Iowans love our libraries!

- More than 16.5 million visits to Iowa public libraries in FY18
- Iowans utilized the internet almost 3 million times at Iowa libraries in FY18
- Iowans checked out over 24 million items in FY18

Libraries provide essential public services not available elsewhere. In libraries across the state, Iowans can access the Internet, find early childhood educational programs and homework help, and take advantage of resources for job searches, career development, and personal enrichment. To support these vital services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2020:

- **Full funding for the State Library of Iowa**: Every dollar invested in the State Library helps fulfill the Library's mission to partner with public libraries to improve service for all.

- **Increased funding for Enrich Iowa**: This statewide program of direct state aid for Iowa public libraries helps them modernize infrastructure, update technology and provide innovative services. State assistance also ensures that Iowans can use their local library card to check out materials at participating libraries across Iowa. Furthermore, state support for interlibrary loans gives Iowans equal access to library resources by promoting resource sharing among all types of libraries.

- **Recognition of teacher librarians as school instructional staff**: Direct the Department of Education to designate teacher librarians as instructional staff who provide student learning in school libraries, classrooms, learning commons, makerspaces, labs, and virtual learning spaces. Teacher librarians play a critical role within the educational team in each Iowa school district to provide lifelong skills to help student navigate, use, and evaluate information across many platforms.

- **Continued financial support for state-wide career and workforce related databases**: These resources help thousands of Iowans learn and enhance skills needed for Iowa’s multi-faceted, 21st century workforce.

- **Preserving Iowa’s tradition of hometown governance for public libraries**: Preserve hometown governance in Iowa’s public libraries by maintaining support for the policy-making autonomy of public library boards of trustees.

- **Support funding to preserve Iowa’s historical documents and records**: We have a duty to future Iowans to use best practices to preserve, protect, and publicize our unique historical materials.

The Iowa Library Association will continue to monitor and address other legislative issues as they affect the Iowa library community. Founded in 1890, The Iowa Library Association, is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. Its 1300 members sustain Iowa’s public, academic, school and special libraries.