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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

December 14, 2020



**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**
FOCUS ON SMALL AND
RURAL LIBRARIES

ALA American Library Association

**A SPECIAL GRANT
OPPORTUNITY
FOR SMALL AND
RURAL LIBRARIES**

Apply January 4 – March 4, 2021

The American Library Association (ALA) invites libraries in small and rural communities to apply for grant funding to assist in addressing issues of local concern through community conversations. This grant project is titled "**Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small, Rural Libraries.**" Up to 650 U.S. libraries in small and rural communities will receive \$3,000 each to tackle issues ranging from media literacy to COVID-19 safety to unemployment.

This is actually the second round of such grants. The first window closed on December 2nd with Iowa libraries making a very good showing! **The second application window opens on January 4 and remains open until March 4;** winning applications will be announced later in March.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for an expanding service role. This grant initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) and is supported by a private donor along with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Merservey Public Library Director [Chelsea Price](#) and Southwest District Consultant [Becky Heil](#) are on a national committee to help spread the word about this grant program. You're welcome to contact either of them with questions. And visit ALA's website for much more information at the button below, including

- [Project Guidelines](#)
- [Library Eligibility](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [A "Before You Apply" Video](#)
- [Online Application](#)

[Libraries Transforming Communities Grants](#)

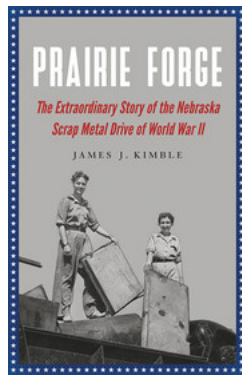
One Book, One Nebraska 2021

[Chooses Prairie Forge as Their 2021 Title](#)

Last month, the *Eye-Opener* announced the titles chosen for the **All Iowa Reads** program in 2021. And last week, this space included an article about a new book [Derecho 911](#) by Iowa authors Terry Swails and Carolyn Wettstone. Today, this news for history buffs and book groups: the 2021 title chosen for the **One Book One Nebraska** program is [Prairie Forge: The Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Scrap Metal Drive of World War II](#) by James Kimble.

[About the Book](#)

This description from Bison Books: "*In the wake of Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt called for the largest arms buildup in our nation's history. A shortage of steel, however, quickly slowed the program's momentum, and arms production fell dangerously behind schedule. The country needed scrap metal. Henry Doorly, publisher of the Omaha World-*



Herald, had the solution.

[Prairie Forge](#) tells the story of the great Nebraska scrap drive of 1942—a campaign that swept the nation and yielded five million tons of scrap metal, literally salvaging the war effort itself. James J. Kimble chronicles Doorly's conception of a fierce competition pitting county against county, business against business, and, in schools across the state, class against class—inspiring Nebraskans to gather 67,000 tons of scrap metal in only three weeks. This astounding feat provided the template for a national drive. A tale of plowshares turned into arms, [Prairie Forge](#) gives the first full account of how home became home front for so many civilians.”

Idea for Iowa Book Groups

Since Nebraska's WWII effort became a national challenge on the home front, [Prairie Forge](#) would make a good addition to Iowa library collections. And a good choice for Iowa book discussion groups as well—savvy librarians could do a little research into how much scrap metal Iowans were able to salvage in competition with their Nebraska neighbors :-)

About One Book One Nebraska

Like our **All Iowa Reads** program, **One Book One Nebraska** will plan discussions and events around their chosen title, in partnership with Nebraska libraries and cultural organizations. **One Book One Nebraska** is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission. The book is available at Bison Books or Amazon. Click to watch a video about Nebraska's program and their 2021 statewide choice [Prairie Forge](#).

[More About Prairie Forge](#)

Registration Open For ILOC 2021



January 21, 2021

Registration is now open for the State Library's annual **ILOC conference**, scheduled for **January 21, 2021**. **ILOC** stands for **Innovative Libraries Online Conference**, an annual day of online learning. 2021 marks our 14th such event—proving that we were doing virtual conferences before they were cool 😊

The **2021 theme** is **“Libraries are for Everyone! Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Action in Iowa's Libraries.”** As the United States continues to reconcile racial injustice and other types of inequality, libraries also work to ensure that their spaces, programs, and services are inclusive for all patrons and staff. This year, **ILOC** will give librarians will give librarians practical ideas and examples of how they can bring diverse voices to the table and become a place that is welcoming to all. From building balanced collections on opposing viewpoints to planning more diverse programming, we're planning sessions that will speak to a theme of equity and inclusion.

It's a full day, with keynote speakers in the morning, over the noon hour, and again in the evening with a program for library boards. Plenty of breakout sessions throughout the day, with proposed topics like community betterment book discussions, bilingual story times, serving youth in foster care, and much more.

Join us for as many sessions as you can throughout the day to learn how you can make your library an inclusive and innovative place for all. Watch the [ILOC webpage](#) and the **Eye-Opener** in the coming weeks for more announcements and for the full day's finalized schedule. In the meantime ...

[Register for ILOC 1-21-21 Today !](#)

This Week Online

Concrete 5 PLOW Classes

This **Wednesday December 16**, Marie Harms continues instructional sessions on using the new Concrete5 PLOW websites. 2:00-3:00PM every Wednesday now through the end of the year. Register for one or more inside IALearns



IAlearns Catalog

Envisioning Summer 2021 Webinars

Also this week, join one-of-two webinars that look ahead to summer 2021. Depending on whether you're new to your job or experienced in providing youth programming, choose between:

For New Librarians. December 16 @ 1:00PM. *"Description: Are you newer to the world of summer library programming? This session is for anyone who has planned and run a summer library program for 4 years or less."*

For Seasoned Pros. December 17 @ 1:00PM. *"Description: Feel like you've been doing summer programming forever? This session is for everyone who has planned and run a summer library program for 5 years or more."*

IAlearns Catalog



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