

State Library of Iowa

Annual Report

FY08

July 1, 2007 to
June 30, 2008

State Library has busy year Putting Libraries on the Web (PLOW)

Iowa has more than 300 public libraries with new Web sites thanks to the State Library of Iowa's Putting Libraries on the Web (PLOW) project. Iowa is the only state in the country whose state library is providing this service. More than half a million Iowans live in communities served by libraries with a PLOW Web site. The Staying Connected Grant, which included PLOW, was made possible by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand public access computing in Iowa public libraries.

270 libraries joined PLOW in the first year of the program. In FY08, PLOW Round 2 classes were held, providing 40 more libraries with Web sites. Three required classes were offered, including Introduction to E-mail Services, Getting Your Web Site Started, and Customizing your Web site. Optional classes for librarians included Advanced Customization of Web Sites, PLOW Training for Library Staff and PLOW work days, where librarians

(Cont. on pg. 2)

The State Law Library's extreme makeover



View of downtown Des Moines from the Law Library

Over the last decade librarians have witnessed revolutionary advancements in the storage and delivery of information. The emergence of digital access to legal information provided the State Law Library with an opportunity to rethink the manner in which it organizes and disseminates its resources.

As tens of thousands of volumes of print resources gave way to an individual's workstation, law library staff was freed up to embark on a reorganization effort encompassing not only library materials but furniture and service areas as well.

In an ironic twist, it was a 19th-century photograph of the Law Library's original layout that served as the primary inspiration for the reorganization, but it is 21st-century technology that enabled staff to achieve their vision. To facilitate their objective they first had to engage in a major weeding and shifting operation. Twelve large shelving units were removed and the mammoth desk known as "the cage" was placed back in its original location on the north end of the library.

Ergonomic furniture was purchased to support the reference services area which was relocated in an adjacent alcove. Moving the reference services area provided library users with access to the balcony doors and picturesque views of downtown Des Moines while at the same time helping staff ensure the confidentiality of reference transactions. Removing shelves allowed four additional tables for patron seating. A sign of the times, this had the unintended consequence of creating a demand for electrical outlets to support visitors' laptops.

"Once we change our tools, our tools then change us." Marshall McLuhan

A Message from the State Librarian

Libraries enrich Iowa. From the town library on Main Street, to the college library in the center of campus, to the school library down the hall from the principal's office, to the specialized library within a museum or corporation, libraries play a major role in their Iowa communities.

The State Library actively champions Iowa's libraries. Our two roles are improving library services in Iowa and delivering specialized information services to state government and to Iowans.

State Library highlights of the past year included celebrating 100 years of State Library residency in the Ola Babcock Miller Building (previously known as the Old Historical Building) on Grand Avenue in Des Moines; appearing on national TV as we hosted CBS News broadcasts at the Law Library during the January 2008 Iowa presidential caucuses; launching the second phase of our successful Putting Libraries on the Web program; receiving a significant grant to fund a new interactive Web site for the State Data Center – and much more, as outlined in this report.



State Librarian Mary Wegner

We are pleased to report that Iowa's libraries are more heavily used than ever before. Public library visits, checkouts, and library card holders have all seen double digit increases in the past ten years. The public's use of Open Access and Access Plus, the library resource sharing programs managed by the State Library, has increased by 80% since 1997. More than four million library items were checked out through these programs last year.

Ongoing challenges include the need for additional resources to support libraries as they loan more items than ever to Iowans who live outside their local communities; the need for additional high-quality e-resources, such as job and career preparation software, to support learning and decision-making; the need for more teacher-librarians to teach critical thinking and information literacy skills to Iowa students; and the need for a single online statewide library catalog and check-out system.

The State Library continues to partner with our colleagues from the Library Service Areas, Department of Education and Area Education Agencies as we work to promote excellence and innovation in library services for all Iowans.

State Library has busy year Putting Libraries on the Web

(cont. from pg. 1)

could get away from their libraries and spend quiet time with State Library staff working on their Web sites. When librarians have questions about, or problems with, their Web sites, they can always call the SILO Help Desk for quick answers and solutions.

