



“EDGE” UPDATE

As of the writing of this report:

- **66%** of IA public libraries (355) have at least registered for an account through the State Library's subscription to *Edge* (up from 58% in December 2018);
- **48%** of libraries having completed the Edge Assessment that helps libraries assess and evaluate current technology services (up from 37% in December 2018).

We continue to be pleased with the progress by public libraries to embrace *Edge*. Not only are libraries taking the technology assessment to evaluate their current services, but they are developing action plans to implement recommendations as a result of the assessment. Libraries can take those action plans and incorporate them into their strategic plans (a strategic plan is part of the Public Library Standards) and develop reports and presentations for communicating the value of their technology services to community stakeholders.

The State Library is committed to the success of this program and has chosen to renew *Edge* for a second year. The 2nd year will be another opportunity for libraries to complete the *Edge* assessment as well as use a new and improved *Edge 2.0*, which officially launches March 4, 2019. The State Library is working with the Urban Libraries Council to make this transition over the next year. The current version of *Edge* will be available through the end of 2019 while the new version goes live. In-person training for State Library staff will occur April 10 with trainers from *Edge*.

As the rollout occurred later than the start date of the contract, the *Edge* staff encouraged the State Library to extend its first year goals beyond the March 1 renewal date to April 10, when the training for State Library staff will occur. The State Library had some ambitious goals going into this first year of *Edge*. First, from a numbers standpoint:

- 90% (72 of 81 libraries) of libraries serving populations of greater than 5,000 would conduct an Edge Assessment.
 - Current number (as of **February 1, 2019**): **61** libraries (**75%**)
- 50% of libraries (230 of 461 libraries) serving populations of less than 5,000 would conduct an Edge Assessment.
 - Current number (as of **February 1, 2019**): **174** libraries (**38%**)

In addition to numbers, success with *Edge* for the State Library would include:

- Increased funding for libraries from City Councils and State Legislature
- Increased broadband access provided by libraries throughout Iowa
- Libraries know citizen needs
- Patrons benefit from more and better technology Iowa libraries
- City governments are more aware of library technology needs

BRAINFUSE – TOOL FOR JOB SEEKERS, VETERANS, AND LIBRARY PATRONS

From my December 2018 update: The end of the current contract with *LearningExpress*, an online career services and job skills development tool made available through an appropriation to Iowa Workforce Development (\$150,000) and administered by the State Library, came at the end of November 2018. An RFP, created by Marie Harms, State Library Technology Consultant, was released in October 2018 (per the State's procurement rules) and 8 responses were received. Marie put together an evaluation team to review the RFPs received and score them based on developed evaluation criteria. The team included:

- Marie Harms, State Library
- Jay Peterson, State Library
- Mary Heintzman, St. Ambrose University
- Louise Alcorn, West Des Moines Public Library
- Laura Sauser, Urbandale Public Library
- Jennie Garner, North Liberty Public Library
- Lindsey Healey, Des Moines Area Community College (Ankeny)

March 2019 update: The winning proposal was from [Brainfuse](#), based in Boston, MA. Contract negotiations took some time but a 3-year contract was signed in early January 2019. With the delay in getting the contract signed and implementing this new program, the *LearningExpress* contract was extended through January 31, 2019. Work with Brainfuse began immediately upon signing of the contract to implement the new solution. The company worked to develop individual web links for nearly 700 public and academic libraries, with a target of February 1, 2019. While they did miss this target, they were able to begin rollout on February 11, 2019.

I am aware that the rollout took much longer than we had anticipated. We did extend the RFP submission process by an additional week as there were several vendors who requested it, which pushed our review period closer to the Thanksgiving holiday. Even though the winning bid was selected, per the State's procurement rules, there is a minimum 5-business day waiting period for non-winning vendors to contest the results. The results were contested, which then sets in motion additional time for the contesting vendor to make its case to the State. The non-winning vendor did end up dropping their contesting of the results and we were able to move forward with the contracting process. With this being pushed into mid-December, additional delays occurred as the necessary signatures to move us towards the final contract took longer than expected. Work couldn't be started in full force from Brainfuse until a signed contract was in place. While we would have liked to have met our original goal of closer to year-end 2018, even with the delays we were able to move from signed contract to implementation in 6 weeks.

