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Libraries share their proudest achievements, plans for coming year

As we prepare to move into a new year, Iowa Library Services / State Library staff was curious to know what libraries considered their most rewarding achievements in 2011, and what they are looking forward to in 2012. The following are their stories.

Dawn Hayslett, Director, Dubuque County Library

On Sept. 13, Dubuque County Library (DCL) opened a combined public/community college library for the students and staff of the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC/Peosta), the residents of Peosta, and the citizens of Dubuque County. NICC renovated an industrial tech building with Vision Iowa funds to create the new library. They designed the library with access to the parking lot for community members, an outdoor book return, community meeting rooms, and a story time space that is truly amazing.

NICC staff and DCL staff work side by side to provide assistance to students, children, and Peosta residents. DCL and NICC have a staffing contract specifying that DCL pays for a staff member who was hired by NICC and is jointly supervised by DCL and NICC library directors. DCL staff also provides storytimes, craft programs, author visits, and movie nights at NICC/Peosta on a regular basis. In three months the new branch has registered 100 new borrowers and has circulated over 700 items. This is a partnership that can be duplicated in other communities in order to provide outstanding, cost effective, library service.

Dubuque County Library (DCL) is looking forward to moving its Farley Branch to Drexler Middle School and re-opening on January 3, 2012. The DCL library board signed a 28E agreement on November 22, 2011 with the City of Farley and the Western Dubuque Community Schools (WD) to create a combined school/public library for Drexler students, the Farley community and Dubuque County citizens. The citizens of Farley have much to look forward to in the new year, including additional hours of operation and a beautiful new facility.



Peosta library

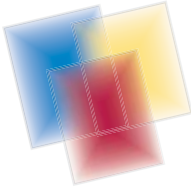
Connie Mataloni, Director, Sibley Public Library

Our proudest moment actually ties in with what we are looking forward to in 2012. The Sibley Public Library Board and staff wrote a new mission statement, along with long-range goals and objectives. The library followed the Planning for Results model that was developed by the Public Library Association. We were assisted by Bonnie McKewon, consultant from the NW District Office.

This journey began by recruiting a core group of community leaders in and around Sibley to serve on a planning committee. It was important to identify exactly the right mix of people, so the board and staff made sure that various organizations, groups and skills were represented on this team. Once the team of 25 members was chosen, they began drafting a community vision statement. After two work sessions and much staff time, the service responses chosen for the library were: Create Young Readers, Satisfy Curiosity, Celebrate Diversity and Understand How to Find, Evaluate and Use Information.



SPLASH - Sibley Public Library After School Program



A final meeting was held in November, 2011 to unveil the new mission statement and to present the goals and objectives to the committee members. The library staff is excited to have already attained several goals; offering weekly computer help sessions, adding an after-school program and also planning an author visit.

The Sibley Public Library Board and staff are very proud of this project and are looking forward to 2012 with a better vision of the library's future.

Jeannie Frerichs, Director, Akron Public Library

One of our proudest moments was surprising IPTV's Dan Wardell by having a "show" for him. He said he didn't expect to come and be entertained during his visit with us. Having him at our library was a great moment in 2011.

We got a large screen TV and Wii for our meeting room with a grant. We hope to use it more during the winter months with kids and adults alike. That's what we're looking forward to in 2012.



Dan Wardell at the Akron Public Library

Kolleen Taylor-Berven, Director, Bertha Bartlett Public Library, Story City



The Bertha Bartlett Public Library entered into an agreement with the city of Gilbert to provide a branch library in their community during 2011. Gilbert has a population slightly over 1,000. On July 1, 2011, we began providing services in their city council chambers. We began with slightly over 500 books on-site, opening on Thursday afternoons and late morning on Saturdays. Just four months into this operation, we have over 1,000 books on-site, with rotation of DVDs, audio books, and new materials from our library to this location. We have modified our hours slightly since first opening, and have found our greatest use to be on Thursday evenings. We are able to check-out remotely on our library automation system, identify items located in Gilbert with pop-ups, and "check-out" to a system account which does not artificially impact our circulation statistics. We are providing a monthly storytime for pre-school and school-age children in addition to bringing our pre-school outreach program, Storytime Express, to the daycares in Gilbert.

