

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener June 10, 2024

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

June 10, 2024



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## Public Library Stats For FY23



### Just Published On State Library Website

Last week, State Library Consultant Scott Derrmont and Communications Specialist Emily Bainter announced that the newest compilation of Iowa public library statistics has just been published. Every summer, the State Library provides this annual publication, taken from the data contributed by library directors to the **Public Library Annual Survey**.

FY2023's compilation is now available at the link below.

The "Big Stats Book," as it's come to be known, contains data on library income and expenditures, director salaries, library collection size, circulation numbers, program attendance, and much more. Each section of the document is first arranged by population size code, then alphabetically by city name. Totals for population group comparisons, as well as statewide averages, are shown immediately following the alphabetical listings.

Of the 544 public libraries in Iowa, 514 submitted an annual survey for FY23. Only those public libraries that submitted a verified annual survey are included in the report. The data from all of the verified surveys are then compiled for a statewide look at the vitality of library service in Iowa, and is useful for comparison purposes as well.

Public library statistics are used at the local, regional, state, and national levels. They are used to compare library performance, justify budget requests, track library data over time, assist in planning and evaluation, and provide valuable information for grants and other library programs. All 50 states collect information according to guidelines and definitions established by the Public Library Statistics Cooperative (PLSC).

### Notable FY23 Statistics From The Report

- Iowa has **542 public libraries** and is ranked **4th in the nation** behind New York, Illinois, and Texas for the number of independent public libraries
- **Public library cardholders totaled 1,821,707**, that's about 73 percent of Iowa's population
- People made nearly **12 million visits** to Iowa public libraries during FY23
- Iowa public libraries hold more than **6 million physical and digital items**, including books, magazines, physical audio and video materials, eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital videos, and more
- Iowa libraries **circulated more than 16 million physical items and more than 4 million digital items**. Physical items were shared between libraries via interlibrary loan over 400,000 times
- More than 107,000 library programs were offered and attended by nearly 2 million people

**The Iowa Public Library Statistics** is an important compilation and a very useful resource when looking for a comparison of like-size libraries. Emily posted several graphics on LibraryTalk to help you promote this resource to your boards, councils, supervisors, and social media followers. The PDF version of the **FY23 Iowa Public Library Statistics**, as well as older stats going back through FY19, can be found on the

page linked below. For numbers-lovers everywhere ... enjoy 😊

## Iowa Public Library Statistics

### Information From WhoFi



#### Info Regarding Question Sets

Speaking of the *Public Library Annual Survey*, it won't be long before directors turn your attention to completing those reports for FY23. This news is thanks to Ashleigh Matos from the WhoFi company: like last year, WhoFi will pre-populate data into your *State Annual Survey*. If you are using **WhoFi's Question Sets**, they can now pre-populate the stats that you've been recording in your library's **Question Sets**.

Ashleigh writes "A big thank you to the State Library of Iowa for their help in making this possible. Those who are utilizing the Question Sets service will have that information pre-populated for them, as well as for all fields that the state had not previously pre-populated. We hope this reduces the reporting time completing the Annual Survey. As a helpful tip: your Community Calendar's Archive has a 'Missing Attendance' filter button. Feel free to use this and adjust your date range to double-check your year's work as you ensure all attendance and programs are added."

To ensure enough time to pre-populate the survey, the staff at WhoFi ask that you have all of the attendance, programs, and **Question Set** answers added by **Tuesday July 16th, 2024**. All information entered into WhoFi after this date will not be reflected in the pre-population of your *Annual Survey* but can be adjusted on the survey manually.

You're welcome to direct any questions regarding **WhoFi Question Sets** to Ashleigh Matos [ashleigh.matos@whofi.com](mailto:ashleigh.matos@whofi.com) or to Scott Dermont [scott.dermont@iowa.gov](mailto:scott.dermont@iowa.gov). And click the button below to read more about WhoFi's many features beyond tracking wireless useage—lots more!

## WhoFi For Libraries

### Small City Workshops

#### From The Iowa League of Cities

Samantha Bouwers shared this news on LibraryTalk last week: the Iowa League of Cities asked State Library staff to be part of their **Small City Workshops** this summer—this week, actually! **Small City Workshops** are annual programs sponsored by the League of Cities, intended for Iowa mayors, city managers, city clerks, and council members. This year, these **Small City Workshops** are being held virtually, with Sam Bouwers and Bonnie McKewon presenting **Intersections: Where Cities and Libraries Meet**.



The premise is based on three critical areas of collaboration between city governments and city libraries: buildings, budgets, and personnel. These are 3 areas of common ground—points of intersection—where success is best achieved by planning with each other. While this annual event is intended for the city reps noted above, this year's program is helpful for public library staff and boards as well—so library reps are welcome to attend. The League of Cities has been promoting this webinar series with their own membership, so your city staff and elected officials may already be aware of this.

The content will be based on the **Intersections** series sponsored by the State Library and presented by Mandy Easter and Bonnie McKewon last fall. Held September-November, all three were recording and added to our [Continuing Education YouTube Channel](#). You're welcome to review that series any time.

You can learn more about this program and register on the League's website linked at the button below. And as always, reach out with questions.

[Register for Small City Workshops Today](#)

## This Week



This week is the **All Iowa Reads Author Talks**, happening virtually **June 11-12** with presentations by each of the three **AIR authors** discussing their books chosen for the **2024 AIR Program**. These webinars are ideal to share with your local book clubs, with your Friends Groups and youth groups—extend an invitation to all of them and promote these programs as a watch party @ your library!

In addition to hearing from the authors themselves, these discussions will also include an overview of the resources available from the State Library to support **All Iowa Reads** events at your library. Here's the **Virtual Author Talk** schedule:

- Diane Wilson on June 11 ( 6:30-7:30PM ) Diane Wilson is the author of the adult title [The Seed Keeper](#).
- Celia C. Perez on June 12 ( 2:00-3:00PM ) Celia is the author of the children's title [Tumble](#).
- Samira Ahmed on June 12 ( 4:00-5:00PM ) Samira wrote the teen title [Hollow Fires](#).

[Register For The Above In IALearns](#)



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