

First Lady highlights important role of today's libraries



By Christie Vilsack
First Lady of Iowa

Libraries have changed since the Andrew Carnegie days at the beginning of the 20th Century. Today's libraries are more than repositories for books. Today's librarians must adapt to the technology needs of their patrons of all ages and walks of life. They provide fiction, non-fiction, reference materials, CD's, DVD's, subscription data bases and computer access to anyone who walks in the door. They also provide invaluable services, facilitating the use of the technology, helping patrons find and critically evaluate information.

Refurbished, more modern versions of the Carnegie libraries continue to serve in places like Oskaloosa, Webster City and Dubuque. Other communities, like Des Moines, Marion and Perry have opted for new buildings to better meet the changing needs of their patrons.

Several years ago, I walked into the Independence, Iowa, Public Library and saw a circle of computers. What I saw in that circle was the campfire of the 21st Century. Our ancestors told their stories around campfires on the plains. My father grew up listening to stories around the pot-bellied stove in Spin Gibson's Bicycle Shop in Milton, Iowa. I grew up listening to stories around my family's Sunday dinner table. Today, family and friends keep in touch across town or around the world with computers, now a mainstay of every public library, large or small.

In 2003, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation granted \$3,932,411 to install 986 computers in 382 Iowa libraries. When I had the chance to meet Mr. and Mrs. Gates the summer of 2004, I said, "Thanks for the computers. We really appreciated your \$4 million investment."

The occasion was a dinner the Gates hosted at their home for the nation's governors when we met in Seattle. Mr. Gates seemed genuinely pleased that I had thanked him, and we spoke briefly about the work the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is doing to train librarians and to make high speed Internet available to people in rural areas across the country and around the world.

My father's philosophy of money was "enough and no more." The trouble, he said, is deciding how much is enough. I pondered this as I jumped on the trampoline in Gates' trampoline room, played pinball in the game room, and studied images of original art projected on framed screens built into the walls of every room. Imagine my delight at being able to hold first-edition American novels contained in their personal library, which is larger than many small town libraries in Iowa. Imagine the joy of reading a hand-written letter from Robert Frost to a young writer seeking advice.

Whether Mr. and Mrs. Gates have enough is their business, but they've been generous in their giving to America's public libraries. This is why the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is so invaluable to people around the world and to Iowans in particular.

Their contribution puts them in the ranks of philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie, who endowed more than 2,800 libraries nationwide. Andrew Carnegie made lifelong learning available to every United States citizen in the 20th Century. Bill and Melinda Gates are doing the same in the 21st Century.

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First Lady acknowledges Gates Foundation for support of libraries

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Today, not everyone can afford computers and software, not everyone has easy access, and so public libraries play an invaluable role in diminishing the digital divide. When Pulitzer Prize winning writer and historian David McCullough visited Des Moines recently he said public libraries contain everything that has ever been taught in a school. This is even truer now that libraries make technology, and technology instruction, free to their patrons. A 2002 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce (A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet) reports that groups identified as “digitally divided” defined by race, income, education and geographic location rely significantly on public library computers.

The summer of the first Gates grant, I visited the public library in Dexter, Iowa, located in what used to be a church. Director Linda Adkins had just unpacked and installed two new computers donated by the Gates Foundation. These sleek new machines looked incongruous in this historic building in a town best known for a plowing contest attended by President Harry Truman.

I was impressed that the director already knew how to use the computers and the accompanying software and she couldn't wait to instruct her patrons in their use. She was trained with a grant from the Gates Foundation. After that day, I continued to see more and more of the Gates computers in Iowa libraries. Linda Adkins says the impact is considerable in her rural community. The computers brought more children to the library, especially middle school boys. Eventually adults started using them to check their email, to do research on the Internet and to work on papers for college classes. The digital divide affects urban areas as well.

Carol French Johnson, library director for the Waterloo Public Library and the Cedar Falls Public Library, says the Gates computers and Gates software are worth about \$100,000 to her library. The lines of patrons waiting to use the public Internet access computers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. are proof that they are helping to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots, she says. Her Waterloo patrons use Gates computers to find information, to write resumes, and to complete their high school equivalency programs, says Johnson.

The Waterloo library provides added opportunity by using Enrich Iowa funds from the state to establish the UNI Learning Center. Patrons who need help accessing information, writing cover letters or other life skills can get help from trained staff who know how to teach them to use the software provided by the Gates Foundation.