Library Web sites are important because they connect Iowans with accurate and helpful library information and services around the clock, said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "Public libraries are a key part of lifelong learning opportunities for Iowans," said Wegner. "Computers and the Internet bring the whole world of information and ideas into all Iowa libraries, regardless of size. The PLOW Web sites help Iowans be competitive in the 21st century and make it possible for public libraries to deliver services in new ways."

Iowa librarians report that benefits of the PLOW Web sites include providing information to customers 24/7, helping customers find high quality resources on the Internet, and making the library more visible in the community.

State Library says goodbye, hello to some very special people

On November 12, 2007, State Library staff and colleagues statewide were stunned by the sudden death of Beth Marie Quanbeck.

Beth Marie worked for the Central Iowa Library Service Area as assistant administrator from 1994 to April 2007 when she accepted a consultant position with the State Library. Beth Marie had extensive experience consulting with small, public libraries and was well known for her helpfulness and willingness to extend herself to others. She is still greatly missed and will always be fondly remembered.



A retirement party for Gerry Rowland, State Library consultant, was held Friday, June 20, 2008. Gerry was director of the Shenandoah Public Library from 1979 to 1986 and the Scott County Library from 1986-87 before taking the consultant's position at the State Library in 1987.

If anyone needed library statistics, Gerry was the go-to man. He remembers when statistics were gathered in paper format, calculated by hand and typed page by page. Now it's all done online, with calculations and tables configured automatically.



The State Library was pleased to welcome the following staff in FY08.



Karen Randleman began her new job as the State Library's Youth Services Consultant on January 14, 2008. Previously, Karen worked for the Des Moines Public Library as a Youth Specialist Librarian.



Tim Skeers joined the State Library staff as a cataloger on March 23, 2008. He graduated from Drake University and later attended library school at the University of Illinois.



Jay Peterson began working at the State Library as a consultant on March 31, 2008. He completed his masters in library and information science at Dominican University in River Forest, IL.



Nate Jarchow joined the SILO Program on March 5, 2008 as an instructional support specialist. He will support SILO's hosted DNS, e-mail, and PLOW Web services.

State Library of Iowa Library Services and Technology Act Goals of 2008-2012 Five Year Plan

1. Provide expanded, equitable access to library information, materials and services to all Iowans.
2. Sustain a state of lifelong learners by developing early literacy skills, a love of reading and information literacy skills.
3. Promote resource sharing and partnerships as a way for libraries to provide cost-effective, high-quality service to Iowans.
4. Develop libraries' capacity to provide excellent service to Iowans.

Through the Grants to States program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides federal LSTA funds to state libraries using a population-based formula. In Iowa, LSTA funds are used primarily to support statewide library development initiatives and services such as:

- the summer library program
- developing the skills of Iowa library directors and staff
- statewide access to online reference databases such as EBSCOhost and FirstSearch
- interlibrary loan network through maintenance of the State of Iowa Libraries Online (SILO)
- the Iowa Center for the Book
- standards for public libraries



State Library partners with Education to develop school library guidelines

Iowa School Library Program Guidelines: Libraries, Literacy and Learning for the 21st Century was produced in 2008 by the State Library and the Department of Education following the passage of a bill by the General Assembly in 2006 requiring schools to have teacher librarians and school library media programs.

Mary Wegner, State Librarian, and Rita Martens, Iowa Department of Education and a member of the Iowa Commission of Libraries, co-chaired the task force that wrote this and other documents meant to provide assistance to school districts, administrators and teacher librarians as they work to comply with the legislation and its requirements.

Some of the aids included are a sample information literacy curriculum that can be adapted to suit local needs, sample policies, job descriptions and templates for reports and planning.

State Library becomes showcase for local artists

When the State Library Marketing Team realized the first floor library would be an excellent background for people to display their art, they wondered if anyone would be interested. Surprisingly, people jumped at the opportunity. Beginning in 2007, several artists have displayed their work.

