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State government budget woes bring challenges to State Library

It's no secret that the state and national government are facing a situation described as the worst national economic recession since the Great Depression. It's also well known that Iowa state government has had no choice but to reorganize and cut the budgets of state agencies. For FY11, the State Library's operating budget is down more than 21 percent, or \$395,770, from the FY09 level.

The State Library has recently eliminated two of its programs -- the State Medical Library and the Patents and Trademark Depository Library -- due to changes in funding and staffing levels. The State Library stopped purchasing books and journals for the medical library at the beginning of FY10, because of funding cuts, and the library was officially closed by SF2088, the state government reorganization bill, in March 2010.

The medical library opened in July 1919 under State Librarian Johnson Brigham. More than a thousand medical materials were initially donated by the Drake University medical school which had recently closed, the Iowa Medical Society, the State Board of Health and various medical clinics.

The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa will provide to Iowans and Iowa libraries most of the services offered by the State Medical Library. The Hardin library has an excellent staff and a large collection of medical books and journals, and the State Library very much appreciates their partnership during this transition.

Dispersal of the medical library's materials began in May 2010. Iowa health sciences libraries and departments within state government took many books and journals. In addition, a public sale of medical materials was held on June 3-4 at the State Library.

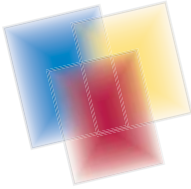
Pam Rees, medical librarian since 1973, is now a reference librarian and is involved in the development of the [Iowa Heritage Digital Collections](#).

After Karon King, coordinator of the Patents and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL), retired in April 2010, the State Library was no longer able to provide staff to support the PTDL. The State Library was designated a PTDL on December 9, 1988. King served as president of the national PTDL Association in 2008 and gave many presentations in Iowa, attended regional and national conferences, and taught many classes. She also created the Iowa Inventor's Database, 1843-2009. The Davenport Public Library has applied to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to become a PTDL. If approved, the collection will go to them.

Closing these two programs and losing five employees to the state's retirement incentive program has been difficult, but the State Library's strong commitment to providing leadership, high quality programs, and assistance to the library community and all Iowans remains intact.



Moving medical library books for shipment are, from left, State Library staffers Jay Peterson, Barb Corson, Scott Dermont and Steve Cox.



State Library says goodbye and best wishes to three more staff

Beth, Doug and Karen retiring June 24, 2010



Beth Henning started her career as coordinator of the State Data Center (SDC) program at the State Library in December 1989.

The State Data Center is a cooperative program with the U.S. Census Bureau which increases the availability of census data in Iowa and helps people use it. Beth has developed the SDC Web site of demographic and economic statistics about Iowa and answered requests for data, in addition to working with the Census Bureau on Iowa population estimates and promoting the decennial census in the state.

"I've enjoyed working with Iowa librarians over the years, whether it's helping with patron requests for data, statistics for a library grant application, or Public Library Management homework," Beth said. Librarians can now get assistance from the State Data Center through Gary Krob at 800-248-4483 or gary.krob@lib.state.ia.us.

Said State Librarian Mary Wegner, "Beth developed all of the data center's programs and services, and they are models of good customer service and government effectiveness. We will sorely miss Beth's breadth and depth of knowledge about Iowa, as well as her creative ideas and ability to embrace change."



Doug Stephenson began working at the state law library in June 1971 and moved to the main library in December 1998. Over a span of 30 years, Doug served under four law librarians and a half dozen state librarians. He has been responsible for delivering mail and other items around the campus complex, shelving library materials, and weeding government documents.

In addition to the many changes Doug saw in the State Library, including computers, cell phones, the Internet and e-mail, he remembers the major events he witnessed during his tenure, including Watergate, the Iran Hostage Crisis, the Iowa flood of 1993, 9/11, this past Iowa winter and Shawn Johnson.

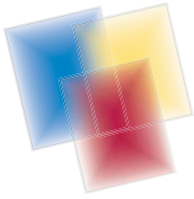
"Doug has served in a variety of ways while here," said Barb Corson, Program Director for Library Services, "but all involved keeping the library organized and running smoothly. He's taking a wealth of knowledge with him and he will be missed."



