

Monday Morning Eye-Opener September 30, 2024

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

September 30, 2024

Summer Library Program Evaluation



Your Feedback Is Appreciated!

Earlier this month, Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering sent a bulletin asking library youth services staff to evaluate the 2024 Summer Library Program: Read-Renew-Repeat. Everyone who completes an evaluation will be entered in a drawing to win a prize back of books for children and teens—nice incentive!

Janeé explains: *“The survey asks about the in person, online, and passive programs offered as well as the total number of attendees to in-person programs in June, July, and August. It also requests feedback on iREAD and the Read, Renew, Repeat theme, as well as the resources, training, and support offered by the State Library. There’s also an opportunity to upload or email images of your summer program successes.”*

The main goal of the survey is to gauge the impact of Iowa’s summer library programs. Results from the survey will be shared with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which provides funding for the State Library to offer the summer program manual and training to Iowa’s public libraries. This feedback will also help us improve or enhance the program and our support for 2025 and beyond.

NOTE: This survey should be completed by the person directly responsible for managing the library’s summer reading program. If that is someone other than you, please forward this email and survey link to the appropriate staff member.

Please complete the survey at the link below by **Friday October 11th** in order to qualify for the drawing—one entry per library. Thanks for your feedback!

[Take the 2024 Summer Library Program Survey](#)



The **Summer Library Program** is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa.

October Promotion Ideas



Turning the Page to October

Kind of hard to believe ... tomorrow is October 1st! Turning the calendar page to October likely leads to new displays, Facebook posts, newsletter inserts about the month of October. Sure, Halloween is top-of-mind for kids (adults, too, actually) So collection displays highlighting the scariest of books and movies will be a natural this month.

But October is also known for a few other things that can lead to fun library promotions and programming. For instance

- **National Book Month**
- **Health Literacy Month**
- **Country Music Month**
- **Fire Prevention Month**
- **National Cookie Month**
- **Global Media & Information Literacy Week Oct 24-31**

ALA Graphics is a great source for posters and all kinds of promos, along with the websites for any of the October special events noted above. Shop the [ALA Online Store](#) In addition, the [Today Show](#) website has an extensive list of specific October days to celebrate, including

- **National Golf Lovers Day Oct 4**
- **National Stop Bullying Day Oct 9**
- **National Farmers Day Oct 12**
- **National M&M Day Oct 13**
- **National Boss's Day Oct 16**
- **National Apple Day Oct 21**

And one more thing to note about October—it's the time of year to complete the **Public Library Annual Survey**, itself a scary proposition 😊 The **Survey** is open for business, the completion deadline is **October 31**. Contact [Scott Dermont](#) or your [District Consultant](#) with questions.

[Public Library Annual Survey](#)



ALA's Libraries Transform: Accessible Small and Rural Libraries Grants

The American Library Association recently announced a third round of grants for rural libraries in the U.S. These grants titled **ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities** opened on **September 11th** and remain open **until December 11th**. Grants will be awarded in a range from \$10,000-\$20,000; winners will be notified on March 3, 2025.

Eligible libraries must be both small and rural, meeting this definition from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) *"IMLS defines libraries serving small and rural communities as those located in an area that's more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area and with a population of 25,000 or less."* A great many Iowa libraries meet this definition ... read on! 😊

The purpose of these **Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grants** is to help improve library spaces and services designed for people with disabilities. The definition of "disability" is fairly broad and can be found in the grant guidelines linked below. Interested libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach; i.e. homebound seniors, children with autism, hearing-vision-mobility impaired residents.

Library staff will also need to facilitate a community conversation with their targeted, primary audience in order to guide the hoped-for improvements. Grantees will then use the grant funds to make identified, needed improvements to library spaces and services.

Here's a tip: print a PDF copy of the grant application first to use it as a worksheet before completing the application online. Along with a collaboration idea: consider approaching this grant in partnership with neighboring libraries. More from the grant website on the "how-to" behind working with your colleagues: *"Multiple libraries can choose to submit a single application together if they feel they do not have the capacity to administer the grant individually...please note that for libraries that apply together, one library must be selected as the primary applicant with all others included as partners. The primary applicant will be responsible for managing all aspects of the grant and will act as the main contact for ALA."*

With a deadline of December 11, there's plenty of time to add this to an upcoming board meeting agenda or county meeting agenda. And what a cool thing to add to your library's strategic plan! An informational webinar is scheduled for Oct 10—learn lots more at the link below

Libraries Transform: Accessible Small Rural Communities

Upcoming ...



A reminder about an important in-person workshop coming in October: **Space Planning**. For those already registered, please note this change-of-venue: the **NW Iowa location** is now **Milford Public Library** on **October 21** (original location was to be Spencer City Hall) Our thanks to Gillian Anderson and her staff at Milford for accommodating this location change!

For those not yet registered, note the **deadline is fast approaching—October 7th**. The cost is **\$20.00** which includes a buffet lunch. There are 3 locations to choose from,

10:00AM-3:00PM each day:

October 21 @ Milford / October 22 @ Altoona / October 23 @ Coralville

About the Space Planning Workshop

NYU professor David Vinjamuri (author of [Library Space Planning: A PLA Guide](#)) architect Joe Huberty (co-author of [The Practical Handbook of Library Architecture](#)) and Iowa Librarian Zach Row-Heyveld (Assistant Director at the Decorah Public Library) to learn how to maximize your library space so it serves you better, even on a limited budget.

This will be a hands-on workshop: please bring a floorplan of your space to use during exercises. The workshop has several essential parts:

- **Understanding Needs:**How to know patrons' needs; ideas of how to partner with municipalities and community service organizations to make this easier
- **Collection Strategy:**Create a collection that has breadth and diversity, but still leaves more room for patrons
- **Merchandising and Optimizing:**Increase circulation with better merchandising of collection materials
- **Case Study:**Learn how the Decorah Public Library achieved a 40% increase in adult collection circulation without renovating
- **Analytics for Reorganizing Space:**Ideas of how to analyze your space and make it work to better meet library and patron needs
- **5 Secrets for Maintaining Your Library:**How to maximize the life of your library building and reduce maintenance costs

Again, the registration deadline is October 7 ...

[Register Today!](#)

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