

Gates grant will improve library technology statewide

Continuing construction delays affect State Library Services

Audio/Visual Services, Library Development and the Library Science collection are open on the third floor of the Miller (Old Historical) building. The State Data Center is taking telephone calls only.

All other services and collections (medical/patents/public policy/state and federal documents) will open in early January.

We apologize for the unavoidable delays and inconvenience.

The State Library of Iowa has applied for a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's State Partnership Program. The grant will expand the availability of public access computing and provide access to the Internet and digital information through Iowa's public libraries.

Under the program, grant money totaling approximately \$3.4 million will be available in Spring 2003. In addition to cash grants for computers, eligible public libraries will receive software, installation, training and technical support, and publications worth at least another \$3 million. To be eligible, a library must be recognized by the state as a public library, provide direct library services, and have a service area population in poverty of more than 10 percent (as defined by the Gates Foundation).

The State Library has established an advisory coalition of public library leaders to work collaboratively to achieve the grant's purposes of expanding access to information technologies in public libraries, especially those serving low-income communities. The coalition will encourage libraries to apply for the Gates grants, assist with presentations about the grant at various Iowa library meetings, and assist with the organization and logistics of the project.

Coalition members include: Linda Adams, director, Arlington and Fayette public libraries; Bonnie McKewon, administrator, Northwest Regional Library System, Sioux City; Pat Means, director, Villisca Public Library; LaWanda Roudebush, director, Fort Dodge Public Library; Gerry Rowland, consultant, State Library; Tom Shepley, consultant, North Central Regional Library, Mason City;

Marsha Tate, director, Musser Public Library, Muscatine; and Mary Wegner, Assistant State Librarian.

"Iowa's public libraries need more public access Internet computers," said Wegner, chair of the Coalition.

"We know both anecdotally and statistically that the demand for public Internet computers is very high in Iowa libraries," said Wegner.

Many librarians report that their customers frequently have to wait, sometimes for hours, to gain access to a public Internet computer. In FY99, 272 of Iowa's 565 public library buildings reported that they have just one public access Internet computer. The addition of another public access Internet computer from the Gates Foundation will nearly double the computing capacity in many rural Iowa libraries.

Some Iowa libraries will be able to use the Gates Foundation grant funds to upgrade from dial-up to dedicated Internet connectivity.

The State Library expects to hear in early February that the Gates Foundation has approved the grant application.



Happy Holidays from all of us at the State Library of Iowa.

FOOTNOTES

Notes from the State Librarian



*Sharman
Smith*

As I began to think about what I wanted to say in this month's column, several things came to mind, some happy/some not so happy.

For the last few months, I have focused a great deal of my time and energy on the Library Services Task Force, the renovation of the Ola Babcock Miller Building (Old Historical Building), and moving the State Library back into the renovated east wing of the building.

The work of the Library Services Task Force is to be completed this week. Task Force members are to be applauded for their incredible efforts to come to some decisions on a number of critical issues facing Iowa libraries. I don't think any Task Force member would say their work has been easy or that it has always been pleasant. Making recommendations that will impact library services in Iowa for years to come is never easy, but what a worthy endeavor! I want to thank the members of the Task Force for their efforts. Their hard work will make a difference.

As anyone who has ever been involved in a construction project knows, it is exciting and frustrating. These words can also describe the renovation of the Ola Babcock Miller Building, home of the State Library. The project is exciting as we look

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forward to the wonderful, restored space and plan for improved service delivery. It is frustrating in the delays and endless time involved in such a project. I think you will be pleased with the final product. You will have a State Library of which to be proud and a place you will want show to others. I want to thank you for your patience as we work toward a facility that will last at least another 100 years.

On a sadder note, the Iowa library community lost one of its greatest advocates recently with the death of Ted Anderson, lobbyist for the Iowa Library Association. Ted lobbied for many worthwhile causes, but he was known as "Mr. Library." Over the years, he had become quite knowledgeable of library issues and could discuss such issues so fervently that one would have thought he was a librarian. Ted will truly be missed by everyone that knew him. He was a great advocate and a wonderful friend.

As we come to the end of the year, I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

IEMA invites ILA members to March conference

Iowa Library Association (ILA) members are invited to the Iowa Educational Media Association (IEMA) Conference March 29 and 30 at the Hotel Savery in Des Moines. Conference details and an online registration form are located at <http://www.iema-ia.org>.

ILA members may attend at IEMA member rates. Please indicate on the registration form that you are an ILA member.

Dates to Remember

The Iowa Library Association (ILA) has announced Regional Legislative Days for 2001. They are:

February 6 - North Central

February 13 - Central

February 20 - Southeast

February 27 - East Central

March 6 - Northeast

March 13 - Northwest

March 20 - Southwest

The statewide ILA Legislative Day is scheduled for January 24. More information will be forthcoming.

