



# Monday Morning Eye-Opener November 25, 2019

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November 25, 2019

## State Library Welcomes

### **Samantha Bowers** **Continuing Education Consultant**

We're pleased to introduce the State Library's new Continuing Education Consultant Samantha Bowers!

She started her new position on November 1<sup>st</sup> and has been busy learning the agency's continuing education and certification programs. Communications Specialist Emily Bainter talked with Samantha recently, asking her these questions as a way to help all of you get to know her better.



**What is your background?** Prior to coming to the State Library, I worked for a large nonprofit in their specialized library. I coordinated library training efforts there, worked the reference desk, and did the numerous "other duties as assigned" that come with working in a small-shop library. I've also done reference, instruction, and teaching in academic library settings. Education-wise, I went to Sibley-Ocheyedan High School in far Northwest Iowa (go, Generals!) I attended the University of Iowa for my undergraduate degree and my MLIS (2012 grad)

**What are you looking forward to most in working for the State Library?** I'm very excited to support Iowa's libraries and librarians! I look forward to helping the State Library continue to improve on its service to all of you. I know I have a lot to learn, but can't wait to get my hands dirty.

**What three words might co-workers use to describe you?** Hardworking, research-nut, and sometimes-too-loud-for-the-library.

**Do you have a favorite book or movie?** As it's unfair to ask a librarian for her favorite book, here are the last 3 books I've read:

- [A Better Man](#) (latest in Louse Penny's Inspector Gamache series)
- [Grant](#) (Biography of the General and President by Ron Chernow. Fun fact – did you know that the “S” in Ulysses S. Grant doesn't stand for anything? It was a typographical error on his West Point application)
- [The Magician's Nephew](#) (I'm on a *Chronicles of Narnia* re-read with my 3-month-old son. I'm definitely enjoying it more than he is, as he's slept through most of it)

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I'm absolutely nuts about Iowa. In fact, my husband and I have visited all 99 counties photographing courthouses and exploring numerous state and county parks. I also love to read, bake, garden, and take the dog on walks.

**You're sure to meet Samantha in the months ahead. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to her at [samantha.bouwers@iowa.gov](mailto:samantha.bouwers@iowa.gov) or call to say "Hi" at 515-281-6788.**



#### EDGE 1.0 IS SHUTTING DOWN

Download your Assessment Results and Action Plans by December 31, 2019 at [libraryedge.org](http://libraryedge.org).

edge

## Turn to Edge 2.0



First this important note—if you completed the **Edge Assessment** using **Edge 1.0**, then be sure to log into your Edge 1.0 account soon to download your Assessment Report and Action Plan. Because by **December 31, 2019** the Edge 1.0 software is shutting down, so we are steering libraries toward **Edge 2.0**.

The new **Edge 2.0 platform** came out in April with many easier, helpful features like:

- Updated assessment questions
- Simplified answer choices = yes / no / in progress

- Peer comparisons reports: compare your results with libraries of similar size, similar budgets, plus compare within your own state or region

## Points to Remember:

1. For all libraries needing to develop a long-range plan to meet Standard #17, this is an ideal time to complete the Edge Assessment using **Edge 2.0**. The software generates technology goals to fold into an action plan; those same tech goals can easily be folded into a broader long-range plan.
2. The assessment itself does not require data or numbers. The questions simply ask about the state of your library's technology, for instance: the number of public computers, the newness of software programs, how the library assists patrons with tech questions, how comfortable library staff feel in dealing with tech questions.
3. The Edge is available to all public libraries in Iowa entirely without charge—the State Library has paid for Edge access in 2018, 2019, and again in 2020. So there's still time to "**Take the Pledge and Join the Edge!**" Simply set up an account using **Edge 2.0** and complete the tech assessment—just click below!

## About the Edge

The Edge is a technology management tool that guides libraries of all sizes to set measurable, strategic goals for digital services and to engage government and local leaders in meaningful conversations about how public libraries contribute to a digitally literate community.

Edge 2.0 Assessment

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## YALSA's Top 10 Teen Titles

Each year in October, the ALA subdivision YALSA announces their **Teens' Top 10** list, voted on by teenagers across the country. Nominations open each year during National Library Week, then readers ages 12-18 vote online for their favorites from mid-August to mid-October. The **Teens' Top 10** list is announced in late October. Here are the books chosen for 2019—see how many your library owns



1. [#MurderTrending](#) by Gretchen McNeil
2. [Wildcard](#) by Marie Lu
3. [The Cruel Prince](#) by Holly Black
4. [Thunderhead](#) by Neal Shusterman
5. [Children of Blood and Bone](#) by Tomi Adeyemi
6. [The Prince and the Dressmaker](#) by Jen Wang

7. [American Panda](#) by Gloria Chao
8. [Batman: Nightwalker](#) by Marie Lu
9. [Speak: The Graphic Novel](#) by Laurie Halse
10. [The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo

## ABOUT YALSA

YALSA stands for the Young Adult Library Services Association. Its mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face and in putting all teens—especially those with the greatest needs—on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

[See Teens' Top 10 List At YALSA](#)

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## This Week ...

The calendar turns to December next week—already! For many library directors and staff, December is the month to gather up certification credits and make sure you have enough to renew. If your certification expires on December 31, 2019, you will need to apply for re-certification in January 2020. Instructions here <https://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/cert>

**As we anticipate the Thanksgiving Holiday, note that State Library offices will be closed for the holiday on Thursday and Friday this week. With vacation days ahead, look for the next issue of *Monday Morning Eye-Opener* on December 9.**

**Wishing You a Happy Thanksgiving!**



**Monday Morning Eye-Opener**

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