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Register now for 2006 Town Meetings

Mark your calendars for this year's Town Meetings featuring State Library, Iowa Library Service Area (LSAs) and Iowa Library Association (ILA) staff.

Tuesday, September 19	Mason City	North Iowa Area Community College
Wednesday, September 20	Storm Lake	Buena Vista University
Thursday, September 21	Creston	Southwestern Community College

Tuesday, September 26	Iowa City	Iowa City Public Library
Wednesday, September 27	Waterloo	Waterloo Art and Rec Center
Thursday, September 28	Urbandale	Urbandale Public Library
Friday, September 29	Urbandale	Urbandale Public Library

To register, go to <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>.

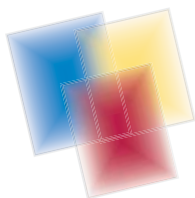
Annual Town Meetings provide opportunities to learn about major issues affecting libraries, gain ideas for improving programs and services, and get to know State Library, Iowa Library Service Area and Iowa Library Association staff.

Returning for 2006 is "Library Talk," the smash hit talk show featuring hot library issues. Learn how the public sees libraries and the implications for the future. Some of the public's perceptions about libraries will delight you; others will make you squirm. For a preview, see http://www.lff.org/long_overdue061306.html and <http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm>.

In the afternoon, there will be three concurrent sessions, offered twice:

- EBSCOhost - Latest Upgrades and Products. The session will cover searching in the newest interfaces Kids Search and Student Resource Center. Recent upgrades from EBSCO have included the Visual Search Button, Clustering of Results and Subject Grouping. Expect to learn about these newest features and how to implement them for your users.
- Keep, Toss, Organize: How We're Cleaning Up the SILO Locator. Just like a house, the Locator database has become cluttered, disorganized and dirty. At this session you will learn what the State Library and libraries can do to declutter, toss and clean up the SILO Locator. Uploading files, working on exceptions lists and matching and merging of MARC records will be discussed.
- Library Board Orientation. To be effective, every library board needs a basic understanding of their responsibilities and power. This session will provide library directors with ideas and resources so you can provide a basic orientation for your library board. The primary topics will be library governance and funding. **Please bring a copy of your library ordinance to the session.**

Presenters include State Librarian Mary Wegner, LSA staff, ILA President Susan Craig, ILA President Elect Sheryl Bissen, State Library staff Sandy Dixon, Marie Harms and Judy Jones.



New board member on Iowa Commission of Libraries



Daniel Boice was appointed to the Iowa Commission of Libraries by Governor Tom Vilsack to replace Paul Roberts who resigned June 1.

Boice is the college librarian of Divine Word College in Epworth and lives with his wife and son in Dyersville. A native of Michigan, Dan has been a librarian for 24 years. He worked in academic libraries in Illinois and South Carolina before coming to Iowa in 1996. Dan is active in local, statewide, and national professional organizations, as well as in his local church. He also serves on the board of trustees of the James Kennedy Public Library in Dyersville. He enjoys reading history and Classic British mysteries, and also enjoys bicycling, including his commute to and from Epworth. Dan has been “absolutely bowled over” by the passion, dedication, and skill of his colleagues in Iowa’s libraries, and says, “I hope that I can support the State Library in its work of continuing to provide leadership and resources to the libraries of Iowa, which are increasingly important to the lives of their communities.”

Commission meeting minutes now online

The June 20, 2006 Iowa Commission of Library minutes are now online at www.statelibraryofiowa.org/about/gov. Minutes will no longer appear in *Footnotes*. A notice will appear on the State Library’s Web site when minutes are posted.

Please remember to regularly check the State Library’s Web site for the latest news.

Festival of Books for Young People scheduled for October 21

The University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science will sponsor the 2006 Festival of Books for Young People on Saturday, October 21 at the Iowa Memorial Union, University of Iowa, Iowa City. This year’s authors are Candace Fleming, Deborah Hopkinson and Alexandria LaFaye. In addition to book signings, a display of new books for young people will be featured, as well as bibliographies of new books for young readers. For more information, visit www.uiowa.edu/%7Elibsci/festival, or contact Kit Austin at caroline-austin@uiowa.edu; (319) 335-5709.





Library and communities: What do city clerks think?

In July, Library Development Program Director, Sandy Dixon, did a presentation about libraries at Clerks Academy, a continuing education program for city clerks. In her presentation, Dixon showed the video *Libraries Reach for the Future*, and asked the city clerks to take a survey on what they thought were the most important things a public library does for its community. She also provided an overview of library governance (the model library ordinance including the authority of public library boards); how libraries are funded and the special library levy option; the importance of mutual respect and effective communication between the city and the library.

