

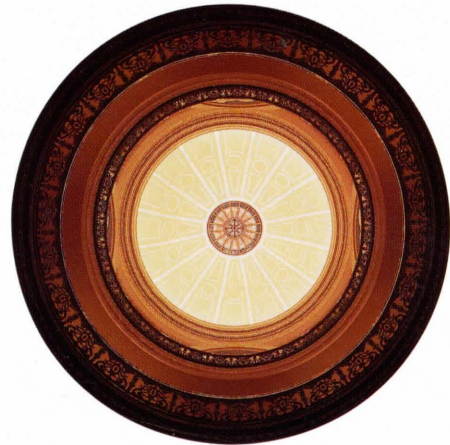


Annual Report 1999-2000

State Library
of Iowa

Vision for Library Service in Iowa

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.



*Photos by Cameron Campbell Architectural Photography.
Front cover, interior of the Miller (Old Historical) Building.
Above, the interior dome.*

The State Library of Iowa has the distinction of being one of the oldest government agencies in Iowa. When the 25th Congress of 1838 passed an act to divide the Territory of Wisconsin and establish the Territorial Government of Iowa, \$5,000 was provided "to be expended by and under the direction of the Governor of the Territory of Iowa to purchase a library to be kept at the seat of government." In 1912, the east wing of what was then called the New Historical Building was built for the State Library. The State Library continues to reside in the building, now known as the Ola Babcock Miller Building. The colors and photographs used throughout this document are in keeping with the building and its restored grandeur.

Iowa Commission of Libraries

John Bennett
Iowa City
Term expires April 30, 2003

Pamela E. Bradley
Burlington
Term expires April 30, 2003

Dwight Carlson
Des Moines
Represents the Director
of the Department of Education

Eldon Huston
Des Moines
Term expires April 30, 2001

William O'Brien
Des Moines
Iowa Supreme Court Administrator

Dale Ross, Chair
Ames
Term expires April 30, 2003

Nancy Ross, Vice Chair
Harlan
Term expires April 30, 2001

Berta Van Ekeren
Monroe
Term expires April 30, 2001

From the State Librarian



One of the pleasures of working at the State Library is the constant change. The issues that arise are always varied and interesting. One can never predict what the next day will bring, much less the next year. Fiscal Year 2000 was no different.

At first glance, one might wonder what the State Library had to do with the 2000 Census. As Iowa's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau, the State Library worked closely with state and local governments, and many local groups and constituencies, to ensure that as many Iowans as possible were counted in the 2000 census. These

group efforts paid off with Iowa having the largest mail-in return of any state. The State Library is very proud to have spearheaded Iowa's efforts.

The State Library worked closely with First Lady Christie Vilsack on the Iowa Stories 2000 project. The literacy initiative, which began April 10, 2000, is designed to create an environment where everyone in a community takes responsibility for ensuring that children grow up loving to read. Seven Iowa communities (Algona, Ames, Bayard, Belle Plaine, Cherokee, Independence and Oskaloosa) are participating in the first year pilot.

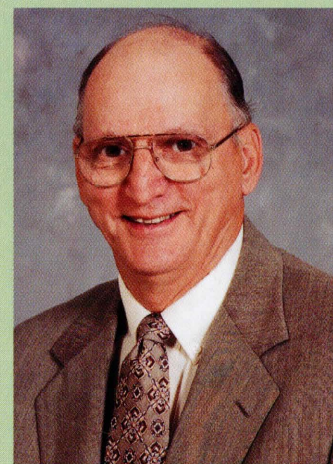
Earlier this year, Mary Wegner joined the State Library as Assistant State Librarian and LSTA Coordinator. Mary, who worked previously as the director of the health sciences library for Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Iowa Lutheran Hospital, succeeded Christie Brandau who left Iowa to become State Librarian of Michigan. Since coming on board, Mary has been involved in Town Meetings, planning for the Gates Grant, the Library Services Task Force, as well as learning about agency operations and programs.

