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**Don't miss 2015
Kids First Conference**

There's still time to sign up for the ever-popular Kids First Conference on May 4-5.

Kids First is a conference for youth librarians sponsored by Iowa Library Services held in the spring of odd-numbered years. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport.



Janice Del Negro will open the session on Monday, May 4. She is a former children's librarian, an award-winning author of children's books, is a renowned storyteller, and author of books about storytelling. She is currently an associate professor and occupies the Follett Chair in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.



Margi Preus will be Monday's luncheon speaker. She is a *New York Times* bestselling children's book author and playwright. Her first novel for young people, *Heart of a Samurai*, is a Newbery Honor Book, a recipient of the Asian Pacific American Award for Children's Literature, and the NPR Backseat Book Club pick.



David LaRochelle will be the morning speaker on Tuesday, May 5. He is a former elementary school teacher who has written and illustrated books for young people for the past 25 years. His recent titles include *How Martha Saved Her Parents from Green Beans*, *Moo!* (An ALA notable book and winner of the CLEL Bell Award for Early Literacy), and *It's a Tiger*, the 2014 Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award.



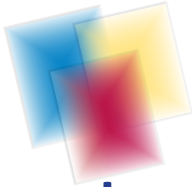
The Tuesday luncheon speaker will be Elizabeth Fama. Her first book, *Overboard*, was named a 2003 Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association. Her second young-adult novel, *Monstrous Beauty*, was published in September, 2012. It was the 2013 Odyssey Honor Award winner and was included on the 2013 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults list and the 2013 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults list. Her newest novel for teens is *Plus One*, set partially in

Iowa.

There will be plenty of interesting breakout sessions, a storytelling festival on Monday evening, and special guests Dan Wardell and Trista Peitzman from IPTV, along with magician Rick Eugene Brammer.

The registration form can be found at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/kids-first%202011/kids-first-2015>. The application deadline is April 24.

The first Kids First was first held in 1997 and attendance has grown with each conference. It is funded through the Hazel Westgate Endowment and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Iowa Library Services.



Merged collections increase patron convenience



Michael Lau, a temporary staffer at the State Library, moved and reshelfed books for the combined collection

Visitors to Iowa Library Services in Des Moines with lists of books to borrow will notice a helpful change. The library science collection, formerly housed on the third floor, has been moved to the first floor and integrated with the general/management collection.

Now if you want to learn how to run effective meetings and get great ideas for your next puppet story time, you will only have to look in one place. You can also checkout everything at the main library desk.

Both collections are cataloged in Dewey, so the subject areas are integrated together, and new signage

is on the way to make browsing the collection easy. The merged collection contains 4,600 books from the area of library science, which covers myriad topics of interest to help you make your library the best it can be. The general/management collection provides more than 8,000 books on such topics as being a good supervisor, managing change, and giving great presentations. It also includes many books about Iowa, its culture, history, and people.

Next time you are in Des Moines, please stop by to visit the State Library and check these useful materials. The collection can also be searched online at <https://koha.silo.lib.ia.us/>, and, of course, everything can be checked out through SILO ILL.

WILBOR circulation surges

By Becky Heil, Consultant, Southeast District Office

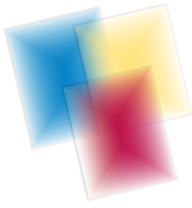
WILBOR had a banner year in 2014 and circulation continues to go up. Have you seen new users coming into the library with their Christmas presents? Hopefully, you are finding the eBook process simpler, the devices easier, with more titles available. We hope librarians are finding the process of helping patrons less complicated.

In 2014, the WILBOR Selection Team purchased 6,985 copies. From the WILBOR budget, some money is used to fill requests, purchase additional copies to help reduce waiting lists, replace expired metered use titles, and of course some is used to buy new titles. The availability to purchase new titles continues to expand, albeit with restrictions by some publishers. WILBOR also added the new Children's eReading Room and the Teen eReading Room in 2014.

