



Annual Report

State Library of Iowa

1994-95

A Message from State Librarian Sharman B. Smith

FY95 was, by far, one of my most challenging and satisfying years as State Librarian. We should all be proud of the new trails we have blazed as information providers, and the goals and programs developed for the future of library service in Iowa.

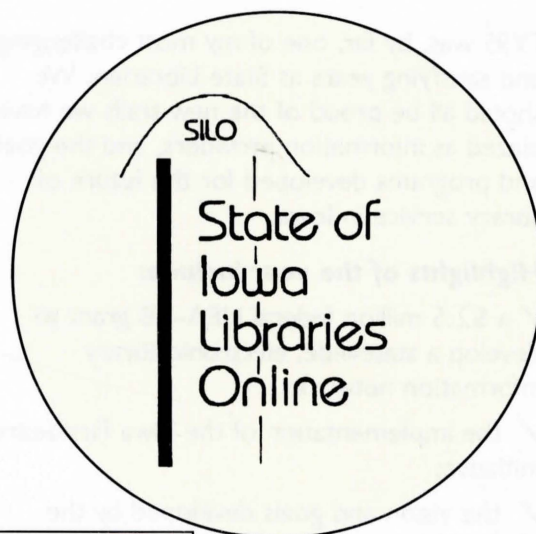
Highlights of the year include:

- ✓ a \$2.5 million federal HEA-IIB grant to develop a statewide, electronic library information network;
- ✓ the implementation of the Iowa FirstSearch Initiative;
- ✓ the vision and goals developed by the Unified Planning Team for the future of library service in Iowa;
- ✓ the highly successful Leadership Institute for Iowa library staff;
- ✓ the report from Governor Branstad's 18-member Library Services Advisory Council which identifies major issues for developing a comprehensive plan for electronic library service in Iowa;
- ✓ the opportunity to explain to members of the Iowa General Assembly the importance of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) in public libraries; and
- ✓ the efforts of many in the library community, the Iowa Legislature, and the Governor in getting libraries included in the ICN.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who take time out of your busy schedules to serve on statewide library committees, rally for the need and importance of libraries, and continue to promote excellence in libraries and library service in Iowa.

Sharman B. Smith





The State Library received a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide hundreds of Iowa libraries with an on-ramp to the nation's information superhighway.

The network will provide cost-effective access to the resources of libraries in the state. Through the Internet, databases including the Iowa Locator; magazine, business and newspaper indexes; state and federal government documents; and state extension service publications will be available to library users.

Other components of the grant include automating the State Library's collection and incorporating an ICN interactive video meeting room at the State Library for training and continuing education.

Iowa State University, a partner in the SILO project, was responsible for hiring the following staff: Karen Reichardt, SILO Project Librarian; Marie Harms, SILO Training Coordinator; and Scott Randolph, SILO Technical Director. State Librarian Sharman Smith is SILO Project Director and State Library Automation Consultant Ted Stark serves as SILO Project Administrator.

The Iowa FirstSearch Initiative

Since February, over 200 Iowa libraries have logged more than 40,000 searches using the Iowa FirstSearch Initiative. The program, which runs through April 1996, provides libraries with access to the Internet and databases such as WorldCat, ArticlesFirst, GPO Monthly and Medline. According to participating libraries, FirstSearch has provided new and formerly unavailable resources with which to help their customers get the information they need. The program is funded primarily through the Library Services and Construction Act.

In FY95, the 620 libraries participating in Access Plus loaned more than 161,000 books to other libraries.

The State Data Center received 1,134 data requests in FY95. The 41 State Data Center coordinating agencies and affiliates in Iowa fielded a total of 12,294 requests.

