

LIBRARIES ARE VITAL TO IOWANS 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Libraries are vital for meeting the needs of Iowans. In difficult economic times Iowans are turning to their libraries in increasing numbers. Iowans depend on libraries for Internet access, early literacy programming, homework assistance, health care information and, especially now, resources for education, career development and job searches. To support these critical services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2010.

- Sustain state funding to support high-quality library services for all Iowans.
- Enhance Iowa's workforce by providing statewide access to high-demand databases that help Iowans prepare for a wide variety of educational and career opportunities.
- Increase funding for Enrich Iowa to support the dramatic rise in Iowans' need for and use of libraries. Enrich Iowa enables resource-sharing (i.e., interlibrary loan services) to make Iowa's library system an efficient network accessible to all Iowans.
- Preserve hometown governance in Iowa's public libraries by maintaining support for the local decision-making of Iowa's public library boards and avoiding costly one-size-fits-all mandates for Iowa's diverse libraries.

The Iowa Library Association is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. Its 1500 members support Iowa's public, academic, school and special libraries.