacher librarian endorsement standards;
- administration of grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which brought computers and training to Iowa public librarians;
- development of the Putting Libraries on the Web program, which uses open source software to provide free websites to 300+ Iowa public libraries;
- growth of the Iowa Center for the Book and establishment of the All Iowa Reads and Letters About Literature programs;
- development of the Iowa Publications Online and Iowa Heritage Digital Collections websites and major update of the State Data Center website;



*Wegner was named the Iowa Library Association’s Member of Year in 2008. She’s shown with her husband, Michael Wegner.*

- establishment of Iowa Library Services, through the combination of the Library Services Areas and the State Library into one new agency;
- introduction and development of online webinars to complement face-to-face continuing education for Iowa librarians;
- administration of several national grant programs, including the Geek the Library campaign, News KnowHow, ILEAD USA, and Smart Investing;
- enhancement of Law Library services through improvements to the physical space and establishment of the A.J. Small Special Collection of seminal documents in Iowa history; and
- adoption of an open source catalog for the state library collection, development of a table of contents awareness service for state employees, and addition of a “Live Support” link on the iowa.gov website that sends questions directly to state library reference librarians.

Wegner said that Iowa Library Services achievements during her tenure as state librarian were made possible because of the excellence of the IaLS staff.

“Iowa libraries benefit so much from the creative, hard-working people at the state library and their commitment to providing high quality services to Iowans and their librarians. I am so proud of Iowa libraries and Iowa librarians, and it has been a privilege to serve as your state librarian.”

There will be a guest book for Wegner at the Iowa Library Services booth at the Iowa Library Association Conference on October 16 (afternoon) and 17. Please stop by and leave her a message.



## Public, academic libraries offered chance at \$1,500 technology grant

Iowa Library Services received \$250,000 from the FY13 Iowa General Assembly for technology needs. The money comes from the state's technology reinvestment fund. IaLS and the Iowa Commission of Libraries determined to use half of the one-time funding for grants to Iowa's public and academic libraries, and half to upgrade state library technology. Approximately 80 grants of up to \$1,500 per library will be made for projects that use technology to improve the lives of Iowans. These grants provide an opportunity for libraries to create new programs using technology, update their existing technological infrastructure, or launch new services using technology.

Application Deadline: 11/1/2013

Awards announced: 12/2/2013

Eligible Applicants: Iowa Public and Academic Libraries or groups of Iowa libraries

Grant Contact: Marie Harms

Phone: 800-248-4483 | 515-281-3464

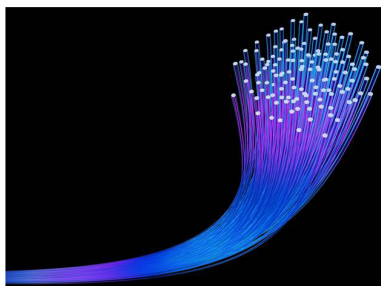
Email: [grants@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:grants@lib.state.ia.us)

Application and more information at: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/go/techgrant>

### Description

Examples of what grant funds can be used for include:

- Computers and upgrades
- Laptops or tablets for staff use
- E-readers
- Headsets (enough for all staff and trustees)
- Digital or video cameras
- Video gaming equipment
- Software, including automation, Office Suite bookkeeping and reservation/printing management
- An assortment of eBook readers for each library in the county, either to check out or for staff to demonstrate to patrons.
- Start-up money to contract for IT support for all the libraries in the county.



### Eligibility

Qualified applicants are public libraries and academic libraries from institutions of higher learning in Iowa. Libraries are encouraged to apply as a group for a single project. The grant will provide up to \$1,500 for each library in the group.

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## Purpose

The purpose of the Iowa Library Technology Grants is to facilitate the use of technology that will improve the lives of Iowa's citizens. Funding will be awarded based on the project's innovative use of technology, the impact the project will have to improve the lives of Iowa's citizens, the economic need and the clarity of the project description. A team composed of IaLS staff and members of the IaLS Advisory Committee will review and score each proposal.