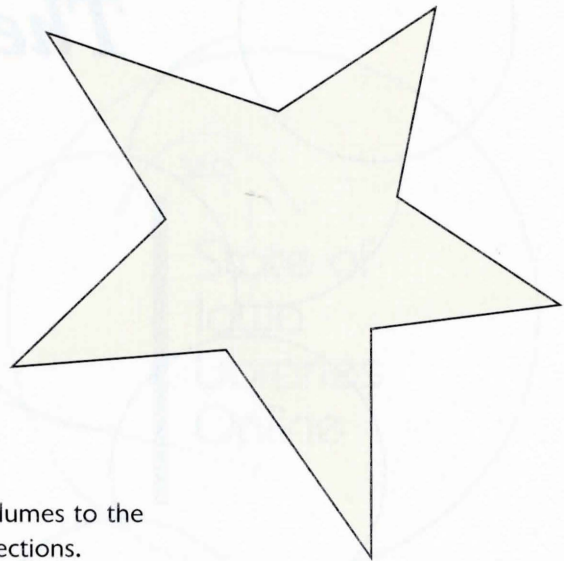
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(*Questions answered by State Library staff in FY95.)

What percentage of the rail freight in Iowa is comprised of agricultural products?

Shipped out of Iowa: 32% food; 47.8% other farm products. Shipped into Iowa, 27.7% farm products, 4.5% food.

Much of the activity in information services in FY95 centered around the work of the State Library's first Total Quality Management team. The "Books a la Carte" team addressed the problem of shelving materials in a timely manner. Their final recommendation led to an extensive weeding of the collections and a cooperative effort by all State Library staff to rearrange collections on three floors. Staff and a dozen workers from the Newton Correctional Release Center moved about 150,000 books and documents, and over 4 million journals in two weeks. The result is a more organized and user-friendly collection.



Technical services cataloged nearly 1,300 volumes to the State Library's government and medical collections. With the help of CATS volunteers (Coalition for the Advancement of Technical Services), major progress was made in organizing and cataloging state documents.

Use of all research services increased in FY95. Demand for information has risen from the legislature, state agencies, and health care providers from around the state. More interest in consumer health issues has generated an increased number of requests from the general public as well. Services have been enhanced by the addition of several CD-ROM databases and the use of OCLC's FirstSearch computerized information source.

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What was the dollar amount cutoff for the poverty level in Iowa in 1960?
The poverty level number is a national figure. In 1960, it was \$3,022.

Several additions of legal titles on CD-ROM were added to the legal collection during the year—a hint of things to come as the State Library automates and additional workstations become available for public use. The law library now owns 22 CD-ROM legal collections. They also added 985 new books to the collection in FY95, filled 1,020 electronic requests, mailed nearly 78,000 photocopies, and sent 18,000 pages to customers by fax.

Users of the State Library's audio/visual service place great value on the media catalog of current holdings. A new video catalog was printed in the spring of FY95 and mailed to over 1,000 Iowa libraries and state agencies. Access to the collection was also improved by adding 1,000 new video titles to the Iowa Locator network. Special subject bibliographies were also printed on frequently requested topics, including AIDS, management, Iowa, library service, child care and travel. The audio/visual collection has a wide variety of topics ranging from pre-school programming to professional training materials.

Three educational programs for library trustees were offered over the Iowa Communications Network. Topics were roles and responsibilities, intellectual freedom, and advocacy. Each program involved approximately 15 sites and 100 participants.

The State Library produced a new Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook in FY95. Complementary copies were provided to each public library director and board president. Additional copies were sold for a nominal charge.

The state documents center began using new computer software to build a database of state documents and automate production of shipping lists. Over 2,600 titles and 17,800 pieces in paper format, and 2,400 titles and 75,000 jackets in microfiche format, as well as thousands of legislative materials, were distributed to 47 participating document depository libraries in FY95. Plans are underway to switch from microfiche to CD-ROM format, which will greatly improve access to this information.

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Question from an attorney: Could an increased level of acetone in the blood be caused by a medical condition? (An increased level of acetone is associated with alcoholic intoxication.)

Raised levels of acetone are present in diabetes mellitus.



Is it a conflict of interest if a library board member is also on the city council?

Yes.

The State Library of Iowa initiated a major shift and expansion in the area of children's services: direct, on-site consulting (field visits to 25 libraries in Iowa), and an intensive continuing education program with a particular emphasis on children's collection development.

The State Library also began an expansion of holdings dealing with children's services and collections in the State Library professional collection.

