

*Thanks to everyone who sent in their 2013 success stories. They show once again what terrific service lowans receive from their libraries.*

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### Inside this issue

Certification Update	pg. 13
ISLOC 2014	pg. 14
Libraries receives 0.27 levy	pg. 14

## Libraries share their 2013 memorable moments

All of the students at Jefferson Elementary School in Muscatine received their own book this year thanks to the efforts of students in the city's Central Middle School.

Avid readers in Central's eighth-grade girls book club launched a book drive among their fellow students and teachers to come up with the 362 books needed. They met their goal within two weeks by making a few announcements and setting out collection boxes.

The books were handed out just as the kids were getting ready for summer vacation.

"It's wonderful," said Title I Jefferson elementary school teacher Nancy Reichert. "One of the most important things students can do this summer is to keep up with what they've learned during the school year."

Diane Brown, teacher librarian at Central Middle School, said teachers and parents of the school were every bit as faithful contributing to the book drive as the students.

"Everybody was really generous," she said. "I've had some of these girls since they were in first grade. It's wonderful to see what they've done."



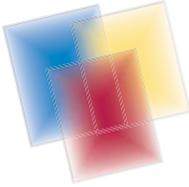
*Central's eighth-grade girls book club*



The completion of the North Liberty Community Library expansion and renovation project was celebrated on September 8 with a grand-opening party attended by around 1,500 people.

According to library director Dee Crowner, the \$3 million needed was raised with a \$2 million contribution from the city and from private fund raising. The library tripled in space. Meeting and study rooms were added, as was a teen lounge, a cake pan gallery, a story time room and additional space to house materials. Contractors used recycled tires for flooring; remains of sorghum after it is harvested for case work for the front of the circulation desk, display cases and cabinets; recycled seat belts were used for some of the chairs; the city recreational center's old, oak gym floor was recycled for tables and benches; and old shelving was repurposed for much of the youth area. It took two and a half years to raise the funds and complete the building, said Crowner.

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## More library highlights

The Carroll Public Library began a major weeding project in January, 2012. After weeding more than 10,000 items, the July, 2012 annual report listed its holdings at 86,047.

Library director Kelly Fischbach said she has been working on a building project since she became director in 2008.

“One of our major concerns was that the collection was too big for our population. People weren’t willing to pay for a facility to house a collection of that size and build space for all the activities a 21st century library embodies,” said Fischbach.

Today the collection stands at 67,337. The library’s goal is to get the collection down to about 55,000 items by the end of 2014. Fischbach said people may shake their heads and question her sanity.

“But you should see our shelves,” she said. “The books are new and inviting. The covers are shiny and not worn. When we were pulling books for a John F. Kennedy display in November, we had three shelves of books on him alone and I’d purchased three new titles commemorating the anniversary of his death,” said Fischbach.

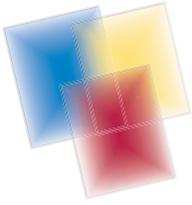
“He is still a popular topic, but most of those books were written in the 1970s through the 1990s and had no business still being part of our collection,” she noted. “We used H.W. Wilson’s *Public Library Core Collection* as a standard reference, checked copyrights and checkouts over the past five years, and just used plain common sense. Think of weeding as your closet - you only need one ugly Christmas sweater for that holiday party, not a dozen.”



The Decorah Public Library has a growing family of American Girl dolls donated by the Friends of the library and generous patrons. They have five dolls that circulate for three weeks to girls ages eight and older. The dolls come in a bag with a journal for writing about the adventures of each young patron, and a doll’s hair brush. The dolls have been well received and cared for by those checking them out.