The chart below shows a 17.5 percent increase between December 2013 and December 2014, and a 12 percent increase from January 2014 and January 2015. Audio circulation continues to climb at higher rates than eBooks—22 percent for December and 17 percent for January—while eBooks saw a 15 percent December increase and a 10% percent increase in January.

WILBOR usage statistics:

Month	eBooks Checkouts	Audio Books Checkouts	Total Checkouts
Dec 2013	27768	13292	41060
Dec 2014	32004	16279	48283
Jan 2014	33486	15026	48512
Jan 2015	36821	17653	54474



Certification Update

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

Jennifer Campbell - Bondurant
 Renee Franklin - Orange City
 Tricia Kane - Eldrige
 Alissa LaCanne - Elk Horn
 Kris Landolt - Livermore
 Linda Mercer - Fonda
 Lara Moellers - Marion
 Daniel Smith - Davenport
 Paige Stearns - Everly
 Kimberly Wessels - Aurora



Comings and goings at Iowa Library Services



Amy Rollinger began her new position as a Library Resource Technician in the Law Library in late January 2015. Prior to that she worked as a library assistant in public, academic, and court libraries. Amy is learning fast since the Iowa General Assembly was already in session when she started. And they are *always* busy during session.



Carol Simmons served as secretary to the state librarian from September 1, 2000 until her retirement February 11, 2015. Carol also worked for the Department of Education from July 30, 1981 until beginning at Iowa Library Services. She is, and will continue to be, missed. "It was a pleasure to have worked with all library staff, both librarians in the state and the State Library. They're all very dedicated people," said Carol.



Annette Wetteland, Information Specialist II who spent her 25 1/2 years doing public relations work for Iowa Library Services, is retiring March 27. She was the one who terrorized groups and individuals with her camera at library related events.

"It's been a great ride," she said. "Iowa librarians are some of the best in the country and it's been an inspiration to watch how they've picked up on new technology and other trends and run with them, often with little time, staff and money. Keep telling your stories."

Free Classes...

...offered by the State Library during
National Library Week
April 12-18, 2015



Explore your opportunities!

For more information and to register,
go to <http://tinyurl.com/lwuxf2z>
or call 515-281-4102 or 800-248-4483

Applications for historic preservation, country school grants due April 30

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) is reminding Iowans the next application deadline for its FY16 historic preservation and country school grant programs is April 30, 2015. SHSI is a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

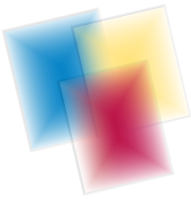
Applications for SHSI's Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) and Country School Grants must be submitted on-line at www.iowagrants.gov/index.do. Where required, hard copies of application materials must be postmarked by April 30, 2015, or received in the SHSI grants office at 600 E. Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 by 4:30 p.m., April 30, 2015. More information is available at www.iowahistory.org or 515-281-4228.



HRDP provides grants to preserve, conserve, interpret and educate the public about historical resources in three different categories – Documentary Collections, Historic Preservation and Museums – related to historic preservation of the built environment, museum collections and documentary materials such as diaries, letters, photographs and newspapers.

The Country School Program provides grants for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one- and two-room country schools. The funds also may be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school.

HRDP and Country School grants are funded by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP), passed by the Iowa General Assembly in 1989. Local government units, nonprofit corporations, individuals, businesses and American Indian tribes are eligible to submit applications. Projects funded in this grant cycle will begin July 1, 2015, and must be completed by Nov. 30, 2017.



News from around the state

The proceeds from the auctioning of a coin collection have provided the means to start improvements to the **Grafton Public Library**. Among the plans are improving the lighting, replacing carpeting and flooring, providing improved space for computing and collaborative learning, refinishing existing shelving and providing new shelving and furniture. The kitchen area will also be updated. A stacked stone fireplace has already been installed. The project is possible because the late Lorraine Moore, wife of Dr. William Moore, bequeathed a valuable coin collection to the library. They were very committed to the Grafton community and its library.

