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Library supporters, legislators meet for 2013 Legislative Day



A good crowd of librarians and legislators met in the Capitol Law Library.



Left, IaLS Commissioner Tom Martin, Rep. Dave Jacoby and Jennie Garner, North Liberty PL



From left, Darryl Eschete, West Des Moines PL; Sen. Matt McCoy and Mary Wegner, State Librarian



Left, Rep. Charles Isenhart and IaLS Commissioner Daniel Boice



From left, Rep. Cindy Winckler, Mary Wegner, Sen. Rita Hart and Sen. Liz Mathis



Trisha Hicks, IaLS NC District Office, and Sen. Dennis Guth

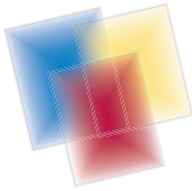
More than 70 enthusiastic Iowa library supporters and nearly 90 legislators assembled in the Law Library on March 6 for the annual Iowa Library Association's (ILA) Legislative Day.

Sarah Willeford, chair of ILA's Governmental Affairs Committee, said it was a "very successful" event.

"Our state Senators and Representatives took time out of their busy schedules to come to the Law Library to hear from librarians and library advocates about important issues facing Iowa libraries," said Willeford.

Issues discussed included rebuilding support for Iowa libraries by returning funding for Iowa Library Services to its 2009 funding levels, and continuing to restore funding for Enrich Iowa to support the vital role of libraries in Iowa communities.

Library supporters also asked legislators for continued funding for state-wide access to the LearningExpress Library database.



Welcome Nancy Medema

Nancy Medema is quickly learning the ropes since taking the job of program director for the Library Services Network (Iowa Library Services) on February 1.

"This new position will allow me to form new relationships with librarians across the state. I'm very excited about the new opportunities and possibilities," said Medema, "and working with all the terrific people at Iowa Library Services."

The Bettendorf Public Library, where Medema worked, held a special place in her heart.

"As a youngster, I considered the Bettendorf Public Library 'my library'. I'd check out as many books as I could and I'm sure that Peggy, the head of circulation back then, thought many weren't appropriate. I'm sure I racked up my share of overdue fines, too."

Medema has been involved in libraries for 35 years: 12 at Davenport (including six for Southeastern Library Services) and 23 at the Bettendorf Public Library, first as a lead library assistant and the past five as circulation services manager. She has been actively involved in the Iowa Library Association as chair of the Support Personnel Forum, the Johnson Brigham Plaque Committee, and the Leadership Development Committee.

She grew up in Bettendorf, attended Iowa State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Ambrose University, a Master of Library Science Degree from the University of Iowa, and a Master of Arts Degree in organizational leadership from St. Ambrose University. Medema also completed a certified public management program in February, 2013.

Said State Librarian Mary Wegner, "I am delighted that Nancy has joined Iowa Library Services and am excited about working with her to provide leadership for Iowa libraries and expand access to information for Iowans."



Become involved with local youth through STEM program

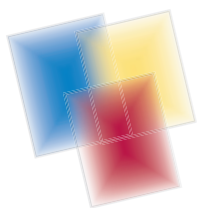
Application deadline April 10!

Iowa librarians may want to look at the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Scale-Up grant programs for 2013-14. As Debbie Stanton, director, Washington Free Public Library, noted recently, the "Camp in a Can" program would be a good fit for libraries.

"Please look into applying for a Scale-Up Program for your library. This is an excellent opportunity to appeal to a variety of children, including some who might not be library users. The programs are fun and easy to implement, and even include training and materials. This year they have specifically targeted programs that can be used again and again, so by applying once you will be given a kit that can be used ad infinitum," said Stanton.

STEM began in May 2012 when Governor Branstad and the president of the University of Northern Iowa announced the first selection of network hubs around the state. STEM regional advisory boards have six public, AEA and academic librarians.

[Find more information here.](#)



Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner

Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries found that “People from all walks of life use library computers to perform routine and life-changing tasks, from emailing friends to finding jobs,” according to Michael Crandall, one of the senior authors of the report. (You can read this [important report](#), released in 2010.)

Two recent initiatives – one national and one statewide – deliver additional benefits to Iowans and encourage them to use library computers.

In January, LearningExpress Library, a workforce-related online resource, became available at no charge to all public and academic libraries in Iowa, thanks to funding from Iowa Workforce Development. Be sure your library has signed up! LearningExpress provides Iowans with anytime, anywhere online access to career-oriented and academic resources to help with job preparation, career advancement and re-entry into the workforce. Included in the Iowa subscription are tutorials, practice tests, and eBooks. Computer skills tutorials address widely used applications and also provide guidance for computer and Internet beginners. The practice tests include hundreds of vocational practice tests as well as education-related tests for the ACT, SAT, GRE and more. See page 5 for more information.