- Dr. Phil Bryant
- Mike Wetteland
- Mary Homeier
- Karen White
- Children - Iowa Juvenile Home
- Barbara Jones Prall
- Gerry Rowland
- Barb Meckstroth

State funding helps Iowa libraries enrich lives

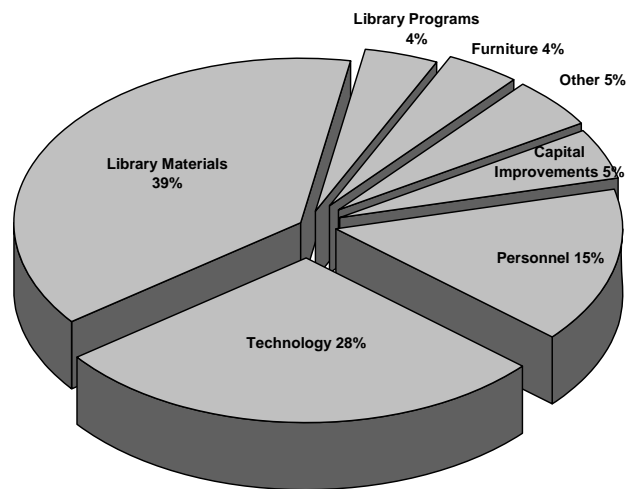
Direct State Aid funding for public libraries in FY08 was \$1 million. Since its inception in FY99, accredited public libraries in Iowa have grown from 171 to 331 in FY08. Direct State Aid gives libraries additional income to purchase computers, books, supplies and other services their customers would otherwise do without.

Open Access funding in FY08 was \$1,282,686. The program allows Iowans to walk into any participating Iowa library and borrow books and other materials.

The Access Plus interlibrary loan program allows Iowans to borrow books and other materials from another library if their library doesn't own them. In FY08, libraries received \$490,742 in funding for Access Plus.

Open Access and Access Plus make Iowa's library resources available to all Iowans. Iowans checked out more than four million library items through these programs last year.

Uses in FY07 by Iowa public libraries of Direct State Aid (\$1,000,000)



Based on 479 Iowa public libraries reporting expenditures of Direct State Aid funds

Staff shares knowledge with Iowans statewide

Whether it's teaching other state employees, librarians or the public at large, State Library staff are dedicated to providing classes on topics they know best. A quick survey of courses presented by State Library staff reveals just how diverse those topics are.

Adventures in Storytelling
All Iowa Reads
Basic Book Repair
Creating a Reader's Advisory Service
EBSCOhost
Finding Iowa Statistics
Four Fantastic Databases For and About Iowans
The Good, Bad & Ugly: Shoot-out at the PR Corral
Getting Ready for Census 2010
Growing Iowa Librarians:
 The Online Learning Environment
Iowa Inventors Database
Iowa Population Trends
Iowa Publications Online
Juvenile Summer Reading
Legal Research Using Westlaw

Libraries on the Prairie
Mix It Up: Using Blended Learning for Staff Training
More Than Just Google: Internet Searching
Patent & Trademark Depository Library
PLOW Training and Work Days
Public Library Management I and II
Reliable Health Information on the Web
Sanborn Digital Maps (Iowa fire insurance maps)
Searching FirstSearch Databases
Teen Summer Reading
Town Meetings: Extreme Library Makeover - You can do it!
Trustee Training: Fair Pay for Library Directors
Trustee Training: Governing the Library
Using an ICN Classroom: An Overview
Using RSS: Keep Up with the Information Avalanche
Using the Legislative Web Site
Youth Services Workshop

Wimba Training

Participating in online classes has become quite popular for both instructors and students. The Wimba online classroom enables educators and students to quickly and easily teach and learn live online, and to engage in live chat and instant message exchanges. The State Library's membership in WebJunction allows it to use Wimba at no cost. In FY08, the following classes were taught using Wimba: Introduction to EBSCOhost, Advanced EBSCOhost, EBSCOhost for Kids, Creating a Reader's Advisory Service, Storytelling and Adventures in Storytelling. The State Library also co-sponsored the Iowa Small Libraries day-long online conference using Wimba.

