

Library Services Task Force holds information session

The Library Services Task Force is soliciting input from the Iowa library community on recommendations to position libraries to meet the future needs of Iowans. One opportunity to voice your opinions is October 13, 2000 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. over the ICN. Scheduled ICN sites are:

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Ames, Atlantic, Bayard, Belle Plaine, Belmond, Burlington, Charles City, Clarinda, Clear Lake, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Creston, Davenport, Delhi, Dubuque, Eagle Grove, Elgin, Fairfield, Iowa City, Johnston, Marion, Marshalltown, Norwalk, Orange City, Osceola, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Sac City, Sioux City, Spencer, Waterloo.

Specific ICN site information can be found at:
www.silo.lib.ia.us/LibraryServices/taskforceicnsites.pdf

Cooperation creates added benefits for Clayton County residents

A special alliance between libraries in Clayton County in northeast Iowa has resulted in a plethora of services for county residents that they otherwise may not enjoy.

The Clayton County Library Association, organized in 1961, includes libraries in Edgewood, Elkader, Farmersburg, Guttenberg, Garnavillo, McGregor, Monona, Strawberry Point and Volga. The association's first endeavor was to obtain funding from the county in order to serve rural customers free of charge.

Their next efforts focused on a riverboat organization in Marquette. "We decided to band together to ask for funding for books and other materials and have received dollars every year," said Anita Cox, director of the Elkader Public Library. "Cooperation is so much better than working alone."

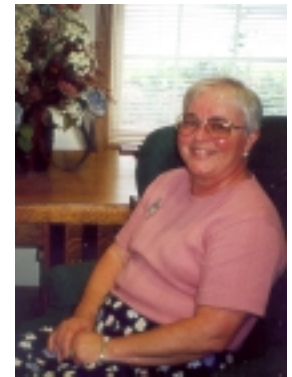
At a county library meeting five years ago, the question was raised as to whether the libraries could all automate using the same system.

"We knew we couldn't afford to automate each library separately," said Cox, "so we worked together to get grants."

The libraries decided on the same automation system that one library and a couple of schools already had. The goal was to get all the libraries' catalogs integrated into one, and eventually bring in the local schools and area education agency.

The project required raising \$100,000. Working as a team, the libraries raised the money through grants, county bankers, and local businesses.

"People didn't flinch giving us money once they knew what we wanted to do," said Cox. "Of course we sold the idea to people in our own communities first."



Anita Cox

Except for Volga and Farmersburg, all the libraries are automated and their will soon have their catalogs on a shared webpage. Volga is still recovering from a flood earlier this year and Farmersburg waited until moving into a new building.

Fortunately for Clayton County citizens, automation is just part of the librarians' cooperative spirit.

The popular Harry Potter book series resulted in "Harry Potter Night" at each library. Although activities varied, the librarians worked together to present "very successful" programs. In addition, the libraries are generous in loaning videotapes and audiotapes to each other.

The association tries to meet once a month, said Cox, and twice a year the libraries' staff and board members get together to share ideas and lend support.

"We strongly urge the kind of county cooperation we have here," said Cox, "especially when city finances are tight." In Clayton County, "libraries are one of the few organizations that serve everyone in the county."

FOOTNOTES

Notes from the State Librarian

State Librarian Sharman Smith is on the road this month with other State and Regional Library staff for the annual Iowa Library Town Meetings. Her column will return next month. The following was written by Mary Cameron, Youth Services Consultant, State Library of Iowa.

Now that summer - and summer library programs - are over, First Lady Christie Vilsack's Iowa Stories 2000 project is gaining momentum.

Last April during National Library Week, Vilsack announced her literacy initiative, and the seven pilot communities that would be involved in the first year (Algona, Ames, Bayard, Belle Plaine, Cherokee, Independence and Oskaloosa).

The library partners in these pilot communities (public library directors, school library media specialists, and academic librarians) spent the months prior to September planning and organizing their activities.

Vilsack is "kicking off" the initiative in each of the communities this month beginning with a local press conference. She will talk about her literacy vision, the local library partners will be introducing their local Iowa Stories 2000 Advisory Panels, and children will perform "literacy" activities. Vilsack will also unveil the Iowa Stories 2000 logo and banner.

Also in September, the pilot communities will conduct focus groups with their Advisory Panels. Advisory Panels are 10-12 community members representing the libraries, the media, the local chamber of commerce, local civic organizations, city government,

community businesses, human services, the arts, etc.

The role of the Advisory Panel is to identify literacy programs already established in the community, identify underserved segments of the community, identify potential community partners and projects to reach the underserved, identify overlaps in service or groups served, and to raise awareness of community literacy activities.