The national initiative is the just-launched [EveryoneOn campaign](#) to promote the importance of digital literacy skills for all Americans. The campaign includes public service announcements on television, radio, billboards, and through various social media sites. The campaign directs people to free digital literacy training courses and free access to public computers – including in libraries. EveryoneOn provides an opportunity for Iowa libraries to showcase the work you already do to help people use computers and the Internet, through both one-on-one assistance and library-sponsored classes.

Iowa Library Services has added information to our website to help you meet the digital literacy needs of your library users. Be sure to check out our new web pages on [Digital and Information Literacy](#) for tutorials, training tips and more. Also, a [toolkit for libraries](#) is available at the EveryoneOn website. Click on “Campaign Toolkit” at the bottom of the page.

The EveryoneOn campaign will run for three years. We’ll keep you posted as additional information becomes available.

Thanks for all you do to promote information literacy and digital literacy for Iowans!



Mary Wegner
State Librarian

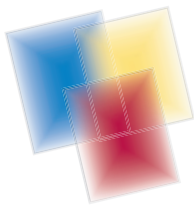
Certification Update

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

Sarah Anderson - Jewell
Sarah Andrews - Iowa City
Arrin Balsley - Duncombe
Vangie Cowen - Cleghorn
Alissa Dornink - Ames
Melody Dworak - Iowa City
Kristin Fields - Farnhamville
Janette Friesen - Waverly
Susan Green - Bettendorf
Nancy Hausler - Union
Samantha Helmick - Burlington
DeAnna Hogan - Winthrop
Cathy Hovden - LeMars

Heather Jones - Swaledale
Melissa Kane - Cascade
Kim Mehlenbacher - Storm Lake
Rita Nuebel - Spencer
William Ottens - Oskaloosa
Katherine Poppe - Waverly
Kathy Rieger - Council Bluffs
Meredith Scherb - Atlantic
Karen Spitler - Mitchellville
Catherine Van Maanen - Huxley
Misty VonBehren - Perry





Did you know?

- If you have questions about a particular Iowa Library Services (IaLS) program and are not sure who to speak to, check out the [Programs](#) link under [Contact](#) on the IaLS website.
- While it is more beneficial to attend live webinars so you can partake in the discussion, plans can change at the last minute. IaLS archives its webinars so they are available to watch later. In order to receive continuing education credit, a [learning activity summary](#) must be completed.
- This year's All Iowa Reads selection, *The Year We Left Home* by Jean Thompson, is now available in large print. After long negotiations between Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator Robin Martin and publishers, the work is now available in all formats: paperback, large print and unabridged audio.

"We persisted on behalf of Iowa readers and are pleased with the outcome," said Martin.

Order large print editions directly from:

Bradi Grebien-Samkow
Publisher Representative
ReadHowYouWant
971-340-9853

bradi@readhowyouwant.com

Librarians learn important early literacy skills



Dena Goplerud

More than 120 Iowa youth services librarians were reminded recently of the significant roles they play in infants' and toddlers' development of early literacy skills.

Dena Goplerud, an early literacy specialist from Des Moines, and Merri Monks, youth services consultant, Iowa Library Services, presented six day-long workshops around the state. Topics covered role modeling for parents, introducing new vocabulary, book handling behaviors, infant and toddler development, planning and selecting library activities for infants and toddlers, resources for parents, and collection development.



From bottom to right, Serena Riesgaard, Avoca PL; Carolyn Hartmann, Cumberland PL; Rhonda Behnken, Messena PL; Marissa Gruber, Clarinda Lied PL; and Jerry Gilliland, Stanton PL

Books that shaped the world

In 2012, the Library of Congress, with public response, created a listing of the most influential books that shaped [America](#). The titles featured had a profound effect on American life. Some of the titles included have been the source of great controversy, even derision, yet they nevertheless shaped Americans' views of their world and often the world's view of the United States.

The Library of Congress encouraged the reading of the listed titles as a way to explore the extraordinary breadth and depth of America's literary tradition - a tradition that the Library of Congress is dedicated to preserving for the immediate and long-term future.

Now, the Library of Congress is developing a list of great books that have affected the *world* throughout history. Help choose the books that will go on that list by taking a [short survey](#).



All Aboard the LearningExpress Library

Iowa Library Services (IaLS) announced in January that LearningExpress Library - a workforce-related online resource - would be available free to all public and academic libraries in Iowa through 2013, thanks to funding from Iowa Workforce Development.

