**State Library Update**  
         
[www.statelibraryofiowa.org](http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org)   
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**In this issue:**

\*The State Library will celebrate **National Library Week**, April 3-7, 2006, by offering:

* A wide variety of **free classes** at the State Library to enhance your information skills
* An informative **Lunch & Learn on the evolving avian flu** and its progress in Iowa, on Wednesday, April 5th, given by Dr. Russell Currier

\*Customize your data - A service from the **State Data Center**

\*The State Library hires a certified **archivist**

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**National Library Week classes** are free to state employees and cover many topics of interest. They last only an hour and are held at the State Library in the beautifully restored Ola Babcock Miller building at E. 12th & Grand.

-Improve your Internet search skills and save time doing research in the **More Than Just Google** class.

-Legal research is de-mystified by attending **Legal Research Using Westlaw.**

-In times of tight budgets, applying for and receiving grants is a must. Check out **Grant Research: Using State Library Resources**.

-Heard of RSS feeds and want to know how they can be used to keep you informed? Attend **Using RSS: Keep Up With the Information Avalanche**.

-Those who need to research medical topics have a variety of classes to choose from, including beginning and advanced **PubMed**; searching national **toxicology databases**; locating reliable health information on **HealthInfoIowa**; and finding and utilizing **evidence based medical research**.

-It can be difficult to locate authoritative research and articles on the Web. Let us show you the State Library's extensive article databases: **EBSCOHost and FirstSearch**.

-Many publications produced digitally by your agency need to be archived for future use. Check out how to archive them -at no cost to your agency- by attending **Iowa Publications Online**.

For more information about each class and to register online go to [www.silo.lib.ia.us](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us) and click on Training.

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A human-adapted avian flu virus, in less than a year's time, could affect upwards of half the world's population with a mortality rate of 2 to 5%.

As an avian flu pandemic becomes a reality, we all would like to know more. Plan to attend:

* **Tracking Bird Flu Anxieties: Through the Lens of 20th Century Progress in Preventing Influenza**
* Lunch & Learn sponsored by the State Library of Iowa
* Wednesday, April 5th, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Room 310 of the Ola Babcock Miller Building, E. 12th & Grand, Des Moines
* Bring your lunch, drinks will be provided.

Dr. Russell Currier, retired Iowa State Public Health Veterinarian, will review early influenza history with an emphasis on how these viruses work and the role of birds and swine in propagating new strains. He will also cover:

-Contributions by scientists with Iowa connections who assisted with flu virus studies including the virus that devastated Camp Dodge, Iowa during the 1918 pandemic.

-Risk factors promoting avian flu and consequent human exposures.

-A review of current research in developing an effective avian or "bird" flu vaccine.

**Reservations for this event are required!**

Call the State Library of Iowa, 515-281-4105, 800-248-4483, or e-mail is@lib.state.ia.us.

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You might be familiar with the **State Data Center's Web site** at [www.iowadatacenter.org](http://www.iowadatacenter.org) .  It's a treasure trove of statistics about Iowa's population, housing, businesses, and governments. But did you know the State Data Center prepares customized census data tabulations on request, as well as radius studies and thematic maps?

State Data Center staff use census databases to combine population and housing characteristics not usually tabulated in standard census products. An example is earnings by educational attainment by age. Up to three variables can be combined for counties, cities, and zip codes; more than three variables can be combined for larger areas, such as counties and groups of counties with at least 100,000 people. To protect confidentiality, filters limit the amount of information disclosed about small areas.

If you need to know demographic characteristics within a radius of a site or a zip code, State Data Center staff can show you how to produce area profiles on the Web in just minutes.

Finally, if you want a visual representation of how demographic characteristics are dispersed among states, counties, or census tracts, the State Data Center can produce basic thematic maps from Arc/GIS, or we can show you how to produce your own maps on the Census Bureau's American FactFinder Web site.

To take advantage of these services, call Gary Krob at 515-281-6618 or Beth Henning at 515-281-4350, 800-248-4483 or e-mail the State Data Center at census@lib.state.ia.us.

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When **Tom Keyser** was recently hired to work on the Iowa Publications Online program, his background in archives and records management was a natural fit.

"I am more attuned to what type of information is currently being created in only digital form and what has the lasting, intrinsic value that makes it so important to capture and preserve for the future," said Keyser.

Keyser received his Masters of Library and Information Science with an emphasis in Archives and Records Enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998. He worked in an archive and library for three years and passed the certification exam in 1999 and recertified by exam in 2005.

The State Library is responsible for collecting and posting digital state agency reports and records through the Iowa Publications Online program. To date, 148 state agencies have placed more than 3,000 documents on the Web, securing their availability in the future.

"One thing people do not realize is that the information they put on paper or in digital documents today will be archival in nature. It depends on the information, not the format or the time it was created. It does not have to be old to be useful or important in an archive," Keyser said.

A lot of what an archivist does is similar to the work of a librarian, said Keyser, including reference, cataloging, management, collection development, outreach and marketing.

"Some of the biggest differences are the type of materials an archivist deals with and the in-depth knowledge needed to arrange, describe, handle and preserve the materials," said Keyser. "An archivist works with primary source materials such as letters, photographs, ledgers, diaries, notes, and many other types of materials, all of which have a lasting historical, legal, financial, or other intrinsic value."

Tom has been working to archive the State's digital documents. For a look at the digital archive go to **Iowa Publications Online** at [www.publications.iowa.gov](http://www.publications.iowa.gov) .

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) was founded in 1989. In 2005, membership exceeded 800 people worldwide. Keyser is one of eight certified archivists in Iowa.

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OTHER SERVICES that the State Library offers free of charge are:

\*To register for a library card on-line go to [www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-state-govt/state-library-card/](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-state-govt/state-library-card/) and fill out the registration form, or contact our reference desk at 515-281-4102, 800-428-4483, or e-mail is@lib.state.ia.us.

\*The State Library's online catalog <http://catalog.lib.state.ia.us> gives you instant access to thousands of resources. If you find something you want, request it with a click of your mouse.