The Unified Planning Team developed goals and subgoals for the future of library service in Iowa. The State Library published a booklet that outlines the group's mission and the goals. The Mission of the Unified Plan for Library Service in Iowa states: "Each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas in order to lead an enriched life through lifelong learning and to participate knowledgeably and productively in a democratic society."

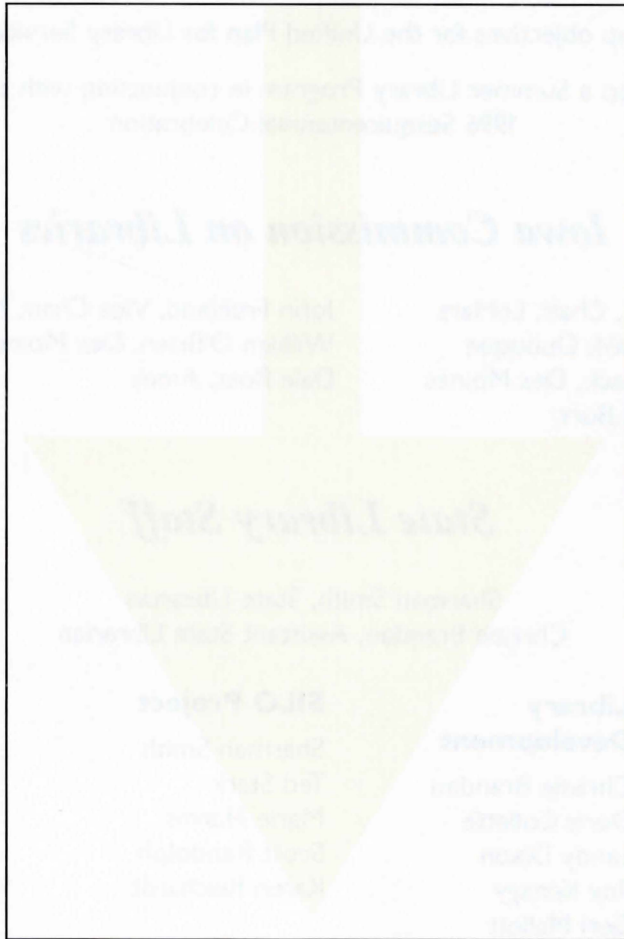
The 1995 Summer Library Program, "The Sky's the Limit," marked the State Library's first year as a participant in the Cooperative Summer Library Program headquartered in Minnesota. Attendance at Summer Library Program Workshops in FY95 was 355, a nine percent increase over last year's workshops.

Public Library Management classes have been offered since 1986 using the audio-only teleconferencing system. In the spring of 1995, a class was offered over the Iowa Communications Network using its full video capabilities. One student responded, "The ICN was fabulous! It was great to be able to see the instructor and all the other people taking the course. Also, the instructors were able to use visual aids that were great!"

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What is the name of an ear disorder that sounds like "renay"?

Meniere's disease.



The first library leadership institute was offered in Iowa through the cooperation of the State Library, the Iowa Library Association (ILA), the ILA Foundation and the Iowa Regional Library System. There were 23 participants; 100% said they would recommend the institute to someone else and that the institute should be repeated. The second leadership institute was held in August, 1995.

The number of Open Access transactions in FY95 was 1,768,594, a 13% increase over the previous year. There are 648 Iowa libraries participating in the Open Access program.

1996 State Library Initiatives

- Continue to develop and connect Iowa libraries to the SILO network.
- Automate State Library collections and develop databases for use on the SILO network.
- Coordinate training and continuing education courses for Iowa library staff and trustees using the ICN.
- Develop objectives for the Unified Plan for Library Service in Iowa.
- Develop a Summer Library Program in conjunction with the state's 1996 Sesquicentennial Celebration

Iowa Commission on Libraries

Gordon Greene, Chair, LeMars
Marilyn McDonald, Dubuque
Dr. Linda Railsback, Des Moines
Delores Thilges, Burt

John Freeland, Vice Chair, Mt. Pleasant
William O'Brien, Des Moines
Dale Ross, Ames

State Library Staff

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Christie Brandau, Assistant State Librarian

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Gerry Rowland
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Ted Stark
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SILO Project

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Scott Randolph
Karen Reichardt

State Data Center

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Janice Henson

State Documents

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