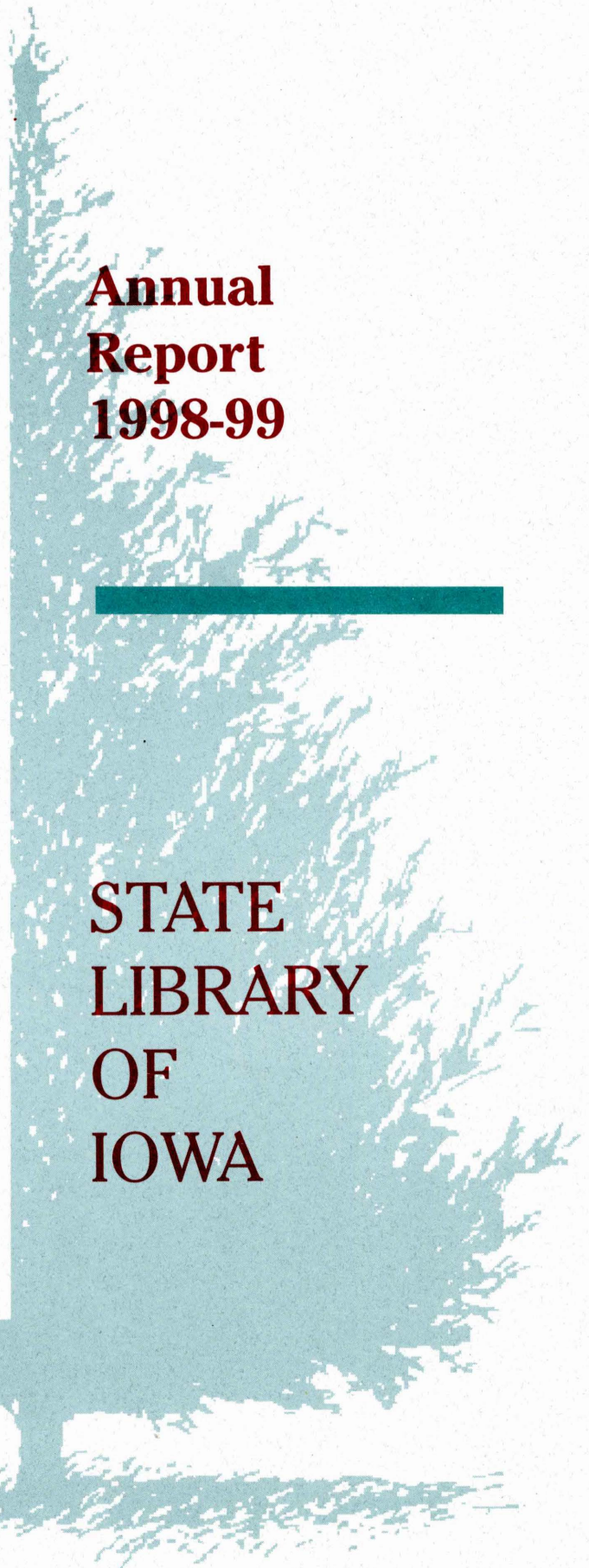


Helen

**Annual
Report
1998-99**

**STATE
LIBRARY
OF
IOWA**



*Vision for
Library Service in Iowa*

Each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas in order to lead an enriched life through lifelong learning and to participate knowledgeably and productively in a democratic society.

Iowa Commission of Libraries



Seated from left, Berta Van Ekeren, Sharman Smith, Dale Ross and John Bennett. Standing from left, Eldon Huston, Nancy Ross, Dwight Carlson and Christie Brandau. (Not shown - William O'Brien and Mary Wegner)

John Bennett

Iowa City
Term expires: April 30, 2003

Dwight Carlson

Des Moines
(Represents the Director of the
Department of Education)

Eldon Huston

Des Moines
Term expires April 30, 2001

William O'Brien

Des Moines
Iowa Supreme Court Administrator

Dale Ross

Ames
Term expires April 30, 2003

Nancy Ross

Harlan
Term expires April 30, 2001

Berta Van Ekeren

Monroe
Term expires April 30, 2001

Mary Wegner

Des Moines
Term expires April 30, 2003

As of November 1999

From the State Librarian



Sharman Smith

As state librarian, it is hard to imagine a more exciting, electrifying year than FY99. The passage of direct state aid for public libraries, Enrich Iowa; the promotion of Census 2000; and the provision of 24 hours a day/7 days a week access to electronic information through the Electric Library pilot project for Iowans were extraordinary.