When they first built the Carnegie libraries, people weren't sure that they needed libraries, mused Johnson. “Now we know we need libraries, but we're not sure what needs to be in libraries.” She finds it ironic that the day after they installed a wireless system in her public library, before she'd even advertised it, four patrons came to use the new system, and just assumed it would be available at a public library.

Iowa librarians around the state tell me that they are easing senior citizens into the digital age. At the Cherokee library, a reference librarian said that she taught her first grade teacher, the woman who taught her how to read, how to use a computer. Senior citizens in Iowa are checking their stocks, paying their bills and emailing their grandchildren on library computers.

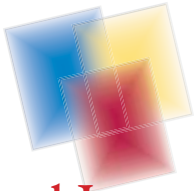
Recently the Gates Foundation granted the State Library of Iowa an additional \$749,000 in a “Staying Connected Grant” that will further train librarians to maintain web sites, centralize technical support, pay for high speed Internet access at more libraries and buy more computers for Iowa's poorest libraries. What Bill Gates recognizes is that providing hardware isn't enough. What will truly benefit Iowans most is the updating of software and the retraining of librarians. His generosity will result in 100 percent of Iowa's libraries having high speed Internet access.

But Gates is also worried that recent budget cuts will jeopardize much of what he's tried to do to bring access and know-how to those who don't have it.

My father used to say, “Never look a gift horse in the mouth.” It was his way of saying accept gifts graciously; make use of the gifts you are given.

The gift from Bill and Melinda Gates is not an excuse for government at any level to cut resources to public libraries. When this happens libraries cut hours, reduce staff and cut programs. The Gates investment in Iowa is an invitation to government to invest in literacy infrastructure and to provide resources for programming that directly affect the emotional and economic well-being of every man, woman and child in our state.

Continuing to support Iowa's public libraries could be Iowans' way of saying thank you.



Several Iowa communities vote to support public library service

November 8 was a banner day for several Iowa communities whose citizens voted in favor of the 27 cent levy, also known as the special library levy. This legislation allows cities to levy an additional tax of up to \$0.27 per \$1,000 assessed property valuation for support of a public library. There is a petition and referendum required to pass the levy; it becomes a ballot measure in odd-numbered years. The cities that passed the levy include:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Arthur | 39 to 13 |
| Cedar Falls | 2,875 to 2,174 |
| Colwell | 12 to 6 (contracts with the Charles City Public Library) |
| Denver | 202 to 160 |
| George | 218 to 45 |
| Hampton | 576 to 283 |
| Hanlontown (Kinney Memorial Library) | 44 to 11 |
| Harcourt | 44 to 15 |
| Lambs Grove | 44 to 20 (contracts with Newton Public Library) |
| Nashua | 288 to 146 |
| New Hampton | 317 to 195 |
| Primghar | 175 to 115 |
| Sheldon | 621 to 400 |
| University Heights | 311 to 43 (contracts with Coralville and Iowa City public libraries) |

Noted Judy Harper, Hampton Public Library Director, "We are celebrating this much needed victory. Every person in Hampton is a winner with this levy."

Elgin, Dumont, Letts and Villisca residents voted against the levy. Letts residents voted 37 to 37. Three people did not vote on the levy question.

Villisca library director Pat Means said the vote was 74 to 120. "I was disappointed but not surprised," said Means. "I think we will try again next time. Maybe the economy will be better by then. Gas prices probably didn't help."

Cities will be able to vote on the tax levy again in 2007.

All Iowa Reads author visits ILA conference



Louise Erdrich, author of this year's All Iowa Reads selection, The Master Butchers Singing Club, spoke at the Iowa Library Association (ILA) Conference on Friday, October 21. From left, First Lady Christie Vilsack, Erdrich, ILA President Kate Martin, and All Iowa Reads co-chair, Susan Craig.



State Library collaborates with Iowa Association of School Boards on “Following the Leaders” program

The Iowa Association of School Boards is working with a federal program secured by Senator Tom Harkin called Following the Leaders. The program provides two web-based technology tools and training to implement those tools to Iowa public schools at no cost.

Because of this program, the State Library of Iowa and the Iowa Association of School Boards are collaborating on two ICN information sessions for public and teacher librarians.

The sessions were held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. November 30 or December 1. Public and teacher librarians from participating schools are invited to attend the program. Letters of invitation have been sent.

