



Today in EYE-OPENER September 12, 2016

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1) Introducing Library Talk: The State Library is pleased to announce a new product that will strengthen communication and networking amongst Iowa libraries. This product is **Library Talk**, a web forum for libraries to exchange information, enjoy lively discussions, sell or swap materials, and share the successes and challenges that come with working in the library field.

The end goal is to move discussions from the **IOWALIB** email list to the **LibraryTalk** forum. **IOWALIB** currently uses obsolete Mailman 2 software, while **LibraryTalk** is built on the actively developed **Discourse** software. **Discourse** is one of very few products available that allows full participation to happen via email. Meaning that once you sign up, you can post and reply to topics without ever leaving your email inbox if you choose.

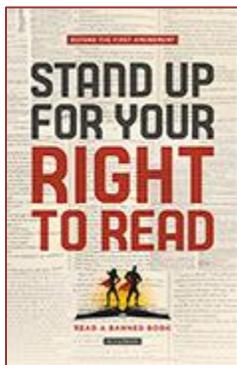
And since **LibraryTalk** is live now, there's no time like the present to get started! First things first—sign up for an account at <https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/>. Once signed up, you will automatically start receiving new **LibraryTalk** posts via email so you won't miss out on any discussions. Then watch our welcome video, take a look around the web forum, check out the **FAQ** along with the **Web and Email Help** pages.

Here are some handy links to get you going:

- **LibraryTalk Homepage** (be sure to bookmark!) <https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/>
- **Video—Welcome and Introduction to LibraryTalk**
<http://www.statelibraryofia.org/videos/library-talk/library-talk-welcome>
- **LibraryTalk FAQ** <https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/faq>
- **Tips For Using the LibraryTalk Website** (must be logged in to access):
<https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/t/website-help/13>
- **Tips for Using LibraryTalk Through Email** (must be logged in to access):
<https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/t/email-help/19>
- **How to Contact Your District LRT For Additional Help**
<http://www.statelibraryofia.org/contact-us/dist-offices>

You'll have time to get the hang of **LibraryTalk**, but understand that **IOWALIB** won't hold on forever because that email list will be deactivated on **November 30**. So don't delay in transitioning to using **LibraryTalk**—the more users that participate, the better!

As you begin to post new topics yourself—or reply to topics—keep in mind that all information on the site is a public record subject to the open records laws according to [Iowa Code Chapter 22](#).



2) Banned Books Week Sept 25-Oct 1: This very month, U.S. libraries of all types and sizes, in cities and towns, will acknowledge **Banned Books Week September 25—October 1**. Sponsored by the American Library Association, **Banned Books Week** is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and highlighting the value of open access to information. **Banned Books Week** brings together the entire book community—libraries and ALA, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and trustees—in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider controversial and unpopular.

By focusing on efforts by groups and individuals seeking to remove or restrict access to books, **Banned Books Week** draws national attention to the dangers of censorship. The ALA [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) (OIF) compiles lists of challenged books as reported in the media and submitted by librarians and teachers across the country.

Find promotional materials at the ALA Online Store <http://www.alastore.ala.org/bbw> Find out which challenged books made the 2015 list, which was released as part of the [2016 State of America's Libraries](#) report in April of this year. And hey...perfect timing to share your plans for **Banned Books Week 2016** on **LIBRARY TALK!**



3) Next Library101 September 22: New directors, staff, or trustees—take note ☺ The next **Library101** is scheduled for **September 22 (9:30-11:30AM)** Sponsored by the State Library, **LIBRARY 101** is typically offered four times each year. This 2-hour online program introduces newly hired directors to library support systems and services in Iowa.

It's a friendly, helpful orientation: you'll meet State Library staff—at least virtually—helping you match names with faces. We'll discuss public library service standards and provide explanations of popular statewide programs, with plenty of time to answer your questions. People new to support staff positions, as well as trustees, are encouraged to attend.

Look to the c.e. catalog to register for **Library101**—<http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> Doing so ensures that you will receive follow-up email with the link to the Adobe Classroom. New to your library? Then join Alysia Peich and me online for **Library101!**

4) Libraries and the American Electorate: The Presidential Election is now 2 months away—you might be wishing it was over already ☺ A thought-provoking article from **Information Today, Inc.** has much to say about the value of public libraries in providing authoritative information; in this case, vetted information about the presidential election. Written by Kathy Dempsey, the article is titled **"10 Ways U.S. Libraries Can Inform the American Electorate."** <http://www.infotoday.com/mls/mar16/Dempsey--Ten-Ways-US-Librarians-Can-Inform-the-American-Electorate.shtml>





One of the Dempsey's suggestions is for libraries to create a portal or display of voting information, which is exactly what Story County libraries have done. At a recent meeting, Story County library directors met with a representative from the county auditor's office, who gave each library a collapsible display stand filled with voter registration forms and information. This civic-minded group is shown in this photo 😊

Good story from Story County, others could easily do likewise. Here are a few more of Dempsey's suggestions, click the link above for the full article.

- **Produce a List of Fact-Checking Websites**
- **Point People to Government Websites**
- **Use Materials From ALA's Libraries Transform Campaign—nice one, we're talking about this at Town Meetings**

5) Meetings / Events This Week: This **Wednesday September 14** is our monthly staff meeting in Des Moines. While **District offices will be closed**, you're welcome to contact the Des Moines office as needed (800-248-4483) We're back on Thursday...

Thursday evening, I'll join Albert City PL board and city officials with the program "**City Library, City Service...**"

Cheers to a cooler month! Plus there are new national webinars to choose from. Find details and registration information at this link <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/c-/continuing-ed/other-conted>

September 12. 2:30-3:30 pm. *How to Create New Revenue Streams for Your Library* sponsored by American Library Association <http://bit.ly/2bUBaja>

September 13. 1:00-2:00PM. *Making a Maker Fair* sponsored by Maine State Library <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventsignup.asp?ID=3687>

September 13. 2:00-3:00PM. *Building Business Connections With Your Community* sponsored by Infopeople <https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar>

September 14. 1:00-2:00PM. *Pokémon! How Two Libraries Scored Major Points With a Game Craze* sponsored by Programming Librarian <http://www.programminglibrarian.org/learn/>



Monday Morning Eye-Opener Editor:

Bonnie McKewon

State Library of Iowa, Northwest District

529 Pierce Street, Sioux City, IA 51101

866-642-7920 / bonnie.mckewon@lib.state.ia.us