Enrich Iowa is already having a major impact on library services in Iowa. Public libraries are using the money in a variety of ways, depending on local needs, to extend library hours, to buy more books, to offer Internet and computer access to the public, to expand programming for children and adults; and to make library buildings safer and more accessible.

With April 1, 2000 - Census Day approaching, the State Library's efforts have focused on grassroots promotion in Iowa. Iowa needs a complete and accurate count in the 2000 Census so services can be tailored to meet the needs of Iowa's residents and the state receives its fair share of federal funds for the next decade. We are gratified to hear

that our efforts to get Iowa communities to participate in pre-census programs have paid off with Iowa having one of the highest participation rates in the nation. Since June, tens of thousands of Iowans have heard about Census 2000 through displays at the State Fair, the Clay County Fair, the World Pork Expo, the Farm Progress Show, and other local and specialized events. The State Library and local libraries are offering Iowans another valuable service called Electric Library. Electric Library, a full-text, online reference database, allows users to search magazines, newspapers, and other information resources 24 hours a day. This service is available both at the library or anywhere a person has access to a computer and the Internet. Use of this service has grown dramatically over the last few months and will continue to do so.

There were also challenges in FY99 such as living in the midst of a major building renovation and temporarily relocating the State Library's offices and collections. We are grateful for the patience of our customers, particularly public librarians, who were, at the time, feverishly completing Enrich Iowa, Open Access, and Access Plus documents.

The State Library remains committed to the vision for library service in Iowa where "each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas in order to lead an enrich life" In FY00, we will continue to look for new opportunities and ways to improve existing library services to all Iowans.



Governor Tom Vilsack signs the Enrich Iowa bill in Iowa City on May 25, 1999

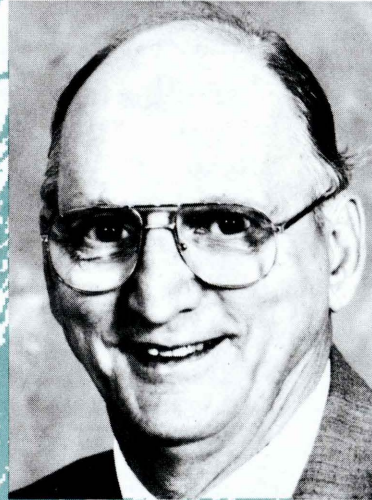
From the Chair, Iowa Commission of Libraries

The success of the Enrich Iowa initiative is the signal event of this year for the Iowa Commission of Libraries and the state's public libraries. Patrons in cities and towns in all parts of the state are already experiencing the benefits Enrich Iowa was created to provide. And we are only in the beginning stages of the program.

The Commission is keenly aware, however, that the Iowa library community must continue to work for Enrich Iowa so that by mid-year of 2003, the program will reflect Iowa's commitment to equitable library service for all Iowans through its 540 public libraries.

The restoration of the State Library building continues apace and the staff deserve strong praise for their outstanding service throughout often difficult working conditions. And while it would have been understandable had they simply settled for the status quo during the remodeling, the staff improved SILO, launched and promoted Electric Library, and continued to serve a wide variety of patrons.

As the Commission anticipates the new century, it recognizes the opportunities – and the challenges – made possible by rapid advances in technology and the increasing need for information for all segments of society.



Dale Ross

Outstanding leadership from State Library and Regional Library staff and strong support from the Governor's office and legislative leaders encourage and embolden us as we continue to seek new ways to bring first-rate library services to all Iowans.

SILO

State of
Iowa
Libraries
Online

The State Library's SILO project helped expand the resources available to Iowa residents this year with the introduction of Electric Library.

Electric Library 24-hour free access at their local libraries a full-text, online base that allows

The logo for Electric Library is a dark red rounded rectangle. The word "ELECTRIC" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, with each letter inside a small white square. Below it, the word "LIBRARY" is written in a larger, white, serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its right.

provides Iowans access, either at or from home, to reference data-users to search

newspapers and newswires; magazines and journals; television, radio and government transcripts; books; and photographs. Usage statistics show that over 500 hundred libraries use Electric Library, and that thousands of documents are retrieved every month.

A popular feature of SILO is interlibrary loan (ILL) capabilities. Libraries borrowed more books from each other than ever before. In the previous year, 88,503 books and other materials were borrowed through SILO ILL. In FY97, the figure was 58,266.

Librarians also took advantage of SILO's 18 different maillists to keep abreast of a myriad of issues. For instance, over 700 Iowa librarians use the "lowalib" maillist to discuss everything from library news and policies to asking for help in finding the words to an obscure poem.

