

LSTA supports Iowa Center for the Book

The Iowa Center for the Book, a program of the State Library of Iowa, is an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The mission of the Iowa Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries.

This is the fifth year of the **All Iowa Reads (AIR)** program, which encourages Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single title in the same year. This is the first year AIR has chosen a nonfiction title, *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio* by Jeffrey Kluger. As part of the 2007 program, the Iowa Center for the Book is collecting stories from Iowans about what they remember of the impact of polio and the development of the polio vaccine. Their stories may be read at <http://www.iowapoliostories.org/stories/index.html>.



Nationwide, over 56,000 students entered the **2007 Letters About Literature** contest. There were 1,921 entries from students in Iowa, a 90% increase from 2005.

768 from students in grades 4 through 6
769 from students in grades 7 and 8
384 from students in grades 9 through 12

The Letters About Literature national office read all 56,000 entries and returned semifinalist letters to each state. In Iowa there were 47 semifinalists at Level I, 40 at Level II, and 34 at Level III.

Iowa Publications Online

The State Library of Iowa and Iowa Technology Enterprise collaborated to produce Iowa Publications Online (IPO), a permanent archive where the public can find digital state documents produced by state agencies.

IPO now includes almost 4,000 documents from over 150 state agencies.

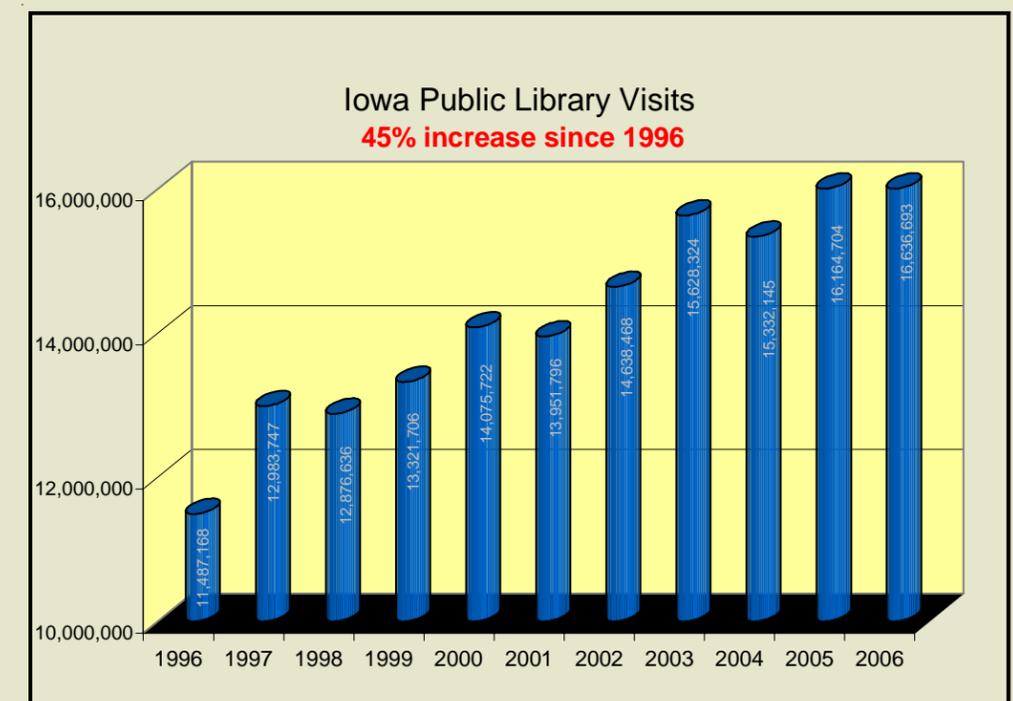
Iowa is one of only a handful of states that collects and makes digital information available in this way. In FY06, IPO had more than 445,000 Web hits. An added bonus: This information will be permanently available in the future.

Building Consulting Grants

The State Library allocates Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to provide Iowa libraries with building consultation. These grants allow librarians to get professional advice from impartial consultants who provide guidance and recommendations to library staff, city officials and the community on the extent and complexity of building or remodeling a library.

Public libraries that received grants in FY06-07 include Ames, Cedar Rapids, Le Grand, Lime Springs, Manning, Nevada, North English, Polk City, St. Charles, Sioux City, Williamsburg, Wellsburg and Swisher.