From a February North Central District Library newsletter

Melinda Beland, Angie Cox, Melissa Gevaert, Anna Hollingsworth and Linda McLauray, all members of the Comic Con Committee at the **University of Northern Iowa's Rod Library**, have been named the 2015 recipients of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) College Libraries Section (CLS) Innovation in College Librarianship Award for their work on the RodCon 2015 program.

This annual award honors ALA members who have demonstrated a capacity for innovation in their work with undergraduates, instructors and/or the library community. Their award will be presented during the CLS program at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.



The Rod Library RodCon brought faculty, staff and community members into the library for a day of programs and events, including lectures covering a variety of disciplines from Gender Studies to Communication, inspired by the growing role of graphic novels in the curriculum. A number of student groups were also involved in the costume contest and other events.

"We liked the draw of people to the library as a new way to engage students and faculty with one another and others in the community," said award chair Amy E. Badertscher, director of library services at Kenyon College. "The event costs, including speakers and materials, came in under \$2,000. Therefore, the committee thought the ideas would be easy to create on other campuses."

The Rod Library will offer RodCon again on March 28, 2015.

The **LeClaire Community Library** has been recognized by the New York Public Library, The 10 Best Book-Related Instagram Accounts and 20 Ways to Make People Fall in Love with Your Instagram, for their mascot, Stretch the Giraffe, in a series of selfies, or #stretchselfies using Instagram. The library gained 112 thousand followers in a few short weeks. According to library director Jillian Aschliman, "That's more followers than most of the major city library Instagram accounts combined. Our circulation manager, Carina Mulcrone, has done a fantastic job managing the account and I really attribute its success to her."

The account link can be viewed at <http://instagram.com/leclairerlibrary>.



The wheels are turning at the **Barlow Memorial Library**, Iowa Falls, and they hope that will bring in new customers. Barlow will start a Book-A-Bike program April 25th and card holders will be able to check out bicycles. According to director Terry Tikovitsch, "I think the Barlow library may be the second public library system in the nation to offer this program." The library borrowed the idea and got assistance setting it up from the Athens, Ohio library system.

"We're working with a local trails committee to spread the word, to talk about bicycle safety and promote recreation," said Tikovitsch.

"After the launch day, people can check out a bike for three hours, along with a helmet, a bike lock and basket or smaller bag for the bike trips."

The program was made possible by a local foundation challenge grant and other benefactors. So far the library has six bikes [four adult's and two children's] with room to grow depending on public demand, said Tikovitsch.

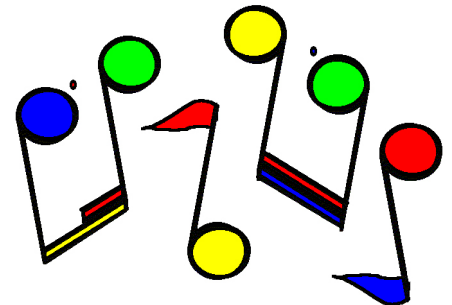
"We already opened the door to nontraditional circulations with ice skate checkouts this winter," Tikovitsch said. "An organization gave us 50 pairs of skates and it was great. There was a 30 percent increase in new cards during the skating season."

The **Edna Zybell Memorial Library, Clarence**, was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Baker and Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award presented by the Public Library Association (PLA). The award is designed to provide a public library with the opportunity to build a collection of either or both formats in whatever proportion the library chooses. The Zybell Library will receive \$2,500 to purchase audio music according to the winning grant entry.

Library Director Tami Finley submitted the application in November and was notified by PLA in early February that her application had been selected from over 20 other library entrants. In the application, Finley identified the need for a collection that would include a variety of music genres that will be of interest to many age groups. The selection will be revealed in what is known as an "opening day collection" when the new library building is complete.