When asked “What are the three most important things a library does for its community?”, 60 city clerks responded as follows:

75% - Help children develop a love of reading

62% - Provide computers and Internet access for people who don't have them

43% - Provide books and movies for pleasure and recreation

33% - Serve as a place where people can learn on their own about what interests them

30% - Provide elementary and high school students with resources to support their formal education

13% - Provide reliable, quality information for making personal and business decisions

13% - Support democracy by providing information from all points of view

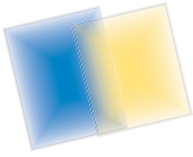
12% - Provide local history and genealogical information

8% - Help from a librarian in finding the right book or information

6% - Serve as a gathering place for the community, a symbol of local community pride

0% - Serve as an anchor for downtown businesses

The survey was not scientific because it was not random. Nevertheless, the results are interesting because they are identical to the top three identified in a non-scientific survey of city officials Dixon conducted in 2004. (See September-October, 2004 Footnotes.)



Announcing new Web site for parents

Librarians will want to alert parents and caregivers to an excellent new Web site that serves as a hub for the many online resources available to people with young children (www.parents.earlychildhoodiowa.org). Early Childhood Iowa's Web site provides information in the following categories:

- Parenting
- Child Care
- Healthy Eating and Physical Exercise
- 211 Information and Referral
- Financial Help
- Health and Safety
- Preschool
- Learning to Read and Write
- Help Me Now
- Child Development
- Healthy Teeth
- Community Resources
- Pregnancy

In addition to the categories, an A-Z search is also available. You simply click on the letter of the alphabet and look for the word you want to know more about. The database will search for resources that include that word in their information. There is also an evaluation process to allow and encourage general feedback and suggestions regarding the information available on the Web Site. For more information, contact Shanell Wagler, Iowa Department of Management, Office of Empowerment, (515) 281-4321; shanell.wagler@iowa.gov.

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.

Sharon Cummings, Earlville
 Kathleen Geronzin, Maquoketa
 Marissa Gruber, Clarinda
 Angie Hammond, Davenport
 Jenelle Hutchens, Marshalltown
 Diane Michalec, Swea City
 William Miller, What Cheer
 Michael Quinn, Ames
 Sharon Schlundt, Ankeny
 Karla Schneider, Ida Grove
 Martha Stephenson, Des Moines
 Terry Tikovitsch, Iowa Falls
 Jeff Van Drew, Pleasant Hill
 Anne Wiles, Harpers Ferry

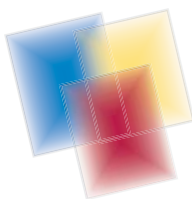


Don't forget to "Show Us Your Stuff!"

Big or small, the Iowa Library Association's (ILA) Public Relations Committee wants to see some of your best publicity and public relations efforts at this year's conference. Besides being on display during the conference, there will be two back-to-back sessions on Thursday afternoon. The first will be a chance to talk about what you've created and why, followed by a session on "Library Public Relations: What's It All About."

Jan Kaiser, public relations specialist for the Des Moines Public Library, will present.

Please e-mail or call Annette Wetteland, State Library, if you plan to bring items for this event. (1-800-248-4483; 515-281-7574; annette.wetteland@lib.state.ia.us.)



Libraries on the Prairie is a hit with librarians

Tina Marie Walters-Harding, director of the Melbourne Public Library, summed up what many of the 280 librarians who attended Libraries on the Prairie said of the workshop:

"I truly had a wonderful learning experience and really enjoyed everything presented. I felt I left there having a better understanding of all the wonderful resources that are out there to help us. I, at times, have felt alone and found it so helpful knowing there are others who feel the same. Now there are so many wonderful tools to help us all stay connected!"

State Library staff traveled across the state in July conducting five two-day workshops. "Libraries on the Prairie: Growing Rural Libraries" was sponsored by the State Library through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with support from WebJunction.org. The workshop's purpose was to provide tools, information and resources to help library directors sustain public access computing. Workshops were held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Holiday Inn in Council Bluffs, Wartburg College in Waverly, St. Ambrose University in Davenport and Central College in Pella.



Day one of the workshop included information on how local librarians can help their customers locate, evaluate and effectively use information. It also incorporated sessions on "Wireless Access @ Your Library," "What Can U Plug into a USB," and "Using Tech Atlas," a technology planning tool librarians can use through WebJunction Iowa.