IOWAccess provides funding to update State Data Center Web site

The State Library's State Data Center Web site will get a new look thanks to \$490,000 from the state's IOWAccess Revolving Fund in early January 2008.

Proposed enhancements to the site will make it easier for Iowa citizens to find, use, and visualize demographic data about Iowa.

Planned new features will allow citizens to view data dynamically on the Web. Data users will be able to choose among variables and geographic areas to create customized reports; visualize trends in charts, graphs, and maps; and download results into spreadsheet, text, or database files.

The vendor for the project will be selected in 2008 and conversion of the current site at www.iowadatacenter.org is expected to be completed in 2009.

The State Data Center is a cooperative program with the U.S. Census Bureau to increase the availability of census data in Iowa and to help Iowans use it. Staff answers questions about Iowa's demographics and produces publications and maps to help Iowans understand the state's population trends. Resources cover general demographics as well as social, economic, housing, government and business data.

Iowa Publications Online (IPO)

The State Library produces IPO, a growing digital archive that currently contains 5,621 state documents, including:

- annual reports
- financial reports
- newsletters
- regulations
- audits
- research reports

Nearly 150 state agencies put their documents on IPO to ensure that they are freely and widely available on a permanent Web site.

In FY08, there were 970,469 hits to the IPO Web site, an average of 80,872 per month.

Certified librarians = Great libraries



There are 910 certified librarians in Iowa, 76 of whom earned their certificates in FY08. Those who earned their designations through the State Library of Iowa's Certification Program for Public Librarians :

- improve library service in Iowa;
- acquire, maintain, and develop more skills through basic and continuing education;
- and enhance the public image of librarians and libraries.

Information abounds - EBSCOhost and FirstSearch

Designed specifically for public libraries, MasterFILE Premier is one of thousands of resources on EBSCOhost. It provides full text for nearly 1,750 general reference publications with full text information dating as far back as 1975. MasterFILE is just an example of what's available to librarians and their customers thanks to the State Library's contract with EBSCOhost. In FY08, there were more than 2.5 million logins and 8 million searches conducted by Iowans.

FirstSearch, another database provided by the State Library, has seamless electronic access to dozens of databases and more than 10 million full-text and full-image articles. Iowans logged in to FirstSearch 256,464 times and did 453,926 searches in FY08.

The information provided on these databases is not free and cannot be found on Google -- another reason why the Internet will never usurp the power of libraries in the information world.

2007 Town Meetings - A door busting event

Who can forget Laura (Marie Harms) -- the unhappy and frustrated librarian who hated change, yet morphed into a calm, successful library manager with help from her colleagues? Certainly none of the record-breaking 479 attendees who watched the humorous skit at the 2007 Town Meetings.

Harms and other State Library staff, as well as ILA president Sheryl Bissen, performed a thought-provoking sketch that focused on making over a library's physical space, and sometimes personal attitudes.

Afternoon breakout sessions included "Library Merchandising," "Collection Development Makeover," and "Making the Most of Your Library Web Site."

This annual event is held in seven different locations across the state and draws hundreds of people from libraries of all sizes.



Summer Library Program keeps kids reading

The State Library believes strongly in the value of a summer reading program. Each year, the State Library provides workshops and materials to assist public libraries in developing a successful library program.

Research shows that children who read six or more books during the summer maintain or improve their reading skills, while children who do not lose ground by September.

The Summer Library Program encourages reading for pleasure, the development of positive attitudes about the public library, and provides constructive activities during the long break from school.

Last year, 143,402 youth in 520 Iowa public libraries participated in the Summer Library Program.



Library Services conducts survey of customers

In May 2008, Library Services did an online survey of State Library card holders. The comments from 367 respondents were positive about customer service and the library facility.

