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## Do Iowa public libraries want their own Web sites?

The answer is...

**a resounding yes!**

At print time, 288 public libraries had sent letters-of-intent to the State Library stating their interest in Web site and e-mail hosting sponsored by the State Library through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since the original target for this project was 100 libraries, the State Library is delighted with the response.

Through the PLOW project – Putting Libraries on the Web, libraries will have Web sites preloaded with a variety of local information specific to each library, including links to local catalogs, location, hours, contacts, and trustees. Library customers will also have access to state-wide resources, such as EBSCOHost and FirstSearch databases, through their local library's Web site. As library staff members are trained and become comfortable with their library's Web site, they will be able to add their own content.

Through the e-mail hosting service, regardless of the Internet service provider, each public library will be able to have consistent and stable e-mail addresses making it easier to communicate with customers. In other words, when a library changes ISPs, the library's e-mail address will remain the same.

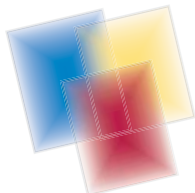
Participating libraries will also receive technical support provided by a full-time computer / technical support person available to public libraries by phone and e-mail. Starting this fall and continuing into 2007, training will be provided on Introduction to Directory and E-mail Services, Getting Your Web Site Started, Customizing Your Web Site, and more.

More information about the project can be found on the Staying Connected Web page.  
<http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/gates-grants/gates-sc>

**P**UTTING **L**IBS **O**N THE **W**EB



**Breaking New Ground**



## State Library helps distribute book on the end of slavery in America

The State Library of Iowa helped people statewide become better aware of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance by assisting with the distribution of the book *Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom*, by Charles A. Taylor, to Iowa libraries with populations of 3,000 or more.

At a recent news conference, Gary Lawson, founder and general chairperson of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance, said that “too many Iowans are unfamiliar with the significance and importance of Juneteenth as it relates to our national and state history.”

Juneteenth is a 141-year-old observance to the end of slavery in America that began on June 19, 1865. The Iowa Juneteenth Observance is a legislated state holiday that was signed into existence by Governor Tom Vilsack on April 11, 2002 and is annually observed on the third Saturday of June.

Said Lawson, “It is our pleasure, with assistance from the State Library, to contribute to the greater good of Iowa by providing a means to increase collective knowledge of how June 19th connects to July 4th and why these two “liberty” dates are of primary significance in American History.”

As more fundraisers occur, the Connect Foundation’s 2006 Iowa Juneteenth Observance hopes to distribute books to all Iowa libraries.

Pictured above, front row, are Monroe J. Colston, consultant, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation and Minnie Mallard, vice chairperson for community relations, Iowa Juneteenth Observance. Back row, Mary Wegner, state librarian, and Gary Lawson. The project is also supported by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation’s Watson Powell Jr. African American Community Endowment Fund.

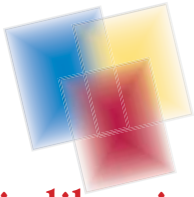


## Certification Update

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

**Lori A. Barkema**, Cedar Rapids Public Library  
**Mirdza E. Berzins**, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque  
**Shantelle J. Nagunst**, Randolph Public Library  
**Brenda L. Ross**, Davenport Public Library  
**Nicole A. Rushford**, Wyoming Public Library





## Public libraries provide outreach to child care centers

When the State Library revised its public library standards program (“In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measures of Quality”) in 2004, the following was added: “The library offers outreach services to day care centers and other entities in which groups of preschool children gather... Outreach service includes collections and programming.”

Many public libraries in rural Iowa were finding that their preschool story times were dwindling in attendance and their collections of wonderful picture books were not being used. Because of Iowa’s changing demographics and the number of children in child care and preschools, public librarians saw the need to change one of their most basic services: If children weren’t coming to them for story times, they would go to the children.

Research by Clyde Robinson in “Picture Book Selection Behaviors of Emergent Readers,” reported the most important finding was the enthusiastic response of emergent readers to the simple procedure of selecting and taking home books.

In another study done by Robinson, “The Influence of Selecting and Taking Picture Books Home,” it was found that when preschool children took books home on a daily basis, literacy activities at home increased.

These two research studies highlight the importance of getting books to children in other settings. All library sizes, regardless of funding and staff, provide outreach services.

Carol Rosenbaum from the Avoca Public Library said, “I deliver books to home daycares. I call and ask if there is anything special they want in their new boxes. I try to add new books every six weeks. I usually take about 25 to 30 books to each home. I choose according to the age and gender of the children. When it works into the home provider’s schedule, I stay and read to the children.”