FY 19 & FY20 BUDGET UPDATE

For FY20, the budget process is moving forward. Governor Reynolds released her budget request in mid-January, near the beginning of the 2019 Legislative Session. While she sought additional funding for the Department of Education for FY20, the State Library and Enrich Iowa budgets were held at status quo (\$2.53M & \$2.46M respectively) for another year.

For FY19 & FY20, we continue to refine our budget particularly on the federal side. With the move of staff in October 2018 from federal to state funding, we are presented with the wonderful challenge of being able to find new opportunities to use our federal funds for IA libraries. We are pursuing a number of possibilities and are quickly ramping up some new programs as a result. An example of a new opportunity is the ability to offer five scholarships (up to \$1,000 each) to libraries to send staff to the 2019 Association of Small and Rural Libraries conference in Burlington, VT, September 4-7, 2019. We haven't been able to offer anything like this in a number of years and we're using it as a guide to offering future continuing education and training grants to libraries.

We're also looking at the *Edge* assessment results to find opportunities to help libraries meet some of the recommendations that have come from this process. We are also looking at accelerating work on statewide courier services, expanding online resources, and other projects to be determined.

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA RECEIVES TWO NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANTS

The State Library has received two National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Chairman's Grants, for a total of \$119,000. We had been contacted in mid-November 2018 to consider applying for the grants. We're very pleased that we were able to receive these two grants.

The first grant, which was awarded in December 2018, provides the State Library with \$90,000 to continue a digitization project that started in 2017 with various Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Districts who are now celebrating their 75th anniversaries. The first Soil & Water Conservation District was started in 1940 (one year after the legislation was introduced) and the last was established in 1952. Our grant is focusing on digitizing historical documents, photos, and other materials from the 28 districts celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2019 and 2020. The grant funding runs through December 2019 and will include hiring a library resource technician in May as well as obtaining some updated digitization equipment. Marie Harms, Library Consultant, will manage this project.

Thirteen counties will celebrate a 75th anniversary in 2019:

- Appanose
- Cerro Gordo
- Cherokee
- Davis
- Delaware
- Dickinson
- Henry
- Jackson
- Monroe
- Pottawattamie (West)
- Warren
- Washington
- Webster

Fifteen counties will celebrate a 75th anniversary in 2020:

- Black Hawk
- Benton
- Carroll
- Clarke
- Dubuque
- Guthrie
- Hardin
- Humboldt
- Ida
- Iowa
- Lee
- Louisa
- Marshall
- Polk
- Poweshiek

The second grant, for \$19,000, will provide four public events which will explore the history of farming in Iowa, tying into the 2019 All Iowa Reads/One Book One Nebraska book, *This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Farm Family* by Ted Genoways. A series of four programs in 2019 will be held around the state in public libraries and in 2020 the four public libraries will be invited to host their own community events around the history and current state of farming. We were notified in the last week that we had received this grant and are very pleased. Helen Dagley, Reference Librarian, will manage this project.

STAFF UPDATES

Angie Manfredi started at the State Library on January 22 as the Youth Services Consultant. Angie came to the State Library from Los Alamos, NM, where she was the Head of Youth Services for Mesa Public Library, part of the Los Alamos County Library System. We're happy to have Angie join the State Library team!

Alysia Peich, Continuing Education Consultant, has accepted the position of Senior Cooperative & Instructional Program Instructor at the Library of Congress. Alysia's last day is March 8, 2019. This is a wonderful opportunity for Alysia and we wish her the very best. Alysia has been with the State Library for nearly 10 years.

LIBRARY VISITS

December 2018

- December 5
 - Coon Rapids Public Library
 - Manning Public Library
 - Manilla Public Library
 - Norelius Community Library – Denison (Legislative Coffee)

January 2019 & February 2019 – No library visits

OTHER MEETINGS

December 2018

- State Library Advisory Panel (December 7)
- Urban Libraries Council Entrepreneurship Experts Meeting (December 10) – Washington DC
- Iowa Newspaper Project (December 13) – Des Moines

January 2019

- COSLA 2019 Midwinter & ALA Midwinter Meeting (January 24 - 26) – Seattle, WA

February 2019

- ILA Executive Board Meeting (February 1) – West Des Moines
- Conservation Districts of Iowa (February 15) – Des Moines
- ALA Capitol Hill Fly-in (February 24 – 27) – Washington DC