The three most popular services mentioned were reference, online access to databases, and the library's books and journal collections. Classes for state government employees, the quarterly online newsletter "State Library Update," and interlibrary loan/document delivery services were also frequently mentioned.

When asked what services customers would like to see added, responses varied widely and included requests for specific materials and databases, improvement to the library's online catalog and Web site, and more services for state employees not living in Des Moines.

Thirty-three percent of the people who took the survey were from the Department of Human Services and eight percent were from the Department of Natural Resources, perhaps reflective of the relative number of employees in these departments.

Iowa Center for the Book maintains aggressive agenda

The mission of the Iowa Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries. It is a program of the State Library of Iowa and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

All Iowa Reads

All Iowa Reads encourages Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single book in the same year. Libraries plan programs and book discussions throughout the year to talk about the selection. The program has been in existence since 2003. The 2007 selection was *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio* by Jeffrey Kluger. *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler is the 2008 book.

Letters About Literature

Letters About Literature invites students in grades 4 through 12 to take part in a national reading and writing contest. Readers write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Audrey Keranen, an 11th grader from Iowa City, was the Iowa winner at Level III in 2007 and was one of two national winners. In 2008, 1,394 Iowa students entered in the competition: 37 were semifinalists at Level I, 38 at Level II and 26 at Level III. Two students, Sarah Startz (Johnston) and Laura Wang (Cedar Rapids) were national honorable mentions.

"I never feel so comfortable, happy, and at home, as when I am in the presence of great readers! So thank you all for being here and thank you, to the LAL winners, for your phenomenal efforts to make connections with the emotions, observations, and thought-provoking ideas that all writers try to work into the fabric of their books." - Debra Marquart, Iowa State University English Professor and author, speaking to the 2008 Letters About Literature winners.

Literary Events

The Iowa Center for the Book's Web site contains information about literary events taking place across the state. All types of libraries, bookstores, colleges and other organizations that sponsor literary events are encouraged to submit information.


Lectures and Presentations


Faculty and staff affiliated with the University of Iowa Center for the Book are interested in a wide range of topics associated with the production and distribution of books. Iowans may ask a book specialist to visit their communities and present programs on a variety of topics.

Iowa Author List

The Iowa Author List includes authors of books who are presently living and writing in Iowa.

The purpose is twofold:

 For readers – a source of information about Iowa authors and what they have written.

 For libraries, schools, and other organizations - information about Iowa authors who are interested in accepting speaking engagements.

Authors included in this list are writing for the non-specialist reader. The book must be in physical format, printed and bound.

Authors of adult, young adult and juvenile books are also part of the list.

Self published books are eligible for inclusion as long as they are print-on-paper and owned by at least one library in Iowa that is open to the public.

The goal is to be as inclusive as possible of books by current Iowa authors.

www.iowacenterforthebook.org/authors

Iowa Polio Stories Oral History Project collects amazing stories

In July 2007, Kate Scott was hired to do an oral history project on Iowans affected by polio. The project's genesis came from the 2007 All Iowa Reads selection, *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio* by Jeffrey Kluger. The project was funded by the State Library of Iowa and the Roy J. Carver Trust.

Scott and volunteers recorded 51 audio interviews from Iowans in 26 counties. Interviewees ranged in age from 55 to 96.

The project included audio tapes, individuals' photographs, personal letters, medical documents and news-clippings which were later given to the Iowa Historical Society in Iowa City. Summaries and pictures from 49 of the interviews are located on the Iowa Center for the Book's Web site. (www.iowacenterforthebook.org)

The project targeted three primary audiences: 1) the medical community, 2) family and friends of those afflicted, and 3) polio survivors.

"Iowa Polio Stories is a valuable primary resource for future generations," said Scott. "But, it is also important to note that this project comes full circle as part of the 2007 All Iowa Reads Program. A number of polio survivors recalled how important reading was to their emotional well-being. They remember that reading operated as a form of escapism."

In addition to the oral histories, 60 other Iowa polio survivors sent in their written stories for the Web site. Photographs were also provided by the Iowa Historical Society, Iowa Methodist Medical Center and polio survivors.