## Grant time line

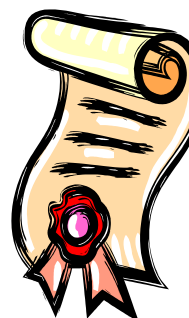
Grant program released	September 9, 2013
Applications due	November 1, 2013
Awards announced	December 2, 2013
Signed Agreements due	December 31, 2013
Project status update due	March 1, 2014
Reimbursement request due	June 1, 2014
Project evaluation due	July 31, 2014

## Certification Update

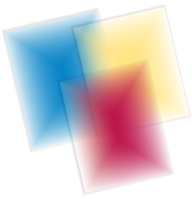
Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through  
[Iowa Library Services' Certification Program for Public Librarians.](#)

Elizabeth Anderson, Oskaloosa  
 Libby Caplan, Alden  
 Kate Cloudsparks, Lacona  
 Mary Gen Davies, Ames  
 Debra Decker, Aplington  
 Diane Duitsman, Lake Park  
 Jenny Ellis, Glenwood  
 Marie Esteves, Estherville  
 Donna Evans, Carroll  
 Ramona Fagen, Webb  
 Kathryn Fink, Marshalltown  
 Ellen Hampe, Coralville  
 Melissa Johanson, Lake Mills  
 Sibyl Jorgensen, Thornton

Sarah Killgore, Rippey  
 Emily Linden, Ames  
 Kathy Meyer, Bonaparte  
 Mark Nauss, Estherville  
 Joanne Neemann, Denison  
 Catherine Pasicznyuk, Iowa City  
 Susan Pifer, Runnells  
 Denise Roberts, Marion  
 Amanda Rostami, Sigourney  
 Lola Slingluff, Garwin  
 KennethWayne Thompson, Davenport  
 Jolena Welker, Van Meter  
 Amie Whiteside, Readlyn







## Gray, Mashek join Iowa Library Services staff

Misty Gray, director of the Storm Lake Public Library since 2006, will join the Iowa Library Services staff on October 14. She will serve as the consultant in the SW District office, a position previously held by Karen Burns who retired in late June.

Gray has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, along with several graduate level adult education courses from the University of Northern Iowa. She received her Master's Degree in School Library Media Studies from the University of Northern Iowa.



*Misty Gray*

Kim Mashek was recently hired as the Library Resources Technician for the IaLS NE District Office in Waterloo. Her duties began September 3. Mashek was formerly director of library services for Kaplan University in Mason City and Cedar Falls.

"We're very happy that Misty and Kimberly are joining the IaLS staff," said Nancy Medema, program director, Library Support Network. "They both bring a lot of experience and wonderful personalities to our team."



*Kim Mashek*

## Medema visits libraries in southeast Iowa



*Keokuk Public Library*

A message and photos from Nancy Medema, program director, Library Service Network.

"I had the wonderful opportunity to stop by some of the libraries in Southeast Iowa recently and visited Keokuk, Ft. Madison and Burlington libraries on one day and visited Wheatland and DeWitt libraries on the next. I was so impressed by each of them! There is such dedication and creativity in our libraries that positively impacts so many of our citizens. I hope to visit many more libraries across the state in the future."



*Fort Madison's AWE early literacy station*



*Burlington PL's Donor Wall*



*Fort Madison Public Library*

## Martin and Wetteland join throngs of bibliophiles at National Book Festival

More than 100 authors - and more than 150,000 visitors - descended on the National Mall in Washington, DC on September 21-22 for the 2013 Library of Congress National Book Festival.

This year's festival featured authors, poets and illustrators in several pavilions. Festival-goers met and heard firsthand from their favorite poets and authors, got books signed, heard special entertainment, had photos taken with storybook characters and participated in a variety of activities.

Robin Martin, coordinator of the Iowa Center for the Book (ICB), and Annette Wetteland, communications coordinator, IaLS, were at the Pavilion for the States on Sept. 21st to show and tell visitors about the many literary events that take place in Iowa. Guests were also invited to collect state stickers and stamps and "Discover Great Places Through Reading."