Evening sessions focused on "Library Connections," with participants sharing ways in which they get support from each other. Attendees of the evening session also had a chance to win an all-expense

paid trip to the American Library Association's annual conference in Washington, DC in 2007. Winners from each workshop were:

- Rebekah Schnelle, Terril Public Library
- Carole Stanger, Atlantic Public Library
- Donna Turner, Center Point Public Library
- Shari Cummings, Ruth Suckow Memorial Library, Earlville
- Rosann Sanders, Ericson Public Library, Boone

The second day highlighted more information on the important resources available to librarians through WebJunction. The session also included presentations from Iowa governmental leaders who explained what they want to know and hear about Iowa libraries, and what librarians need to know about local decision making.

The afternoon of the second day included an overview of the "Telling the Library Story Tool Kit" Web site developed by the State Library and Iowa Library Service Areas. The tool kit includes a plethora of information and resources for librarians to use when developing public relations and advocacy materials.

Each attendee was asked to develop a plan of action relating to library advocacy and information literacy. They are sharing their plans through the WebJunction Iowa discussion boards.

Visit <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/images/lop> for more workshop photos.





Congratulations to State Library staffers



Pam Rees, State Library medical librarian, was recently approved for membership in the Medical Library Association's Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) at the Distinguished Member Level.

AHIP promotes lifelong learning and exemplary professional performance by recognizing achievements in continuing education, teaching, publishing, research and other contributions to the profession. The AHIP credential denotes the highest standards of professional competency and achievement in the field of health care information.

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Two State Library staff members were recognized at a ceremony on June 20, 2006 honoring state employees for length of service to the state of Iowa. Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson presented an award to Doug Stephenson (library aide) for 35 years of service and Carol Simmons (secretary) for 25 years of service.

Librarians can help young readers enter Letters About Literature writing contest

Students in grades 4-12 who write letters to their favorite authors may win an all expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for themselves and their parents. This is the fourth year the Iowa Center for the Book has participated in this contest which is sponsored by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores.

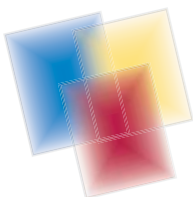
Letters About Literature is an opportunity for students to write about how a book of their choosing has had an impact on their lives. Students write to an author describing how the author's book changed their view of the world or themselves. Students can pick a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem or speech by an author from the past or present.

The Iowa Center for the Book will select the top essayists in Iowa on each of the three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8; and Level III for grades 9-12. The winner at each level will receive a cash prize of \$100 plus a \$50 Target gift card. Students who place second at each level will receive a \$50 cash prize and the student who places third will receive \$25.

The winners in each level will advance to the national competition. Six national winners will each receive an all expense-paid trip to the nation's capital to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2007. In addition, they will receive a \$500 Target gift card.

Deadline for entries is December 8, 2006. To obtain the entry coupon, call the State Library, 1-800-248-4483; (515) 281-4105, or visit the Iowa Center for the Book Web site at www.iowacenterforthebook.org.

Librarians, teachers or parents interested in obtaining copies of the contest guidelines and teaching supplement to guide students through the reading-writing process should visit the Web site above. Winners' and semifinalists' letters for 2006 are also available on the Web site.



50th anniversary for federal library funding

Call it what you will -- the Library Services Act (LSA), Library Service and Construction Act (LSCA), or Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) -- the federal law "designed to assist in remedying a serious deficiency in the educational program of the United States and the lack of adequate library services" is celebrating 50 years of existence.

In 1956, Congress passed the Library Services Act to stimulate use of state and local funds for library improvement throughout the nation. The program was part of the Higher Education Act title II library programs.

As needs changed, LSA became LSCA in 1990 with the purpose of 1) assisting states in public library construction and renovation, 2) improving state and local public library services for older Americans and for handicapped, institutionalized and other disadvantaged individuals, 3) strengthening State library administrative agencies, 4) promoting interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing among all types of libraries, 5) strengthening major urban resource libraries, and 6) increasing the capacity of libraries to keep up with rapidly changing information technology.

The funding metamorphosed again in 1996 when the program was renamed the Library Services and Technology Act and administered under the newly formed Institute of Museum and Library Services. Its purpose is to 1) consolidate federal library and museum programs, 2) stimulate excellence and promote access to learning and information resources in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages, 3) promote library services that provide all users access to information; 4) provide links among and between libraries, and 5) promote targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

LSTA funding in Iowa is used to help purchase databases (EBSCOhost and First Search) for all libraries, to support the multiple programs of Library Development including the summer library program, continuing education, statistics, publications, consulting, the SILO Locator and the interlibrary loan system.