Other Dates to Remember

January 12-17 - ALA Midwinter - Washington, DC

January 15 - Accreditation Report due

January 24 - Stories 2000 Sign Up begins

January 30 - 2000 Partnership Grants / Interim Reports due

Library Exchange

Free. Must either pick up or pay for shipping. Weighs approximately 50 lbs. Contact Hank Zaletel at Iowa Department of Transportation Library, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010; 1-800-262-0003, x1200.

Labor Arbitration Reports - Dispute Settlements, Volumes 91-111

Labor Arbitration Cumulative Digest and Index with Table of Cases - Covering Volumes 91-100 Labor Arbitration Reports

Labor Arbitration Cumulative Digest and Index with Table of Cases - Covering Volumes 101-110 Labor Arbitration Reports.

FOOTNOTES

PLM 1 & 2 classes offered Spring 2001

The State Library is offering Public Library Management (PLM) 1 and 2 in Spring 2001. The registration fee is \$35. To request a registration form, contact Fran Fessler, State Library, (515) 281-5790; 1-800-248-4483; fessler@mail.lib.state.ia.us. Or print a copy of the form from the State Library's website, www.silo.lib.ia.us/certification/cecat.htm.

PLM 1

Registration deadline March 9.

Instructor: Susan Henricks.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 10

AND

ICN sessions 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

PLM 2

Registration deadline February 23.

Instructor: Deb Tobias

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, March 26

AND

ICN sessions 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14.

New numbers for Audio/Visual unit and ICN scheduler

The State Library's Audio/Visual unit has new telephone and fax numbers. The telephone number is (515) 281-4315. The fax number is (515) 281-6191. (The toll-free number remains 1-800-248-4462.)

Public library and other ICN schedulers can now reach the State Library scheduler at (515) 281-4316; jkokke@mail.lib.state.ia.us.

Research shows dawn of public libraries, Internet partnership

Public libraries and the Internet enter the 21st century as partners in the Information Age, according to a study recently released by the Urban Libraries Council. The first-of-its-kind survey was conducted by George D'Elia, School of Information Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo.

The research found that 75 percent of Internet users also use public libraries because they feel that each information provider best serves a particular niche. Public libraries, for example, offer some advantages that the Internet does not.

- Ninety-one percent feel that libraries provide accurate information, compared to 78 percent who feel the Internet is accurate.
- Eighty-eight percent feel their privacy and confidentiality is protected by public libraries, while 49 percent feel protected by the Internet.
- Eighty-eight percent found that library professionals provided helpful assistance, compared to 62 percent who felt Internet services provided help, if needed.

The survey shows that the two information providers, instead of competing with each other, complement each other's services.

The survey also found that public libraries were used more frequently when consumers were:

- Spending time with or browsing for reading material for their children
- Looking for information on local history and family genealogy
- Seeking community services

On the other hand, these same individuals turn to the Internet more often when seeking:

- The most up-to-date consumer product information
- The day's news, weather and sports

• Job or career information
"The greatest value of this research," said Joey Rodger, president, Urban Libraries Council, "is that it will help libraries discover what services are most valuable to the community, and then focus their efforts and resources on these services. For example, the study found that more individuals who utilize both services feel the Internet is more easily accessible because it's open when needed. We can now work with our library directors to come up with ways to make library resources more accessible."

Other findings include:

- Eighty-eight percent perceive the Internet to be fun to use, compared to 75 percent for libraries.

• Ninety-three percent found a wide range of resources available on the Internet, while 75 percent considered the library to have a wide range of resources.

"This is an exciting time to be in the information business," said Rodger. "Consumers have more choices than ever before, and they're taking advantage of them. It's equally exciting to learn that there's still an important role in today's New Economy for the neighborhood public library."

FOOTNOTES

Workstation for disabled available at Waterloo Public Library

A specially-equipped computer workstation is now available for use by disabled individuals at the Waterloo Public Library.

Using federal funding provided through the City of Waterloo ADA Compliance Commission, library officials hired a consultant to design a workstation that would allow individuals with various disabilities to use a computer.

The workstation has an adjustable computer cart to accommodate people of all sizes and postures. A touch screen monitor functions like a mouse. Headphones and microphones aid in the use of voice-activated and reading software. Screen zooming software makes the computer usable by those with vision problems. The workstation offers many other features, including a scanner that allows patrons to "read" a variety of materials.

An employee of the Black Hawk Center for Independent Living is trained to provide assistance to those wishing to use the computer for the first time. For more information on this service, contact Cindy Eubank at (319) 291-4476.

FOOTNOTES¹

¹The Official Newsletter of the State Library of Iowa
www.silo.lib.ia.us

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