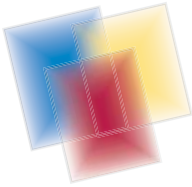
Paula Spoo from the Estherville Public Library noted, “I created a brochure to distribute and display so providers know about the service. I try to do whatever it takes to get services to the daycare providers. I keep the Emmett County Child Care Consultant informed about library services, events and crafts I have done at the daycares. I put what some people may consider a lot of time and effort into this, but I consider it a challenge and am willing to do what it takes to bring these patrons in. I try to keep it in a nutshell and have an evaluation form to judge the success of the program that will be completed by my director, the board members, the daycare providers. I already feel the program is a success. Our circulation is up and I am getting out and telling the library story. I have daycare providers coming to the library on their own looking for books for their own families.”

Some public libraries use senior citizens, 4-H clubs, and National Honor Society members to help them provide services.

Joa LaVille from the Marshalltown Public Library wrote, “We just started a book delivery program called “Books to Go” where volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program bring 25 books in a rolling suitcase to the Head Start classroom they are assigned to. They then stay and return to the classroom once a week to share the books with kids (informally, on a small group basis...not like story time.) We have done this for more than a year with two ladies, but have just recently added more volunteers and are undergoing a serious recruiting effort. Some classrooms have two volunteers who rotate the responsibility. We trained the volunteers how to select books and helped them with the paperwork required by Head Start. Our priority for this year is to match volunteers with each Head Start classroom (we still have a few to go). Ideally, in the future this service will be available to any daycare center that requests it. Our early volunteers received Every Child Reads Training and we would like to provide that to the others.”

While this service varies based on the public library’s staff and funding, more librarians are adding this service all the time.





## Marshalltown voters choose overwhelmingly to fund new library

On April 11, 2006, Marshalltown voted on a bond issue to raise \$5 million for a new library. Sixty-percent yes votes were needed, but incredibly 3,461 voters (70 percent) responded in favor.

"I'm just overwhelmed. That's a definite positive yes vote," library director Carole Winkleblack was quoted as saying. "What really pleases me is all the children that come in and the adults that use the Internet stations, they're going to have a library that's good enough for them."

Winkleblack thanked the Friends of the Library and the "New Library for a New Century" committee for all their hard work.

For more information about the building project, visit the library's Web site at [www.marshalltownlibrary.org](http://www.marshalltownlibrary.org).

## Fayette County Library Association tells its story at Early Childhood Fair

Lezlie Berry, right, Maynard Public Library and Linda Adams, Arlington and Fayette public libraries, are shown at the Fayette County Early Childhood Fair in Oelwein.

Amy Parker, Westage Public Library, said "It was wonderful event. Our table consisted of a trifold display featuring services the 11 libraries in Fayette County offer."

Fayette County libraries include: Arlington, Oelwein, Hawkeye, Waucoma, Wadena, West Union, Westgate, Fayette, Maynard, Elgin and Clermont.

Parker, who made the banner in the picture that is currently being circulated around the county, said they handed out magnetic bookmarks listing all the libraries' contact information and an information sheet on the summer reading program schedules for all the libraries. They also had a drawing for books.



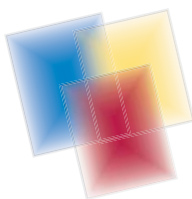
## Upham Memorial Library receives 2006 "We the People Bookshelf on Becoming American"

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and the National Endowment for the Humanities recently chose the Upham Memorial Library, Fredericksburg, the 2006 "We the People Bookshelf on Becoming American."

Library Director Joan Schultz submitted a grant to ALA and was awarded 15 books that support exploring and welcoming all cultures as they become Americans. Book titles include: *An Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, *Barrio Boy*, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, *Dragonwings*, *Giants in the Earth*, *The Glory Field*, *Grandfather's Journey*, *Immigrant Kids*, *In the Year of the Boar*, *Jackie Robinson*, *Lotus Seed*, *The People Could Fly*, *Rifles for Watie*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Rip Van Winkle* and *Watch the Stars Come Out*.

The Upham Memorial Library will offer special programs over the year that reflect on becoming an American.





## Carnegie-Stout Public Library-Dubuque wins Berkshire Publishing Group's "Libraries We Love" award

When Berkshire Publishing Group began looking for libraries that are beloved centers of their communities, Susan Henricks, director of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (CSPL) in Dubuque, knew she had a strong chance of being one in 75 libraries nationwide to win.

Selection criteria included that the library: 1) is of historical significance; 2) is associated with an important event, literary or otherwise; 3) is associated with an important person; 4) is distinguished by its architectural design; 5) is of special significance to the community life.