The programs ask staff to assess students, analyze the data, and act – provide learning experiences based on what the assessment data says. The two programs are appropriate for grades 3 to 12, with one being a diagnostic assessment tool and the other a tutorial in the basic skills. There is content available in reading, grammar and mechanics, and mathematics, with limited content also available in science and informational skills. Students can use the tools anywhere they have access to the Internet. Parents in participating schools have expressed pleasure at being able to assist their children in learning to use the tools.

Eighty Iowa school buildings from all levels participated in the 2004-05 school year. They were part of an 11 state project that included 600 schools nationwide. Funding has been extended and expanded for the 2005-06 school year with Iowa able to expand the project to 225 school buildings.

Below are descriptions of the two programs:

Homeroom

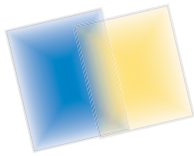
This is a web-based diagnostic assessment tool that has a test bank in excess of 300,000 questions in math, reading comprehension, and grammar and mechanics for grades 3-12. The questions are linked to the Iowa grade level indicators. The program also generates reports regarding what students know and can do. In addition there are some wonderful Internet resources available to parents, students, and teachers through the program.

Skills Tutor

This is a web-based tutorial available to students in grades 3-12. There are lessons in reading comprehension, vocabulary, mathematics, science and information skills that can provide remediation, reinforcement, and acceleration. The interactive lessons last from 15 - 20 minutes. Kids can access them at home, at the public library - wherever they have Internet access. Kids seem to like them – they’re fun, have great graphics, and are good support for classroom instruction.

For more information, contact Mary Cameron, State Library of Iowa, 1-800-248-4483; (515) 281-7572, or e-mail mary.cameron@lib.state.ia.us.





Pulitzer Prize Winning *Gilead* chosen for All Iowa Reads 2006

Read. And discuss this book!

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson was chosen as the All Iowa Reads book selection for 2006. The book won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award.

“There are many themes in this book to promote in-depth discussion - war and peace, time and place, prejudice, relationships both within and outside the family,” said Susan Craig, co-chair of All Iowa Reads.

“It is a beautifully written and compelling story that takes place in small town Iowa in the 1950s. It’s perfect for a statewide community reading event,” she said.

According to Publishers Weekly, fans of Robinson’s acclaimed debut *Housekeeping* (1981) will find that the long wait has been worth it. From the first page of her second novel, the voice of Rev. John Ames mesmerizes with his account of his life—and that of his father and grandfather. Ames is 77 years old in 1956, in failing health, with a much younger wife and six-year-old son; as a preacher in the small Iowa town where he spent his entire life, he has produced volumes and volumes of sermons and prayers, “[t]rying to say what was true.” But it is in this mesmerizing account—in the form of a letter to his young son, who he imagines reading it when he is grown—that his meditations on creation and existence are fully illuminated.

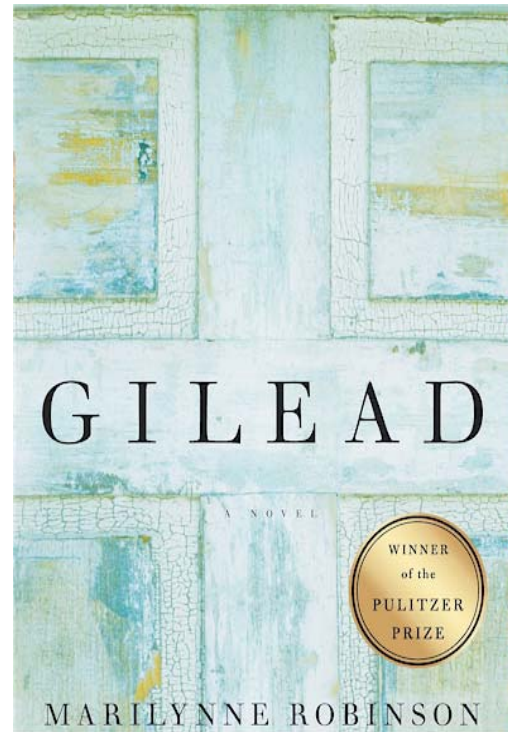
In addition to *Housekeeping*, (1981) winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award, Robinson has written two other books of nonfiction, *Mother Country* (1989) and *The Death of Adam* (1998).

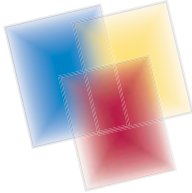
Robinson teaches at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

All Iowa Reads is a program of the Iowa Center for the Book, State Library of Iowa. The purpose of All Iowa Reads is to encourage Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single title in the same year. Libraries and other local organizations will plan programs and book discussion groups to talk about the selection.