"Needless to say, the impact of federal funding on library service in Iowa is powerful," said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "Without it, Iowans would not have the same level of services or technology available to them through their libraries."



New publication provides food for thought when deciding whether to combine school and public libraries

The State Library regularly receives requests for information regarding the legal and practical issues involved in creating a combined school and public library. There are significant challenges inherent in combining libraries. *Is a Combined School / Public Library Right for Your Community?* was written to assist Iowa communities in making informed decisions on whether to combine school and public library services.

It provides decision-makers with a means of assessing the feasibility of establishing a combined library and, if the decision is made to proceed, with a planning guide that addresses the many areas of library operations that need to be considered if the combined library is to be successful. For more information, see <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/combined-sch-pl>.



RAGBRAI riders pedal their way to local libraries

Once again, Iowa public libraries threw open their doors to people on this year's the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI).

Cities where libraries were open on this year's route included Anthon, Manning, Audubon, Guthrie Center, Redfield, Adel, Waukee, Minburn, Granger, Polk City, Bondurant, Mitchellville, Colfax, Newton, Sully, Lynnville, Montezuma, Brooklyn, Marengo, Williamsburg, Coralville, Iowa City, West Branch (and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch), West Liberty and Muscatine.

The following are quotes from some of the librarians about their experiences:

- **Linda Peters, Minburn Public Library:** "Wow!! Our tiny library was full of people. Mrs. Vilsack is so full of energy and what a great storyteller! The adults enjoyed her stories as much as the kids. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it as much as you all said I would."



- **Devon Murphy-Petersen, Waukee Public Library:** "We had a great time with our RAGBRAIers and would be glad to host them every day! We had steady traffic from about 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. We borrowed seven computers so we could offer 14 Internet stations. They stayed busy pretty much all day. Lots of folks were in just to soak up the air conditioning, use bathrooms, visit, browse and sleep. At 1 p.m., there was a wedding in our butterfly garden (photo left). A student from Illinois spent two hours in my office for her online class for her Masters in Library Science from the University of Illinois. A *Des Moines Register* reporter filed what became the front page story from my office later in the evening."

- **Gisela Veatch, Mitchellville Public Library:** "We had a great time with RAGBRAI. We opened at 8 a.m. and had a steady flow of visitors until 5 p.m. Two hundred and five RAGBRAIers signed our guest list. One hundred fifty accessed their e-mail. We had a small table set up offering ice water and chocolates, which was very much appreciated. Australia, England, Germany and United Arab Emirates, as well as 30 of our states were represented. Everyone was so nice!

Mitchelville was rocking yesterday, even though we experienced a water main break and not a drop of water was left in the tower when it was time to get up in the morning. We got our drinking water from the wonderful Iowa National Guard and luckily there were many portable toilets set up."

- **Loretta Hanson, Williamsburg Public Library:** "We opened at 7 a.m. and were busy, busy, busy. All of our computers were open for RAGBRAI use. We only have six, but they were red hot. Everyone was so nice and it was fun visiting with them. A reporter from the *Burlington Hawkeye* filed his story here and was most appreciative of our computer capabilities. **I had many riders mention to me the hospitality of this year's RAGBRAI libraries. Good for us! We are doing our job.**"

- **Karen Pederson, Bondurant Public Library:** "We had a great day yesterday. About 55 riders stopped in. Most used the computer, some cooled off. A gentleman from Boston did some business and sent a fax. A man from Denver, Colorado sent his 'sweetie' an e-mail." (Photo from left, man from Denver, CO, woman from Chicago, library director Karen Pederson, and visitor from Boston)



- **Renee Pfankuch, Manning Public Library:** "We had around 120 people here on Monday. Lots of fun finding out where people were from. Lots of them were glad that we had a library and were very good about waiting their turn for our computers (we only have two public access computers). Great day. Our feet were tired but it was worth it."

- **Barb Geinzer, Sully Community Library:** "We had a great day today. It was hot outside but cool in our library. We had about 75 people, half of whom used the Internet. Very interesting mix of people: One from San Francisco, a father and daughter from Florida, several people said this was their first RAGBRAI. We thought it was fun. We had a journalist from the *Des Moines Register*, a pastor from Chicago worked on a column, and an AP sports writer asked questions about the Tour de France winner. We saw Lance Armstrong's group pass by. Fun day. I would do this again."