

Milford Public Library develops digital history project with help from others



Director Tena Hansen of the Milford Public Library works on the Iowa Great Lakes Digital History Collection

It's new and may take four years to complete, but the Iowa Great Lakes Digital History project will provide a wonderful resource to anyone interested in Dickinson County history.

Tena Hansen, director of the Milford Public Library decided to take on the project a year ago.

"The project was founded in recognition of the lack of access to a central database of Dickinson County history," said Hansen. "Though many organizations hold a piece of the puzzle, like surrounding libraries and museums, there hasn't been a single source where researchers can go to access information, especially not 24 hours a day from off-site locations."

Beginning with indexing and digitizing *The Milford Mail* newspapers from 1886 to 1999, volunteers and library staff have already initiated the process of preparing items for the collection. Local history documents and images will be accepted from libraries, museums and private collections.

Hansen said the database will not only give people direct access to the collections via the Internet, it will streamline the search processes library staff go through for those who do not have Internet access or the ability to visit the library.

"Even as the database grows and changes, the benefits of having thoroughly indexed these collections will provide a depth of searching ability that is uncommon among the types of documents we will include," said Hansen.

With the new format, people may search a variety of documents by keyword, as opposed to the current system of having to know which book or reel of microfilm is needed, and then having to know the exact date of the event they are researching.

"The database will offer a much higher access rate for those seeking local history or genealogy information," said Hansen.

The project has received tremendous support. Not only did the Milford library board agree to let Hansen act as coordinator, the Friends of the Milford Library Foundation contributed over \$3,000 to purchase a scan-to-pc microfilm reader. The University of Okoboji Foundation contributed nearly \$2,000 towards a server to house the collection. Staff at Arnolds Park Public Library offered assistance with the indexing stage of the process. And the Spirit Lake Public Library contributed local history documents and images from their collection for inclusion in the database.

The original plan for posting the collection to the Internet involved the use of an open source digital collection software called Greenstone. Hansen is now working with the Iowa Heritage Digital Collections project, an online collection of Iowa history and culture created by bringing together documents and images held by libraries and museums throughout Iowa, to see if the Dickinson County materials can be included. Said Hansen, "We plan to release the collection for public use during the 2006 Sesquicentennial of the Spirit Lake Massacre as a collaborative effort to provide programming and services to the Iowa Great Lakes Area."

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Iowa librarians visit Bulgaria in American Bulgarian Library Exchange project



Bulgarian and Iowa librarians at the American Embassy in Bulgaria. Jeanette Bobeen, far left; Stephanie Schulte, fifth from left, partially hidden; Sue Padilla, center (black jacket); and Wendy Street, third from right.

As part of the American Bulgarian Library Exchange project, Bulgarian librarians visited the United States, including Iowa and Colorado, in May 2004. This spring, American librarians, including four from Iowa, were greeted by enthusiastic librarians in Bulgaria.

Jeanette Bobeen, Sioux City, Stephanie Schulte, Cedar Rapids, Sue Padilla, Newton, Wendy Street, Pella and Gina Millsap, Ames, were Iowa's delegates.

Bobeen, who visited the Nikola Furnadjiev Library in Pazardjik, Bulgaria, noted that "they all seemed interested in how we pay for things and where the money comes from. The idea of business partnerships and using volunteers is practically unheard of," she said.

"Bulgaria is a beautiful country and the people are amazingly warm and friendly," said Street. "It was a privilege to get to know our Bulgarian colleagues and talk to them about the similarities and differences in how we provide library service."

Millsap said her key message to the Bulgarians was "If you don't ask, you won't get."

"There were a few polite, neutral expressions, some consternation, and lots of vigorous shaking of heads," said Millsap. "For a minute I thought, 'Oh no, they're not buying this at all.'" "But then I remembered in Bulgaria, nodding one's head up and down means 'no'; shaking one's head from side to side means 'yes.'"

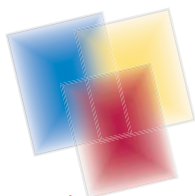
The goal of the American Bulgarian Library Exchange is to expand relationships between Americans and Bulgarians through their libraries, and to help libraries explore additional functions appropriate to the information age. Retired Colorado State Librarian Nancy Bolt founded the program nine years ago. Iowa came on board in 2004 with the help of Bob Anderson, executive director of IRIS (the Iowa Resource for International Service).