Henricks responded to the criteria.

1) The CSPL was founded by the Young Men's Literary Association (YMLA). The group remained viable, and purchased books for their library through

fundraising which included lecture tours. Those visiting included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Sumner, J.G. Holland, P.T. Barnum and Edwin P. Whipple. The library still has a good selection of the original YMLA books.

2 and 3) William B. Allison was a powerful U.S. Senator from Dubuque and served 43 years in Congress with a two-year break. His colleagues recognized him as the "author of a great public policy, the reform of the internal revenues laws." The CSPL is home of Senator Allison's extensive personal library. Allison was friends with Andrew Carnegie with whom he had become acquainted during the award of a contract to Carnegie to supply steel for the Iowa-Illinois bridge. When Carnegie began funding libraries, Allison and the president of the YMLA approached him and were successful in his commitment to provide funds to build a public library in Dubuque.

The referendum to support a public library went to the voters on November 26, 1900. While still two decades from winning the right to vote in the U.S., Dubuque allowed women to vote in this election. The library was approved by 78 percent of voters.

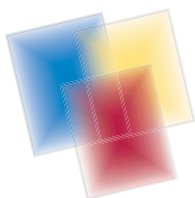
The CSPL serves as an art museum as well as library to the community. It contains two Grant Wood originals. One purchased for \$800 in 1935 was appraised at \$2-3 million in 2005. The paintings will be exhibited at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in Washington, DC in 2006.

4) The CSPL was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

5) CSPL was included in the May/June 2003 issue of *The Iowan*. The history of CSPL and an overview of the library's art history was published in "Julien's Journal" in October 2002. The CSPL is featured in John M. Witt's 2004 book, *The Carnegie Libraries of Iowa*.

The CSPL is the only Iowa library to be featured in a book, *Heart of the Community: The Libraries we Love*, which will be published in October 2006 by Berkshire Publishing Group.





## Need help finding government information? Ask a State Library staffer!

Do you need help finding facts for a customer about Iowa's government, economy, or statistics? Do you need a quick fact about Iowa's history? Perhaps you are having a hard time finding a Web site or government department for someone who has a question about a service of the state of Iowa. Is it difficult to find state documents online?

Then turn to State Library staff for assistance. They are well trained experts in finding state government information.

If a customer is interested in doing a patents search or has questions about trademarks, send them to the State Library's Patents and Trademarks Depository Library. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office provides the State Library with a core collection of all U.S. patents and trademarks on DVDs and paper. The depository library also provides books to aid inventors and businesses and has a rare index of Iowa inventors and their inventions from 1843 through 1975. New books include:

- *Trademarks in the Digital Age* by Timothy Lee Wherry (2004)
- *Patents and Trademarks Plain & Simple* by Michael H. Jester (2004)
- *Patents, Copyrights & Trademarks for Dummies* by Henri Charmasson (2004)
- *All I Need is Money: How to Finance Your Invention* by Jack Lander (2005)

Call 1-800-248-4483 or 515-281-4102 for assistance, or e-mail [is@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:is@lib.state.ia.us).

## Iowans visit Congress to ask support for LSTA funding

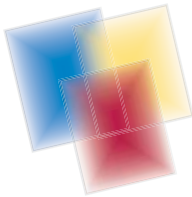
State Librarian Mary Wegner, Iowa Library Association President Susan Craig, and ILA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Duncan Stewart were among those urging Capitol Hill legislators to support libraries as part of National Library Legislative Day held May 1 and 2 in Washington D.C. The event is sponsored by the American Library Association and other concerned organizations to raise awareness about the importance to local communities of federal funding and programs.

Wegner, Craig and Stewart met with Senator Charles Grassley, Representative Jim Leach, and legislative staff from the offices of Senator Tom Harkin and Representatives Leonard Boswell, Steve King, Tom Latham and Jim Nussle.

The Iowans shared good news about increases in the use of Iowa public libraries over the past 10 years - visits up 30%, checkouts up 10%, and public library card holders up 15%. They also stressed the importance to Iowans of the federal funding that the State Library receives from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

According to Mary Wegner, "The annual Congressional visits give us the opportunity to tell the story of Iowa libraries. We discussed how the State Library uses federal LSTA funds to improve library services for Iowans. More than half of all Iowans benefit from the LSTA. The EBSCOHost databases for academic and public libraries, the Iowa Center for the Book, the SILO Locator and interlibrary loan program, and the public library Summer Reading Program are all supported in Iowa with LSTA funds."