Criteria for the selection of the annual All Iowa Reads book are that the book 1) must be available in paperback, large print and unabridged audio; 2) lends itself to in-depth discussion and raises universal social issues relevant to Iowans; 3) is accessible to adults and high school age youth; and 4) is a recent publication that has not been widely read. It is desirable, but not required, that the book has an Iowa or Midwest connection.

For more information, visit the Iowa Center for the Book web site at www.iowacenterforthebook.org.





Turn down the volume please!

As Internet use continues to rise and the volume of new information grows, everyone is overwhelmed.

Librarians and Information professionals continually try to guide users away from the noise of the Internet toward high quality resources, but it is difficult to be heard. There is tremendous competition for people's attention from electronic information, but when mass media and other forms of communication are thrown into the mix the volume is staggering.

Approximately 31 billion e-mails are sent each day on the Internet and elsewhere, a figure which is expected to double by 2006 according to International Data Corporation (IDC). E-mail ranks second behind the telephone as the largest information flow and accounts for over 35 percent of time spent on the Internet.

Disillusionment with the Internet and e-mail was inevitable, as everyone values their time. With the average knowledge worker receiving over 100 e-mail messages per day, the volume is just too high. How did this happen? In years past the sender bore the burden of time as it took considerable effort to write or type a letter, address and envelope, pay for postage, and get to the post office. With e-mail, the burden of time has shifted to the receiver. Every passing thought and impulse becomes instant communication, and every e-mail begs a response.

What can you do to help turn down the volume, both as a sender and a receiver? Try a few simple yet effective tips in your e-mail communication:

- Use a subject line to summarize, not describe
- Make action requests clear
- When you copy a number of people, mark out why each person should care
- Separate topics into separate e-mails

Once you have put these habits into practice and trained all the folks you correspond with to do likewise, shift your efforts toward a well-organized e-mail archive. First of all, give yourself permission to weed as you read -- in other words, you don't have to save everything. If a message does not request action or contain important information, let it go. Or let your sent file become your matter of record; if you respond to a message whatever was important will be in the body of that message.

For the e-mails you do want to save and organize, take a lesson from librarians and the good old card catalog. Remember the access points of author, title and subject? Decide which of these access points is most likely to work for you, and set up a group of folders. Since topics can often overlap, many people find that sorting by sender (author) is best. So your folders may look something like this:

- one for every mailing list you are on
- one for co-workers
- one for your boss or team leader
- one for the family
- one for friends
- one for people you do not know but may want to contact in the future

Many e-mail software programs offer their own tips and tools for organizing e-mail. If you find you still need more direction, toss a few terms into any popular search engine and you'll find endless ideas.

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Scott County public libraries release Libraries Together report on unification

The four libraries in Scott County (Bettendorf, Davenport, LeClaire and Scott County Library System) recently released the fourth of six reports of their Libraries Together project. The report, "Four into One: Unifying Libraries in Scott County, Iowa," looks at different options for creating a unified library and some of the changes needed to make it possible.

The libraries kicked off Libraries Together on March 1, 2005. The ten-month study will use public input to plan for the future. As Iowa searches for ways to deliver all government services more efficiently, the libraries initiated the study to allow Scott County library patrons to help shape the directions their libraries will take over the next several decades.

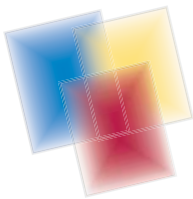
Highlights of the unification report:

- There are several different structures within which libraries have unified funding and governance to one extent or another. Iowa law allows for two types of non-municipal libraries – county and multi-jurisdictional – as well as for 28E agreements that can be used by municipalities to provide joint services.
- Efforts to create unified libraries often collapse around issues of tax equity and power sharing. There is also a significant trend nationwide for affluent communities to withdraw from formerly unified libraries as well as to pull out of reciprocal borrowing agreements.
- Of the possibilities currently allowed by Iowa law, directors of the four libraries in Scott County gave the highest marks to 28E agreements, which could be entered into for some or for most aspects of library services. Of the other options, directors gave the highest marks to library districts, which give a library taxing authority and, therefore, more stable funding. Iowa's neighbor, Illinois, has nearly 300 library districts, the largest number of any state.
- There are 15 county and city-county (unified) libraries and 9 municipal libraries that serve about the same population as live in Scott County. Per capita spending for libraries in Scott County, at \$36.90, is just slightly higher than the averages for either municipal (\$29.75) or unified libraries (\$31.37).
- If the four libraries became one unified library, with the same property tax levy county-wide, residents would see the amount they pay rise or fall depending on the tax capacity of their community and the current tax rate. Assuming that the total amount collected for library services would remain the same, residents in Bettendorf would pay 3 percent more and those within the Scott County Library system would pay 34 percent more. Residents of Davenport would pay 8 percent less, and residents of LeClaire would pay 67 percent less.