The following are three brief summaries from the 60 polio stories submitted to the Web site:

Janet Nagle, Scott County

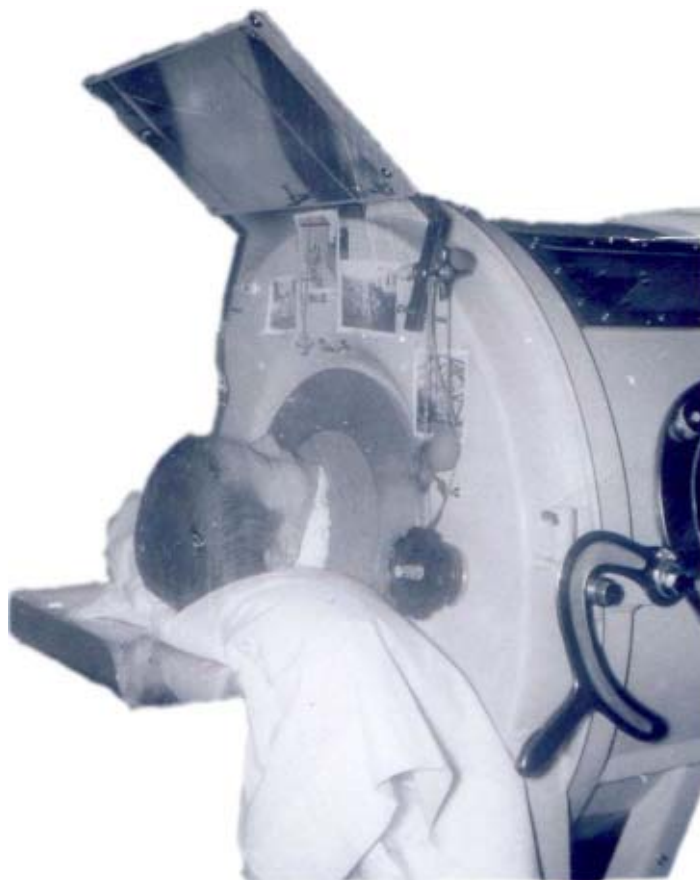
"Had the polio vaccine been in existence before [my husband's] birth, he would have been spared much suffering. Dr. Salk is a true hero; his vaccine has been a huge benefit to humanity."

Edna Stoll, Wright County

"I was in the iron lung for over 2 weeks and once during that time it stopped working and they came in with what looked like a tire pump and took turns pumping it until another lung could be brought over from Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines."

Patricia Boynton, Poweshiek County

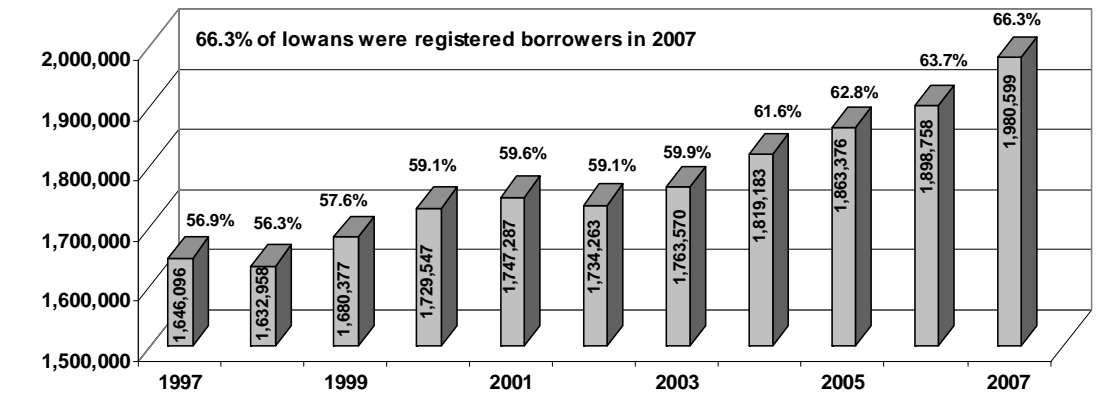
"My parents were not allowed to touch me. I looked at them through a glass window and waved to them."