Karen Randleman, youth services consultant, began her position at the State Library in January 2008. Karen traveled around the state offering summer reading workshops for youth services librarians, planned the biennial Kids First Conference, helped write the summer reading manuals used in 49 states, and served as a resource for librarians around the state.

"I have loved working for the State Library and consider it, by far, the highlight of my 38-years in library service," said Karen.

Sandy Dixon, Program Director for Library Development, said "Karen's knowledge of public library services to children and youth is amazing to me. With the snap of a finger she can come up with the precise answer to an obscure children's literature question, offer multiple ideas for creative library programs and handle a book challenge with finesse. I now wonder if she is like Mary Poppins. In the end, Mary Poppins is satisfied with the work she has done with the Banks family [State Library] and the West Wind carries her away [to enjoy a well deserved retirement]."



25 rural Iowa public libraries awarded "Smart Investing" grant

Rural Iowans will strengthen their knowledge of and confidence in investing through programs at their libraries.

Across the state, Iowans living in 25 rural communities will become confident investors by taking part in their library's "Smart Investing @ Your Library" program.

In January 2010, the State Library was awarded a \$98,251 grant funded by the American Library Association (ALA) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation as part of the "Smart Investing" program. More than 80 Iowa public libraries submitted applications for the grant.



Each of the 25 libraries will work with the State Library and Iowa State Extension. The grant will help build the capacity of the libraries to provide effective, unbiased investor education to the community at large. The library will host face-to-face and online education provided by Iowa State University Extension staff.

Three different courses will be offered: one for those who are first-time investors, one for those preparing for retirement and one for retirees. Participating libraries will receive \$575 worth of library books and DVDs about investing. Classes will be held this fall and in spring 2011. Ames Public Library, a previous grant recipient, will partner with the State Library to select financial resources for the participating libraries and help train library staff.

Perry Public Library Director Emily Weaver, a grant recipient, said the timing is perfect.

"Our library's long range plan was passed in 2009," said Weaver. "One of our goals was that people would have access to a variety of resources to help them make decisions that affect their lives. When the Smart Investing opportunity was announced, it seemed like a perfect fit for our community - timely information from trusted sources. I think we'll have a lot of interest in the topic."

"Iowa's libraries empower people to make decisions and solve problems," said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "We are delighted to partner with Iowa State University Extension and the Ames Public Library to provide these classes about financial literacy in rural communities in the state."

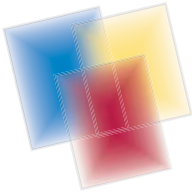
Grant recipients are libraries in: Anita, Bayard, Buffalo Center, Chariton, Charles City, Creston, Denison, Hamburg, Hawarden, Iowa Falls, Kalona, Keokuk, Lake City, Le Mars, Leon, Marengo, Monticello, Mount Pleasant, New Hampton, Oelwein, Perry, Pocahontas, Story City, Waukon and Winterset.

Public Library Standards Advisory Task Force wraps up its work

The State Library is currently working on a draft of the State Library's Standards and Accreditation program after several meetings with the Standards Advisory Task Force. Their last meeting was April 7, 2010.

The draft will be available to public libraries by mid-June. An e-mail with a link to the draft will be sent out using lowalib and the public library directors mail lists. An ICN session will be held in July (date pending) where libraries can ask questions and voice their concerns about the program, which exists to encourage the ongoing development of high quality public library services in Iowa.

The State Library will ask the Iowa Commission of Libraries to approve changes to the Standards and Accreditation program at its August meeting. Task force members were Scott Dermont, Karen Randleman and Sandy Dixon, State Library; Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Daniel Boice, Iowa Commission of Libraries; Jet Kofoot, North Central LSA; Sue Padilla, Newton Public Library; Betsy Thompson, Sioux City Public Library; Bonnie McKewon, Northwest LSA; Nathan Clark, Emmetsburg Public Library; Becky Rike, Corning Public Library; Emily Weaver, Perry Public Library; and Susan Macken, Oelwein Public Library.