The Zybell Library will be recognized along with other award winners at the American Library Association Annual Conference in late June in San Francisco.

"We hope to get input from the community about what kinds of CDs they would like to see in this new collection. We will be making surveys available both online and in the library so that we can garner suggestions," said Finley. "I am so thrilled that our small community has been recognized with this national award. We're doing great things here in Clarence and it will be wonderful to add this collection to our new library."





Children who visit the **Agency, Batavia** and **Eldon** public libraries have new resources to promote the connections between public media, and early literacy and math skills thanks to the addition of new Library Corners provided by Iowa Public Television.

Library Corners creates a bright, fun-filled learning experience for children, families and librarians. Familiar and friendly faces such as PEG + CAT and Martha Speaks create an inviting space for children to engage with age-appropriate materials, including books, PBS Kids DVDs and more. Online resources include

PBSKIDS.org and PBS KIDS Lab, websites with many games and hands-on activities to help build early math and literacy skills.

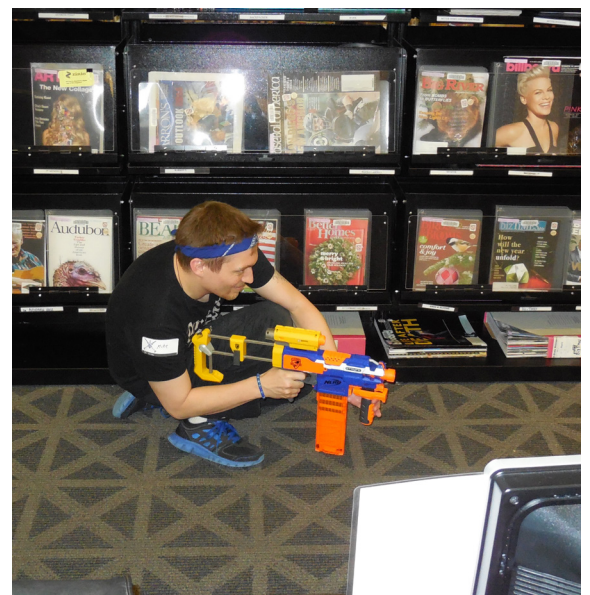
IPTV Library Corners are part of IPTV's Ready for School initiative, which works with communities to strengthen the math and literacy skills of children ages two to eight. Learn more at lptv.org/readyschool.

The **Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque**, was recently featured in *Library Journal* (Feb. 15, 2015 - "Why Should Kids Have All the Fun?" written by Dubuque staffers Andrew Fuerste-Henry and Sarah F. Smith.)

The article begins with a quick introduction to their new program. "Once a month, giddy adults come to the Carnegie-Stout Public Library just before closing time, armed with Nerf blasters. Other patrons stare with curiosity and a little alarm. Once the building is closed, the quiet reference area explodes with noise, excitement, and foam darts. This is our favorite program: Nerf Capture the Flag, open to anyone 18 and older."

Rules have evolved over time [<http://goo.gl/rHstWD>] but Fuerste-Henry and Smith said they have been very happy with the program, which brings together folks who don't always visit the library.

"Everyone has fun, staff included, and the sheer novelty of it has drawn attention from around the community and started a lot of good conversations about the library's role as a community center rather than simply a book warehouse. It's well worth the slight nuisance of a reference section full of foam darts." [From *Library Journal*]



From *Publishers Weekly* website: Illustrator Derek Anderson (Little Quack; Hot Rod Hamster) was asked by the **Ames Public Library** to design and paint a bus that would be transformed into the library's bookmobile. As Anderson explained, "I turned it into a giant, energetic one-of-a-kind story bus complete with sizzling racing flames and many characters from my children's books aboard." The unveiling of the bookmobile took place on December 20 at the library. The library holds a special place in Anderson's heart, as he grew up in Ames.