Susan Craig noted, "The American Library Association (ALA) does a wonderful job of arranging for this lobbying effort. The staff of the ALA Washington Office are very well informed and work very hard to promote the issues important to the library community."



## Another great year for Iowa students in national Letters About Literature contest

Iowa students once again showed their talent for writing by participating in the 2006 Letters About Literature Contest.

There were 985 entries from students in Iowa.

- 321 from students in grades 4 through 6
- 401 from students in grades 7 and 8
- 263 from students in grades 9 through 12

Hannah Soyer, Level I Winner, was a top 10 national semifinalist.

Nationwide, over 47,000 students entered the 2006 Letters About Literature contest. The Letters About Literature national office read all 47,000 entries and returned semifinalist letters to each state. In Iowa there were 37 semifinalists at Level I, 32 at Level II, and 21 at Level III.

Three panels of judges were appointed to read and discuss the Iowa semifinalist letters. Each panel chose an Iowa winner and second and third place letters.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target Stores and the Iowa Center for the Book, State Library of Iowa.

Young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. The program has three competition levels: Upper elementary (Level I), middle school (Level II) and secondary school (Level III).

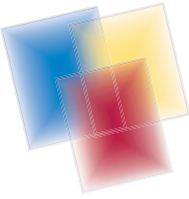
To read the 2006 Iowa winning letters go to:

<http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/letters/2006-winners.htm>



2006 Letters About Literature winners are, front row left, Hannah Soyer, First Place, Level I; Trevor Turner, Second Place, Level I; Molly Zmudka, Third Place, Level I; Andrew Bush, Second Place, Level II; Back Row Mandy Crabbs, Target Stores representative; Daniel Menzel, Third Place, Level III; Amol Agarwal, First Place, Level III; Isaac Behresn, First Place, Level II; and Dave Gourley, Target Stores representative.

Not shown - Alaina Templeton, Third Place, Level II; and Jasmine Chen, Second Place, Level III.



M I N U T E S  
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES  
April 12, 2006 - State Library of Iowa

Present: Dale Ross, Paul Roberts, Monica Gohlinghorst, Jann Freed, David Boyd, Rita Martens

Absent: Pam Bradley and Frank Sposeto

Guest: Bonnie McKewon, Administrator, Northwest Iowa Library Services

Staff: Mary Wegner, Steve Cox, Annette Wetteland, Sandy Dixon, Alan Schmitz, Carol Simmons, Marie Harms, Barbara Corson, Gerry Rowland, Beth Henning

Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

“Action items” moved to after “Approve Minutes.” Agenda set with change.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Roberts moved to accept minutes of December 13, 2005 meeting as written, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Action Items

A. Appointment to Northwest LSA board

Dixon presented the name of Valerie Haverhals, director, Hawarden Public Library, as a potential appointee to the Northwest LSA board to fill Joyce Amdor’s unexpired term. Gohlinghorst moved to appoint, Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

B. Appoint Commission bylaws review subcommittee

Ross asked that Martens and Sposeto serve with him on the subcommittee. Martens accepted. Ross will contact Sposeto. Meeting arrangements will be made at a later date.

C. Appoint subcommittee to evaluate State Librarian

Ross requested that Freed and Gohlinghorst work with him to evaluate the State Librarian. Both accepted. Meeting arrangements will be made at a later date.

4.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that the State Library is on target with both state and federal spending. The State Library received notice in January that it will receive an increase of \$51,500 in federal funds this year. Cox said that he plans to explain in detail portions of both the state and federal budget reports at upcoming meetings; his focus at this meeting was on appropriations.

5.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Tour of new State Library Web site

Harms gave an overview of the new State Library Web site, and received a very favorable response from Commission members. Schmitz explained the new Web site’s content management system, PLONE, and its advantages to users. Wegner thanked the staff for all the hard work they’d done to get the site up and running on time.

B. Commission Reports

Martens reported meeting with First Lady Christie Vilsack regarding information literacy and the model core curriculum project that she is working on for the Department of Education.

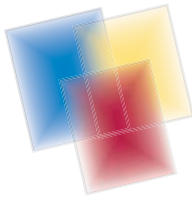
Gohlinghorst reported that the All Iowa Reads committee is taking suggestions for the 2007 book.

Roberts attended the open house for the Davenport Public Library branch and shared a flier for the upcoming Dubuque Area Library Information Consortium meeting, Disaster Preparedness, and Response and Preserving Treasured Family Memorabilia.

