

Inside this issue

New Iowa Authors' Web site introduced by Iowa Center for the Book



Commission joins librarians for Libraries on the Prairie.....	pg. 3
Libraries find WebJunction Iowa useful.....	pg. 4
News from the Iowa Center for the Book.....	pg. 5
Town Meetings: Extreme Make-over at Your Library!.....	pg. 8

Help needed identifying Iowa authors

The Iowa Center for the Book recently unveiled a new Web site: The Iowa Author List. The list includes authors of books who are presently living and writing in Iowa.

The purpose of the list is twofold:

- For readers, it is a source of information about Iowa authors and what they have written.
- For libraries, schools, and other organizations, the site provides information about Iowa authors who are interested in accepting speaking engagements.

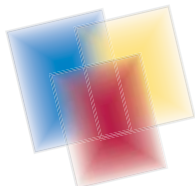
“What we hope will happen with the Iowa Author List is that readers will discover Iowa authors that they did not know about and that libraries, schools and other agencies will find the list helpful when looking for an author to present a program in their community,” said Katherine Von Wald, coordinator, Iowa Center for the Book.

“But we can use some help,” said Von Wald. “We are looking for authors who presently live in Iowa and write for the general reader -- adults, young adults or children. Genres include fiction, mysteries, history, cookbooks, pictures books, the list could go on and on.”

People who know of authors in their community or in the institution where they work, or have read an Iowa author’s work that is not currently on the list, are urged to contact them and ask that they add their information to the list: <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/authors>. Or contact coordinator@iowacenterforthebook.org with suggestions.

“We would love it dearly if librarians from all parts of the state would help with this project,” said Von Wald.

The Iowa Center for the Book is a program of the State Library of Iowa and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.



Comings and goings at the State Library

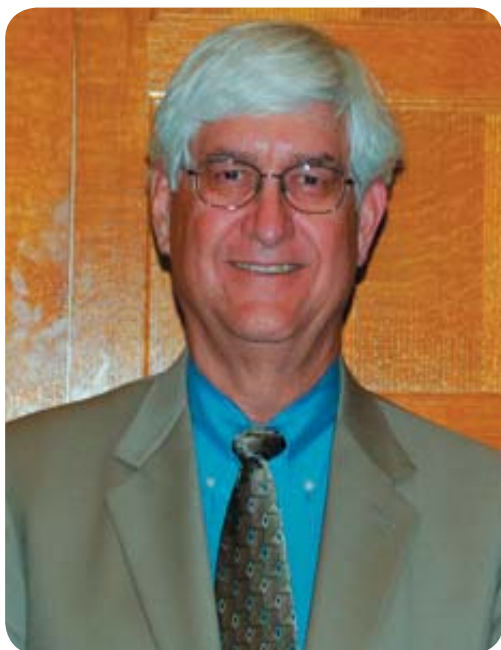


Mary Cameron, youth services consultant, has accepted a position with the Iowa Department of Education relating to information literacy and adolescent literacy. She has worked for the State Library since June 1999.

“I have loved working with Iowa librarians on the summer library program and early literacy,” said Mary. “I’m looking forward to the new opportunities offered by my new job, and hope to keep in touch with librarians.”

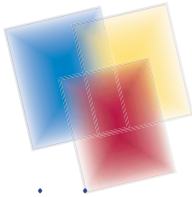
Mary has been part of the Iowa library community for 32 years.

Gary Haywood began working for the State Library’s SILO program in mid-July as systems support specialist. He is responsible for supporting SILO’s hosted domain name service, e-mail and Web services. Previously, Gary worked for Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids as a software quality engineer. He can be reached at gghaywood@silolibia.us, or (515) 294-5120.



Tom Martin was recently appointed by Governor Chet Culver to a four year term on the Iowa Commission of Libraries, the State Library’s governing board. Tom is vice president of Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank in Iowa City. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Iowa City Public Library and a trustee of Willowwind School.

Said Tom, “Libraries serve as a primary promoter of literacy, are predominate providers of information and are one of the amenities of life. It will be my pleasure as a member of the Iowa Commission of Libraries to work with libraries as they strive to better fulfill those roles.”



