

Monday Morning Eye-Opener March 22, 2021

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER



FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

March 22, 2021



New Endorsement Academy Is Here!

Two weeks ago in this space, the *Eye-Opener* previewed the State Library's redesigned certification program, promising that it's nearly ready. Today, this happy news—**IT IS READY** and State Library staff join the Hooray Chorus! **Drum roll ... newly hired directors and support staff can enroll in the new Endorsement Academy today!**

The courses formerly known as Public Library Management 1 & 2 have been flipped into a self-paced format. This is also true of the courses formerly known as Public Library Support. Weekly, three-hour synchronous classes are a thing of the past. With this revamp, students will move through classes at their own pace, watching videos and taking quizzes. We'll incorporate some live ZOOM discussions, too. And it's likely that most people won't miss the drive time to Des Moines, which was required under the old structure.

What to Expect

The [continuing education webpages](#) are updated and the necessary links are live. Consultant Samantha Bowers has created an [introductory video](#) explaining the new program in more detail. FYI: this video will be very helpful for library boards to review when they are in the process of hiring a new director. For now, here are some things to look for:

- Everyone wanting to enroll will first need to complete an **application form** to be accepted into the program; the application process is now logically on the front end of the program instead of on the back end

- Class content is accessible in **IALearns**, so log into your **IALearns account** to get started.
- Everyone enrolled in new certification program will need to complete **two prerequisite classes** before moving on. The two prerequisites are (1) an overview of the new program and (2) a technology skills self-assessment
- **Note:** Directors who finished PLM1 but not PLM2 should have received an email from Sam Bouwers explaining that if you completed PLM1, you can fast-track your way toward completion because you can skip through approximately half of the required classes
- Expect **new vocabulary** as we transition to phrases like "Endorsement Academy" and "Director Endorsements"
- Everyone enrolled—whether library directors or support staff—will need to complete the "**Core Courses**." Once the "**Core**" is completed, directors will steer toward those classes that lead to a "**Public Library Director Endorsement**." Support staff will steer toward those classes that lead to a **staff endorsement**; one example could be a "Youth Services Endorsement"
- In addition to the self-paced format of watching videos and taking quizzes, there will also be required time in **occasional ZOOM meetings** with other students and with State Library instructors; more information about these live ZOOM meetings will be coming soon.

Needless to say, this transition from the decades-old Public Library Management format to the new **Endorsement Academy** has been a huge undertaking. On behalf of the **State Library Education Team**, we appreciate your patience as we've worked this past year to rebuild and modernize this foundational training for Iowa library personnel.

The Endorsement Academy Is Open!



Libraries Included in ARPA Legislation

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) received a needed jolt of federal funding with the recent passage of the **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)**. IMLS received \$200 million dollars, marking the single largest increase in the agency's 25-year history. Through IMLS, all fifty state libraries receive federal funding. Of the \$200

million, \$178 million will go to state library administrative agencies on a population-based formula; the minimum allotment to each state library will be \$2 million dollars.

Because this is such a new development, it's too soon to tell how the State Library of Iowa will spend its share of the **ARPA** funding. In the coming weeks, our State Library administrative team will learn more about the parameters of the program. It is important to note that this \$2 million dollar boon is a one-time appropriation, not an ongoing appropriation.

Remarks From ALA President

American Library Association President Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. praised the ARPA legislation: *"Libraries are a lifeline for millions of people and the people who know that best are those who need this rescue package the most. Because libraries stepped up, people without home broadband have been able to keep their jobs, students and teachers have continued to learn in a remote context, and seniors and other vulnerable people have safely connected with doctors and maintained contact with loved ones. Now libraries are also helping people register for the vaccine and even serving as temporary clinics."*

"The pandemic has exposed the level to which Americans rely on libraries to access the Internet and to navigate it, find jobs and gain new skills, learn to read and identify what information to trust ... At the same time, COVID-19 has forced many states and local governments to implement cuts and furloughs that threaten the very services that communities are relying on for relief..."