The Libraries Together project is designed to give county residents an opportunity to review the facts, consider the various options and consequences of action, and identify which options they prefer. The study, conducted by the non-profit Consensus organization, will include a county-wide survey on options for action and a series of public forums, as well as the customer satisfaction survey already completed.

Consensus is a Kansas City-based non-profit organization with 20 years of experience garnering public input to guide public policy. Consensus will deliver a final report detailing options for actions in December 2005. The report will not offer recommendations, but instead will offer several possible options for the citizens of Scott County.

Funding of Libraries Together is made possible by the Scott County Regional Development Authority, the Riverboat Development Authority, the State Library of Iowa using federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act, as well as the Friends of the Bettendorf Public Library and each of the four public libraries.



Sign up now for Iowa Data Center releases

Do you want to:

- Stay current with new population estimates for your community?
- Help customers and community decision-makers find Iowa statistics fast?
- Find out about new training opportunities for data users?

The State Library's State Data Center program has a mailing list that can help.

The mailing list, IowaSDC, notifies subscribers about new releases of Iowa population, demographic, and economic data. Beth Henning, coordinator of the State Data Center program, says the mailing list is an easy way to keep up-to-date with new Iowa data releases without being inundated with email. Subscribers can expect to receive messages about once a week, when new data are added to the State Data Center's web site. The list is also used to notify readers about census issues and training opportunities for Iowa data users.

You can subscribe to IowaSDC by going to "News and Announcements" on the State Data Center's web site at www.iowadatacenter.org. Click on "Subscribe to the SDC mailing list to receive announcements about new data releases and training". Of course, you may also continue to check for updates by clicking on "New data on the site".

Try out new statewide continuing education catalog

A new and improved statewide continuing education catalog will replace the State Library's former CE catalog January 1. Developed by the State Library's SILO staff, the new software allows searching by specific event. Another feature allows browsing by calendar quarter, by training topic and by CE sponsor.

Users will also be able to use the system to determine whether they have registered for a particular event.

The catalog will include CE events sponsored by the State Library and the Iowa Library Service Areas, making it THE place for "one-stop shopping" for library related training and continuing education.

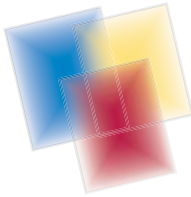
Before registering for a particular event using the new CE catalog, you must create a user account with login and password. The system will ask for your name, library, contact information, etc.

Library staff are encouraged to get acquainted with the new catalog at <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/cgi-bin/cecat/>. If you have questions about using the new CE catalog, State Library staff are ready to help. Call us at 515-281-6788 or 800-248-4483.



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. **Rebecca Johnson**, Cascade; **Amy Kohlsted**, Altoona; **Eric Melton**, Ankeny



MINUTES
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES
October 25, 2005, State Library of Iowa

Present: Monica Gohlinghorst, Frank Sposeto, Paul Roberts, Rita Martens, Pam Bradley, Jann Freed, David Boyd
Staff: Mary Wegner, Barb Corson, Beth Henning, Sandy Dixon, Annette Wetteland, Tom Keyser, Toni Blair, Steve Cox, Carol Simmons
Guests: Emily Navarre, Administrator, Southeastern Library Services

Gohlinghorst called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

The agenda was set with the following changes: Wegner requested that Discussion Item C, public library funding, be moved to Action Item D, and that an introduction be added after setting the agenda. Bradley moved to approve the changes in the agenda, Roberts seconded. Motion carried. Dixon introduced Toni Blair, the new information technology support worker in Library Development, and gave a short overview of her duties. She was welcomed by the Commission.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Martens moved to approve the minutes as received, Sposeto seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported on the first quarter budget. The funding for two staff positions was moved from federal to state at the beginning of the fiscal year, because job duties had changed and no longer met the criteria for federal funding. All other expenses were in line. He also reported that 419 of the 493 public libraries in Iowa have signed up for EbscoHost. Roberts moved to approve the financial report as presented, Freed seconded. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment

