

Monday Morning Eye-Opener August 26, 2024

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

August 26, 2024

AtMail Service Will Sunset In 2025



State Library Discontinuing Email Service To Public Libraries

Last Monday, Iowa library directors received a bulletin from State Librarian Michael Scott. Michael announced the news that as of May 1, 2025, the State Library will no longer offer email service to public libraries.

AtMail, the State Library's vendor for email service, is currently used by 299 public libraries. Michael's announcement, along with what will be several more bulletins in the months to come, allowing ample time for affected libraries to start planning and making arrangements to find a new email service provider. Michael also shared our agency's reasons for this significant service change, he writes:

- *"First, we have been aware of and share your frustration with the ongoing technical issues from AtMail's email service. We know your satisfaction with AtMail has been low and we do not want to renew the contract next year."*
- *"This past year has also brought up some difficult questions in regards to the handling of FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests. Because state and local government emails are considered public records, providing email service to libraries puts the State Library in the time consuming and potentially sensitive position of being in the middle between the city handling the FOIA request and the email service provider. Legally, these situations are best handled in their entirety by the city."*
- *"As we have shared before, the State Library began offering email service when it was tied to the first generation of PLOW library websites, in the early days of the internet. At the time, few libraries had email service or the staff expertise to set it up. Now, email is ubiquitous, and can be likened to phone or internet service, which the State Library does not subsidize for libraries. We are also not aware of any other state library agency that provides the same level of email service to public libraries on a statewide basis."*

So as Michael explained, with these reasons in mind—and after over 20 years of providing email service—it's now time for our agency to discontinue this service and assist local

libraries in making other arrangements. We've already started gathering resources to help work through this process and answer many commonly asked questions, all at the button below.

As Michael wrote in his message last week, he welcomes your feedback and thoughts—contact him at michael.scott@iowa.gov

Moreover, your District LRT is standing by to help with questions and to provide support through this transition. Bookmark the webpage below:

[Email Service Transitioning](#)

National Library Card Sign-Up Month



Happening In September

Since 1987, **Library Card Sign-Up Month** has been promoted in September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the American Library Association and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs-up for their own library card.

Throughout the school year, public librarians and library staff assist parents by saving hundreds of dollars on educational resources and services for students. Library staff work to remind parents and youth that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning. Not to mention a very cost-effective back-to-school item!

The **2024 theme** is *“Libraries: More Than Meets The Eye.”* This year, ALA is teaming up with multiplatform entertainment company Skybound Entertainment and leading toy company Hasbro to encourage people to roll out to their libraries with the Transformers franchise, featuring Optimus Prime, as part of **Library Card Sign-Up Month**.

Public and school libraries nationwide are urged to participate in **Library Card Sign-Up Month** and amplify the message that libraries are an imagination place. Find free toolkits from ALA, including posters, bookmarks, social media messages, public service announcements, and more.

ALA’s website includes free graphics to download, including flyers, bookmarks, posters, and social media promos. Remember to share your plans for promoting **Library Card Sign-Up Month** with Iowa colleagues on Library Talk!

September: Library Card Sign-Up Month

Learning Circuit Registration Is Open



"Trending Technology" Statewide September 26th

The State Library's annual fall continuing education event—**The Learning Circuit**—is coming up on **Thursday September 26**. This is a full-day of continuing education, actually a blended day including two keynote speakers joining via ZOOM. The day runs from **9:00AM-3:30PM**, the **cost is \$25.00** (includes continental breakfast and box lunch) Earn **5 CE credits** for the full day. **Registration is being handled through Seamless Docs at the button below.**

Virtually every library and library worker will be impacted by AI at some point in the near future. This event will help you feel more informed and prepared for changes to come. As in previous years, we'll have national experts Zooming in to set up the topics for us; your District Staff will be on hand to guide you through the hands-on portions of the day.

Learning Circuits happen simultaneously across the state, with each District hosting a location. This ensures a greater number of library staff statewide will have chance to attend. Our thanks to all the people overseeing local arrangements at each location:

- **Northwest:** Western Iowa Technical College in Cherokee
- **North Central:** Clear Lake Public Library
- **Northeast:** Central Rivers AEA in Cedar Falls
- **Southwest:** Carroll Public Library
- **Central:** Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library
- **Southeast:** North Liberty Public Library

About The Theme: Trending Technology and the Future of Your Library

Throughout 2024 we've discussed how "Libraries are Forever." We've seen how partnerships, sustainability, and thinking "green" all lead to the long-term success of libraries. With the Learning Circuit, we'll pivot the discussion technologies that are already impacting libraries of all sizes.

The morning opens with a keynote address from librarian Philip Carter highlighting the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in library service. He'll cover the basics of AI and what to watch for in this quickly-evolving field. In the afternoon, we'll have a chance to try our hand at using AI games and activities that will make us more AI-Savvy in the real world. And we'll finish the day with our closing keynote speaker Reed Hepler with a presentation on the ethics of AI.

Register at the link below by Tuesday September 12. The \$25.00 fee can be paid online by credit card or e-check; checks will also be accepted by mail but must be received by September 12. The registration fee is required whether eating meals or not.

More information on the event, including specific location addresses, the full agenda, keynote speaker bios, and more are available on the [Learning Circuit webpage](#).

[Register For The Learning Circuit 2024!](#)

Looking Ahead ...



As noted in several communications, the State Library is transitioning from IALearns to a new learning management system called **WorkDay Learning**. Many other state departments—like DAS, which is the State Library’s new department home—are also making this move.

Among other impacts, this means **(1)** our live webinars are now on hiatus until we flip over to **WorkDay Learning**, expected in early October and **(2)** as of **Friday August 23**, IALearns has been shut down for users. We'll be transferring data into **Workday Learning** and will happily announce when we're ready to launch!

To further explain, the **IALearns / WorkDay Learning Transition** webpage is ready with more details, including additional FAQs. Be sure to reach out to us with questions and click the button below to read all about it.

[From IALearns To WorkDay Learning](#)

Labor Day signals the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. And believe it or not, **next Monday September 2nd is the Labor Day Holiday**, with all **State Library Offices** closed.

Wishing you an enjoyable holiday weekend!



Monday Morning Eye-Opener comes back on September 9th

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