Our Federal Funding

For an example of how the State Library of Iowa uses federal dollars, Program Director Nancy Medema enumerates some of the programs and services currently supported by our share of federal funding; note this is not an inclusive list: SILO and PLOW, Bridges (managing the consortium) Summer Reading Program, Iowa Center for the Book, WhoFi, Online Resources (Gale, Wilson Core Collection, etc) Library Talk, Sub-Grants

More To Come

Also within the **ARPA** legislation is funding earmarked for aspects of the E-Rate Program, as well as funding earmarked for municipal and state governments. There's much more information to come; in the meantime, library personnel, trustees, and advocates everywhere are encouraged to thank their local legislators for this critical booster shot of funding for library service!

[Read More About ARPA and Libraries](#)

Enrich Iowa Letters of Agreement

Due By April 30th

This announcement comes from State Library Consultant Scott Dermont. It's time to renew your library's participation in the **Enrich Iowa Program**. Remember that **Enrich Iowa** is made up of three distinct programs: **Open Access**, **ILL Reimbursement**, and **Direct State Aid** which is the funding awarded for meeting public library standards.



Every April, this annual sign-up period renews your library's participation. So to be part of **Enrich Iowa** in fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) your **Enrich Iowa Letter of Agreement** is due at the State Library on or before **April 30, 2021**. Note that the **EI Agreement** is available as a digital form only, we are no longer accepting faxed copies.

Follow These Steps-to-Completion

- Open the **Enrich Iowa Agreement** by clicking on the button below
- Mark the boxes on the **Agreement**, making sure to check each box next to the program that you wish to participate in. **You must check at least one box to submit the form.** If you intend to participate in Direct State Aid reimbursement, you also need to participate in the Open Access and Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement programs. **NOTE: Tier 0 libraries** may only participate in Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement as of July 1, 2017
- Within the orange text box, fill out the contact information and sign the **Enrich Iowa Agreement**. It can be signed by the library director or other signatory authority; we are now using digital signatures.
- Submit the **EI Agreement** by clicking the blue “**Submit & Sign**” button on the bottom right hand corner of the screen. Once submitted, you will receive an email notice with an attached version of the completed document. You can keep the attached file for your records. Remember the **deadline is April 30, 2021**.

Library directors and trustees will benefit from reading the **Terms of Agreement** for each individual **Enrich Iowa** program. The **Terms of Agreement** for [Open Access](#), [Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement](#), and [Direct State Aid](#) outline the rules behind each program.

Later this month, Scott will begin posting the **EI Agreements** as they are received at the State Library, so you can check to see if your agreement arrived. Contact Scott Dermont with questions scott.dermont@iowa.gov Access the **Enrich Iowa Letter of Agreement** at the button below and thank you for participating!

[Enrich Iowa Letter of Agreement](#)

This Week ...



This week's webinars are summarized below; register for one or all inside **IALearns**.

Check It Out

Tuesday March 23 (11:00AM-12:00PM) **Check It Out** is a webinar series spotlighting the best new books for ages 0-18. Join Angie Manfredi every month for booktalks on the latest

titles and come away with collection development ideas.

That All May Read: Our Library Collection & Alternative Formats

Wednesday March 24 (1:00-2:00PM) marks another installment in our partnership with the Iowa Department for the Blind. In this webinar, learn about the various collections and formats available through the Dept. for the Blind and Print Disabled, including Braille eReaders, accessibility with BRIDGES, along with a demo of the agency’s online catalog.


PLOW Website Instruction

Wednesday March 24th (2:00-3:00PM) Marie Harms continues instructional sessions on using the new Concrete5 PLOW websites.

Register for this week’s webinars inside IALearns

[IALearns Registration](#)

Monday Morning Eye-Opener
 Editor: [Bonnie McKewon](#)



1112 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

[f](#) [t](#)

Stay Connected with the [State Library of Iowa](#):



[Manage Subscriptions](#) [Help](#) [SHARE](#)

Subscribe to updates from State of Iowa

Share Bulletin



Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)