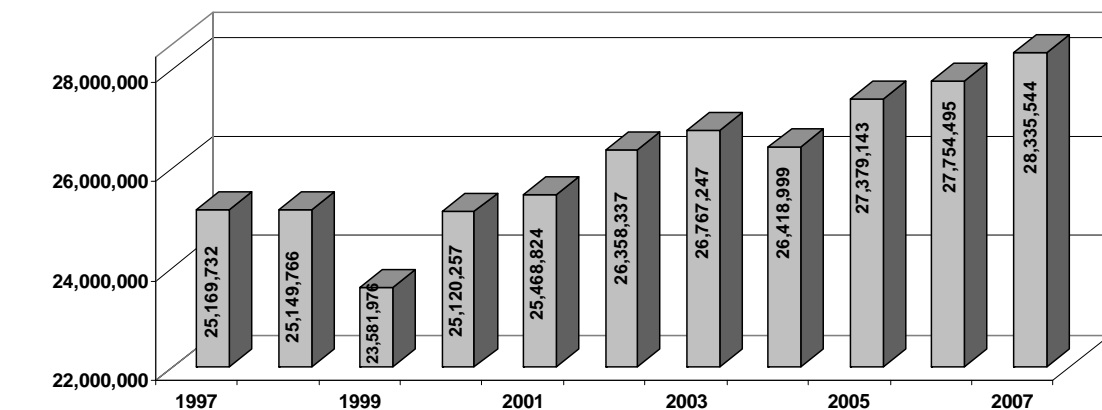
Statistics tell a compelling story about library usage

Iowans love and use their libraries. Since 1997, the number of people who have library cards increased 20 percent; the number of library items checked out went up 13 percent; and people visited their libraries 35 percent more. These figures provide a powerful answer to the question "Who needs libraries when we have the Internet?"

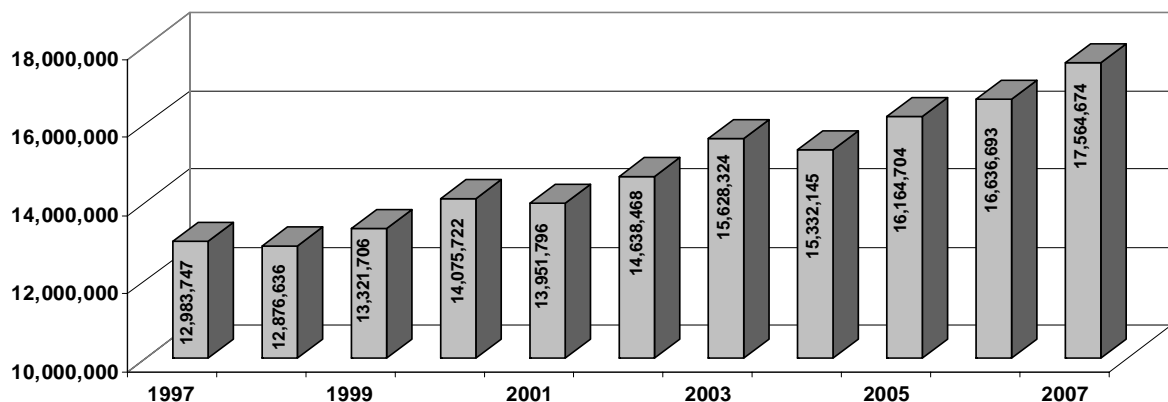
Iowa Public Library Card Holders
20% increase since 1997



Iowa Public Library Checkouts
13% increase since 1997



Iowa Public Library Visits
35% increase since 1997



The Locator and ILL

The Iowa Locator is the statewide union catalog used by the public and libraries to locate library items. It represents the holdings of 667 Iowa libraries and contains 4.6 million titles and more than 16.5 million items held in Iowa Libraries. Approximately 196,000 new titles, or 900,000 items, are added each year.