Gilbert library story time

2012 brings another big change to this arrangement. We are currently gearing up for a move into a renovated space recently purchased by the city of Gilbert where we will move our existing collection and establish a larger collection. We purchased shelving at a remarkable price a few years ago, and have obtained a number of donated items, including mission-style upholstered chairs and several paperback spindles from the Council Bluffs Public Library. The anticipated start-up in this location will be in January. We have had a number of volunteers help us clean and evaluate donated furnishings.

Valerie Haverhals, Director, Hawarden Public Library

This fall we began bilingual story hours at the Hawarden library. We wrote a small grant and businesses in our community contributed also. We used Scholastic Literacy Partnership to give the children a book at the end of each session.

For adults, we have partnered with a director of a local bank to offer the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University on Sunday afternoons. We have an average of 18 people taking the class. The great part is that if they finish the class their registration is refunded. This has been a very positive endeavor.

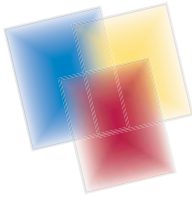
Becky Rike, Director, Corning Public Library

The Corning Public Library staff won the Corning Chamber of Commerce "Most Original" Halloween contest. We dressed as bookworms at the library and had a little song we sang about not eating Nooks or Kindles because they aren't very tasty. We are most thankful for having more kids coming to our library programs this year. We hope we can continue to keep the numbers up in 2012.

Karla Pfaff, Director, Grimes Public Library

The Grimes Public Library is working on an \$11 million project for a library addition. We have hired FEH architects and The Renaissance Group as our professional fundraisers. George Lawson, library building consultant, was a huge help with our space needs assessment and guiding the board in the right direction.

We hope to expand from 6,439 square feet to approximately 35,000 square feet and large meeting room area. We are moving forward and hope to see ground-breaking in a couple of years.



Kate Cloudsparks, Director, Lacona Public Library

I started working at the library in October. I was a nurse in a prior life, so running a library is a big learning curve for me. Exciting, but big! I got an e-mail about the National Gaming Day event for Nov. 12th but was unable to put anything together for that date. However, I am planning a gaming day here at least monthly so we'll be ready on the national day in 2012. In the past two weeks, cribbage and checkers were played here in the library. We are planning a games day for Dec. 27th, during the school break, and I've been encouraging kids and adults to think of a game they'd like to bring or play here and see if they can round up the needed players. Lacona is a town of about 360 - not much of anything to do - and I'm partial to games over movies because they increase the possibility for attendees to interact face-to-face instead of staring at a screen. Scrabble and a game called Solo (a card game popular among our older community members) are also being organized, as is Twister for the nimble. It'll be fun to see who comes, what gets played, and whether some regular gaming groups get started. Hooray for games at the public library!

Mary Markwalter, Director, Mason City Public Library

In 2011, Mason City Public Library completed a \$9.4 million building renovation. Some notable additions are a full service coffee shop, more enhanced meeting room space, more public seating, as well as all new HVAC, roofs, plumbing, etc. In 2012 we plan on adding more programs for adults and building an outdoor performance area in the front lawn of the library to share with the MacNider Museum and Municipal Band.

Kelly Fischbach, Director, Carroll Public Library

Carroll Public Library's proudest achievement was having a record 971 children sign up for our 2011 Summer Library Program. We added a Rookie Reader program for children ages 2-5 that was a little different than the "big kids" program, but sure brought smiles to their faces. 277 readers reached the "25 Book Goal" and received a sign to place in their yard proclaiming they were "Champion Readers." Those signs were carried out of the library with pride by every child. We've already been asked if we are going to do that again next year.

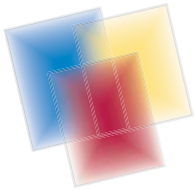
After having a bond issue go down in flames on Aug. 2, 2011, our library board of trustees is anxiously waiting for a new mayor and city council to be seated on January 9th. They have pledged to take over the process and see it through to completion.



