

Monday Morning Eye-Opener October 21, 2024

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

October 21, 2024

State Library Staff Retirements

Leads to Program Adjustments

Last week, Iowa library directors received a bulletin from State Librarian Michael Scott. Michael announced two upcoming staff retirements, which lead to some program realignments. Mandy Easter retires in November and Scott Dermont in December.



Michael shared news about adjustments to the Accreditation / Standards reporting cycle and to State Law Library Services. Here's more from his announcement last week: *"With our lead program staff departing and the large amount of administrative work required for the more than 200 libraries set to go through the next cycle in February 2025, the State Library management team has made the decision to defer Accreditation and Tier Status applications. **This means that all libraries will have one extra year added to their Accreditation and Tier Status cycle.** For example, if your current status is set to expire June 30, 2025, your new expiration date will be June 30, 2026. Note that library director and staff Endorsements will not be affected and will remain on the current cycle.*

*The Accreditation and Tier Status application process will resume December 2025. We will make an exception for the current year for any library that anticipates moving up a Tier Status. **If this applies to your library, contact Scott.Dermont@iowa.gov by October 31.**"*

When questions arise regarding library law after Mandy Easter's departure, remember to turn to **Library Law FAQs**. Michael writes *"In recent years, Mandy has been using her breadth of knowledge to prepare a resource on questions related to library law. The **Library Law FAQs** cover a wide range of topics, including labor law, open meetings, city government relations, and more. Mandy has also been instrumental in developing the **People's Law Library of Iowa**, an online resource providing easy-to-understand information on topics related to Iowa's laws. The **People's Law Library** is an excellent resource for librarians to promote to patrons when they have legal questions. The newest topic area, *Voting Law*, launched last week..."*

Scott Dermont

has been with the State Library since 2008 administering the Standards & Accreditation program, the Public Library Annual Survey and associated statistics, and dispersing Enrich Iowa funding to Iowa libraries. His last day with the State Library will be December 31.

Mandy Easter

has been the Law Librarian at the State Library since 2000. She fields questions from librarians, trustees, and city officials to help them understand and apply library-related law and answers general legal reference questions from the public. Her last day with the State Library will be November 7th

If you have a question or issue that is not addressed in the above resources, the State Library Reference Team will be happy to assist in the interim. They will be monitoring the Law Library email Law.Library@iowa.gov and phone at 1-800-248-4483 (option 2)

**On behalf of the entire staff at the State Library,
Congratulations Scott and Mandy! You will be missed among us!**



Save the Date, Submit a Session Idea

Oh sure, Halloween is next week, so the new year is still a few months off 😊 But our Education & Training Team is already making plans for **ILOC 2025!** We have a date for our **Iowa Libraries Online Conference** and we have a theme. **January 30, 2025** is the date, ***“Access, Adapt, Act: Making Evaluation Count”*** is the theme. This is an annual day of online learning is complete with keynote speakers, several breakout sessions, and ample continuing education credits.

In addition, the **ILOC Conference** is noted for showcasing Iowa library staff sharing their experience and expertise. The 2025 theme focusing on evaluation asks why we collect statistics, why we evaluate our efforts, and how we can make stats and evaluations most useful.

Eye-Opener readers are encouraged to submit a proposal to be considered for a breakout session. **Ideas for presentation topics can include:**

- **Using statistics to your best advantage**
- **Finding new ways to collect evaluations**
- **Using Project Outcome or other software to gather evaluation data**

- **Leveraging technology for evaluation**
- **Engaging stakeholders in the evaluation process**
- **Using visualization like infographics to present results in compelling ways**
- **Evaluating impact beyond usage statistics**
- **Showcasing how you used data and evaluations to create/modify library services or facilities**

The **ILOC Call For Proposals** is open now through **November 25th**. Read more about **ILOC** and find a **Google Form** to submit your proposal at the button below. Thanks in advance—and good luck to all 😊

[ILOC 2025 Call For Proposals](#)

Performers Showcase 2024



Happening in Ames November 7th

This year, the **2024 Performers Showcase is taking place in Ames**. This is a nice opportunity for youth services staff to see performers in action and also schedule them to appear in person for summer library programs.

And if attending in-person in Ames, this event also sets up a great way to connect with colleagues and work together in booking performers and possibly securing discounted

rates. This year's **Performers Showcase** is scheduled for **November 7th at Ames Public Library, 9:00AM-4:00PM**.

Now sponsored by **ILA's Youth Services Subdivision**, coordinators invite various performers recommended by fellow librarians to perform a 15-minute preview of their shows. Performers can also apply to be a part of the show, but only the best and vetted performers are selected. From the YSS webpage: *"the Showcase is emceed by Rick Brammer, who arranged the show prior to YSS and still imparts advice and words of wisdom from his many years involved with the library performer business."*

Registration is currently open to YS Subdivision members. Coordinators will post the registration link on Library Talk for all others who want to attend. In addition to the in-person event in Ames, there is also a virtual option. Find registration info at the button below. And to get a feel for the **Performers Showcase** if you've not attended before, [watch this video from 2022](#)

[Register For Performers Showcase 2024](#)

This Week ...



This is the week that our **Space Planning Workshops** roll out across the state. For everyone who is already registered, remember these workshops run from **10:00AM-3:00PM** at these sites:

Monday October 21 @ Milford PL

Tuesday October 22 @ Altoona City Hall

Wednesday October 23 @ Coralville PL

This is also [National Friends of Libraries Week October 20-26](#). Share your plans to celebrate your Friends Group on Library Talk 🗨️

NOTE: There is room for more people in the **Reflective Practice Groups**, which are part of the **Trauma Informed Library Practices** grant project that kicked off a few weeks ago. These groups, facilitated by Alyssa Caldbeck (MSW / LISW) focus on creating a safe space to share and reflect on personal experiences at work, gain support from others in similar roles, and continuously learn new perspectives and skills. Six different groups are meeting monthly through the end of the grant project. Find out more and sign up for a group that's right for you at the button below

[Sign Up For Reflective Practice Groups](#)

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