*Pictured is children’s librarian Sally Stromset with two young patrons. They are best friends who rather closely resemble the dolls they checked out.*

The Pella Public Library is collaborating with Pella Christian schools to offer a Spanish story time once a month. The Spanish teachers conduct the story times and the library provides the space and helps promote the program. Students from Central College in Pella also help at some of the story times. “Attendance grew slowly at first,” said library director Wendy Street, “but we now have 20 to 25 people at story time.” The library also increased its collection of Spanish and bi-lingual materials which have increased in circulation. Said Street, “This has been a great partnership for us and allows us to offer another valuable community service.”



## More library highlights

On November 19, the Luise V. Hanson Library at Waldorf College welcomed students to its second annual "Long Night Against Procrastination." The event originated from writing centers in Germany and is an international study session intended to provide students with additional support to finish research and writing assignments. Writing Center Director, Dr. LeAnn Nash, partnered with library staff to provide support until 2 a.m. the following morning. Why not all night?

"Well, quite frankly, LeAnn and I are getting too old to be pulling all-nighters," said library director Elizabeth Kiscaden.



Individual stations were arranged throughout the library providing support in such areas as locating scholarly sources, developing or fine-tuning thesis statements, correcting citation style, and proofreading student assignments. Librarians and writing center tutors assisted students while holding hourly drawings for prizes and keeping students supplied with late-night snacks.

The event drew the largest crowd the library had ever seen in its facility, said Kiscaden.

"Approximately 25 percent of the student body was here and they were occupying every surface of the library," said Kiscaden. "There was a food shortage that threatened riots. Okay, I may be exaggerating here."

Students were required to submit an evaluation form in order to participate in the hourly drawings, providing the library with some useful and entertaining feedback.

"My favorite comment," said Kiscaden, "was from one of our students who said s/he would like a full buffet next year."

Anyone with questions about the event or logistics for planning their own Long Night may contact Kiscaden at [Elizabeth.kiscaden@waldorf.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.kiscaden@waldorf.edu).

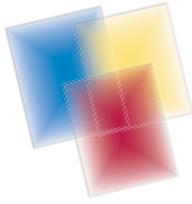
The Newton Public Library held its annual first-grader tours sponsored by the Friends of the library. All Newton public school first graders came to the library, took a tour, learned about taking good care of books and enjoyed a short story time with youth services librarian Phyllis Peter. Each student received a picture book to keep. The library's Friends group paid for the buses and the books.

*Pictured is Abeer who is thrilled with her new book.*



John P. Culshaw became head librarian at the University of Iowa Libraries on August 1. Previously he was senior associate dean of libraries at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Culshaw joined the university libraries at CU-Boulder in 1991 as reference librarian and gained progressive responsibility during his tenure.

Over the last year, he collaboratively led efforts to develop and implement a new organizational



## More library highlights

framework designed to help the university libraries move forward effectively while embracing the changing role of national research libraries.

“I am excited about the future of research libraries,” Culshaw says. “The library must maintain its prominent place as the academic heart of the campus. Research libraries face multiple challenges in the coming years, particularly related to changing scholarly communication patterns, data management, and evolving instructional models. Libraries can turn these into opportunities by becoming more flexible service organizations. I am delighted that I will have the opportunity to contribute to the important, ongoing work at the University of Iowa.”



*John P. Culshaw*



When the new academic year began, the University of Iowa opened the new Learning Commons in the Main Library - a tech-infused, 24-hour, comfortable study space and one-stop academic help center that also serves coffee.

The 37,000-square-foot space is the product of a partnership involving University Libraries, Information Technology Services, and the Office of the Provost.

The Learning Commons features 18 group study spaces, 100 desktop and laptop computers, a 45-seat TILE (Transform, Interact, Learn, Engage) classroom with glass walls and sliding doors, printers and scanners, TVs and projectors, and multimedia resources.

A consolidated service desk is at the hub of the learning commons. Library and technical staff answer common academic questions and quickly facilitate expert-level assistance for academic and research issues. Commons staff are at the ready to help with technology issues as well.

The Food for Thought Café offers an expanded menu that includes sandwiches, fruit smoothies, and other snacks, as well as espresso and gourmet coffees.