A statewide Database Advisory Committee was formed to look at electronic information databases and to make recommendations to the State Library on which products should be pursued for statewide pricing. Such pricing will allow libraries of all types and sizes with economies of scale in purchasing electronic information resources for use by Iowa library customers.

Renovation/restoration continued on the Old Historical Building (now known as the Ola Babcock Miller Building), home of the State Library. As an original occupant of the building, we are very pleased with the results of the restoration to date. Care has been taken to return the east wing to its former grandeur as the State Library of Iowa while enhancing the space for the delivery of modern library services. A great deal of attention has been paid to appropriate lighting for the library, adequate electrical and data connections, and the necessary load-bearing capacity for library book stacks. The State Library is proud of our 100-year relationship with the building. The restored State Library is an Iowa treasure of which to be proud. I invite you to visit us anytime.

Sharman B. Smith

From the Chair, Iowa Commission of Libraries



As a result of strong support from the library community, the Iowa General Assembly and Governor Vilsack, the Enrich Iowa program now is budgeted at \$1 million of direct state aid for public libraries. New adult and children's programs, more open hours, additional books and materials, and more computer terminals for patrons—all were made possible by Enrich Iowa monies employed to improve and increase library services to Iowans.

This year, the Iowa Commission of Libraries convened a Library Services Task Force to explore ways in which libraries can better serve Iowa's citizens. Broadly-based, the 45-member Task Force has spent many, many hours studying library services across the state and discussing and formulating recommendations aimed at making those services more efficient and, especially, more effective. The final draft of its report will be delivered to the Commission before year's end. Once the members of the Commission have studied the report, they will prepare a summary and a set of recommendations to be presented to the 2001 session of the Iowa General Assembly.

We are also anticipating eagerly the final stages of the breathtaking restoration of the State Library Building. And we wish to commend the staff for their excellent work ethic and remarkably good spirits during the many disruptive months of construction they have endured over the past several years. They will soon occupy, however, a library facility any state would be proud of.

The new millennium promises much that augurs well for library services in all of Iowa's communities because the concerted efforts of library staff at local, regional, and state levels remain focused on two common goals: improved access and services for everyone.

Dale Ross

Law Library researches intriguing questions

When were Des Moines schools desegregated? Is it legal to sell a used mattress? What were Iowa's child labor laws in 1915? How do you set up a zoo in Iowa?

Law Library staff help customers from the State Capitol to the far corners of the world find answers to their often unique questions about Iowa law.

In FY00, the Law Library answered 5,562 telephone requests, 7,650 walk-in requests, and nearly 2,000 electronic questions.

Law Library staff are known for their quick response to inquiries, but others require in-depth research. Staff worked on and off for a month helping a reporter from a major newspaper, research an Iowa-related story about a 1920s/'30s mail scam in Iowa.

Town Meetings

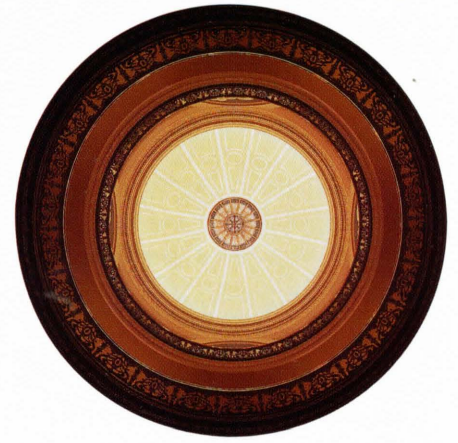
Nearly 350 people attended the six State/Regional Library Town Meetings. Topics included library budget presentations, computer security and different ways libraries can measure their services.

According to one librarian, the meeting gave her the incentive to "work on my presentation skills and my relationship with the city council."

Open Access and Access Plus

Open Access, Iowa's statewide "library card" program, continues to be a hit with Iowans who want to walk into libraries anywhere in the state and borrow materials. There were 2,687,683 million items borrowed in FY00.