During their eight-hour stint in the Pavilion of the States, Martin and Wetteland were busy answering questions about Iowa's great literary heritage, and talking to many former Iowans who just wanted to reminisce about how much they loved the state. Many people and organizations contribute items to the ICB that are given out at the festival, including Bound to Stay Bound (books and Iowa Children's Choice Award posters), the Iowa Department for the Blind (bookmarks), Sticks, Inc (partnered to design and print 2,500 special bookmarks with information about ICB on the back), Random House (25 copies of *The Year We Left Home*), Knopf/Random House/Yearling (20 copies of *Here Lies Linc* by Iowa author Delia Ray, the ICB book selection for "Discover Great Places" map, along with hundreds of bookmarks).

The event is held each year in September. Visit [IaLS' Facebook](#) for more photos.



*The 2013 official NBF poster*

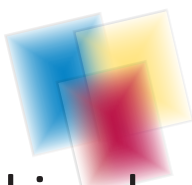


*This teacher was ecstatic to get a large picture dictionary donated by Bound to Stay Bound.*



*Inside the Pavilion of the States*





## Working better, faster and easier!

Tips, advice and tools to help librarians manage their library work lives were presented to 435 attendees at this year's Town Meetings.

In the morning, IaLS Consultant Marie Harms helped librarians identify strategies to learn how to increase their productivity so they could do more with less stress. Later, Nancy Medema, program director for the Library Support Network, presented "Library Talk" in which guest librarians from Iowa libraries explained dramatic transitions as they moved into new library positions ("How I Managed to Survive the Move to the Top"). This year's skit featured the ever popular Prime Time Players (Mary Wegner, Marie Harms, Alysia Peich, Becky Heil, Nancy Medema and Jay Peterson). "Corny and Honora: A tale of woe and triumph" centered on two new librarians. Corny (Harms) had no experience being a librarian, and even worse, had no one to teach her the ropes. After throwing a wild party after hours at the library, she is reprimanded by her board chair (Mary Wegner) and quits in a frenzy of frustration. Unlike Corny, scene two shows another new librarian taking the helm (Becky Heil as Honora). Honora gets plenty of training and support from her board and other librarians, including a staffer from Iowa Library Services (Alysia Peich). The previous librarian also left important notes and instructions to help Honora.

Afternoon sessions included "Keep Calm and Email on: Email Management and Etiquette" (Jay Peterson and Alysia Peich), "Everyday Tools for the Organized Librarian" (Becky Heil) and "Learning Express 3.0" (Jackie Weber, Learning Express Training Specialist).



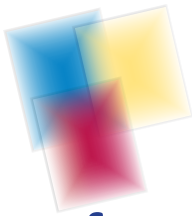
*Town Meeting in Mason City*

[Visit IaLS' Facebook for more photos.](#)



*Marie Harms as Corny in the Town Meeting skit*





## News from around the state

**Humeston Public Library** Director (aka Bikrarian) Jackie Gunzenhauser and 8-year-old daughter Maddy stopped in the IaLS Main Library while in Des Moines for the 2013 RAGBRAI. According to Maddy, going up hill isn't nearly as fun as going down hill at 39 mph. Jackie's goal was to stop in as many libraries as possible along the route. State Librarian Mary Wegner (right) and Nancy Medema were on hand to greet them.



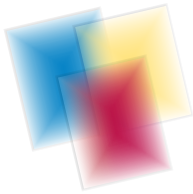
**Perry Public Library** hosted George Minot for a discussion of this year's All Iowa Reads selection, *The Year We Left Home* by Jean Thompson. Sixteen people participated. Minot and Iowa City Public Library Director Susan Craig lead yearly discussions of All Iowa Reads books over the ICN and online in January. Minot, on the right of photo, is an English professor at Kirkwood Community College.



Best wishes to the following Iowa librarians who have or will soon retire.