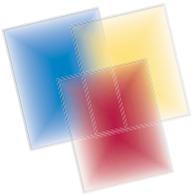
Librarians and IT staff offer drop-in workshops throughout the semester on a variety of research and technology topics. Other campus partners – the tutoring lab and writing center – also use the Learning Commons as a place to help students.

Friends of the Clear Lake Public Library partnered with Central Gardens of North Iowa to create a Little Free Library (LFL) in Clear Lake, which opened September 30. A LFL is a small, free standing structure that houses a collection of books available for free exchange. Persons may take and/or donate books to the LFL.

For the past several months, Nick Chizek, a Clear Lake High School senior, worked with Central Gardens personnel to design and construct the library as his Eagle Scout project. Friends of the library provided the initial book collection featuring used books appealing to a variety of interests and age levels.

The structure was designed with two shelves – one for youth books and one with titles for adult readers. As users “take a book – leave a book,” the collection will perpetuate itself.

The Clear Lake LFL was designed to complement the natural beauty of Central Gardens. Clear Lake resi-



## More library highlights

dents and visitors to the community are encouraged to become active users of the Little Free Library. It will be officially registered and will appear on the map at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

*Clear Lake youngsters take advantage of the Little Free Library*



2013 was a busy year for the Knoxville Public Library.

The entire town prepared for July 24 when thousands of people rode into town on RAGBRAI. The library had a stream of 821 visitors for the day and opened its doors for 31 overnight guests. T-shirts and decals touting Knoxville as “the birthplace of the Iowa flag” were sold, as well as baked goods and books.

The library continues with fundraising efforts for a \$4M expansion project and received significant grants from community foundations, individuals, and businesses throughout the year.

In the spring, the library participated in the Smart Investing @ Your Library program and offered classes on financial literacy. One program on “coupons” was especially well-attended.

During National Library Week in April, library staff and volunteers were inspired to perform the “Harlem Shake” in the children’s room and post the video on-line. It was also Amnesty Week and 140 cans of food for the local pantry were collected in lieu of fines.

The Summer Library Program was another success as all programs exceeded room capacity. The library had balloon artist Daniel Poe, ventriloquist Kevin Horner, Blank Park Zoo, and Mad Science. The finale was Outdoor Day with carnival rides and games, face painting, and popsicles to cool off. Almost 300 prize bags were handed out.

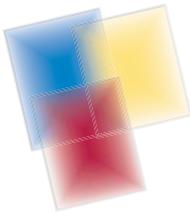
“If you can survive zombies, you can survive anything!” was the mantra for the disaster preparedness program by Chasing4Life staff in October. Attendees learned how to stay aware and pack for emergencies.

Leighton Christensen from the Department of Transportation shared photos and stories about 100 years of transportation in Iowa and how the roads, rails, and planes connect people in commerce, life, and leisure.

The library participated in Living Windows and Festival of Trees, a community event. They were also part of the first Story Telling Festival in Knoxville. Schoolchildren and adults were regaled with wonderful stories by seven artists.

“We look forward to many more programming events and activities in 2014,” said library director Roslin Thompson. “Bring on the New Year!”





## More library highlights

In 2013, with help from the Friends of the Drake Public Library (Centerville, IA), the library acquired a Felicity American Girl doll. After a kick-off tea complete with China cups and crafts, Felicity can now be checked out for a two week period. Several citizens donated outfits, materials, and money to help with the program. Another tea was held at Christmas time.

The library also started lending cake pans; 301 were donated by a citizen. After being cataloged, engraved and bagged, the cake pans are now being checked out to the public.



In October, teacher librarians at Iowa City West High School collaborated with social studies teachers for an American Studies Project.

Teacher librarians worked with students on navigating online databases to identify academic articles using EasyBib.com to generate citations and select high quality websites using five evaluative criteria. Working in groups, the ninth-grade students researched the 1920s and gathered a wide range of information.