In October, each community will conduct a community forum to identify related literacy activities currently taking place in the community. The goal of this forum is to provide the community with a written inventory of literacy activities that can be kept in the local public library for reference in regard to future projects relating to literacy.

In November, after all the data has been collected, the Advisory Panel will choose an Iowa Stories 2000 project. Libraries involved in the first year of this three-year project will only have six to eight months to work through the process. In years two and three of the initiative, communities will have a year to develop a plan.

In a news release, First Lady Vilsack noted that she "wants every Iowa community committed to raising children who love to read and share stories."

"The literacy community process will allow communities to celebrate what they already do to promote literacy and will help community leaders develop projects to meet the literacy needs of underserved groups in each community," said Vilsack.

Year two of the project will kick off during National Library Week in April 2001.

Smith named to state council

Sharman Smith



Governor Tom Vilsack recently named State Librarian Sharman Smith to the Iowa Information Technology Council.

"This group of people will research and determine how Iowa can use technology more effectively to increase accessibility to government services and the productivity of state departments," Vilsack said.

Smith, who was elected chair of the council, said she is delighted that libraries are being recognized for the important role they play in Iowa's information infrastructure.

Others council members are Jessie Rasmussen, Iowa Department of Human Services; Cindy Eisenhauer, Department of Management; Diane Kolmer, chair of Iowa Access; Betsy Bransgard, Davenport Chamber of Commerce; Tim Lapointe, Lapointe & Lapointe Attorneys at Law; and Sandy Glenn, former instructor, Hawkeye Community College.

By state law, other members of the council will include Richard Varn, director, Iowa Department of Technology; David Bolender, administrator, Iowa Public Television; Bob Tibor, State Technology Advisor, Iowa Department of Economic Development; and Tommy Thompson, Iowa Communications Network (ICN) Director.

FOOTNOTES

Carver Trust continues grant support to libraries

The following Iowa public libraries received grant awards at the April and July 2000 board meetings of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in Muscatine.

A total of \$114,615 in funding was distributed.

- Clear Lake Public Library, toward the construction of an addition to the library building.
- Cushing Public Library, to purchase furnishings and materials.
- Matthias M. Hoffman Public Library (Dyersville), toward the construction of a new library building.
- Rake Public Library, toward the construction of a new library building.
- Remsen Public Library, for the automation of the library.
- Sigourney Public Library, for the automation of the library.
- Storm Lake Public Library, to support the purchase and installation of a system that tracks the flow of materials and patrons.

"Festival of Books for Young People"

The "Festival of Books for Young People" will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. November 4, 2000 in the Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. Registration is \$48; lunch is an additional \$10. For information on presenters, contact the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science, (319) 335-5707.

"Why do I need a librarian? I have the Internet!"

by Meg Sarff, Public Services Manager, Davenport Public Library
written for the *Friends of Davenport Public Library Newsletter*

Good question. The other day while working at the reference and information desk I was approached by a man who wanted a fairly obscure piece of information.

I checked a few print sources then went on the Internet. He told me not to bother since he had spent several hours searching the Internet and had found nothing. Within a few seconds I found exactly what he was looking for and he was astonished.

"How did you find that? I bet you just guessed, eh?"

After he left the desk, I pondered what he had said. Did he really think I was that lucky that I could just guess where the answer would be found? I wanted to get up on my soapbox and shout: "NO, I didn't just get lucky! I'm a librarian!"

It's my job to find information. I'm an information specialist and it can take a specialist to quickly track down information, whether it is in a printed

format or online electronically.

The Internet is a powerful tool with millions of pieces of information and, although efforts are being made to make this information more easily accessible, the truth is that it may never be as easy to use as that old fashioned collection of information, the library.

Librarians -- specially trained information experts -- have spent centuries helping the public find information. Nothing has really changed. The Internet, while in a new format, is just another collection of information that needs a competent, trained information professional to navigate its intricacies. The reference librarian at your local public library is that professional. Think of us the next time you need information; we librarians will be there for you.

Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff recently certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Lois Cordes, Strawberry Point
Betty Green, Truro
Doris Johnson, Truro
Paulette Groet, Oskaloosa
Paula Hess, Dunlap
Cathy Jones, Cumberland
Cindy Mealhow, Jesup
Betty Nobiling, Westside
Marilyn Schnell, Eagle Grove
Shannon Surly, Evansdale

Free Natural Resources CD

The Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC) has created a CD containing much of the geographic data generated by the Department of Natural Resources. Included on the CD are samples from the mapping system in Black Hawk County and a free data viewer. Besides data, there are also two tutorials designed to give users a step-by-step introduction to using geographic information systems (GIS). The CD is available in limited quantities. To view a portion, logon to www.gis.state.ia.us/start.htm. To order a copy, call Michelle Lantermans at (515) 281-4293 or e-mail michelle.lanterman@its.state.ia.us.

FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes August 14, 2000 - State Library of Iowa

(These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries)

Present: Dale Ross, Chair; Eldon Huston; Dwight Carlson; Bill O'Brien; John Bennett via telephone.

Guests: Kay Elliott, ILA Representative; Betty Landon, Administrator, North Central Regional Library

Staff: Sharman B. Smith, State Librarian; Mary Wegner, Assistant State Librarian; Alison Brinker; Annette Wetteland; Sandy Dixon; Fran Fessler

1.0 Agenda

The agenda was set as follows: 1) DRoss asked that action items under 6.0 be moved to 1.0A. Approved.

1.0A Action Items

A. Budget Requests for FY02. The Commission received the proposed FY02 budget request asking for an increase of \$1.04 million: \$800,000 for Enrich Iowa, \$50,000 for Library Materials, and \$190,000 for Open Access. After discussion, Huston moved approval of FY02 Proposed Budget Request. O'Brien seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Bennett, yes; Carlson, yes; Huston, yes; O'Brien, yes; DRoss, yes.

B. 2001 Commission Meeting Dates Commission reviewed and agreed upon the following meeting dates in 2001: February 27, April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, and December 4.

C. Election of Officers

Huston moved that current officers continue in their positions. Bennett, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Motion made by Carlson; seconded by Huston to receive minutes and place on agenda for approval at the October meeting.

3.0 Financial Report

Brinker reviewed the FY00 financial report through July 31. The financial report was received as presented.

4.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Introduction of new Assistant State Librarian - DRoss welcomed Mary Wegner, Assistant State Librarian. Wegner will also serve as the Library Program Officer responsible for the Library Development unit and LSTA.

2. FY01 Enrich Iowa Program - Sandy Dixon gave a brief update on the Enrich Iowa program and reported that 95% of the libraries have sent in their Assurances of Eligibility for Enrich Iowa FY2001.

3. Commission extended thanks to Sandy Dixon for her assistance while the assistant state librarian position was vacant.

B. Commission Reports

1. Library Dedication: DRoss represented the State Library at the Iowa Falls Public Library dedication.

2. ALA Summer Conference- DRoss, Bennett and Huston attended the conference and reported attending many good meetings; at the ALA/ALTA Awards banquet Dale Ross, Kay Runge, First Lady Christie Vilsack, Governor Tom Vilsack and Senator Tom Harkin were inducted into the ALA Trustee Association National Advocacy Honor Roll.

C. State Librarian's Report

1. Building Report: Smith reported the return move to the east side is planned for mid-September to late October. The State Library offices in the Ola Babcock Miller Building will be closed about one month as library materials, the computer network, and offices are moved.

2. First Lady Christie Vilsack rode RAGBRAI promoting the Iowa Stories 2000 project and conducting story hours in 20 plus libraries along the way.

3. Smith was appointed by Governor Vilsack to the Information Technology Council.

4. Ross is writing a letter of support for the study of "Impact of School Libraries on Learning"

D. Iowa Regional Library System Report.

1. Betty Landon, North Central Regional Library Administrator, gave updates from North Central Region. NCRLS is sponsoring a one-day Technology Conference on September 13, in Mason City; sponsors two-day workshop each summer for all types of libraries; coordinates the Summer Library Program for the State Library and 11 other states. NCRLS won the Marketing Award at a recent Business Expo in Mason City.

5.0 Public Comment

Kay Elliott reported the Clive Public Library opens in October.

6.0 Action Items moved to 1.0A

7.0 Discussion Items

A. Library Services Task Force (LSTF)
-The first meeting was held on August 3 in West Des Moines. First Lady Christie Vilsack opened the meeting. DRoss delivered the charge to the LSTF. Members were introduced and discussion was held on the future of libraries and individual expectations. An ICN session will be held on October 16, 2000 to get public input on issues.

B. New Business-Calendar notes for 2001: Midwinter Conference, January 12-17, in Washington DC; ILA Legislative Day Wednesday, January 24; ALA Legislative Day, Tuesday, May 1; ALA Summer conference, June 14-20 in San Francisco, CA.

8.0 Adjournment

Next meeting will be October 24, 2000. Place TBA.

FOOTNOTES

LIBRARY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

Patents*ILL*Medical*Census*Public Policy*
Library Science*State and Federal Documents*
Audio Visual Services * Law
by Barb Corson
State Library Reference Librarian

The State Law Library of Iowa, a unit of the State Library of Iowa, is located on the second floor of the State Capitol Building.