As Bolt noted in her article, *Public Access Computing in Bulgaria*, "A key component of the project is that Bulgarian libraries need to become more than 'museums of books.' They need to provide the information that people in their communities need and they need to offer opportunities for Bulgarian citizens to learn to use technology in the local public library.

"Only about 15 percent of the Bulgarian population has access to the Internet. The libraries are now focused on three efforts: providing computers to the public; building content for the public to use; and training staff to be of assistance."



Gina Millsap, center, former director of the Ames Public Library, is shown with librarians from Varna, Bulgaria.



Don't miss this year's Town Meetings!

Forget Oprah and Dr. Phil. You're invited to the new smash hit "Library Talk."

The morning session will include discussion of some of the hottest issues of the day, including "disturbed" librarians, how to get a grip on poor performance from staff and volunteers, and the "every day I need attention" attitude of some people.

This show has something for everyone -- support staff as well as directors. You won't want to miss it!

Time, dates and places:

- 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 20 - North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City
- Wednesday, September 21 - Waterloo Arts and Recreation Center, Waterloo
- Thursday, September 22 - Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City
- Tuesday, September 27 - Southwestern Community College, Creston
- Wednesday, September 28 - Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
- Thursday, September 29 - Urbandale Public Library
- Friday, September 30 - Urbandale Public Library

Four contact hours will be provided.

The three afternoon breakout sessions include

- What is "Fair?" Library Funding Issues
- Marvelous MARC + Simple Standards = Super SILO Locator
- Can We Talk Books? Guiding Readers to Their Next Books

For more information and to register, visit the State Library's Continuing Education web page at www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/continuing-ed/cecat.htm.



Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Angela Corwin, Dike
 Willona Goers, Johnston
 Marilyn Kennett, Grinnell
 Judy Kingery, Hiawatha
 Deborah Noonan, Eldridge
 Patsy Neer, Melcher-Dallas
 Toni Sinclair, Glidden
 Melinda Swieter, Rockwell City
 Karla Tenley, Clarence
 Sarah Uthoff, Oxford
 Lorna Van Maanen, Rock Valley
 Susan Zeigler, Exira

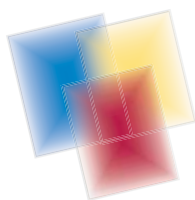
Important Dates to Remember

September

Library Card Sign-up Month
 September 5 - Labor Day Holiday
 Weeks of September 19 and 26 -
 State Library/LSA Town Meetings
 September 24 - October 1
 Banned Books Week

October

October 25 - Commission of
 Libraries Meeting, Des Moines
 October 19-21 - ILA Annual
 Conference - Dubuque
 October 16-22 - Teen Read Week
 October 30 - Annual Public Library
 Survey due at State Library



First Lady honors librarians and storytellers at Iowa State Fair

Iowa First Lady Christie Vilsack honored six librarians for their outstanding contributions to their communities in ceremonies Saturday, August 13, at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines as part of the Iowa Stories 2000 Storytelling & Literacy Communities Recognition Day.

Public libraries in Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Iowa Falls, Eldon, Lake Park and Zearing were recognized for participating in the First Lady's Iowa Stories 2000 community literacy projects.

"These libraries, their hard-working directors and their many dedicated supporters exemplify the best efforts of libraries all over the state to extend their services into their communities, and to expand the role of libraries in the lives of the people they serve," Vilsack said.

The Waterloo and Cedar Falls libraries, directed by Carol French Johnson, were honored for their work in early childhood education. The libraries developed a pilot project to open a school library in each of the two school districts on Saturday mornings for early childhood projects. They include teaching new parents, grandparents and care givers about the importance of reading.

The Lake Park Library, directed by Suzanne Hibma, provided seed funding for a community theater that put on two plays in April. It's expected the plays will become an annual literacy event.


In Iowa Falls, the Robert W. Barlow Memorial Library, directed by Deanne Henry, will conduct a book discussion group for teens held once a month during the lunch hour. Lunch will be catered by various local restaurants and the discussions will be led by community leaders.

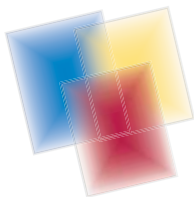
The Zearing Public Library, directed by Jean Watts, in cooperation with the Colo-NESCO Middle School and other community members and groups, purchased Girl Scout and Brownie project books and offered programs for middle school boys. The programs included sports speakers, and board and card games. Other games were purchased for upcoming winter activities.

