

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener February 12, 2024

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER



FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

February 12, 2024



It's Library Lovers Month



February boasts Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents Day, among other promotions. But there's one more that's especially noteworthy for all of us working in and for libraries--February is also **Library Lovers Month** 😊

It's unclear if there's a national sponsor behind **Library Lovers Month**, but there's no shortage of ways to promote the importance of your library in your community. Start with displays of romance books, rom-com movies, and your patrons' favorite picks. The [ALA Store](#) has promos, posters, and gifts galore. Use newsletters, social media, and newspapers to highlight statistics like Sheldon Public Library is doing all month.

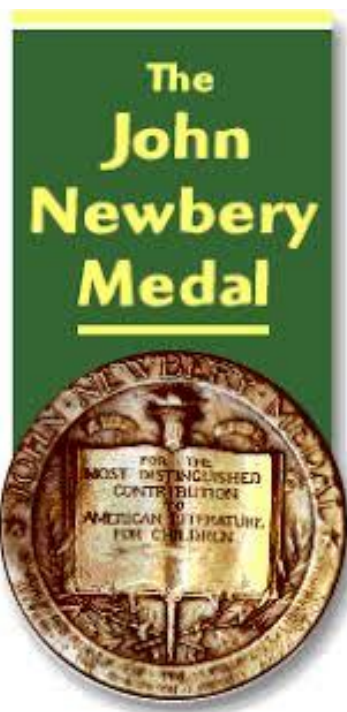
Sheldon PL uses [Library Aware](#) to design and email a weekly newsletter. For **Library Lovers Month** in week 2, Sheldon staff shared this:

*"... 32,786 items checked-out last year--up 9% from the year before.  
Looking for the latest best-seller, children's book, or teen graphic novel?  
We have puzzles, STEM Kits, Wi-Fi Hot Spots, and more.  
Sheldon Public Library has something for everyone! ..."*

Share the ways that you're promoting Library Lovers Month  
with colleagues on LibraryTalk 😊

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## Newbery & Caldecott Medals



### 2024 Award Winners Announced

Last month, the American Library Association announced the most prestigious literary awards of the year: the 2024 Newbery and Caldecott winners, along with many others. These literary award winners in youth and children's literature include books, digital media, eBooks, and audiobooks.

Any of these titles lead to ideal purchases for library collections, promotions, and programming. Here are just a few of the 2024 winners:

**The John Newbery Medal**, given for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature = [The Eyes and the Impossible](#) by Dave Eggers

**The Randolph Caldecott Medal**, given for the most distinguished American picture book for children = [Big](#), written and illustrated by Vashti Harrison

**The Coretta Scott King Book Award**, recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults = [Nigeria Jones](#) by Ibi Zoboi

**The William C. Morris Award**, given for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens = [Rez Ball](#) by Byron Graves

**Michael L. Printz Award** for excellence in literature written for young adults = [The Collectors Stories](#) edited by A.S. King, written by M.T. Anderson et.al.

**The Theodore Seuss Geisel Award** for the most distinguished beginning reader book = [Fox Has A Problem](#) written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor

Find the full listing of **ALA's 2024 Award Winners and Honorable Mentions for Youth and Children's Literature** at the button below.

[ALA Award Winning Books 2024](#)

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## Annual Bridges Enrollment In March

For current **Bridges** member libraries and those not yet members, next month marks the annual enrollment period. Current members will need to complete a **Bridges Letter of Agreement**; libraries wishing to join **Bridges** for the first time this year will need to sign a **Bridges Letter of Agreement For First-Time Participants**. Both forms are now accessible on our website, both are **due on March 29, 2024**, found at the button below.

Note: In the first year of membership, there is a **\$400.00 start-up fee** for first-time libraries, in addition to the annual subscription. Service will be activated for first-time libraries on July 1, 2024. Whether a current member or a soon-to-be member of the **Bridges** group, find your **Bridges** annual fees for FY2025 and FY2026 linked at the button below.

There are currently **492 Bridges** member libraries, with 87,900 unique users. At the end of FY2023, the **Bridges** collection held 101,997 eBook copies, 45,606 e-audiobooks. In FY2023, circulation numbers showed over 1,200,000 eBook downloads, over 1,200,000 e-audiobook downloads, and 103,645 magazines checkouts.

### About Bridges

This is an eBook and audiobook buying consortium for Iowa public libraries. The State Library facilitates this program and manages the contract on behalf of all participating libraries. OverDrive is a leading digital distributor of eBooks, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines. Libraries that participate in **Bridges** pay an annual formula-based fee to the State Library that covers the materials budget, the purchase of MARC records, and a small packet of promotional materials for new members.

[Read More: Bridges E-Library](#)

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# Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024



Small Libraries Doing Big Things!  
February 23, 2024 #BTSL2024 [nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/](https://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/)

## Nebraska's Online Conference

Just over 2 weeks ago, our State Library sponsored our annual ILOC Conference, an all-day online learning event. Just a few weeks from now, it's Nebraska's turn: their all-day online conference is titled **Big Talk From Small Libraries** and it's scheduled for **Friday February 23 ( 8:45AM—5:00PM CST )**

From their website: "...*This free one-day online conference is tailored for staff from small libraries, the smaller the better. Each of our speakers is from a library serving fewer than 10,000 people or is directly partnered with a small library. Topics range from technology to programming to new roles for the library. This event is a great opportunity to learn about the innovative things your colleagues are doing in their small libraries. Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. But, if your library serves a few hundred to a few thousand people, this is the day for you!*"

A handful of breakout sessions show here, find more on the **Big Talk From Small Libraries** site at the button below

- Page Public Library (AZ): 2023 Winner of the Best Small Library in America Award
- Accepting Credit Cards With PayPort
- No More Summertime Blues: Shaking Up SRP To Make It Work For You
- Farmers' Day Fundraising

**Big Talk From Small Libraries** is broadcast online using the GoTo Webinar web-conferencing platform. Login instructions will be emailed to registered attendees the day before the conference. Nebraska does plan on recording all **Big Talk** sessions, with recordings posted to their conference website. Just like our own *ILOC*, this marks a great opportunity for watch parties and/or a staff training day. And just like our own *ILOC* conference, Nebraska's **Big Talk Conference** is a free, fun day of learning and all from the comfort of home.

One more bonus: Iowa library staff can earn CE Credit for attending this event. Visit our webpage [Continuing Education Opportunities](#), scroll down to read about **CE**

**Opportunities From Outside Organizations** and find the form you'll need. Registration is open at the button below.

[Register For Nebraska's Big Talk Conference](#)

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## This Week ...



### **Big Ideas Book Discussion: Basically Incredible February 16. 9:30—11:00AM**

It's a new year for **Big Ideas Book Discussions**. Up first is Basically Incredible: Doing the Basics Consistently Leads to an Incredible Life by Dubuque author Matt Booth. Libraries have extended their community reach in impressive ways over the years: from makerspaces to STEM programming and beyond. Given all the recent advancements in library service, what would a return to basics look like?

[Register In IALearns](#)

### **Standards / Accreditation Report Due February 29th**

For all libraries in the 2024 standards / accreditation renewal cycle, the reports and the applications for re-accreditation are due at the end of this month on February 29. If the 2024 standard / accreditation reporting cycle affects your library, click here for more information and instructions.

[Standards & Accreditation Info](#)

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Editor: [Bonnie McKewon](#)



1112 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319



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