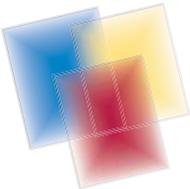
The students assigned roles to each group member and together they created an informational magazine about life during the Roaring Twenties. The magazines included articles discussing significant social, political, and economic events, as well as representative advertisements from the time.

After the projects were created and peer edited, students converted their magazines to PDF format and uploaded them to ISSUU.com, a digital publishing site. Once each group had their online magazine ready to view, the classes spent time browsing each other's magazines using Nook Tablets checked out from the West High library. The social studies teachers and administrators were pleased with the results, and a couple of the magazines were chosen by editors at ISSUU.com for their reading lists, or "stacks," which was a great compliment for all involved. The students' work can be viewed at <http://issuu.com/mrsnies>.



The highlight of the year at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (Dubuque, IA) was its "Geek the Library" campaign, which generated widespread interest.

Hundreds of patrons posed for the library's website and professional posters were created for over 200 non-profits and businesses. The posters were all over town (see next page). One bartender created a special drink that he labeled "geek" and a local chocolate and ice cream shop created a



## More library highlights



“geek” gelato flavor.

A popular TV commercial aired for three months. With the purchase of a static billboard, the library had two weeks of free digital billboard advertising and that was the most fun, said library director Susan Henricks.

“Leaders in our community, typical Dubuquers, enjoyed their 15 minutes of fame,” said Henricks. “The message was simple: Whatever you ‘geek,’ the library has something for you.”

See the commercial and more at: <http://geek.dubuque.lib.ia.us/>

The Sioux Center Public Library received a \$5,500 American Dream Starts @ Your Library grant from the American Library Association and its Office for Literacy and Outreach Services to expand its English as a second language (ESL) materials.

Said library director Becky Bilby, “Before the grant, there were times when all our ESL materials were checked out. Through the grant, we were able to purchase over 130 books and audiobooks, 36 DVDs, and 4 iPads loaded with ESL apps including Mango Languages. With the expanded collection of resources, we never have to turn any of our learners away.”



The library held an open house in August exhibiting the materials, providing training and connecting English language learners and ESL teachers and tutors. The library purchased not only materials for students, but also materials for the growing number of ESL tutors in the community who for the most part have little to no training.

In 2013, the West Des Moines Public Library tried some new things and caught up with some old.

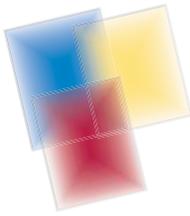
With the help of the industrious Friends group, the library applied for and received a Prairie Meadows grant in order to purchase iPads to circulate to patrons in its service area. The program has been successful and the iPads come and go steadily, according to library director Darryl Eschete.

“The Friends are also helping us in our efforts to follow through on our art plan by pushing hard for donors and grants to purchase art for the building,” said Eschete. “We have already purchased two pieces of art with donated money and have gotten good indications that some art-related grants we’ve applied for this year will be approved.”

The library also updated its website, which went online in October. The upgrade was made possible with money left to the library in the estate of a local citizen who thought highly enough of the library to put it in her will.

In the coming year, Eschete said they will be weeding the collection and getting ready to make the transition to RFID, and there’s a joint city/library board work group exploring the issue of expanding the library building. Along those lines, Eschete said they will also be upgrading the computer furniture, signage and shelving in the children’s area to give the space a fresher look.

“Our goal is to have the children’s area brightened up in time for the start of the Summer Library Program,” said Eschete.



## More library highlights

In 2013, librarians from Drake Community Library in Grinnell and the Special Collections Library at Grinnell College created the Poweshiek History Preservation Project (PHPP) with the help of the State Library and ILEAD USA.

PHPP encourages local residents to bring their personal letters, photos, documents, etc. to be scanned by a team of volunteers. The documents are uploaded to an online database hosted by Grinnell College, and made available through the Drake Community Library website where anyone can search by keyword or just browse the collection.