Dee Crowner, Director, North Liberty Public Library

As we prepare for our expansion/renovation we feel really uptown. We have a new automation system (Insignia) that is a vast improvement over our old one; we have 10 computers for patron use, including two fifteen minute express stations; and four laptops that can be checked out for in-library use. We have two computers at the circulation desk, and a monitor that runs our announcements and events sitting on the circulation desk. We still have books, magazines (for all ages now and not just adults), newspapers, cake pans (over 200) but we have adapted to changing times. We have added audiobooks on compact disc and MP3 as well as downloadable audiobooks and e-books, DVDs, databases and wi-fi. As we ran out of space we decided to no longer have a print reference collection but use databases only. Patrons really like having this service available 24/7, especially kids who like to do their homework at 1 a.m. We have added more programs for all ages. We do outreach programs to daycares and preschools and provide delivery of materials to the home bound patrons and senior living facilities. I almost forgot the biggest change! We are almost done "Decimating Dewey" and converting to a subject based cataloging system.

Now we are trying to prepare for the future in the new library. In the adult services area there will hopefully be no hard wired computers, but laptops and iPads for patrons 18 and over. Our technology services librarian keeps reminding me that we don't know what changes there will be in the next several years and we need to be forward thinking. What we have never had is much comfort space. We want to get some really "cushy" furniture and the staff is insisting on a fireplace. We are adding six meeting rooms so we can do library programming in the library. We are also adding a story time room, a teen lounge and children's play area. We will continue to add databases as we can afford them. We try to provide what patrons want and need. Providing for the patrons' needs should be the one constant with every library.



Nicole Annis, Director, Keosauqua Public Library

I think my proudest moment was having over 65 kids sign up for this year's Summer Library Program. We only had 30 the previous year. Or maybe it was having close to 75 kids here for Santa's arrival last December. Or maybe it was generous patrons giving us enough money to design and purchase a new circulation desk (the previous desk had been here since 1965--seriously!) How can I choose?

I can only hope 2012 will be as fabulous as last year!

From left, Nicole Annis, Santa, and library staffers Darlea Westercamp, and Mike Miller



Keri Weston, Director, Carlisle Public Library

Our little library has seen an amazing transformation in 2011. We were lucky enough to receive approximately \$13,000 in grants and donations for service improvements. With this extra funding we were able to replace three public computers, purchase four new laptops for public use, purchase one Early Literacy Station computer, update most of our picture books, start a children's audio book collection, purchase a disc cleaner and DVDs (a first for our library) and update our newly created teen section!

All of this updating has led to a giant increase in use of our library (our door count was up 20% from the year before), with a large number being young adults. We have also had great success starting teen programs, including a murder mystery dinner, and book tie-in events for the Percy Jackson and Eragon series.

In the coming year we hope to be able to offer our patrons more family programs, computer classes, and online resources. We are writing a grant to see if we will be able to offer e-readers as well. We are blessed with a supportive community and hope they will continue their support as we embark on the process of building a new library.

Angela Pilkington, Youth Services Manager, Burlington Public Library

We are proudest of our programs and the services we bring to babies, kids, tweens, teens, and to their caregivers. We added new programs this year designed especially for tweens which have been a huge success. In fact all of our programs have risen in the number offered and attendance. We are proud of all the support we receive from our users and community!

We are looking forward to creating a new space for middle schoolers (tweens) and re-designing our teen area. More of them are attending programs and checking out materials. We are excited to give them their own area in the library. We anticipate the next year to bring continued partnerships throughout the community and continued interaction with our young users as we work with them to develop search literacy and social capital.

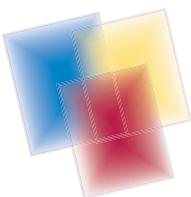


Burlington Public Library youth services staff: Angie Pilkington YS Supervisor (R), Debbie Wagenbach (R), Sarah Miller-Jacobs (L), Mallorie Graham (R), Becky Ruberg (L), Samantha Helmick (R)

Meg Polly, Director, Whiting Public Library

Yesterday (Nov. 29, 2011) was one of those all-out zoo days with everybody and his uncle having a long, involved story to tell us: out-of-town visitors, three new families signing up for library cards, etc. At the end of the day I was mentally counting all the things on my list I hadn't started - let alone finished - when it struck me that we had done the most important thing: We LISTENED to every single patron who came in, and they all left happy. No, we haven't done anything earth-shattering this past year, but we've made a big difference in the lives of everyone who uses the library.





Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner



Our proudest achievement of 2011 is the establishment of Iowa Library Services, the new agency created by the legislature by combining the Library Service Areas and State Library into a single new department.

Working with Iowa libraries of all types and sizes to deliver excellent library services to Iowans remains the major focus of Iowa Library Services. The close-to-home support services that Iowa libraries depend on have been preserved through our six district offices, and at the same time we work together to ensure that support for libraries is consistently available across the state.

As we look to 2012, we look forward to continuing to develop our new Iowa Library Services agency and to working with all of you to tell the story of Iowa libraries to legislators and other funders.

In addition, we are pleased that we will be able to kick off a second round of Smart Investing grants focusing on financial literacy education through public libraries. We also plan to participate in an American Library Association-sponsored grant project to help young people develop media and information literacy skills with the assistance of their local librarian.

Iowa Library Services will be closed on December 26 and January 2, in observance of Christmas and the New Year holiday.

All of us at Iowa Library Services send our warmest wishes to all of you for a joyous holiday season and a healthy, fulfilling new year.

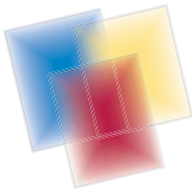


Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the
[State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.](#)

Theodore Anderson, Glenwood Public Library
Jill Gray, Charles City Public Library
Cressant Swarts, Marion Public Library
Dawn Schrandt, James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville
Deborah Stanton, Washington Free Public Library
Shirley Taylor, Orange City Public Library





Jay Peterson, Iowa Library Services, Des Moines Office in Sioux Center.



Janie Beaulieu, Library Resources Technician, NW District Office, helps librarians at the e-rate class in Sioux Center.

Peterson holds e-rate classes statewide

Iowa public libraries are taking advantage of the e-rate classes offered by Jay Peterson, consultant, Iowa Library Services, Des Moines office.

District office staff are also helping with the training. Peterson is traveling to six locations around the state and plans at least two or three sessions online on the e-rate form 471.



Miller Building staff, including those in the Iowa Library Services Des Moines office, decorate a nearly two-story Christmas tree every year.

Happy holidays from Iowa Library Services

Christmas gift suggestions:
To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
- By Oren Arnold

From all of us in Iowa Library Services to the Iowa library community, we hope your holidays are magical, and full of fun and good cheer with family and friends. And here's hoping for a bright - and prosperous - new year!



Lots of interest in copyright and fair use in the public library

Law Library staffer Mandy Easter, and Iowa Library Services Youth Services Consultant Merri Monks, recently taught three groups of 47 librarians in Iowa Falls, Dubuque and via webinar the concepts of "Copyright and Fair Use in the Public Library."

Public librarians face copyright issues every day, yet don't always know how to evaluate fair use. From activities such as children's story hours to patrons' use of the photocopier, public librarians can better serve their communities if they know the basics of fair use. Fair use is a limitation and exception to the exclusive right granted by copyright law to the author of a creative work. In United States copyright law, fair use is a doctrine that permits limited use of copyrighted material without acquiring permission from the rights holders.

Participants engaged in small group discussions with scenarios provided by Easter and Monks to practice determining fair use. Topics included:

- the four factors of fair use and how to use them to evaluate fair use
- why each fair use situation is unique and why even copyright lawyers who have practiced for years don't consider themselves copyright experts
- fair use law and how cases are determined
- resources on copyright and fair use

News from around the state

Several public librarians retire, recognized after a combined total of 233 years of service

After 50 years of service - 40 as director - **Estherville Library Director Carolyn Walz** is retiring in January 2012. Tena Hanson, former director of the Milford Memorial Library, has been hired to take over when Walz leaves. Hanson will be the sixth library director since the Estherville library opened in the fall of 1903. Walz said her career began in 1961 and her salary was 65 cents an hour. "I leave memories that could only be recorded in my mind and I am happy for the seamless transition in training Tena," said Walz.