Iowans also benefit from Access Plus, the state's book sharing subsidy program. To obtain books and other information for customers, 604 participating libraries made 164,000 loans to other libraries in FY00, 107,000 of which were made using SILO (State of Iowa Libraries Online).



Information Services' energies were heavily focused on planning and preparing for the return of collections, services and staff to the east wing of the Miller (Old Historical) Building.

The transition provided an opportunity to re-evaluate and refine the library's collections in light of changing customers' needs.

The staff also focused on outreach as they promoted the State Library's services to Iowans. Displays were staffed at numerous conferences throughout the year, each tailored to the audience involved.

The State Library participated in Iowa Excellence, a state government effort designed to improve customer service and cut costs in state government.

As part of this initiative, the State Library conducted a rigorous self assessment. The process provided an opportunity for the State Library to take an honest look at overall organizational performance and identify strengths and areas for improvement. The completed self assessment will serve as a baseline against which to compare future improvements.

Census 2000 promotion pays off

The State Library's Data Center led Iowa's efforts to promote participation in Census 2000. The result: Iowa had the highest percentage of residents returning census forms by mail.

To promote Census 2000:

- a media campaign was conducted, including news conferences, regular news releases, and public service announcements;
- the statewide census committee chaired by Lt. Governor Sally Pederson was staffed;
- census booths at the Iowa State Fair, Clay County Fair, Waterloo Cattle Congress, Governor's Diversity Conference, English as a Second Language Conference and others were undertaken;
- thousands of promotional posters were placed in schools, libraries, armories, and other public and private facilities; and
- numerous presentations about Census 2000 to groups across the state were given.

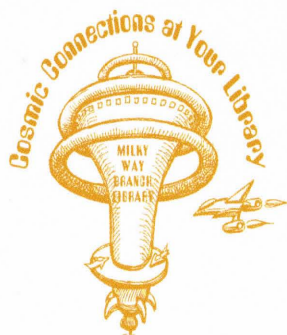
Other State Data Center Services

More than 1,200 requests for census data were answered during the year. The entire statewide network of 42 affiliates filled nearly 6,000 data requests, gave 258 speeches, and conducted 46 training and information sessions. In addition, support was provided to the Governor's Vision 2010 Council, the Governor's Equal Opportunity Employment Task Force, the Department of Management's annual Outlook report for state planners, and the Department of Economic Development's identification of enterprise zones.

LSTA grants emphasize partnering initiatives

Over \$100,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds were awarded to Iowa libraries who partnered with other community organizations to provide innovative services to residents. The competitive grant projects encouraged partnerships between libraries of different types; agencies, community organizations and other groups. Examples include a county-wide "books for babies" program, a

partnership project between the local library and museum, and a public computer education program developed by the local public, university and community college libraries.



Cosmic Connections, the State Library's FY99 Summer Library Program theme, drew 47,447 Iowa children to their local libraries. Libraries have long been known to provide programs and services which address the social, psychological, educational and recreational needs of young adults.

SILO
State of
Iowa
Libraries
Online

Helping
Iowans find
answers

www.silo.lib.ia.us

SILO (State of Iowa Libraries Online) continues to be an invaluable resource for librarians helping

their customers find information. SILO connects libraries to the information resources available via the Internet. Some of these resources include electronic card catalogs of the State Library, public libraries and Iowa's university libraries; and the statewide "card catalog" known as the Locator that lists over 3 million books owned by Iowa libraries.

Last year, libraries borrowed 107,000 books and other materials from each other using the SILO interlibrary loan system. Now, even Iowa's smallest libraries can get information they cannot afford to purchase.

Over 590 libraries used SILO's FirstSearch program (information databases) over 526,000 times.

And finally, Electric Library, a full-text, online reference database available on SILO to all public libraries, was used 424,957 times in FY99 to retrieve information.