The library holds approximately 170,000 volumes of state and federal statutes, case law, law journals, selected state and federal documents, Iowa legislative documents and history, Iowa Supreme Court briefs from 1870, and Iowa Court of Appeals briefs from the court's inception in 1983. Legal encyclopedias, journals, indexes, directories, and public-access computers fill out the library's collection.

One of only three large public access law libraries in Iowa, the collection allows law staff to assist customers from nearly every state

and from many foreign countries.

Also helpful is a reciprocal agreement among the State Law Library, Drake University, and the University of Iowa, that expands access to library customers across the state. About 80% of the library's holdings are reflected on the State Library's online catalog.

The popular "Ask a Librarian" form for legal information, which receives 80-100 requests per month, is easy to find on the State Library's website at <http://www.silo.lib.state.ia.us/lawlibrary.htm>. The website also includes links to many online legal resources. For more information, contact the Law Library, (515) 281-5124.

Chenery ends 44 years of cataloging

Fred
Chenery



Fred Chenery, head of technical services at the State Library since 1978, retired in late September ending "44 years of filing catalog cards."

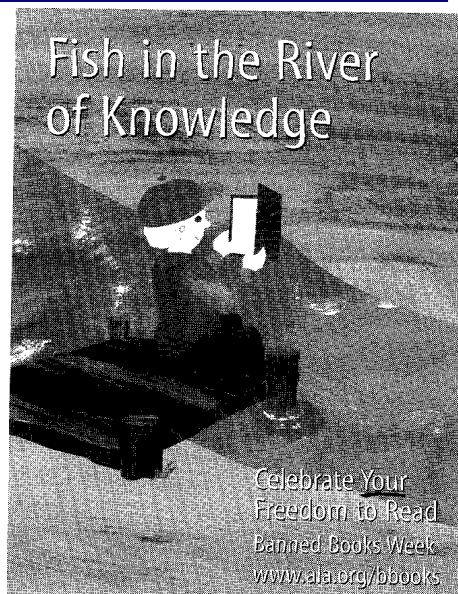
Before coming to the State Library, Chenery spent 27 years in theological seminaries in New Haven, CT, Austin, TX and Dubuque.

At the State Library, Chenery said he had to "plunge into learning the Dewey Decimal Classification and OCLC." On July 1, 1978, he supervised shifting the medical library from the Boston classification to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) system. That same year, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation creating the Documents Depository Center. Chenery spent several months setting up the procedures for cataloging state documents. By then, said Chenery, "I was trying to manage three classification systems and two subject authorities." In 1996, the State Library began using the Horizon online system.

Chenery will retire in Dubuque with his wife Lucie. His biggest worry, he said, is finding room in Dubuque for all the things he has accumulated during the 22 years he has lived in Des Moines. Best of luck, Fred!

Banned Books Week September 23-30

The nineteenth annual Banned Books Week will be celebrated September 23-30 with the theme "Fish in the River of Knowledge." For more information visit the American Library Association's webpage, www.ala.org/bbooks.



FOOTNOTES

Former Iowan offers program on "Scattergood Hostel" to libraries

Michael Luick-Thrams, an Iowa-born historian, writer and lecturer based in Berlin, will bring the story of the Scattergood Hostel to interested audiences in Iowa during a speaking tour in December.

From 1939 to 1943, 185 refugees from the Nazis found a safe haven in Iowa run by Quaker farmers and college students in an abandoned Friends boarding school in

Iowa. The little known "Schindler's List on the Prairie" has been preserved in the book "Out of Hitler's Reach" and in an Iowa Public Television (IPTV) "Living in Iowa" segment.

Luick-Thrams will present 45 minute programs to weekend workshops depending on the needs of the sponsoring institutions. The standard program includes the IPTV video and/or slides of black and white photos taken mostly by

refugees at the hostel who had been professional photographers in Europe. In some cases surviving refugees may be available to speak at presentations.

Libraries interested in providing this program in their communities, or who would like more information about obtaining a copy of the IPTV video, should contact Luick-Thrams at scampbel@portone.com, or visit the website <http://welcome.to/michaelluick-thrams>.

FOOTNOTES¹

¹The Official Newsletter of the
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Iowa Commission of Libraries

John Bennett (Iowa City)
Dwight Carlson (Des Moines)
Eldon Huston (Des Moines)
William O'Brien (Des Moines)
Dale Ross (Ames)
Nancy Ross (Harlan)
Berta Van Ekeren (Monroe)

State Library Services

Audio/visual services; Information services and medical library; Specialized consulting services; Law library; Networking; State Data Center; Publications; State documents program

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