None

5.0 Action Items

A. Appointment to Northeast Iowa Library Service Area board of trustees

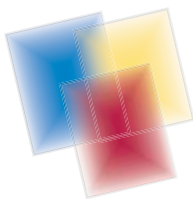
Dixon presented Doug Beed from Cedar Falls as a potential appointee to the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area board of trustees. Bradley moved to appoint, Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

B. State Library administrative rules - chapters 4 and 7

Wegner explained that deletions in the administrative rules were marked with black strike outs and additions were in red. After discussion of the changes, consensus was reached to add changes to Chapter 4, "Meeting Room Policy", section 286-4.5(256), to clarify meeting rooms versus ICN rooms. Bradley moved to approved Chapter 4 with the changes, Roberts seconded. Motion carried. Chapter 7 "Internet Use Policy" was discussed. Wegner clarified that the State Library operates as a special library rather than a public library. Wegner presented two changes, both in 286-7.6(256) Staff Assistance. The first was to strike the second sentence of subsection 1, "Staff cannot provide in-depth training for users, but will provide information on training classes in the area." The State Library staff will provide assistance as needed. The second was to strike subsection 3, "Staff reserves the right to waive the procedures contained in this document as circumstances warrant." Martens moved to approve Chapter 7 with the discussed changes, Sposeto seconded. Motion carried.

C. Development of Plan of Service for Fiscal Years 07-08

Wegner explained that the Code of Iowa, section 256.51e, requires the State Library to "develop, in consultation with the library service areas and the area education agency media centers, a biennial unified plan of service and service delivery for the division of libraries and information services." The State Library has hired Susan Henricks, director of the Dubuque Public Library, to facilitate the process of developing the Plan of Service for FY07-08. The first meeting is scheduled for November 8, 10:00 a.m. at the West Des Moines Public Library. Representatives from the LSAs, LSA boards of trustees, State Library, Commission of Libraries, and AEA Media Divisions will participate. Gohlinghorst moved to approve the proposed process for development of the Plan of Service, Roberts seconded. Motion carried.



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D. Public Library Funding (moved from Discussion Item 7.0 C)

Dixon explained that at their last meeting the Commission requested that a letter from the Commissioners regarding public library funding be sent to Iowa public library board presidents. The letter is to include the following statement: The Iowa Commission of Libraries strongly endorses the principle of adequate compensation for library services to all Iowans. Toward that end, the Commission encourages library boards to adopt policies regarding contracts for library services that assure equitable tax support for libraries by all jurisdictions. Dixon presented a draft of the letter. She reported that she and Wegner led a session at Town Meetings focusing on public library funding inequities. Dixon referred to a handout that showed average per capita funding for libraries from cities and counties. Wegner and Dixon discussed this information with staff at the department of management who work with city funding and with county funding, who confirmed that the information is accurate. Dixon and Wegner will lead an ICN session for librarians and trustees regarding funding inequities from 4 to 6 p.m. on November 10. The recommendation from the Commission was to list individual Commissioner names as part of the signature of the letter. Roberts moved to approve the letter with the changes, Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

6.0 Communications

A. Commission Reports

Martens reported that she is chair of a committee charged with developing a model core curriculum for Iowa high schools. She explained its purpose and thanked Henning for presenting census and demographic information at the committee's first meeting.

Bradley has been asked to be a judge for a national contest on health literacy promotion, sponsored by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Gohlinghorst announced that Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson, was chosen as the All Iowa Reads book for 2006. Discussion of criteria for selection followed.

Sposeto has been visiting some libraries and was very impressed with Webster City. He also asked where the Des Moines Zoo and Botanical Center collections were held. Wegner said she would check and get back to him.

Roberts said he attended Town Meetings in Waterloo, the Iowa Library Association Conference, and an information literacy workshop in Chicago. Clarke College will soon have an information literacy tutorial on their website. Bradley asked that he share the information with her.

B. Special Reports – Introduction of Tom Keyser, new State Library staff member

Corson introduced Tom Keyser, the new librarian in Library Services, whose primary responsibility is development of Iowa Publications Online. Tom gave a brief report on his background and experience. The Commission welcomed him to the State Library.