Until this year, librarians, who are used to gathering statistical information on library usage, had no way of tracing the number of people who used the computer to get information. The State Library Standards Committee added an Electronic Usage Survey to the annual survey as a way to begin gauging the number of people using libraries' electronic resources in a typical week. Ninety percent of the libraries who filled out the annual survey responded to the question, giving them a new statistic to use in reporting library usage.

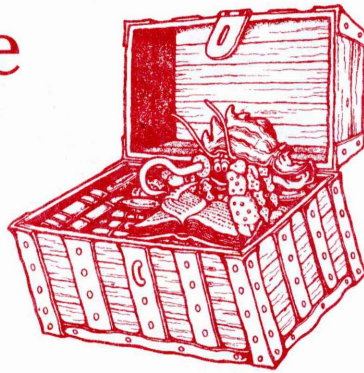
Open Access

Over 600 libraries participated in the State Library's Open Access program which serves as a statewide "library card." In FY98-99, there were 2.4 million transactions. Libraries are reimbursed 50 cents for each transaction, but usage continues to out pace funding.

Access Plus

Access Plus, the book sharing subsidy program, gives Iowans equal access to library resources by subsidizing the costs of the loaning of library materials among 570 participating libraries. Last year, 163,000 interlibrary loans were made through the program.

Treasure Your Library



Over 48,750 Iowa children participated in the 1999 Summer Library Program "Treasure Your Library." A majority of librarians reported that it was one of the best themes in years.

Summer reading programs have lasting benefits. Research shows children who participate gain substantially in both vocabulary and comprehension. Many children gain as much as half a year in reading achievement.

William R. Gordon, executive director of the American Library Association was keynote speaker at this year's KidsFirst Conference. Nearly 130 librarians participated in the conference, titled "The Power of Reading."

ICN offers host of opportunities for Iowans...in their libraries

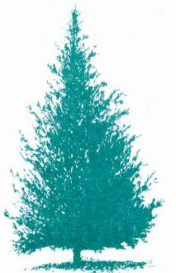
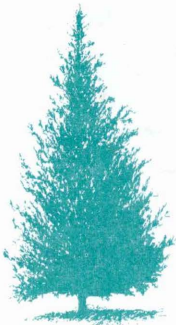
Twenty-three public libraries added Iowa Communications Network (ICN) meeting rooms in FY98-99, bringing the total number of ICN equipped libraries to 31. Iowans have used their libraries' ICN rooms to attend sessions like "Promise Jobs for Older Adults," "Counseling Skills for Domestic Abuse," "Wellness Training," "Homeless Funding Grantee Workshop," "Iowa Diabetes Network," and "Healthy Iowans."

The State Library offers many training opportunities over the ICN, including public library trustee workshops and Public Library Management I and II.

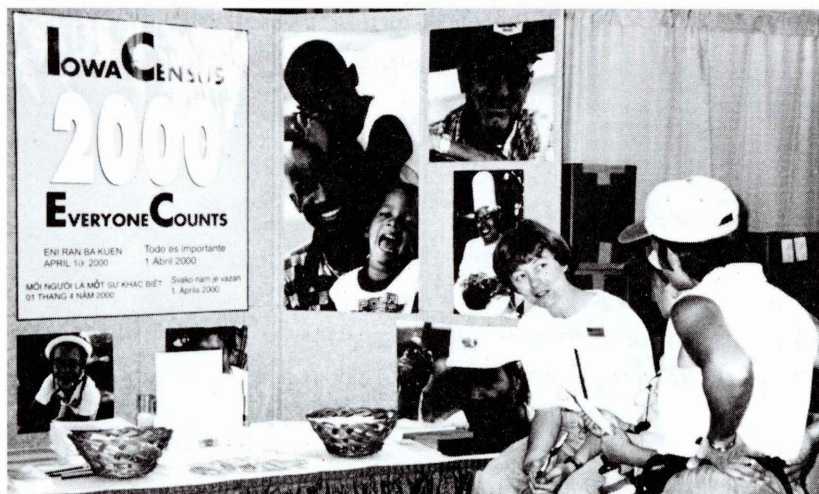
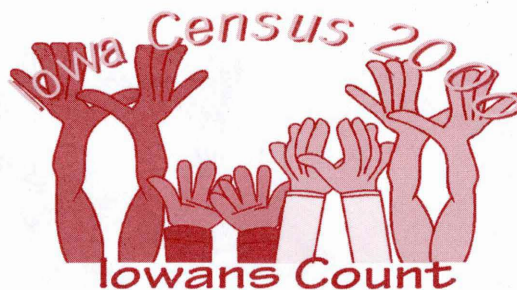
Audio/Visual Services

Videos taped and duplicated from the State Library's information sessions on the ICN proved to be best sellers among librarians. Hundreds of bookings were received on titles such as "Electric Library," "Legal Issues for Libraries," and "The Library Board Member's Job Description." Other educational videos also remained in great demand from public libraries, schools, government agencies and the general public. Nearly 17,000 videos were checked out from the State Library in FY98-99.