Commissioners meet for annual retreat; join participants of Libraries on the Prairie

The Iowa Commission of Libraries held their annual retreat at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, IA on August 13-14. At the same time, librarians gathered for a two-day "Libraries on the Prairie" workshop. The Commission spent part of their time attending the workshop and visiting with librarians about issues facing their libraries. Below is a collage of photos from the event. Michele Leiminger, center, coordinated "Libraries on the Prairie." Below, State Librarian Mary Wegner visits with speaker Alan Kemp from the Iowa League of Cities.



Commissioners from left, Monica Gohlinghorst, chair; David Boyd; Rita Martens; Jann Freed; Tom Martin; Daniel Boice and Frank Sposeto.





Traffic is busy on WebJunction Iowa

A recent analysis of activity on WebJunction shows Iowa libraries are high on the list of users. Iowa ranked third among the 15 state community partners for number of members (1,086).

The five top courses Iowa librarians took between April and June 2007 were:

- Building Relationships
- Customer Service
- Dealing with Difficult People
- HTML
- WebJunction's TechAtlas for Libraries

The top 10 sections of the Web site visited in June 2007 (7,230 total views) by Iowans were:

- Community
- Discussions: All Aboard
- Courses
- Resources
- WebJunction Course Catalog
- Help
- About Us
- Services to Rural Communities
- My Courses
- E-Learning Clearinghouse



The top 10 Articles Iowa librarians visited in June 2007 (13,052 total views) were:

- WebJunction RSS Feeds
- WebJunction Volunteer Opportunities
- Impart and Opp of Digital Reference in Primary and Secondary Education
- Working with a Non-Profit Board
- An Overview of the Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit
- What's Marketing Got to Do with It?
- WebJunction @ ALA 2007
- Allen County Public Library: Thoughtful innovations with space, staff and video
- Introduction to Windows SteadyState
- What's Your Story?

According to State Librarian Mary Wegner, "The State Library is a WebJunction Community Partner so that WebJunction courses, services and information will be available without charge to Iowa librarians. Registration is free -- check out WebJunction today!"

From the State Library's Web site, <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org>, go to the bottom of the page and click on WebJunction Iowa.

"The online courses in the WebJunction catalog offer something for everyone in all sizes and types of Iowa libraries," said Wegner. "Be sure to note the "Le@d" courses from the University of North Texas -- they are excellent. In addition, The WebJunction Web site itself offers a wealth of high-quality articles, especially on technology and customer service."

News from the Iowa Center for the Book, State Library of Iowa

Iowa poet John Thompson read from his *County Poems* book on July 18, 2007 at the State Library. The following is a partial account of how the book came about. To read the whole story, visit the Iowa Center for the Book, <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org>.

“Iowa history and poetry were my two academic passions as a college student in Iowa. While studying the history of the state at DMACC/Ankeny, we students were given blank grids of the state and required to plot famous persons, places, events, and things throughout Iowa. The grids had no names or titles; we had to know our counties.

“It hit me while taking these rather excruciating exams that Iowa, indeed, had a high density of counties; we rank 9th nationally. Knowing that lyric poetry and rhyme writing were favorite past times of mine, I knew if I could write a poem for each one of these grids, the counties, then I would, at least by quantity, have a book.

“The library system of Iowa served as my invisible hand, organizer, and co-author. I visited each county-seat library and wrote a draft (beginning, middle, or end) while in each county. Sometimes I would introduce myself to a reference librarian and ask for tips; other times I was there to use the word processor and write the final draft. I remember a particular trip to Henry County when visiting the grounds of Thresher Days in Mount Pleasant several weeks before the event. I didn’t know if I had a grasp of what threshing was all about, so I stayed the remains of the day in the Mount Pleasant library and submitted process drafts to the director. She nodded in the late afternoon. “Ode to Thresher” was added to *99 Voices, 99 Lives: County Poems of Iowa*.”