LearningExpress Library is an interactive online platform that provides the most comprehensive selection of career and academic resources available to empower people for job preparation, career advancement, college readiness, academic success, and skills mastery in math, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. With LearningExpress, library customers have access to:

- Individual Learning Centers with easy one-stop online access
- Practice tests that mimic the timing, scoring and format of official exams
- Instant feedback and diagnostic score reports to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses
- Detailed answer explanations, which allow for a better understanding of the subject matter
- Instant essay scoring that enables writing skills improvement
- Secure, individual user accounts to save work and access completed tasks and score history
- Personalized notifications that inform users of related content based on their usage patterns
- Easy-to-use Web interface and advanced search functionality

And students, teachers and adult learners can use their learning centers anytime and anywhere with online access.

As one Iowa librarian said, "Receiving the LearningExpress Library is a tremendous help to our community. With state funding helping to pay for this service, our library is able to use its limited funding in other ways to assist our customers."

Be sure your library has signed up! Call your [district office](#) if you need more information.



News from around the state

Over 500 visitors and 98 sixth graders viewed the Civil War 150 exhibit from December 21 to January 20 at the [Oelwein Public Library](#). The exhibit and programs were made possible by a grant by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in partnership with the Library of America and Humanities Iowa.



The library received \$1,000 in grants towards programming. Artifacts donated by the Grout Museum and local citizens, including Civil War muskets and pistols and a letter signed by General Robert E. Lee, added to the display. A mini-theatre played Ken Burn's

Civil War. "We averaged 80 people per program," said library director Susan Macken. "It's a toss up as to which was the favorite program. The library had 25 ladies pre-register for 'Tea Time with the Attic Belles.' Thank goodness we made plenty of 'period' food because we ended up hosting 80 women and children." Other activities included a portrayal of Abraham Lincoln, Stories and Songs of the Civil War, and Iowa Stories of the Civil War.

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Cont. from pg. 5

Also hosting the display was the [Winterset Public Library](#). Library director Nancy Trask said staff discovered in their “ancient files” a 1913 letter from the Federal Treasury giving the library several pieces of Confederate paper including a \$50 bill and several \$20, \$10 and \$5 bills which added greatly to the display.

Iowa City Public Library will have the display from April 23 through May 12.

Staff at the [Spirit Lake Public Library](#) had a little fun at work recently. A large bust of Abraham Lincoln that usually guards director Cindy Davis’s door got a tour of the library. Patrons loved it, said Davis. [Check out the photos](#) on their Facebook page.



[Marshalltown Public Library](#) has been celebrating Día de los Niños/ Día de los Libros for more than ten years. This year’s celebration is planned from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day) is a celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates yearly on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

According to Joa LaVille, Marshalltown’s youth services librarian, the library’s celebration always includes a free book for every child, a couple of bigger prizes won through a drawing, bilingual volunteers to help with library card sign-up for Spanish-speaking parents, and face painting. Other activities vary from year to year.

“This year we will have some performances by a new Latin dance club from our high school, a local Hip Hop class of young people, and special indigenous music and interactive dance by Nahui Tonanzin, a local group whose name means ‘Mother Earth’ in Aztec,” said LaVille.

In addition, LaVille said they hope to have outside activities featuring a fire truck, police car, and soccer goal kick, as well as strolling entertainers like William & Blackjack the Dragon, a STEM table with information for families, a simple hands-on activity and maybe a couple of costumed characters.

“Last year we had about 800 people attend,” said LaVille. “The event is promoted to all children and families in Marshalltown, but a majority that attend are Latino families.”

For more information about the national celebration, visit the [Association for Library Service to Children’s Día page](#).



Marshalltown kids with their new books at the 2012 celebration.

Joan Moad of Allison was so moved by TV personality and journalist Ann Curry’s “26 Acts of Kindness” - dedicated to the children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School - that she decided to donate 26 books to the [Allison Public Library](#) in memory of each child. That, in turn, prompted library staffers Patty Hummel, Kelly Henrichs, Joy Schueler and Dolores Hoodjer to personalize each book by researching biographies of each victim.

“Noah liked to build things, so we selected *Too Tall Houses* by Gianna Marino to honor him. Charlotte loved everything pink. *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann was given in her memory,” said Hummel.

“Joan’s thoughtfulness has inspired our staff and members of the community to perform their own individual ‘26 Acts of Kindness.’ We want to keep the ripple effect from Joan’s project going. Each week for 26 weeks one book will be featured in our newsletter. I hope additional press coverage will encourage our community to continue celebrating kindness,” said Hummel.



The new **Williamsburg Public Library** has achieved gold LEED status and director Loretta Hanson couldn't be happier.