There are also volunteers who collect and transcribe oral histories. The goal of the project is to help preserve the memories of day-to-day life in Poweshiek County. It is a way for people to share their history without having to give up their items, and it is creating a wonderful digital archive of the area.

It is a project that the librarians hope will continue for years, thanks to the tremendous commitment by volunteers who hold weekly scanning sessions at the library and also take the equipment off-site to retirement living sites in Grinnell, and hopefully soon to other communities around the county.

Children at the Oelwein Public Library enjoy reading to one of the library's three Tail Waggin' Tutors. Cookie loves resting on the pet pillow while listening to a story. Other canine tutors, Gracie and Cooper, also visit the library. They are sponsored by Therapy Dogs International.

The Oelwein Public Library was one of 50 sites nationwide to host the "Civil War 150" traveling exhibit developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Citizens heard an Abraham Lincoln impersonator speak about his life, attended a tea hosted by the group Attic Belles, listened to music sung by soldiers from the North and the South, and learned that not all Iowans fought for the Union.

In the fall, the Oelwein Public Library invited the community to Oakdale Pioneer Cemetery to "Stroll with the Spirits." Volunteers and staff dressed in costume and told fascinating stories of the lives of local citizens who were dressmakers, railroad engineers, farmers, liverymen, and young boys swimming in the creek on the outskirts of town.

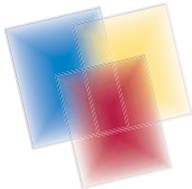


*Strolling through the cemetery*

The Elgin Public Library accomplished a great deal in 2013. This year is the first time the library was named to *Library Journal's* Star List.

"We are very proud to be a part of such prestigious recognition," said library director Lisa Leuck. "We believe this success was due in part to our increase in programming for young people. The library now has a weekly after school program for kids in K-6 to help them and their parents on early-out days from the North Fayette Valley school district. We have also implemented remote book delivery to the elementary and middle school, teaching card catalog skills in their classrooms and delivering their requests twice a week."

The library also received Humanities Iowa and Puffin Foundation grants to host Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander and actress Karan Founds-Benton who performed Swander's renowned book, *Driving the Body Back*.



## More library highlights

“This one-of-a-kind event was the highlight of our adult programming year,” said Leuck.

In addition to these programs, Elgin Public Library continues to hold a weekly story hour for preschoolers, a monthly book club, and a writer’s group.

Judith Dickson, teacher librarian at Weber Elementary School, Iowa City, shared some of her library’s accomplishments in 2013.

### SMART Training the Smart Way

When 25 new SMART boards arrived in her school, Dickson knew she had to provide some sort of training. However, competing with meetings and busy classroom schedules for teachers is tough. The obvious solution, thought Dickson, was to bribe them with food.

“I offered four SMART training lunches during teacher lunch times. I sent out an agenda and a simple menu of appetizers ahead of time,” said Dickson. Not up to cooking? Just have a brown bag SMART lunch. SMART lunches were held every three to four weeks and teachers were grouped by grade level. Skills escalated over time with three to four new SMART strategies introduced at each SMART lunch. Teacher homework was to try those new skills.

“When I saw teachers using one of the new skills from our SMART lunches, I placed a Smartie candy and note in their mailboxes. Attendance was purely optional, but I ended up with 100 percent of staff coming to the lunches,” said Dickson. Other ideas from Dickson include:

### Get Wrapped Up in Reading

Purchase an inflatable mannequin (Dickson found one for \$10) and wrap it in ivory crepe paper. Surround it with plastic scarab beetles, coins, jewels and new books. One bonus is the mummy does double duty, making an appearance every Halloween.

### We Mustache You to Check Out Our New Books

Cover the new book table in mustache fabric. Place buckets of die-cut mustaches on sticks amongst the books. Students (and adults) love to pose with the mustaches while they browse the new books.