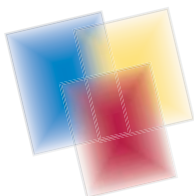
Does your library provide book discussion groups?

If so, please take a minute to add information about them at <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/library-groups/form/>. It will only take a minute to add a couple of sentences about your discussion groups and provide a link to your library’s Web site. For newcomers or people visiting in your communities, this is a great way to spread the word about your library’s activities.

If your library is having a discussion of this year’s All Iowa Reads selection, *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio*, it is especially important to add information to the site. The statistics garnered from the Web site are critical for making the case that All Iowa Reads is a worthwhile project of the Iowa Center for the Book.

Iowa Polio Stories highlighted in popular Iowa publication

Tom Morain, director of community relations for Graceland University, reviewed *Splendid Solution* in the Winter 2006 issue of *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*. Morain also talked about the book discussion he led at the Perry Public Library. Featured are some of the stories the Iowa Center for the Book has received from Iowans afflicted with polio. All are unique and interesting.



On the road again...with RAGBRAI 07

In case you need a reason why you should open your library to RAGBRAI riders, Jan Peterson of the Dunkerton Public Library has one: "This morning when I opened my mail, there was a check for \$500 from a man in D.C. He wrote a note thanking us for the hospitality and wanted to help with our building project."

The man was, of course, a RAGBRAI rider who wandered into the library.

There were 31 libraries open on this year's route and most had only good things to say about their fun, though harried, day with the riders.

"Today, an Aplington citizen said she had conversed with one of the RAGBRAI bikers who said she always headed for the libraries in the towns she passed through because they were the best and nicest places to take a break," said Nancy Huisman, director of the Aplington Legion Memorial Library. Imagine the bikers' surprise when they found Captain Underpants waiting for them at the library!



Aplington Legion Memorial Library - Biker takes a nap in the children's "play pen."

Nikki Ehlers, director of Humboldt Public Library, said she worked from 7 a.m. to midnight. Humboldt was an overnight town.

Linda Adams, Webb Public Library, had over 300 bikers visit. "What a fun time I had! I opened at 7:15 a.m. and stayed open until 1:30 p.m."



Dumont Community Library: Riders using and waiting for the computers.



Aplington - Nancy Huisman, Director, and friend

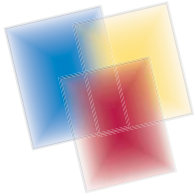


A couple of tired RAGBRAIers in the Dumont library. Fuzzy Elmo made a great pillow.

The State Library set up a mail list for all the RAGBRAI libraries so they could share stories and suggestions. One library mentioned that having *The Des Moines Register* on hand was a must. Another said bikers were asking for dental floss. (There's a lot of sweet corn served along the route.)

Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove Memorial Library, said she spread sheets of paper around the library that would eventually become a guest book, along with some donation jars. "Next time I'll try to remember to put one in each restroom," she noted.

Deb Eisentrager, Dumont Community Library, said "We had 6 computers for public use. We had about 10 people in line at the busiest time. They are pretty patient and nobody stays on a long time. One of the riders told us we should put plastic on the chairs so they don't get all sweaty."



Jackie Gunzenhauser, Humeston Public Library, rode in this year's RAGBRAI under the code name "Bikrarian." The following is her story:

"Most libraries were open for RAGBRAI, even if it was not their scheduled hours. I was especially impressed by those open early on Sunday morning. I used the computer in the George Public Library before 7 a.m. Sunday. Those libraries that advertised free Internet access on the bike route were far more crowded than those that did not promote their services.

"All of the librarians were friendly. Many were amused and some were confused by my title. Many of the libraries on the route had recently built new facilities or had recent additions. All were very appealing and pleasant to visit.

"I had a good time and I encourage any of you to take up my title of "Bikrarian" for the ride next year and visit the libraries on the route. Who knows, maybe Humeston will be a pass through town!"



Jackie Gunzenhauser, director of the Humeston Public Library, rode RAGBRAI this year with the title of "Bikrarian." She's shown here in Dumont.