Audio/Visual and Information Services staff manned a booth at the Iowa Excellence Forum in Des Moines. Hundreds of state employees had the opportunity to learn about the valuable resources available to them through the State Library.



Countdown to Census 2000



Beth Henning, State Data Center Coordinator, talks to people visiting the Census 2000 booth at the Iowa State Fair.

As Iowa's official liaison for Census 2000, State Data Center staff worked diligently in FY99 to encourage Iowans to complete their Census forms on April 1, 2000.

On July 21-22 and December 15-16, 1998, nearly 800 city and county officials attended the Data Center's ICN sessions on address list reviews in preparation for Census 2000. On February 10-11, more than 300 local officials attended ICN sessions on how to form local committees to promote participation in Census 2000.

Census 2000 exhibits were also displayed at the Iowa State Fair, the Clay County Fair, the Iowa Cattle Congress, and conventions of the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties, and the Iowa Library Association.

Law Library – a worldwide resource

The Law Library takes numerous requests from the Iowa legal community, state government, and the Iowa General Assembly, but it also receives requests from all over the world. Last year, requests for information came from other countries, including China, Spain, Mexico, Great Britain, Germany, Iceland and Austria. Statistics show that staff answered nearly 6,000 telephone requests, 7,704 in-person requests, 7,753 e-mail questions, and photocopied nearly 71,000 pages for customers.

The Law Library has also had to shift its collections as restoration work continues in the State Capitol. A highlight of the work was the installation of two new beautiful chandeliers, designed using an old stereoptican photo of the mid-1880s gas originals.

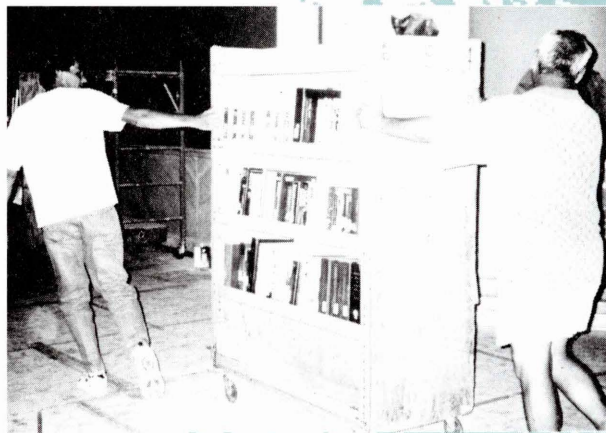


LSTA grants support statewide library services

for building assistance consulting. Many libraries in Iowa are outgrowing existing facilities; existing space needs more efficient arrangement and planning is necessary for expansion or new construction. The grant afforded many librarians the opportunity to work with professionals in redesigning their libraries. TAC grants (Technology Assistance Consulting) were also awarded to libraries that needed technical assistance in effectively planning and providing electronic access to information. An LSTA grant to the Iowa Library Association helped support a state survey of Iowans on their use of public libraries.

Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, administered by the State Library, had a tremendous impact on library service in FY99. In addition

to providing support for SILO, LSTA grants were given



Moving with the times

It was a year for transition and growth for Information Services staff. The most obvious change was the move of all collections, services, and staff out of the east wing and into the west wing of the building to accommodate renovation. About a third of the collection was boxed and is in warehouse storage; another third is on open shelves in the same warehouse, and a third remains in temporary public service space at the State Library. Information Services was reorganized,

so that a librarian now directly oversees the document delivery and government document services, including the Patents Depository.

Strategic planning sessions centered on three services: an evaluation of interlibrary loan operations, providing recommendations for service guidelines and practices; a joint task force convened by the State Library and the Iowa Library Association to review health information resources in the state; and a focus on improved delivery of services to customers were also conducted.

Town Meetings

This year's Town Meetings compared the differences and similarities between 1899 and 1999 library services, and offered a peek into the future. Staff from the State Library and Regional Libraries, and members of the Iowa Library Association presented "Then and Now: 1899, 1999 and Beyond" to over 300 participants in six locations across Iowa. Break-out sessions included tips on board meeting procedures, presentations on Bibliostat Connect, and how to retain valuable employees.

INFORMATION IOWA



STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

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DES MOINES, IA 50319**

**BULK RATE
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Permit No. 1195**