### Arrrrggg...New Books are a Treasure

Paint a styrofoam cooler silver and add brown duct tape for “leather straps” for a great treasure chest. Add a bright tablecloth, playground sand and recycled coins and jewels from past displays. Greet students at the door with a treasure map. They can follow a trail (black Velcro strips placed on the carpet), to the treasure/new book table.

### Gingerbread Library Village

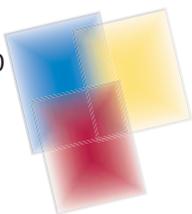
Purchase pre-made gingerbread house kits and extra candy. Student helpers decorate the gingerbread libraries. Pre-assembling the houses with hot glue, having candy and icing ready makes this activity go smoothly. Place the gingerbread libraries on the new book table with snow and glitter for a lovely winter display.

### Library Refrigerator for the Cool Books

Go dumpster diving at a local appliance store and find a refrigerator box. Cut doors in the front, spray paint it to look like a refrigerator (black/stainless steel) and make handles out of PVC pipe. Stack milk crates inside for shelves. Store graphic novels and other *cool* books in the fridge.



Teacher Librarian Judith Dickson



## More library highlights

On November 2, Waukee Public Library held a grand opening of the Coal Mine Museum and meeting room. This addition to the library was made possible by a generous bequest by Waukee native Hiram Ori in memory of his parents, Ernest and Casimira Ori.

The Oris were Italian immigrants who moved to the Waukee area in the early 1920s. The family had 11 children who grew up in the Shuler mining camp community. Hiram was the oldest, graduating from Waukee Consolidated School in 1941. Although Hiram moved away from Waukee, he felt a strong attachment to the area and believed deeply in the role of public libraries to educate and inspire.

The museum highlights the coal mining history of Waukee through photos, maps, artifacts, and interactive displays. The Waukee Area Historical Society, the library board and community members have spent countless hours gathering oral histories, information and objects for preservation and exhibit. The new meeting room offers state-of-the-art technology and seating for 65, and is available for public and library meetings and events.



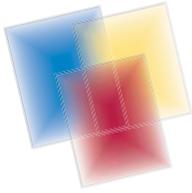
Before our make-over project (top photo), the Penn Elementary library, Iowa City, looked its age - 50 years old. The library was cluttered and dingy and the layout was not very functional.

Because the bookshelves took up most of the wall space, the checkout desk, student workstations, and a multimedia projector and interactive whiteboard all had to be placed in the middle of the room. In addition, the large group space was right next to the checkout desk, making it difficult to check out books while a class was meeting there.

“Thanks to the work of a Penn parent, we received \$25,000 in grant funding from Lowe’s Home Improvement,” said teacher librarian Debra Dorzweiler. “We were able to purchase new bookshelves, a new rocking chair, and two loveseats from Iowa Prison Industries. For added flexibility we ordered wheels for the freestanding bookshelves and the tables.”



The Penn PTO provided \$10,000 in additional funding for new tables and chairs. A local artist was hired, Sayuri Sasaki Hemann, to paint quotes from children’s books on the walls. Parents and staff helped move books and Lowe’s staff painted the walls. The Iowa City Community School District installed the multimedia projector and interactive whiteboard on the wall, and provided new electrical work and new carpeting (bottom photo).



## More library highlights

“As a result of the library make-over we are now able to have one class checking out books while another class is receiving instruction in library skills,” said Dorzweiler. “Traffic through the library to reach classrooms or the computer lab is barely noticeable. Because the room is so much more functional and inviting, the use of the library has increased significantly. In addition to library classes and library checkout, small groups use the space throughout the day, and students enjoy coming to the library for independent research and quiet reading. Overall we are thrilled with the results and ready for the next 50 years.”



On Nov. 13, Iowa City Public Library staff celebrated the culmination of its Better Building, Better Services project with an open house, sharing cookies and cider with patrons to thank them for their cooperation, patience and understanding during the two-year project.