Rock Valley Public Library Director Beth Vanden Berg has retired from her post after 27 years of service. She has worked in libraries in Ocheyedan, Des Moines, Ireton and Mason City. Vanden Berg said he has always enjoyed reading and as someone working in the library, she felt the call to instill that same joy of reading in others.

Rhonda Chambers, Missouri Valley Library Director, retired after dedicating 27 years of service to the community. Friends of the Library hosted a party for Chambers on November 1.

Donna Schoening, Silver City Public Library Director, plans to retire on December 31 after 13 years of service. "Donna has given many years of service to Silver City and we will miss her very much," said library board president Nancy Allen.

Spirit Lake Public Library held a retirement reception for **Linda Bolluyt** on December 1. Bolluyt has been the library director for 31 years.

The **Van Meter Public Library** will honor director **Shirley Couvillion's** retirement at a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. January 10 at the library. Couvillion has served the library for 35 years.

Sandra Pentland, senior clerk at the Davenport Public Library, was honored by the Davenport City Council recently for her 50 years with the city. Pentland started working at the library out of high school in 1961 and has held several positions over the years, said library director LaWanda Roudebush.

Judy Afdahl, Children's Librarian at the **Barlow Memorial Library** will retire after 24 years of service to the children and families of Iowa Falls. She has developed a top-notch youth services collection of materials over the years, produced 24 Summer Reading Programs, offered too-numerous-to-count Story time programs for preschool children, and continually provided excellent customer service to library patrons over her many years of service.

A retirement reception will be held for **Sioux Center Public Library Director David Netz** from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 11 from 2-4 p.m. at the library. According to his replacement Becky Bilby, "Dave has been an important part of the library - he was instrumental in building a strong team, creating an inviting library atmosphere, and working with the city and other community entities to build collaborative efforts that better the library and the community. We are sad to see him leave but so grateful for his leadership these past five years."



Several libraries pass levies in November

It was wonderful day for Iowa libraries that passed, or renewed, levies.

- **Albion Memorial Library** passed a city levy for the library - by one vote - according to director Kathy Raveling Whitcomb.
- **Bayard Public Library** passed its levy by 61 percent.
- **University Heights** renewed its library levy by 79 percent.
- **Nevada Public Library** passed a capital improvement referendum for an addition.
- **Lied Public Library**, Clarinda, passed its library levy by 69 percent.
- **Ames Public Library** passed a referendum to expand the library.

Congratulations to all!

Kids in Summer Library Program give back to the community

From the Manly Junction Signal

Grafton youth who took part in this year's Summer Library Program made a contribution to help ensure the safety of other kids in the future. Besides providing incentives to read during the summer, the program provided a way for the youngsters to give back through a sponsored marathon. Parents, grandparents and other supporters sponsored the kids," said **library director Loraine Kalvig**. "They donated one cent for every minute their kids read." The kids chose where the money would go. Last year they donated to Save the Strays program. This year they donated the money to Kady's Law, an effort to influence Iowa legislators to strengthen the punishment for those illegally passing school buses. Said Kalvig, "The kids read for 10,000 minutes this year, so they raised \$100. A local business heard about the program and contributed another \$100 towards their effort.

Williamsburg opens new library

The **Williamsburg** community rallied behind a new library - 10 years of planning and 10 months of construction - which opened in November. The estimated cost was \$3.5 million, of which the City of Williamsburg committed \$2.5 million. A pledge from the Iowa County Supervisors, a grant from Vision Iowa, private donations (ranging from \$5-\$50,000), and volunteer fund-raising efforts secured the needed money. The library, like its predecessor, is located on the community square.



Grundy library partners with local funeral home to create grief resource library

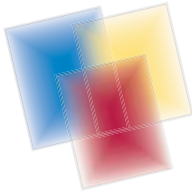
Those who live in and around Grundy Center and who are going through the grief following a loved one's death will now have resources available to help them. **Kling Memorial Library (Grundy Center)**, partnered with the Engelkes-Abels Funeral Home to create the Bridges to Hope Grief Resource Library. The library has a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of library resources that have bereavement, grief recovery or hope after loss as themes. A bound bibliography of resources is available at the library desk for quick reference. The intention in preparing the bibliography was to ensure that resources for the entire family are available and easily found.

