



April 2025

Here's the April 2025 Director Digest:

A Message from Interim State Librarian Brenda Hall

Library directors, I would like to thank you for your patience. I am still waiting to hear official word from IMLS regarding our Grants to States award, the main source of our federal funding. I will let you know as soon as I have more information to share.

As spring arrives, it reminds us that change is part of every season. I want to take a moment to recognize the strength, flexibility, and commitment each of you shows as we work through what's ahead. While we may face challenges, I'm confident in our ability to meet them together.

Thank you for all you do,

Brenda Hall
Interim State Librarian



Join Us for Director Roundtables This May!



Registration is now open for Director Roundtables across the state in May! The 2025 Roundtables will give attendees an opportunity to further dig into this year's education theme: *Assess, Adapt, Act*. With that focus, attendees will explore strategies for assessing library services and the critical connections between program evaluations, staff performance reviews, and board engagement. **Find a location near you and links to register:**

[Director Roundtables](#)

State Library Accepting Extra IA Shares Bags & Totes

Thanks to data from the Great IA Shares Bag & Tote Count in February, we have a better idea of the distribution of bags and totes throughout the system. We find our inventory of bags and totes to be getting low

in the main Des Moines office and need more to be returned to replenish our supply. This allows us to have them available when requests come in from libraries that need more to be sent.

If your library has excess IA Shares bags or totes on hand, please send them back to the State Library on your next delivery day. Bags can be folded and placed into an IA Shares bag with a label to the State Library; totes can be closed or stacked and also labeled to the State Library. If you have any bags or totes from other delivery systems like Rivershare or the Iowa Library Alliance, feel free to send them our way as well. Thanks for your cooperation!



Remember, if your library's in need, you can request more bags or totes at this link:

[IA Shares Bags & Totes Request Form](#)

Zoo Passes Available for Summer Reading Prizes

Looking for free Blank Park Zoo passes to give out as prizes to your summer readers? Check in with Dori Buls to request quantities for your library. The passes are for children ages 12 and under and are available while supplies last. Thank you to the Blank Park Zoo for their generous donation of zoo passes!



Email Dori at dori.buls@iowa.gov with your requested quantity.

AtMail Email Service Discontinuing May 1, 2025

Only **two weeks** remain before AtMail email service is discontinued for public libraries. It is critical that libraries still using AtMail transition to a different email service before the May 1 deadline. If your new service allows, you can keep your @[cityname].lib.ia.us email address. We've also prepared instructions on transferring your email archive from AtMail to select services. You can reach out to your District LRT with questions or to notify them that your AtMail accounts can be deactivated.

[Access Email Transition Resources](#)

Upcoming State Library Events & Deadlines

AtMail Email Service Discontinued

Thursday, May 1

Enrich Iowa Agreements

Available Early May | Letters of Agreement for the FY26 Enrich Iowa program will be emailed to library directors in early May.



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