Every Library department saw some sort of renovation in this project, from the new digital magazine collection and children’s technology center, to the consolidation and relocation of staff service desks on both floors of the building. Four new electronic bulletin board signs, two of which are interactive, are another way the library is helping patrons locate the information they need, as is the new switchboard, which has staff answering the phone during library hours rather than relying on an automated attendant to deliver information.

The Koza Family Teen Center on the Library’s second floor is a new space for students in grades seven through 12. They get weekly homework help sessions, staffed hours for gaming and tech use, and all-new teen programs. More self checkout stations were added, a centralized movie collection space was created, and more bookshelves for materials reserved by patrons were installed, increasing the number of holds a patron can have from five to eight.

The Better Building, Better Service project would not have been possible without the generous support of the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. Major contributions were received from ACT, Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, Community Foundation of Johnson County, Hands Jewelers, Hills Bank and Trust Company, MidAmerican Energy Foundation, The MidWestOne Bank Foundation, the University of Iowa, and the University of Iowa Community Credit Union.

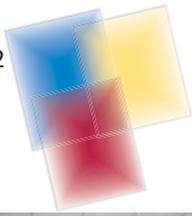
Following the great response to the library’s Local Music Project, another local initiative was launched in May. The Digital History Project is the sharing and exploration of historical images and stories of life in Iowa City and Johnson County. There has been great response from patrons who love sharing their memories of days gone by. Visit <http://history.icpl.org/> to learn more.



*Before*

A library remodel began at South East Junior High, Iowa City. A fresh coat of South East red paint, some inspiring words in the form of vinyl lettering, new seating and new shelving have all given the library a vibrant new look.

With a bit of rearranging, South East students and teachers now have access to many flexible spaces in the library: a computer lab for 32 students, two classroom spaces that each hold up to 48 students (one with



## More library highlights



*After*

a SMART board), a “mini-lab” of 15 computers for individual students or small classes, room to browse fiction and nonfiction, and a comfy seating corner for readers next to a display of brand new books. The computer lab and reading corners are decorated with student and professional art work, and one window features more than a thousand colorful paper cranes.

Staff plan to redesign the fiction section shelving to make it more inviting and more visible for supervision. Students in art classes continue to add to the “Read” mural which features the word “read” in the native languages of some students. Also to come, more painting in the entry way, some Little Hawk logos, and additional comfortable seating.

So far, student, staff, and visitor reactions have been very positive. A survey of students last spring asked them what they liked most about their school library, and many listed the new red paint.

Cowles Library, Drake University, saw construction of a new \$1.5 million, 6,000 sq.ft. climate-controlled University Archives and Special Collections space on the second floor.

The rapid-stage project went from initial planning to completion in seven months. In addition to housing the university’s archives and the library’s special collections (previously scattered throughout the building), the new facility will permanently house the papers of Senator Tom Harkin.

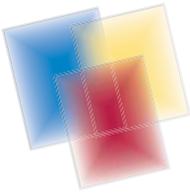
The senator’s collection will arrive in January 2015 and will provide researchers with physical and digital access to a wealth of material in association with The Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement. The new space will also be used to stage a mass digitization project for the papers of former governor Robert D. Ray in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.



*Cowles Library*

The odds were in their favor again at West Delaware schools (Manchester, IA) this fall as they hosted a second *Hunger Games* competition for middle and high school students. They hosted an event just before the first movie came out in 2012. As the eight teams left, library staff heard students and volunteers say, “We can’t wait until next time!” So staff tucked the idea away until this fall when *Catching Fire* hit theaters.