The Eldon Public Library, directed by Pat Daniels, worked with the Cardinal School staff and others in the community to promote library use and literacy among middle school students. The project included a Movie Night and creation of a Youth Library Advisory Group.

The goals of the First Lady's Iowa Stories 2000 Foundation are to:

- Encourage reading and sharing of family stories with children early in life
- Continue to strengthen Iowa communities
- Focus on public and school libraries as community centers for lifelong learning
- Promote libraries as forums for intergenerational sharing of personal, family and community stories
- Foster working relationships between school and public libraries
- Encourage non-traditional partnerships between libraries and other community organizations, the media, businesses and groups
- Recognize communities that have achieved a high level of literacy through support of their libraries and the development of partnerships.

Vilsack said that other goals include recognizing communities that work to meet the literacy needs of underserved groups including middle school students, new Iowans, seniors and the disabled. The Foundation also seeks to promote technology education for parents and children and to encourage citizens to advocate for ample financial support for public and school libraries from cities, counties and the state. 



UI Libraries turn catalog cards into art

What do you do with millions of obsolete library card catalog cards? The University of Iowa Libraries are turning many of them into art.

As part of the celebration of its 150th anniversary this year, the UI Libraries will distribute old card catalog cards to people across Iowa and around the country and invite them to create a work of art on the card. The results will be displayed as part of a public art project over the next year.

UI Libraries Assistant Conservator Kristin Baum, who oversees the art project, said about one million cards will be sent in the coming months to school children, book artists, poets, writers and other artists.

“Through the project, named cARTalog, we hope to find as many creative uses as possible for the salvaged card catalog cards by reinventing them as mail art, artists’ books, collage, poetry and sculpture,” said Baum. “We also hope to generate a sense of community among those who love the card catalog.”

Anyone who is interested in participating in the project can obtain cards by contacting Baum at (319) 335-5503 or by e-mail at kristin-baum@uiowa.edu.



Congratulations Book Cart Brigaders!

The Central Iowa Library Alliance Book Cart Brigade won second place in the Non-Commercial division of the Walking & Performing category during this year’s Iowa State Fair Parade. This is the third year the brigade has participated in the parade. The group averages three parades a year. This year includes the Drake



Relays, the State Fair, and the Beaverdale festival this fall. According to Kahla Main, who helps organize events, “we perform an intricate, synchronized routine of cart moves and cheers, and are often accompanied by “Amelia Bedelia” and the “Library Action Figure.”

This year’s State Fair participants included Millie Knee, Jenny Pena, Jonnie Hockett, Susan Hayes, Susan Meyers, Sandy Dixon, Carol Taggart, Fran Fessler, Judy Jones, Kahla Main, Jeanette Andrews, Roy Kenagy, Pam Rees, John Lerdal and Jane Frizzell. For more information, visit the Central Iowa Library Service Area web site at www.cilsa.lib.ia.us/bookcart.htm.



Make Room for Teens

A workshop provided by the
State Library of Iowa

November 1, 2005
Iowa City Public Library
123 S. Linn St.

November 2, 2005 Heartland AEA Annex,
6445 Corporate Drive, Johnston

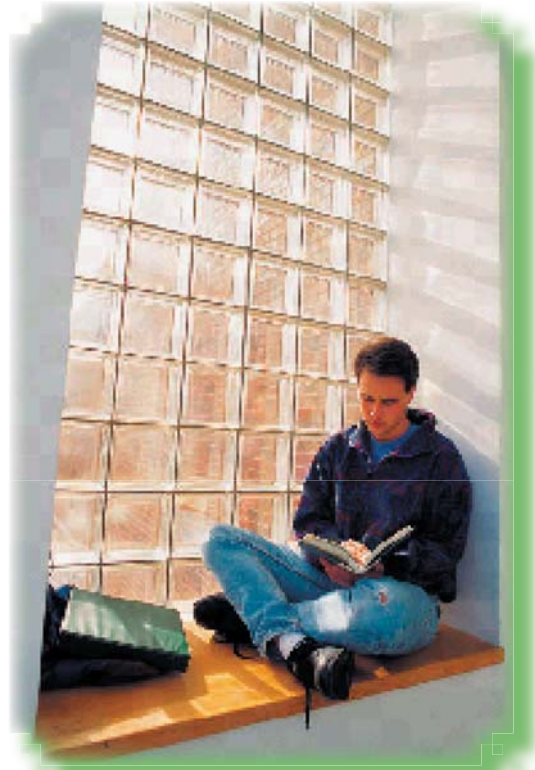
November 3, 2005 Storm Lake AEA, 832 Flindt Drive
(Hwy 7)

Registration 8:30
Workshop 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost \$15 - Includes lunch and morning break

Kimberly Bolan's workshop, "Make Room for Teens," is geared to public and school librarians alike, as well as for budgets big and small.