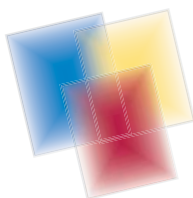
Next to computers, bathrooms, and a comfortable chair, riders also enjoyed catching up on the latest news while in Dunkerton

Vicki Myron, Spencer Public Library, was surprised at the low turnout at her library, which was the first overnight town. "I guess with the concerts, computers, wireless Internet, free entertainment at the fairgrounds and the air-conditioned Events Center, they had plenty to do.

"We did get visitors from 28 states and were able to host a mini-family reunion for a group of riders and some local families in our meeting room. They were thrilled with the kitchen, bathroom, etc. that was available for them."



Hard to tell what they're waiting in line for in Dunkerton, but you can bet it was worth it!



Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Renae Franzen, Spillville Public Library
Karen Mennega, Wellsburg Public Library
Steven Miller, Wellman-Scofield Public Library
Joan Naylor, St. Charles Public Library
David Netz, Sioux Center Public Library
Steve Pederson, Independence Public Library
Stacy Tynan, Rockford and Charles City public libraries
Nicholas Shimmin, West Branch Public Library
Andrew Wylie, Ames Public Library

Extreme Makeover @ Your Library: You Can Do It!



Register Now for September Town Meetings

September 18 (Mason City), 19 (Storm Lake), 20 (Council Bluffs), 25 (Iowa City), 26 (Waterloo), 27-28 (Urbandale)

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>.

This year's theme is *Extreme Makeover @ Your Library: You Can Do It!* In the morning, attendees will take a look at designing the library's physical space to make it even more inviting. Secondly, they will consider the changing needs of customers and what that means as far as "making over" attitudes and openness to change.

The afternoon sessions include:

- Collection Development Makeover: Rethinking Buying and Weeding Patterns. The average library collection, regardless of size, follows the 80/20 pattern: 80% of circulation comes from 20% of the collection. This session will talk about how to rethink what's purchased and weeded to break this barrier and circulate more collections on a regular basis.
- Library Merchandising. Using ideas from both libraries and the retail industry, this workshop will address how to develop public libraries into more visually stimulating places. Discussion will include what librarians should know about how customers decide what to check out, why library displays are important and ideas for displays.
- Making the Most of Your Library Web Site. This session is for all libraries with Web sites. Topics include publicizing Web sites, adding content that keeps drawing the public to the Web site and thinking about the Web site as a "branch" library that is open 24/7.

Hope to see you there!

Reminder:

The meeting minutes of the Iowa Commission of Libraries can be found at
<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/about/gov>



State Library touts benefits of using HealthInfoIowa and Medline Plus to State Fair attendees

State Library employees staffed a booth at this year's Iowa State Fair to promote HealthInfoIowa and Medline Plus.

Staff talked to 2,773 people over an 11 day period. In addition, there were 407 Medline Plus demonstrations and 493 HealthInfoIowa demonstrations on a computer.

"One woman who thought she was not interested in the information returned later on in the day to say she had changed her mind," said Pam Rees, medical librarian, State Library.

HealthInfoIowa is an Iowa-focused Web site for health information users and providers. It contains authoritative content that ranges from national databases to regional and local links, and serves as a simple and trustworthy first stop for Iowans searching for health related information.

The State Medical Library received a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Greater Midwest Region to promote HealthInfoIowa and Medline Plus, a consumer health database created by the National Library of Medicine.

Visit: <http://www.healthinfoiowa.org> and <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>



Top, Pam Rees, medical librarian, and Toni Blair, both State Library staff stand ready to describe the Web sites to fair visitors. Left, Michele Leiminger, State Library, discusses HealthInfoIowa to a visitor who stopped by the booth.

Plan now to attend 39th Annual Festival of Books for Young People

The University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science is holding its annual Festival of Books for Young People on Saturday, October 20, at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City.

This year's theme is "Nature's Narrative." There will be a display of new books for young people and book signings. For further information, visit <http://slis.uiowa.edu/%7Efestival/FBYP.html> or contact Kit Austin at (319) 335-5709, caroline-austin@uiowa.edu.