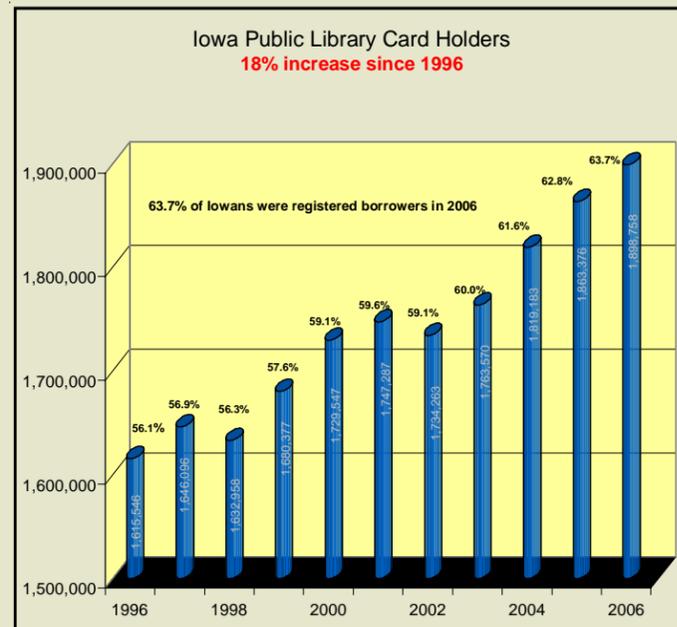
Impact of Federal Library Services and Technology Act Funds in Iowa



State Library of Iowa
www.statelibraryofiaowa.org
May 2007
Mary Wegner, State Librarian

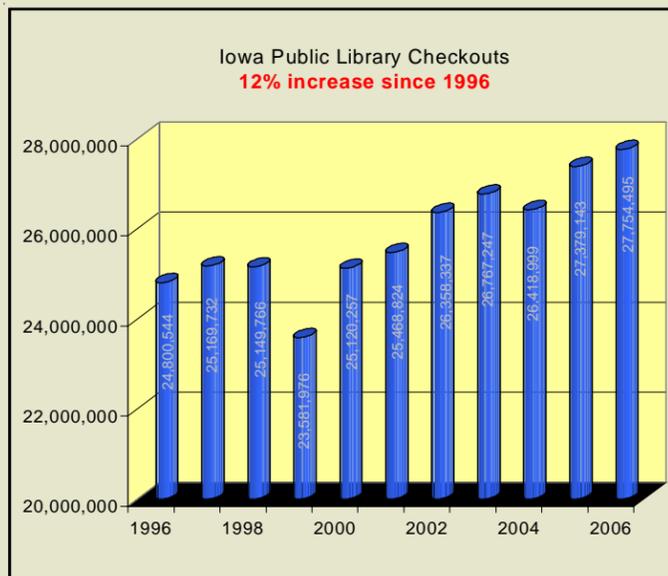
So much for the prediction that libraries will become obsolete with the introduction of the World Wide Web and the Internet.

Libraries matter in Iowa.



Iowans love and use their libraries. Since 1996, library visits to Iowa public libraries are up 45 percent, the number of public library cardholders is up 18 percent and the number of materials checked out rose 12 percent.

Nearly two-thirds of all Iowans benefit from the Library Services and Technology Act.



The State Library seeks to sustain a state of learners because lifelong learning is essential to individual success and to a democratic society. Thanks to LSTA funding, the State Library empowers Iowa libraries to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, to build 21st century skills, to sustain cultural heritage and to increase civic participation.

Successes Made Possible by LSTA Funds

- The State Library uses LSTA funds annually to purchase EBSCOhost informational databases so all Iowans have access to full-text magazines and newspaper articles through the Internet. **Iowans used EBSCOhost 8,138,821 times in FY06, a 58 percent increase from FY05.**
- The 2006 summer library reading program reached approximately 39%, or 142,578, of Iowa's children.
- In FY02, only 25% of Iowa's public libraries had high speed Internet service. **Today, 89% of public libraries have high speed access.** The State Library facilitated this transformation by highlighting the role of libraries in providing public access computing and advising libraries about their high speed Internet options.
- In FY03, 376 libraries (69%) provided **reading and literacy outreach programs** to targeted populations and customers with special needs. In FY06, the number of libraries providing such programs **increased to 455 libraries (84%).**
- In partnership with the Iowa Library Association, the State Library used LSTA funds to help fund leadership institutes. **More than 90% of participants reported increased confidence in their ability to be a change agent.**

LSTA helps the State Library improve library service to Iowans through knowledgeable, customer-oriented staff

- Of 543 public library directors, 492 (91%) participate in the Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians. The program is designed to improve library service in Iowa by improving the skills of public library staff. The program was revised so that librarians have more options for meeting continuing education requirements. This includes continuing education credit for online courses and for demonstrating back in their communities that they have used what they have learned
- Through a partnership with Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR), the State Library sponsored national educational teleconferences produced by the College of DuPage. These have particular appeal for librarians with MLS degrees.
- The State Library stressed the importance of the information literacy role for public as well as academic and school librarians. More than 1,351 librarians were trained on how to help their customers find, evaluate and use information more effectively.
- To address the decline in the number of teacher librarians employed by school districts, the State Library worked with the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Library Association to get legislation passed in 2006 that reinstated the requirement that each Iowa school district have a qualified licensed teacher librarian. The State Library is now working with the Department of Education to establish guidelines for K-12 school library programs.

