



Special Edition

Iowa Library For the Blind & Print Disabled Collaboration Continues in 2022



STATE LIBRARY
OF IOWA

2021 Webinar Series Concludes

Join us for the 2021 finale TODAY at 1 p.m.

"Youth and STEM"

Learn how to use the "Scale Up" kits from the Iowa Governors' STEM Council grant as examples of how to make STEM resources and activities accessible. Also, examples of the Library's Makerspace Mondays and STEM & Stories Saturdays activities.

And read on in this newsletter for details about the 2022 series!



[Register for Youth & STEM](#)

View past webinars on YouTube

Subscribe to the State Library of Iowa CE Channel for alerts when new content is added!

You can find recordings of all of our 2021 webinars with the Iowa Library for the Blind & Print disabled on our YouTube channel. Descriptions of each video will include a link to IA Learns if you want to watch for CE Credit. Links to resources & slide decks are also in the description.



Past topics include:

- Screen readers
- Customer service etiquette
- Technology & accessibility
- Braille
- And more!

[View 2021 Webinars on YouTube](#)

More Upcoming Opportunities



Webinar Series Continuing in 2022

Second Thursdays, Month, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

The State Library of Iowa and the Iowa Library for the Blind & Print Disabled are excited to announce that we will be continuing our monthly webinar series into 2022. This coming year will feature some repeats of favorite sessions, and some new topics based on feedback from past evaluations. Here's a preview of what's coming:

- **January** – Overview of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
- **February** – Universal Design and Libraries
- **March** – Etiquette: Providing Customer Services to Individuals Who are Blind
- **April** – Youth Programming and Accessible STEM
- **May** – Technology and Accessibility
- **June** – Cane Travel and Mobility Overview
- **July** – Resources that are Accessible
- **August** – Audio Book Production through the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
- **September** – StoryWalks and Accessibility
- **October** – Braille
- **November** – Screen Readers in Your Library

- **December** – Braille and Tactile Production through the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

The January through April webinars are currently available in IA Learns. Search for "Library for the Blind" in IA Learns, below.

[Access IA Learns](#)



Braille Bits for Librarians

Apply by Tuesday, January 4, 2022

There is no replacement for the ability to read. For those who are blind, braille is an essential tool that aids in the process of becoming literate. It also allows for equality, inclusion and independence.

Braille is a system of touch reading and writing in which raised dots represent the letters of the alphabet. It also contains equivalents for punctuation marks and provides symbols to show letter groupings or contractions.

Braille Bits for Librarians is an introductory course to braille designed to familiarize participants with the braille system, with braille contractions and their usage, and with the rules of braille. Throughout the lessons examples are presented in simulated braille (dots reproduced in print). Each lesson will build on previous lessons introducing you to the braille alphabet, contractions, punctuation and rules. We will provide participants with a braille alphabet card, flash cards and a "braille cheat sheet" poster to help with lessons and into the future.

The course consists of 21 lessons, podcasts and homework to be complete over the 8 weeks of our Cohort. We will begin and end the program with a virtual meeting and throughout the 8 weeks (January 7, 2022 - March 4, 2022) you will have access to certified Braille Transcribers at the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled to answer questions and provide information.

To **earn the 11 hours of Continuing Education Credit** associated with participation in Braille Bits for Librarians, participants will:

- Commit to approximately 8 weeks of work. (January 7, 2022 - March 4, 2022.)
- Gain approval from a supervisor/administrator to participate.
- Meet virtually twice on January 7, 2022 and March 4, 2022 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm.
- Complete and submit lessons through Google Classroom prior to the final March 4, 2022 virtual meeting. These lessons are self-paced and take approximately ½ hour for each. The 21 lessons must be completed prior to the meeting on March 4, 2022.

[Apply to be part of Braille Bits for Librarians](#)

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