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Iowa Library Services

## Statement of Support for Library Consortia

Webster's dictionary defines a consortium as "an agreement, combination, or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member." Iowa Library Services supports the development and operations of library consortia because of the benefits to Iowans when libraries collaborate to provide a service or resource.

Benefits to libraries and Iowans include:

- Ability to provide a greater depth and breadth of resources or services without additional funding.
- Cost savings through economies of scale in group purchases or projects.
- Increased convenience for patrons.
- More efficient use of library staff.
- Sharing of staff expertise and increased networking opportunities.

Types of consortia agreements may include:

- Shared integrated library system (ILS) or catalog.
- Shared delivery service.
- Shared positions (director, youth services, administrative, cataloger, etc.).
- Group purchase of databases and/or materials.
- Collective digitization projects.

Iowa Library Services can provide consulting support and/or training to enhance or encourage participation, process development, and workflow of library consortia.