



March 11, 2021

Update on the Bridges RFP

The State Library has issued an RFP for Bridges, the downloadable ebook and audiobook product for Iowa public libraries. The existing contract with OverDrive is due to expire this June, and as a state agency we are required to go through a bid process in order to secure a new contract. This is the same process we went through in 2015 when NEIBORS & WILBOR merged into Bridges. If you are interested, the RFP can be found here: <http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov>. (Note that this is a separate process from the current online resources review project that is also happening concurrently.)



As in 2015, the bidding and contracting process will push back our normal re-enrollment procedure by a few months. We will wait until the new contract is signed to issue the FY22 Letters of Agreement for you to sign. We anticipate that to happen in early June, so we will be expecting a quick turnaround on the signed agreements. Consider putting the question before your board in May so you're ready to get them signed as soon as possible when they are released.

This will also slow down the process for libraries joining Bridges for the first time. We anticipate new libraries will be able to enroll and be onboarded in the first quarter of FY22.

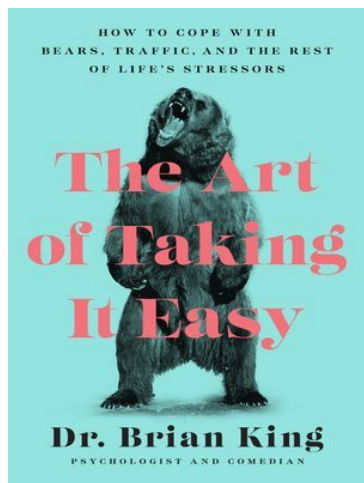
Anticipated Timeline:

- May: Libraries consider requesting board approval for Bridges participation.
- Early June: Contract signed by State Library and selected vendor; Letters of Agreement issued to existing member libraries.
- Mid-June: Libraries return signed Letters of Agreement.
- By the end of September: New libraries enroll and onboarded to Bridges.

As always, the details and schedule are tentative and may change; we will communicate any important updates as soon as possible. Thank you for thinking ahead and ensuring a smooth transition to the new contract in FY22!

If you have any questions, please contact anyone from the Bridges Team:

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The next Big Library Read

The next Big Library Read kicks off on April 5 with the ebook ***The Art of Taking It Easy*** by Dr. Brian King. From a psychologist and stand-up comedian comes a practical, yet laugh-out-loud, guide to embracing humor to reduce stress and live a happier, fuller life.

Get your community excited about Big Library Read with OverDrive's [marketing materials](#), which include social graphics, a poster and press release template.

And readers have a [chance to win](#) a Samsung Galaxy Tablet and signed book by the author from OverDrive if they use #biglibraryread on social media.

Thank you for being a Bridges member library!

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