

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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DPI QUICK NOTE



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INSTRUCTION
IN THE USE OF
LIBRARIES

A POLICY
STATEMENT OF THE
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IOWA DEPARTMENT
OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
1986

DPI QUICK NOTE 5

**INSTRUCTION IN THE
USE OF LIBRARIES**

A Policy Statement of the
American Library Association

Utilization of information is basic to virtually every aspect of daily living in a democratic society, whether in the formal pursuit of educational goals or in independent judgment and decision making. In our post-industrial, increasingly complex society, the need for information daily becomes greater.

Libraries are a major source of information; however, their effective use requires an understanding of how information is organized and how individuals can retrieve that information. Many individuals have an inadequate understanding of how to determine the type of information needed, locate the appropriate information, and use it to their best advantage.

Instruction in the use of libraries should begin during childhood years and continue as a goal of the formal educational process in order to prepare individuals for the independent information retrieval essential to sustain life-long professional and personal growth.

It is essential that libraries of all types accept the responsibility of providing people with opportunities to understand the organization of information. The responsibility of educating users in successful information location demands the same administrative, funding, and staffing support as do more traditional library programs.

The American Library Association encourages all libraries to include instruction in the use of libraries as one of the primary goals of service.

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