Libraries borrowed 107,962 books and other materials from each other in FY08 using the SILO interlibrary loan system. Requests are handled electronically, which means people get the materials they need quickly. Even the smallest library is able to both borrow and provide materials to other libraries.

70 libraries included in Gates hardware grants

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation developed a new hardware grant program for public libraries called the Opportunity Online Hardware Grant.

In FY08, 70 Iowa libraries were selected to receive the grant based on poverty guidelines and other criteria. The grants are designed to:

- Improve public access to computers and the Internet by providing hardware upgrades;
- Increase the percentage of libraries regularly upgrading their computers; and
- Motivate local governments to commit to local funding for library computer services.

The grants require a 25 percent match the first year and 50 percent the second year from each community.

Number of Iowa accredited libraries rises

The number of accredited public libraries continues to increase, due in part to the inception of Direct State Aid (DSA) funding in 1999.

DSA improves library services in Iowa by encouraging public libraries to meet standards of quality. Since it began, DSA has led to a 92 percent increase in the number of accredited libraries in Iowa, from 171 in 1999 to 331 in FY07-08.

New features added to Telling the Library Story

Significant additions were made to the Telling the Library Story Web site in the past fiscal year. Several new items were added under "Plot" on how libraries impact economic development in their communities. Under "Audience" are links to several marketing plans that librarians can use.

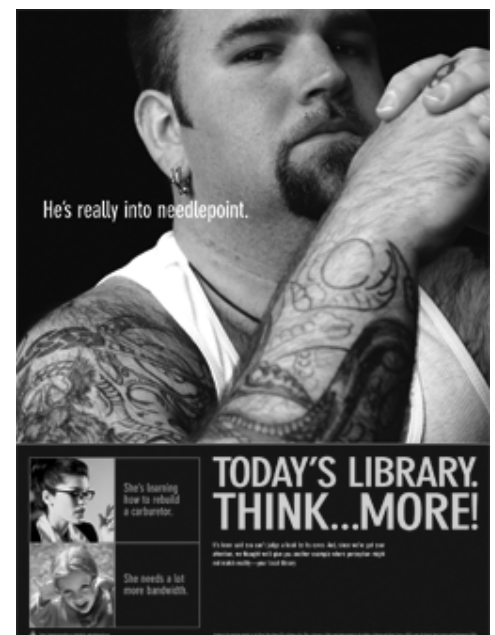
There is a link under "Technique" to the Advanced Public Speaking Institute for beginning speakers and lots of information anyone can pick up and use in the library under "Props," including bookmarks from the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area, posters, fliers and much more.

Be sure and check it out at:
www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/tell-library-story.

This following quote was recently added under "Script:"

"It's funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed."

-- Comedian and author Paula Poundstone,
national spokesperson for Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA)



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The Iowa Commission of Libraries has the rule-making authority for the State Library, and receives and approves its budget. It also appoints the State Librarian. The Commission is responsible for seeing that the State Library fulfills its mission to advocate for Iowa libraries and promote excellence and innovation in library services in order to provide statewide access to information for all Iowans.

From left, State Librarian Mary Wegner and Commissioners Rita Martens, Tom Martin, Jann Freed, Daniel Boice, Monica Gohlinghorst (chair), Janet Mohs and David Boyd. Not pictured, Frank T. Sposeto III.

State Library keeps tab on devastation to Iowa libraries from '08 floods



The horrific floods of 2008 impacted several Iowa libraries, including Cedar Rapids, New Hartford, University of Iowa libraries and the Czech and Slovak museum library in Cedar Rapids. The following public libraries also had water damage ranging from mild to fairly serious: Chelsea, Creston, Elkader, Iowa Falls, Rockford, St. Charles, and Waterloo. The State Library updated news about the libraries on a daily basis the first few weeks after the flooding, and continues to stay in touch with affected libraries. News, including ways to donate, can be found at www.statelibraryofia.org.