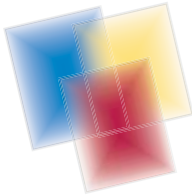
Topics will include teen involvement, space planning, design and implementation, alternative collection development and marketing. With before and after photos of young adult areas from across the United States, practical tips, vendor information, and a wealth of valuable handouts, Bolan will teach you how to easily and successfully plan, design, and market a teen area. You will be amazed at what you can create with a little imagination and some help from your teen friends!

For more information, including a registration form, please visit:
<http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/continuing-ed/cecat.htm#November>



Take Advantage of the State's Medical Library

Do you need help finding an obscure medical journal article for a patron? Are you having trouble locating a website or online database that will provide reliable information on a medical condition that a user has asked about? You have found information on a disease that a client has asked about, but now they are looking for more advanced materials that can only be found in professional medical journals. What should you do? Call or e-mail the medical reference desk at the State Library for assistance. The telephone number is 515-281-5772 or toll free at 800-248-4483. The e-mail address is medref@lib.state.ia.us or you can go to it through the State Library's website at www.silo.lib.ia.us and click on "medical library". The staff at the Medical Library will be happy to provide you with assistance. Give us a try! And don't forget www.HealthInfoIowa.org, the State Library's website for consumer and professional medical information.



Bikes among the books -- Libraries are popular spots with RAGBRAIers



Carolyn Walz, Estherville Public Library, with RAGBRAI riders

Once again Iowa public librarians opened early, closed late, and made sure that RAGBRAI riders had everything they needed.

Libraries on this year's route included LeMars, Alton, Sheldon, Primghar, Milford, Estherville, Ringsted, Fenton, Whittemore, Algona, Titonka, Woden, Crystal Lake, Lake Mills, Northwood, St. Ansgar, Stacyville, Riceville, Lime Springs, Cresco, Spillville, Ft. Atkinson, Waucoma, West Union, Elgin, Garnavillo, and Guttenberg.

The following are quotes from some of the librarians who welcomed bikers into their libraries.

Milford PL (Tena Hansen): "The Milford Library endured a baffling lack of RAGBRAI traffic as an inbetween town, but found out later that the city official in charge of giving directions sent all those asking for the library to a

bank of temporary computers instead. Only when riders insisted that they wanted the library were those directions given. Next time I'll make it a priority to speak with the person in charge of directions beforehand, and if possible, will have signs pointing to the library."

Estherville PL (Carolyn Walz): "The library opened at 7 a.m. and closed at 11 p.m. Since it rained off and on during the day, we had many people come in to read the newspapers or ask for a certain book they were reading to catch up on a few chapters. We had unique situations, such as someone needing to use the fax machine because his home had sold while he was gone and he had to confirm the sale. We had bikers from 16 states plus 43 from Iowa. My husband and I had 11 sleep at our home since they'd been soaked the night before. When I got home, they gave me a standing ovation! The friendships we made that day in the library and at home will be forever cherished in our hearts."

Devon Murphy-Petersen, Waukee Public Library (not on the route): "I drove up to Northwood last night to visit my husband and our 15-year-old son on the ride. The first thing my son showed me was his five new library cards! Many thanks for providing him with entertainment as they peddled across the state."

Whittemore PL (Sandy Long): "They started coming in at 8 a.m. and we were swamped until about 6:30 p.m. We have seven computers and people were waiting in line to use them. Close to 200 bikers signed our register and many, many more who didn't sign. A couple of guys took naps in the bean bag chairs in the children's room. Many gave us a five star rating for our computers, restrooms and helpfulness."



First Lady Christie Vilsack rode on RAGBRAI. She is shown here with some of her fans at the West Union Public Library."



Bikes among the books (cont.)

Algona PL (Jet Kofoot): “We had two young men who took advantage of our seminar rooms to play “connect four.” We had journalists and photographers from Des Moines and Sioux City. We found that it helps if the journalists have everything ready to go, and then just hook up to the Internet when they are ready to send everything to their papers. It has been very, very busy and very, very fun.”

