

Iowa Library Services Update

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www.statelibraryofiowa.org

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- In celebration of **Black History Month: African Americans in Iowa 2013**
- Visit upcoming **art exhibits** in the Miller Building

Iowa Library Services again will offer its **popular series of classes during National Library Week**, April 15-19. Class topics focus on finding the information you need to do your job well. Classes are 50 to 60 minutes and there is no charge. There will be both in-person and online options.

You can improve your internet searching skills, learn how to use databases to find thousands of fulltext journal and research articles, understand the open meeting and open records laws, get help using the Iowa Administrative Code online, learn where to find data created by state agencies and much more.

New this year will be a session on preserving your digital information.

Watch for the next *Iowa Library Services Update* for details on the classes and registration.

Iowa Library Services patrons can now access **interactive skill building courses** in math, reading and writing, as well as a broad range of practice tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB Core, and EMT Basic, as well as firefighter, police officer, paramedic, allied healthcare, U.S. citizenship, postal worker, cosmetology, and real estate agent and broker exams. The service is available 24/7—in the Main Library and the Law Library, at your public library and from any computer with internet access.

The **LearningExpress** Library online learning platform provides over 770 of the most up-to-date test preparation and skill-building resources, helping both students and adults prepare for a wide range of academic and career oriented exams as well as improve basic skills in reading, writing and math. In addition, job-skills tutorials are available to assist in creating a resume, honing interviewing techniques, and improving business communications. Library patrons also have the option of selecting from more than 130 e-book titles to help learners of all ages prepare for success. The platform includes self-paced study, instant scoring and diagnostic feedback.

Iowa Library Services thanks Iowa Workforce Development for providing funding to make LearningExpress Library available online through public libraries, academic libraries, and workforce centers in Iowa.

To access this service, go to www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/online-resources/resources and click on **LearningExpress**. To create a LearningExpress account, use your library card number as “username” and then choose your own “password” .

If you don't have a card, go to www.statelibraryofiowa.org and click on “Get a State Library Card” in the left hand side bar. For more information or assistance contact the Main Library at 515-281-4102, 800-248-4483 or is@lib.state.ia.us.

The legislative session began on Monday, January 14, 2013 and it is projected to last until May 3rd. The following **websites and digital tools** can help you understand what is happening daily in the state capitol.

The Legislature's website is at www.legis.iowa.gov and contains legislators' names and contact information, all current as well as archived legislation, the *Code of Iowa*, the *Constitution of Iowa*, the *Iowa Administrative Code*, the *Iowa Court Rules*, *House and Senate Chamber Rules*, election laws and lobbyists' names and clientele lists. Something new this year is live video streaming of Senate proceedings when the Senate is in session. Last year, live video streaming of House proceedings was introduced. Links are on the home page.

The Senate/House tab in the top tool bar will take you to the session calendars—daily House and Senate debate calendars, committee meeting schedules, a legislative social calendar and a listing of capitol complex events. The website hosts educational pamphlets about how our government works, fiscal publications, an appropriations chart, a legislative terminology glossary, a tutorial on Iowa's budget process, instructions for purchasing the Iowa Code in print or electronic format and a list of legislative contacts, among many other features. Be sure to check out the "Tour the Capitol" videos and photos under the "Resources and Civic Education" tab.

The website for the Office of the Governor is at www.governor.iowa.gov and contains links to information about Governor Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, as well as information on the flag status, how to request a proclamation, how to request a letter greeting, how to apply for executive clemency and how to access executive orders, news releases and speeches.

The information experts at the **Law Library** can help you navigate this information and find the legal information that you need. Contact them at 515-281-5124, 800-248-4483, or law@lib.state.ia.us.

The following links provide you with the information you'll need to **get your taxes filed**.

Federal tax forms and publications:
www.irs.gov/

Iowa Individual Income Tax Forms:
www.iowa.gov/tax/forms/indinc.html

Additional tax forms, instructions, and publications can also be found on this page from the

University of Iowa Libraries: <http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/taxes>

Many public libraries in Iowa offer tax help. For contact information and links to libraries' websites go to <http://directory.silo.lib.ia.us/cgi-bin/directory.CGI>.

In celebration of **Black History Month**, the State Data Center has updated the profile African Americans in Iowa: 2013 www.iowadatatcenter.org/Publications/aaprofile2013.pdf. This printable brochure contains information about African Americans living in Iowa from the 2011 American Community Survey including population, income, poverty, business, jobs, housing and education.

The Main Library hosts **exhibits by Iowa artists** most months. In February you can enjoy the vibrant paintings of Susan Wilson. For examples of her work go to <http://susanleewilsonartist.blogspot.com/>.

March will bring an exhibit by Kristen Necessary. Kristen combines print, drawing, photography and collage for creative and thought provoking pieces. To see some of her work go to www.kristennecessary.com/Kristen_Necessary/Images.html.

And in April we will host a father/daughter photography exhibit by Cody and Megan Kilgore. To compare their different styles go to www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/news-publications/art-exhibits/kilgore.

The Library is located in the Miller Building at the corner of E. 12th St. and Grand Ave. The building is open from 8:00- 4:30, Monday through Friday. For more information call 515-281-4102 or 800-248-4483, or email is@lib.state.ia.us.

Other services that Iowa Library Services provides:

- * Looking for a quiet place away from the distractions of your office? Want to use a computer during your lunch hour? The Main Library offers computer workstations or free wireless Internet access and a comfortable, quiet place to work or study. It's located in the Miller Building at E. 12th and Grand Ave. in Des Moines. Hours are 8:00-4:30, Monday-Friday.
- * The State Law Library offers free access to online legal information through the Westlaw databases. Staff is available to help you with legal research. The Law Library is located on the second floor of the State Capitol Building at 1007 E. Grand Ave. in Des Moines. Hours are 8:00-4:30, Monday-Friday.

Barbara Corson
Iowa Library Services | Program Director for Specialized Library Services
515-281-4352 | 800-248-4483 | www.statelibraryofiowa.org