



From the State Library - September 2, 2020

A Message from State Librarian Michael Scott on the Future of Online Resources

Dear Librarians,

I am writing to you with the news that this fiscal year (FY 21) will be the final year of the contract for the State Library's Online Resources Package for Iowa libraries, which includes Gale databases, Credo, and Transparent Language (a cost-share between the State Library and Iowa public and academic libraries which have opted to participate). In addition, FY 21 will be the final year of contracts for OCLC FirstSearch, Gale's Opposing Viewpoints, H.W. Wilson Core Collections (via EBSCO), and Foundation Directory Online, which are paid for entirely by the State Library. Robust usage of these resources has been an ongoing challenge, and we feel that it is time to explore other options for products or services that could provide a better return on investment for the State Library and Iowa libraries.



Therefore, we will begin the process of gathering input on what resources would be most valued before potentially releasing one or more requests for proposal (RFP) later this fiscal year. I will be commissioning a task force composed of State Library staff and representatives from Iowa public libraries. The task force will be charged with evaluating the current resources, reviewing survey results and other feedback from the library community to determine the needs of Iowa public libraries and their patrons. The task force will also help shape the scope and criteria for any RFPs, and select members will participate in the review process to evaluate the proposals for new resources. We plan on having new contracts in place and resources ready to roll out for a smooth transition by July 2021.

We are getting started on this process early to make sure that we are thorough and do it the right way. Our end goal is to find resources to meet the needs of libraries and their patrons while remaining fiscally responsible and equitable to libraries. We want you to think creatively and really get to the root of what your communities need from your library. We will need your help to make this process successful, so please watch for and respond to the invitation to join the task force (coming this month), respond to upcoming surveys and be ready to give other feedback to ensure that your voice is heard.

I'm excited to think about what the future holds for us and look forward to working with you. More information on how to get involved in this process will be forthcoming. Thank you in advance for providing your time and effort on this important project. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to me at Michael.Scott@iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Scott
State Librarian of Iowa

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