C. Library Service Areas Report - Emily Navarre, Southeastern Library Services

Wegner introduced Navarre to the new Commissioners. Navarre reported that her region has 53 public libraries. She discussed in further detail the Plan of Service that the LSAs and State Library will be working on and the public library planning model ("Planning for Results") that serves as the model for the process that will be used. She described a consulting project that Quad City libraries are involved in called Libraries Together, which is looking at more ways the Quad City libraries can collaborate. The State Library has provided a \$10,000 LSTA grant to help fund the Quad Cities library project, in the belief that it may serve as a model for other Iowa libraries.

D. State Librarian's Report

1. Library Services report - Barb Corson

Corson reported that two Information Fairs were recently held in state office buildings, where State Library staff provided information about State Library services and databases. She also reported that in the spring another round of the Bulgarian exchange program will have three librarians visiting Iowa.

2. State Data Center report - Beth Henning

Henning said she has done several presentations recently. She presented at a statewide diversity conference, the



M I N U T E S
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES
October 25, 2005, State Library of Iowa

Model Core Curriculum meeting, the Iowa Library Association Conference, and will speak to a group at the University of Iowa. Gary Krob, State Data Center, has developed profiles for Asian, Hispanic and Latino populations in Iowa, and is working on one for African Americans.

3. Library Development report - Sandy Dixon

Dixon reported that 445 people attended Town Meetings this year. The evaluation forms from the meetings asked attendees to identify the most important services the State Library and LSAs provide, and what they would like to see in the future. The replies will be discussed when the State Library and LAS begin work in November on the Plan of Service. Direct State Aid checks were mailed last week. The new electronic Continuing Education Catalog is up and running and the first test of the system will be registration for the Summer Reading Workshops that Mary Cameron presents. So far 34 people have successfully used the system to register for the workshops.

Wegner said she, Mary Cameron and Michele Leininger met recently with First Lady Christie Vilsack and her chief of staff, Emily Thomson, to talk about information literacy. The State Library has made a formal request to the Board of Educational Examiners to change the language in Iowa's requirements for teaching endorsements from the phrase "media specialist" to "teacher librarian." The change has the full support of Judy Jeffrey, director of the Department of Education, and the enthusiastic support of Iowa Association of School Librarians and the Iowa Library Association. Legislation will be introduced to the General Assembly in 2006 to reinstate a requirement that all schools employ teacher librarians. Wegner reported that the State Library has sold the Curtis collection of books about North American Indians, and that the proceeds will be used to improve the State Library's collections. Wegner was in touch with Sharman Smith, Mississippi State Librarian, former Iowa state librarian, on what Iowa libraries can do to help Mississippi libraries recover from Hurricane Katrina. The State Library will help coordinate contributions from Iowa when the Mississippi libraries are ready.

7.0 Discussion Items

A. State Library budget requests

At ILA's request, Wegner reported on the State Library's budget cuts at the fall conference. She said she explained that since 2001, the State Library's budget has gone down almost 30%, and LSA budgets have been reduced almost 20%. For the State Library, this amounts to \$500,000 less each year. LSA staff has been reduced 30% and several LSAs have only one librarian. State Library staff has been cut 15% and the book budget is down from \$400,000 a year to less than \$30,000 a year. Wegner noted that state government revenues are growing (6%), but neither the State Library nor the LSA budgets have been restored. Wegner said she hopes to see improvements in these budgets during the next legislative session. She distributed copies of the State Library's requests for FY07 operating budget and FY07 Enrich Iowa funding. The State Library has requested \$1,803,555 for FY07 operating funds, an increase of \$425,000. The State Library will use the additional funding to purchase library books and journals, purchase computer software to allow better collection of school library statistics, and develop a sharing incentive program to encourage Iowa public libraries to work toward deeper levels of intergovernmental collaboration. The State Library has requested \$2,913,984 for FY07 Enrich Iowa funding, an increase of \$315,000. The requested additional funding will raise the library's reimbursement for each Open Access loan from \$.31 to \$.40.

B. Cataloging supplement project

Wegner noted that at the August Commission meeting, members approved distribution of some of the Enrich Iowa funds for a one time supplement to Iowa public libraries for the purchase of high quality cataloging records. Libraries that participate will receive a check for \$400. Wegner said that Marie Harms, State Library, developed a very good session on the cataloging supplement and cataloging standards that she presented at Town Meetings. To date, 254 libraries have requested the funding.

C. Public library funding (moved to Action Item D)

8.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2005, State Library of Iowa