University of Iowa Libraries partners to preserve posters

From the Cedar Rapids Gazette

University of Iowa (UI) Libraries partnered with the U.S. Government Printing Office to preserve and make available in digital format historic government-issued posters from pre-World War II through the 1990s. UI Libraries provided public access to the collection of 1,500 posters promoting services, programs and initiatives by government agencies. To view the collection of posters, go to <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/gpc/index.php>.

According to Marianne Mason, federal information librarian at UI Libraries, "These posters often represent a graphic documentation of priorities of a given presidential administration or reflect social culture at a discrete point of time."

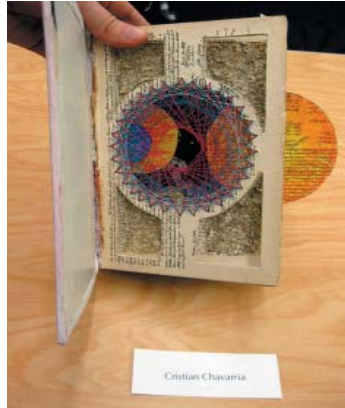


Library takes part in altered books program

From the *Marshalltown Times-Republican*

Marshalltown Public Library customers got a chance to be creative with old books by altering them in many unique ways. The program was held during Arts & Humanities Month and a reception was held displaying the altered books.

Some of the approaches people took included adding art into the book (making it fit with the book's title or not); drawing, painting, collaging, or writing on the pages; making a flip book or pop-ups; turning it into a sculpture; making it into a functional object like a secret storage space, purse or clock; doing text poetry (crossing out parts of the text to isolate selected words) or rewriting the entire story.



Several libraries honor local veterans

The **Emmetsburg Public Library** recently received an American Legion of Iowa Foundation grant to aid in the purchase of several materials that will benefit area veterans. The Veterans' Literature Project provides area veterans with books and DVDs that reflect their military experience, help them transition back to home life and offer combat-related physical and mental health issue materials.

"Our Veterans: Stories of Valor" featured Glen Lorenz, Tex Pentecost and Frank Shaw Jr., who recounted their stories of military service at the **Independence Public Library** on Nov. 7. All three men have received various awards, medals and citations and are members of the local VFW and the American Legion.

With only 350 sq. ft. in the **Bonaparte Public Library**, director Kathy Meyer was still able to honor area veterans with pictures on the entry wall of soldiers who have been or still are on active military duty. Meyer also set a dining table with an empty chair to reflect those who cannot be home with their families for the holidays. Meyer also put military themed wallpaper on each of the library's public computers.

Libraries grateful for generous donations

A very generous gift of approximately \$500,000 was obtained by the **Waukee Public Library** from Hiram Ori. Ori was born in Waukee and lived in the Shuler Mine Community. After his recent passing, the Waukee community learned of this gift, which stipulated the money be used for a meeting room named in honor of his parents, as well as a display area for Shuler Mine artifacts.

Glidden Public Library is the grateful recipient of a \$120,000 bequest given to the library from a lifelong resident upon her passing. The money will be used for books and educational materials. Library director Erin Wolf said the donor was not a patron and as far as she knows never had a library card. "Generous people - and unlikely library advocates - come from many people who have a respect for education, deep community roots and an enduring belief in lifelong learning," said Wolf.

Libraries celebrate anniversaries

Churdan Public Library celebrated its 50 year anniversary on Oct. 23 by inviting the community to an open house to reminisce and hear a presentation by Joe Millard, former Green County resident and author of *Where Did All the Cowboys Go*.

The **Bancroft Public Library** celebrated its 50th anniversary on Nov. 9. The library began in 1961 in a room in the Bancroft school. In 1969, a new library was built which today has a collection of 23,510 materials.

Guttenberg Public Library observed its 75th anniversary on Nov. 12 with festivities that included works of Clayton Ridge High School students and other artists from the area, as well as a display of materials about the history of the library. Local musicians and storyteller Pat Coffie were also part of the celebration.

The Urbandale Public Library is turning 50. A celebration kick-off was held Dec. 11. Staff wore clothes from 50 years ago. There were give-aways, and a 1961 Academy Award winning movie was shown. More anniversary events will continue throughout the year.