Fry receives award to attend national Library Advocacy Day

The American Library Association (ALA) recently announced that Greer Fry of Cedar Rapids is the winner of the 2010 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce Award.

The award, given to a non-librarian advocate participating in a federal library advocacy event for the first time, is a \$300 stipend toward the expense of attending Library Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. This year the ALA will host a Library Advocacy Day rally June 29 on the U.S. Capitol grounds during the ALA Annual Conference. Fry will accompany State Librarian Mary Wegner on visits to Iowa's senators and congressmen.

As a lifelong library user and library advocate for more than 30 years, Fry has served as a member of Iowa Library Association (ILA) and as president of the Iowa Library Friends Association, an ILA subdivision. In her application letter, Fry explained how the flood of 2008 in Cedar Rapids and the loss of the city's main library greatly enhanced her passion for advocacy.

Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, noted that "As someone who has been actively involved in rebuilding the library system in her own community, Greer knows the importance of libraries to the public during times of crisis -- be it a natural disaster or the current U.S. financial crisis."

Keota wins door counter for a month

Rachel Klein, director of the Wilson Memorial Library in Keota, didn't waste time getting last year's annual report in to the State Library. Submitting the report by September 30 made her eligible to win a door counter for a month and a consultant's visit by State Library staffer Scott Dermont.

By having the door counter for a month, Klein will have a more accurate door count for the entire year by simply taking the number of people who entered the library in April and multiplying it by 12. Dermont also answered Klein's questions about SILO (State of Iowa Library Online).

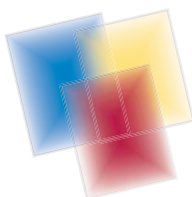


Rachel Klein in front of her new door counter

Former Iowan named IMLS deputy director for museums

Chris Reich, former director and CEO of the Putnam Museum of History and Cultural Science in Davenport, IA, has been named associate deputy director of museums for the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, DC. While in Davenport, Reich oversaw the completion of an innovative environmental exhibit hall, the construction of an IMAX 3D theater, and the creation of a new image for the 135-year-old institution, which serves 18 counties in eastern Iowa and western Illinois.

Reich joined IMLS in 2006, previously serving as a senior program officer in the agency's Office of Museum Services. He launched and oversaw the museum grants for the African American History and Culture Program and managed the 21st Century Museum Professionals grant program. He was also responsible for coordinating the review of nominations for the National Medals for Museum Service and acted as a liaison to the American Association of Museums in the implementation of the Museum Assessment Program.



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.

Steven M. Niemela, Coralville
Marie S. Van Beek, Baxter



News from around the state

Iowa City PL combines play, reading in unique book nook

By Debb Green, Children's Services Coordinator, Iowa City Public Library

Play is, in fact, the real work of children. It's how they develop cognitive skills and learn to interact with the world around them. As a symbol of the Iowa City Public Library's focus on early literacy skills that children need to start to read, learn, and grow, a new interactive feature has been added in the children's room. Called the "Book Nook," the library playhouse is just the right size for young children to explore and enjoy. It was built out of hundreds of discarded children's books by Nate Nissen, a University of Iowa Engineering School student volunteer. It was then finished and beautifully painted by



Iowa City artist Deanne Wortman and her woodworker, Eric Wortman, who included illustrations and quotes from classic children's books.

The idea for the Book Nook came to us when we were thinking about more ways to incorporate early literacy skills and encouragement in our services and programs. I saw an article about making a book house out of discarded library books in an issue of *Children & Libraries* (the ALA ALSC division's journal.) It seemed like a great way to encourage kids and parents to playfully explore the idea of books, as well as children's stories in general. So we saved gently used but withdrawn children's fiction for a year and used them for the nook's walls. We also used picture books (the early reader kind so they were the same size) for roof "shingles."

Since its debut this spring, the Book Nook has become a new favorite place in the children's room. It's in almost constant use and attracts kids of almost any age. (Yes, and their parents and grandparents, too!) At most, it cost the library \$250 in supplies, not counting several hundred withdrawn library books and staff time invested in planning. The construction and finishing work was done by volunteers, which was also a wonderful way to interest and involve our community in the project. The result has been even better than the library staff thought possible.