“This year we ended up with 14 teams and about 75 students in grades 5-12,” said Stephanie Stocks, teacher librarian. “The night started with donations to the local food pantry and a Star-Crossed Lovers challenge sheet. When all teams were ‘reaped’ we moved on to the Cornucopia where teams had six turns to gather ‘supplies’ written on note cards. When all supplies were gathered, a short script was read giving or deducting points for items gathered at the Cornucopia. Then teams were off for 10 minute inter-



vals at seven stations including a dark room water challenge, human knots, on-fire trivia with a twist, duct tape doll dresses, time zones, paper airplanes, and a water drop.”

As students waited for the tabulation of points, a “survival” snack mix and lemonade were served. The canon did not ring out for fallen tributes in their games because the final standings revealed “These Girls Over There” (a team of four 7th grade girls) were announced the victors. Second place went to “Catching Swag” (a team of high school students) and third place went to a team of 6th grade girls. Winners picked from local movie ticket packets, posters and a book about the making of the movie. Other prizes included t-shirts and bookmarks.

Said Stocks, “Again, as students and volunteers shuffled out, they chattered about ‘next time,’ so we checked the calendar and found that *Mockingjay* is being split into two movies in 2014 and 2015. We have marked our calendars.”



*Water drop challenge*

## Certification Update

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

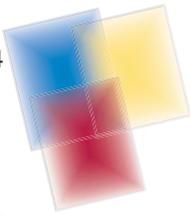
**Emily Burns**, Boone  
**Heather Hackman**, Nashua  
**Meggen Lawrence**, Maxwell  
**Robin Munson**, Spencer  
**Brent Palmer**, Iowa City  
**Olivia Petersen**, Boone  
**Rebecca Philipsen**, Webster City

**Morgan Reeves**, Iowa City  
**Ann Renken**, West Des Moines  
**Avon Rurup**, Titonka  
**Jillian Rutledge**, Waverly  
**Kayla Schlichte**, Spencer  
**Nicole Smith**, Riceville  
**Bradley Wiles**, Clinton



*Iowa Library Services Consultant Scott Dermont gives Cindy McFadden, director of the Hawkeye Public Library a gift basket.*

*McFadden won the early submittal prize for the FY12 annual survey.*



## “Library Re-Branding...Books & Beyond”

*Sign up now: ISLOC - January 9, 2014*

Iowa Library Services has announced its exciting online education event on January 9 —Iowa Small Libraries Online Conference (ISLOC) 2014.

"Library Re-Branding...Books & Beyond" is the theme for the seventh annual ISLOC. Public library service is not solely about book check-outs any more. And physical circulation statistics are not the only measure of how busy libraries are. Increasingly, public libraries are gathering places - and MakerSpaces! - stepping up with programming for all ages and building digitally literate communities.

ISLOC will offer keynote speakers, concurrent sessions on a variety of topics, an evening session designed for trustees, and an exhibit hall - all online in Adobe Connect classrooms. People can attend from their libraries or from home, and come and go throughout the day. Depending on the number of sessions attended, six continuing education credits are available.

Vendors will be available in the Virtual Exhibit Hall to talk with attendees and demonstrate their products.

The morning keynote address welcomes back George Needham (OCLC) with “WAY Beyond Books: Re-thinking the Public Library Within Its Community.” Some of the breakout sessions are:

- Sonatas in the Stacks: Becoming a Music Venue for Your Community
- App Up Your Story Times (youth services focus)
- The Loudest Library in Iowa: Programming to Shout About (youth services focus)
- Anywhere Book Club
- HATCHING a MakerSpace

The 2014 library board program features Andrea Berstler, past president of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, whose session is titled “Libraries and the Future: It Was Never Just About the Books.”

The full ISLOC 2014 schedule and other information, including links to enter the various classrooms, is available at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/isloc>. Links to the classrooms will not be live until the day of the conference.

## Eight libraries pass 0.27 cent library levy

Congratulations to the following libraries and their communities for passing the 0.27 cent library levy in November:

- Dayton
- Dexter
- Eagle Grove
- Fonda
- Jesup
- Rockford
- Stuart
- Swaledale