- Toni Johnson, **Lake Mills**, retired in August after serving as director for 17 years.
- Willona Goers will retire October 4 after nine years (eight as director) at the **Johnston Public Library**. (She thought the date "10-4" was fitting.)
- Jane Seedorf retired in August. She was library director of the **Lamont Public Library** for 23 years.
- Pansy Streit retired from the **Livermore Public Library**. She served as children's librarian for 26 years.
- Donarae Cleveland recently retired as director of the **Field Carnegie Public Library in Odebolt**. She was at the library 15 ½ years.





*From the IaLS Central District Office's July 29 Eye-Opener:* For the first time in a long time, **Garwin Public Library** is getting kids into the library. Director Lola Slingluff has worked hard to transform the library from its former drab appearance into a vibrant and welcoming place for kids and teens. "The town people tell me all the time what a great thing I have done for the kids here. They see them lined up at the door before I open. One man came in Saturday and told me he has seen [kids] here as early as 7:15 and I open at 8 a.m.," said Lola. The reason for the change? Lola has cleaned up the library, painted it, moved shelving, and purchased new computers. She has created a small but welcoming area for kids and teens, and she has undertaken six weeks of the Summer Reading Program (SRP) this year. "We had well over 400 kids last month, up by over a 100 from last summer. It's never empty," Lola explained. As part of this year's SRP, Lola and the kids planted a garden. The children are proud of their garden and are working hard to see it thrive. "I sit milk jugs of water out when I close the library, and the kids always water the garden before I get here [the next morning]," said Lola.

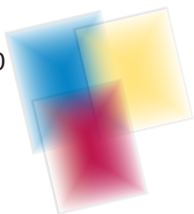


*Lola (adult at far left), with kids and parents*



*From Mary Jo Langhorne:* Seventeen teacher librarians from across Iowa attended a two-day **Leadership Academy** June 20-21 in Coralville. The Academy was funded by a grant from ABC CLIO (a publisher of reference books, CD-ROM products, and research publications) and the Iowa Association of School Librarians, and facilitated by Jean Donham, Christine Kolarik and Mary Jo Langhorne. *Participants pictured are Devin Redmond, Joan Hippen, Chelsea Sims, Jenna Spierling, Joan DePrenger, Katherine Rogers, Christine Tomlinson, Amy Power, Miranda Kral, Rachel Burrow, Christine Sturgeon, Kenya Arrants, Cari McDonald, Jenni Olson, Lisa Beal, Amber Austin and Kate Lechtenberg.*

**Primghar Public Library** uncovered what are believed to be 12 original World War I-era posters in the library attic. Library board members, Kay Geerdes and Kathy Luedke, climbed up into the old drop-down attic stairs looking for artifacts to use in the town's 125th birthday this summer when they happened upon the posters. The posters depict advertising of the U.S. government liberty bond loan program to help fund the war. The posters are believed to have been created around 1916. Library director Leann Langfitt said they are trying to authenticate the posters before deciding what to do with them.



Staff at the **Kirkendall Public Library, Ankeny**, held an open house on September 16 for their new maker space called "Hatch." The area includes a 3D printer; video and audio editing equipment, including a blue screen; image scanner; state-of-the-art sewing machine and serger; Lego Robotics; and other tools and software.



*Joy King in the sewing machine area.*



*Eric Melton using the 3D printer*

**Jefferson Public Library** Director Jane Millard is taking advantage of the town's 2013 All-School Reunion to bring together former students and teachers who are now authors. A "Meet the Authors" event will take place on October 5. Ten authors are scheduled to attend the event. In addition, Millard will have high school yearbooks on display that date back to 1915, a book sale, and demonstrations of the library's new website - Jefferson Newspaper Archives, 1866-1977.



Sue Ponder, **Prairie City Public Library** Director, sent in this photo of their "float" in the annual Prairie City Days. Ponder said she rode in the excavator and volunteers passed out Summer Reading Program flyers that included the schedule of events.

Anyone looking for a nice way to promote LearningExpress Library may be interested in what the **Sioux City Public Library** is doing. Library director Betsy Thompson said, "We printed a few dozen bookmarks and placed them in appropriate books on the shelves. When patrons go to the shelves the bookmarks let them know that we have the online option, too."