"We are extremely pleased and proud," she said. "We had an excellent design team that worked hard to make our building energy efficient and just plain beautiful."

The Williamsburg Public Library joins Drake Public Library in Grinnell and the Marshalltown Public Library in receiving the gold LEED designation.

Janette McMahon, director, **West Liberty Public Library**, was asked to speak at the Alberta (Canada) Library Association Conference earlier this month. Her topic was "Promoting and Advocating a Multilingual Collection."

Libraries were represented at the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative which conducted a "Day on the Hill" earlier this year at the Iowa State Capitol. Various organizations were on hand to provide information to state legislators about the initiative. Jennie Garner, **North Liberty Public Library**, and Mary Heinzman, **St. Ambrose University Library** and president of the Iowa Library Association, talked about keeping brains healthy, learning something new every day and lifelong learning. Participants were also encouraged to write why they "Geek the Library" on a large poster in the booth.



From left, Jennie Garner, Mary Heinzman and Sen. Bill Anderson

Avoca Public Library is displaying a patron's Irish/Scottish collection. According to Serena Riesgaard, director, Avoca is populated by many Germans, Danes and Irish.

Avoca was named for its valley location between the East and West Nishnabotna rivers. The city was named after a poem by Thomas Moore, a widely-loved Irish poet and songwriter (1774-1852), titled *The Meeting of the Waters*.

"There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
As that vale, in whose bosom the bright waters meet;
Oh! The last ray of feeling and life shall depart
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart.
Sweet vale of Avoca! How calm could I rest
in thy bosom of shade with the friends I love best;
Where the storms that we feel in the cold world should cease,
And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace."



Congratulations to the following library staff who have recently retired:

Cindy Miller, **Griswold Public Library**, retired earlier this month after 12 years as director. Miller had a long list of accomplishments she achieved in her tenure and said "Librarians are the best. I could not have done all this without the faithful assistance of state, regional, county and local support. They are the most unselfish, helpful people with whom I have ever had the experience to work."

Vicki Hibbert retired as director of the **Clive Public Library** in January. In a message to librarians, she said "I was so lucky to have found my way to librarianship and the friends and colleagues I've met along the way. I am proud to have been in your company all these years and I wish you all the very best in the future."

Carol Roovaart and Sheila Nelson, the **Altoona Public Library's** children's department team, served the library for more than 40 years combined before retiring at the first of the year.

LaWanda Roudebush also retired in January as director of the **Davenport Public Library**. She arrived in Davenport in August 2003 and in November voters passed a levy that led to the construction of the Fairmount and Eastern Avenue branch libraries. She also oversaw wide renovation of the downtown library. She said her fondest memory is the people, citing her work with the library's board of trustees and the staff, co-workers in the city, and the community in general. (*The Quad City Times*)

Norma DeVries, director of the **Lake City Public Library**, retired earlier this month. She was at the library for more than 20 years and was director for 14. The only thing she's admitted to planning for in retirement is to read some of the many books she's bought for the library.

The city of Rembrandt had a Rembrandt etching of "Madonna and Child" at a local church last summer. The work belongs to the Pearson Lakes Art Center in Okoboji. **Rembrandt Public Library** Director Joleen Anderson was involved in getting the Dutch artist's work in town. It all began when Savvy the Art Dog, a golden retriever, and his owner John Adams visited the library to read to kids. Adams, who works with the museum's outreach program, began a conversation with Anderson about displaying the etching in town. The display arrived just a week after the anniversary of Rembrandt van Rijn's July 15, 1606 birthday, which coincided with the community's all-school reunion when many former students were back in town.



A guest at the Columbus Junction Public Library's Downton Tea Party.

Cathy Crawford, director of **Columbus Junction Public Library** knows how to throw a tea party. Make that a Downton Abbey tea party.

"It was such a lovely, pleasant afternoon," said Crawford. "We have many Downton Abbey fans so getting ready for this was as much fun as the event."

"Local resident, Rosemary Harris, who does many portrayals of historic women, took on the persona of Violet and basically hosted the tea. She is a great friend to our library and has helped us with other programs. We had volunteers who helped with setting up, baking, serving and clean up. Rosemary talked about the historic time setting. Our tables and food were beautiful. We asked everyone to bring their own tea cup and they had the opportunity to tell us about it," said Crawford.

People came in period costumes with hats, gloves, dresses and skirts fashioned out of lace curtains and table clothes, according to Crawford.

"We did some research on music of the time and located World War I songs on YouTube. We projected the YouTube clips on a screen and provided everyone with the words to the songs so they could sing along. Our guests enjoyed the singing very much so we will try to include music in other programs in the future."

[View more pictures](#) on the library's Facebook page.