Boyd said lobbyists threw a surprise party for Law Librarian Linda Robertson in honor of her retirement later this year. Boyd also asked Wegner to present at the June 21 quarterly meeting of the District Court Administrators. Wegner will check her schedule and get back to him.

Freed said she enjoyed reading the news stories about the new Des Moines Public Library.





M I N U T E S  
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES  
April 12, 2006 - State Library of Iowa

Ross reported on national issues including whether teacher librarians are considered part of a school's "instructional" expenses, and a move to merge the National Commission of Library and Information Science into the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This merger would include moving public library statistics, which are handled through NCLIS, to IMLS.

C. State Librarian's Report

Henning provided Commissioners with two data profiles that she and Gary Krob developed – The Status of African-Americans in Iowa and Women in Iowa.

Corson reported that the State Library celebrated National Library Week by providing a variety of courses to state employees. There were 14 classes and 108 students. Sixty-five people attended a Lunch and Learn session on Avian Bird Flu provided by Dr. Russell Currier. Corson said three Bulgarian librarians were visiting Iowa libraries and that three Iowa librarians will go to Bulgaria in May. On May 4, Karon King, who runs the State Library's Patent & Trademark Depository Library, will host two people from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office who will provide training for Iowa inventors on patents and trademarks. On May 5, they will instruct librarians and lawyers on how to help people get patent and trademark information. May 9, Corson said the State Library will host the SirsiDynix users group.

Dixon said she will ask Michele Leininger, continuing education consultant, to talk to the Commission in the future about the changes she has made to the Public Library Management program. Dixon, Leininger and Cameron attended an Outcome Based Evaluation session at IMLS in Washington, D.C. which focused on continuing education. Dixon announced that the State Library is launching the Gates-funded Rural Sustainability Grant, and said there will be five two-day Rural Sustainability training sessions across Iowa in July. These workshops are intended to provide tools to help public library directors sustain public access computing. Dixon said that the Gates Foundation's goal is that 80% (411) of Iowa rural library directors will attend. The grants allow the State Library to reimburse attendees for mileage and overnight accommodations, and meals will be provided at no charge.

Wegner discussed proposed legislation which would require teacher librarians in each school district. The Iowa Library Association (ILA) is urging members to continue contacting their legislators in support of this provision. Wegner explained the different parts of the Gates Staying Connected Grant, including public library Web site development and e-mail hosting. The project is called PLOW (Putting Libraries on the Web). The Web sites will be preloaded with local information specific to each library, like hours, location, trustees; library customers will be able to access statewide resources such as the Iowa Locator and EBSCOHost databases; and participating libraries will be able to offer a virtual as well as a physical library. Information packets were mailed and on March 17 an informational session was held on the ICN. So far, 209 letters of intent have been received.

Wegner said awards for this year's Iowa Letters About Literature contest winners were presented last week at the annual Iowa Reading Association conference. The top three winners in each of the three age groups were recognized and read their letters. Wegner said Iowa's winner in the 4-6th grade level was a semifinalist in the national competition. In the three years that the Iowa Center for the Book has participated in this program, there has been one national winner from Iowa and two semifinalists. The Iowa Center for the Book advisory council will meet early next month at the new Des Moines Public Library.

Wegner said she would provide the Commission with a brief monthly update of State Library activities. The report will also go to State Library staff and the LSAs.

D. Library Service Area (LSA) Report, Bonnie McKewon, administrator, Northwest Iowa Library Services

McKewon gave a slide presentation on the LSAs and their specialties. McKewon showed Commissioners the LSA Web site and all that it offers to help Iowa public libraries. McKewon said she was impressed with the new State Library Web site and will be using the same software to redevelop her LSA Web site. She also discussed a new initiative she's taking with libraries in her area: the Special Project Consultants Group will use the talents of local librarians who will work as field consultants helping other public librarians.



MINUTES  
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES  
April 12, 2006 - State Library of Iowa

6.0 Public Comment

None

7.0 Discussion Items

A. Enrich Iowa funding issues

Dixon and Rowland presented a scenario in which an Iowa town that contracts for library services is unhappy with the cost of the contract and considers opening its own library, asserting that its residents could continue to use the services of the library it formerly contracted with, at no charge, through Open Access. There was discussion about the role of the Open Access program in such a scenario. Access Plus issues were also discussed. Commissioners directed State Library staff to prepare new language for the Open Access letter of agreement which would require all public libraries established after July 1, 2006 to meet at least Tier 1 of the Iowa public library standards in order to be eligible to participate in the Open Access program.

8.0 Adjournment

Gohlinghorst moved to adjourn the meeting, Roberts seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 20, 2006 (location to be announced)