Be sure to check the State Library Web site for late breaking news! <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org>.

More news from around the state

Sioux City library goes to the dogs

The Sioux City Public Library's "Read to Me" program pairs struggling readers with specially trained dog listeners. The highly successful program began in May 2007 and continued through the summer. The dogs are part of the K-9 STARS -- certified therapy dogs.

Youth services manager, Jeanette Bobeen, said the program has been a big hit. Dogs didn't mind if three or four kids read different books to them at the same time, she said.

Similar programs are taking place across the country. Dogs like to listen, don't interrupt with corrections and help young readers relax.

Read the complete story in the *Sioux City Journal*.

http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/blogs/in_my_shoes/?p=54



Photo courtesy of the *Sioux City Journal*

Area library services rate high with residents

A recent survey of residents in the cities of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha and Fairfax shows that library services are well loved, well used, and very well supported. According to Lily Lau, administrator of East Central Library Services, "The survey results are a confirmation of what librarians have long suspected: Our area libraries are well used and highly regarded by the communities they serve. The libraries will use this information to prioritize, focus on areas that need improvement, seek additional ways to collaborate and continue to provide excellent service."

The survey results were so strongly positive that even the independent company researchers were surprised. Ninety-nine percent of library users rated library collections, services and staff as extremely valuable or valuable. Among both users and non-users, support for library funding was also strong. Six in 10 non-users would support a one-time campaign for library expansion, even though they use the library six times a year or less. Among library users, support was even stronger.

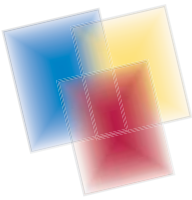
Librarian thanks libraries for lowering flags

From Kathy Parsons, Parks Library, ISU "On behalf of the extended family of David Behrle, I wish to express a heartfelt thank you to any and all libraries that flew their flags at half staff on May 29. David was a cousin of mine and as I drove home from the [funeral] services yesterday, it meant a great deal seeing so many flags displayed at half staff."



Muscatine library director retires; will write musical

Peter L. Press, former director of the Musser Public Library, Muscatine, recently retired after serving as director for five years. He inspired the library's Web site, the Hispanic library assistant position and the library-sponsored Hispanic festivals. Press is currently working on a musical stage production titled "Muscatine! The Muscial" set to debut in mid-October.



More news from around the state

Williamsburg breaks ground for new library

It was a beautiful July day to break ground for the 19,000 new square foot library in Williamsburg. From left are Sharon Grimm, president of the Williamsburg Library Friends, Melinda Driscoll, president of the Williamsburg Public Library Foundation, Williamsburg mayor Murray Armstrong, library board president Rita McDonald, city councilman Don Kirkpatrick and library director Loretta Hanson and her three year old grandson, Tom Hanson, Pittsburgh PA.



Metro library network reaches two million mark

More news from the Cedar Rapids, Marion and Hiawatha public libraries: Over 2 million items were checked out to library users during fiscal year July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. Jeaneal Weeks, director of the Hiawatha Public Library said everyone was excited to see their libraries being used so much. All three libraries share their materials for the benefit of their patrons, and all three share an online computer catalog. Customers may arrange to pick up their materials at the library closest to them.



Main library will close September 4.

Davenport public library closes for remodeling

A \$100,000 renovation of the downtown Davenport Public Library will require closing the building until at least September 24. The project is part of a year-long 40th anniversary celebration for the Richardson-Sloane building. The library will have new carpeting, a new handicapped-accessible bathroom, updated self-check machines, new security gates and other updates.

Several Iowa libraries receive Kids Count! Awards

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch won the top "Kids Count!" Award for Outstanding Service to Youth Researchers. The Eddyville Public Library was awarded a certificate of merit for the 2007 "Kids Count!" Award. Certificates of Recognition were also given to the Buena Vista University Library in Storm Lake and the Hawarden Public Library. The award recognizes the best libraries, archives or museums in the state of Iowa for their outstanding service to youth researchers. "Kids Count!" is sponsored by the State Historical Society, Inc., in Iowa City.