Lake Mills PL (Toni Johnson): “RAGBRAI came through Lake Mills yesterday and we ended up seeing about 70 of the riders in the library. They were all very nice and fun to talk to. They were pleased that we had Internet, clean bathrooms with water and soap. My assistant also brought ice from home and we had glasses near the drinking fountain.”

West Union PL (Kathryn Meyer): “West Union hosted RAGBRAI the last night (July 29). Our library had 750 people through the doors plus many more in our computer lab on the lower level. Christie Vilsack also visited our library. We extended by three and a half hours the time we were open, but we could have stayed open longer. We had trouble closing at 7 p.m.”

State Library welcomes IMLS program officer



As part of his responsibilities as an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) program officer, Robin Cabot visited the State Library on August 23-24 to review the library's use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds.

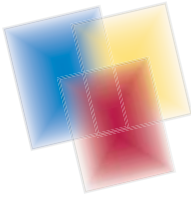
Cabot met with State Librarian Mary Wegner, Iowa's LSTA coordinator, Judy Jones, Library Development Program Manager, Sandy Dixon and other Library Development staff.

“We are proud of the level and extent of LSTA-funded projects in the state,” Cabot wrote. “We want and need to showcase them to others when it is appropriate, but this is difficult for us to do without having firsthand knowledge of the local situation and of the people involved.”

After spending a day and a half at the State Library, Cabot and two staffers visited the Winterset Public Library. Unbeknownst to staff, Cabot is a big fan of the late actor John Wayne, a Winterset native, and was excited to see the bridges of Madison County.

The main focus of Cabot's visit was to see the State Library, learn about its operation, meet some of the staff, and review statewide and local LSTA projects.

From left, Judy Jones, Sandy Dixon, Mary Wegner and Robin Cabot at the State Library.



Decrees of separation: Iowa's divorce laws

By Mandy Easter, Librarian II, State Law Library
(515) 281-5124; 1-800-248-4483; law@lib.state.ia.us

Statistics tell us that 50 percent of all marriages will end in divorce. The journey from husband or wife to “single person”—or even more difficult, “single parent”—is best navigated with lots of thorough and accurate information. Many people contemplating divorce or in the midst of the legal process turn to the most reliable information brokers they know: their public library. How can you help? What resources are available? Let the State Law Library help your staff and your customers access the legal resources—the “maps”—necessary for this trip.

Iowa Code chapter 598 is entitled “Dissolution of Marriage and Domestic Relations” and contains our state’s laws on divorce, annulment, alimony, child support, child custody and visitation. Section 598.21, entitled “Orders for disposition and support,” lists the legal guidelines used to determine alimony and child support. Section 598.41, entitled “Custody of children” lists the judicial guidelines used to determine child custody. Tell your customers that the Child Support Worksheet is available on the Internet through the Supreme Court’s website at www.judicial.state.ia.us under the “Families and Children” tab. Your customers will say they’ve heard that divorced parents are required by law to pay for their children’s college educations; is this true? Generally speaking, yes. Refer them to code section 598.21(5A).

Here at the Law Library, we are approached mostly by people who want to divorce without hiring attorneys. It is possible to represent oneself in a divorce proceeding, but not recommended. If your customers contact us for help, we have the content of most of the Iowa dissolution forms and real examples of how they look when they’re filed in district court. The content of the form’s caption and initial petition are actually given in the code in sections 598.4, 598.5 and 598.6. We also get a lot of requests for help with the process of modifying a divorce decree (changing the support, custody or visitation orders) or filing contempt charges for non-compliance with the terms of a decree. We have these forms and samples, too, which we can copy and mail upon request. Caution your customers about divorce forms and “do-it-yourself” kits in books, magazines or on the Internet: these are generic forms, not state-specific, and they may or may not be accepted in Iowa courts. Iowa divorce forms are NOT anywhere on the Internet, no matter what a particular form claims.

One more note of caution: the grandparent visitation laws in 598.35 have been ruled unconstitutional by the Iowa Supreme Court. More information is available in an article written by Vera Lichtenberger for *The Iowa Lawyer*, September 2003, page 19, “Grandparent visitation now at parents’ discretion: They essentially have no independent rights to see grandkids.” Upon request, the Law Library can copy and mail this article and three Iowa Supreme Court decisions that invalidated these laws.