

Monday Morning Eye-Opener September 25, 2023

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FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



September 25, 2023

Meeting Room Reservations

Free to Public Libraries From WhoFi

This news is thanks to Christian Gutteridge, Marketing Coordinator with WhoFi. Christian contributes this article about one of WhoFi's newest features: **meeting room reservations**.



As with so many other WhoFi products, **Meeting Rooms** was developed from library feedback. Using this software, patrons can easily discover available meeting room spaces and amenities through the library's website and then reserve those spaces online. **Meeting Rooms** seamlessly integrates with WhoFi's Community Calendar, avoiding double bookings, ensuring a synchronized approach to managing library programs and patron spaces.

Christian Gutteridge writes: *"With more citizens working remotely than ever before, libraries offer valuable co-working spaces, study rooms, and meeting rooms. programs. But common challenges persist such as promoting available library spaces, easily reserving spaces, and coordinating reservations efficiently. Without solutions, these challenges can lead to underutilized spaces and strain staff time."* All public libraries in Iowa are eligible to use the **Meeting Rooms** feature, whether you use other WhoFi products or not. Using **Meeting Rooms** applies a tech solution to what can be a cumbersome process, enhancing patron experiences and freeing up staff time. It's a win-win, supporting both library patrons and staff.

To learn more about using **Meeting Rooms**, watch this newest [tutorial](#) Contact [Christian Gutteridge](#) with questions about **Meeting Rooms** or anyone on the [WhoFi Support Team](#) for help getting started. And read more about the WhoFi service provided by the State Library at the button below

[More About WhoFi For Iowa Libraries](#)



Bridges User Group Meetings in October

All libraries subscribed to [Bridges](#) are encouraged to join one of three user group meetings in October, online via ZOOM. Attendees will hear about the present structure of **Bridges**, the selection committee, the current budget, and recent changes to the service. There are currently 491 Iowa member libraries in the consortium.

On The Agenda

The Overdrive service contract is administered by State Library staff and volunteers from member libraries. The **Bridges Team** facilitators have important issues to discuss with member libraries, including:

- Hold ratios & license renewals
- Collection development & budget issues
- Bridges changes—Libby & Notify Me Tags
- Other news of interest

The State Library wants to hear your feedback in these user group meetings to help us determine the best way to use consortium funds. But do note that is a non-binding, advisory-only user group meeting; ultimate decisions rest with State Library management.

There are three sessions to choose from in October to accommodate the most people-- you only need to attend one. This is sure to be helpful information for library directors and staff alike. But because this is a user group meeting and meant for information exchange, there is no CE credit given. Also no need to pre-register—simply choose the session that best matches your schedule and log in. The ZOOM room link will be provided prior to the first meeting.

Bridges User Group Meeting Schedule

- October 4 @ 1::30-2:30 PM
- October 19 @ 10:00-11:00 AM
- October 23 @ 1::30-2:30 PM

We hope that you can attend one of these Zoom meetings to help us shape the future direction of this valuable service. Mark your calendars and look for more announcements

in the **Bridges** newsletter. And if you have questions, contact any of these State Library staff people on the **Bridges** Team:

[Misty Gray](#) / [Becky Heil](#) / [Jay Peterson](#) / [Eunice Riesberg](#)

Bike Rodeos This Fall

A Fun Library Program

This article is thanks to Maryann Mori, Central District Consultant, and it's all about a healthy programming opportunity surrounding biking. With kids back in school and warm autumn weather, many kids are likely riding bikes to school. Leading the Iowa Bicycle Coalition to promote **bike rodeos** and encourage libraries to get in on that action!



Maryann has this information from Matt Burkey, Coordinator of Iowa Safe Routes to School. Matt is eager to work with public libraries throughout the state and writes: *“Are you eager to organize a bike or pedestrian rodeo, but unsure where to start? Our **Bike Rodeo Toolkit** is your ultimate guide, with 24 information-packed pages and an additional 36 pages of valuable templates. It contains step-by-step instructions to help you plan, organize, and execute a successful bike rodeo that engages and educates participants on essential cycling safety skills.”*

The **Bike Rodeo Toolkit** covers everything from station setups and volunteer coordination to promoting the event and partnering with local organizations. With comprehensive how-to guides for each station and detailed checklists, you'll have all the resources you need to make your bike rodeo a hit. This has proven to be a popular program--springtime works, too 😊

Maryann Mori is an avid cyclist herself, so it was right up her alley to work with Matt Burkey in recording a [Kernels episode](#) about bike rodeos. You can view that Kernel recording on our Continuing Education YouTube Channel or watch it for CE credit in IA Learns.

Contact the Iowa Bicycle Coalition for guidance on hosting a local rodeo and customizing it for your community. And you're welcome to contact [Matt Burkey](#) with questions.

[Read More About Bike Rodeos](#)

This Week ...



Learning Circuit. September 28.

9:00AM-3:30PM.

Six Locations Around the State

2023 Learning Circuits take place this week on **Thursday September 28**. We'll follow the same format as last year: keynote speakers via ZOOM, plus hands-

on workshops in each District. The topic follows our 2023 continuing education theme "*Productive Partnerships*." Each participant will leave with actionable and practical insights to take home and apply in their library and community. For everyone pre-registered, there's a reminder of the day's schedule at the button below. Looking forward to seeing you there!

[The Learning Circuit Schedule](#)

Check It Out! September 26. 11:00AM-12:00PM

Before you get in the car for Learning Circuits, first log into **Check it Out!** This is a monthly webinar series spotlighting the best new books for kids. Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering will share collection development tips, programming ideas, and new titles galore for kids and teens.

[Register in IALearns](#)

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