Welcome to the ILA Newsletter

The Iowa Library Association is experimenting with a new type of newsletter using the service TinyLetter. This issue is our second of 2017. We encourage you to send us your stories, events, programs, awards, and all other great accomplishments from your libraries, staff members, and patrons. You can drop us a note any time you like with this link: http://bit.ly/ShareILANews.

We also encourage you to help us think of a name for this new newsletter. The Catalyst served us well for many years, but we are open to the idea of renaming our publication. Send in your ideas to any member of the Executive Board or contact a member of the ILA Communications Committee. You can also make a suggestion via our http://bit.ly/ShareILANews link as well. Plus you can always find us on Facebook and on Twitter.

President’s Piece

What an amazing few months it has been. Just as many of you have done, ILA’s Executive Board has been busy monitoring, discussing, and responding to legislative action on both state and federal levels. Here is a look at that activity:
action on both state and federal levels. Here is a look at that activity:

- Statement issued on Chapter 20 in Iowa
- Monitored proposed changes to gun laws in Iowa
- Adding “Askable Adult” session to ILA’s conference schedule
- Promoting ALA’s LSTA funding campaign
- Sent letters to all Iowa Representatives encouraging them to sign LSTA and IAL appropriation letters
- Hosted another successful ILA Legislative Day and Lobby from Home Day

While it has felt a bit like a whirlwind, it is likely that our legislative work is not yet done. With any luck, the next few weeks will give us all a chance to catch our breath and reenergize. The pace and impact of the last few months have, at times, felt monumental. However, I feel hopeful and encouraged by the grassroots energy and determination of ILA’s members and library supporters! Some are actively participating for the first time – making phone calls, writing letters, and attending town hall meetings. Little doubt we will have more opportunities to participate in the democratic process but it is exciting and uplifting to know that we persevere to be an important voice for our communities. Thank you!

In other work:

- ILA hosted two Leadership Symposia this year, one in Atlantic and one in Mason City. Wonderful opportunity for learning and networking!
- The ILA Conference Planning Committee has met and is working to finalize concurrent sessions and keynote speakers.
- The Executive Board will hold a retreat in June where we will continue reviewing how we continue moving forward on areas of interest at the 2016 retreat and Annual Planning Day last November.

We continue to move forward and I remain excited about the rest of 2017. Please always feel free to reach out to me or a member of the Executive Board, if you have any questions or want to share your thoughts!

Enjoy the weather – spring is finally here!

Rebecca

**Legislative Day 2017**
Iowa Libraries made a strong showing at the Capitol on March 15th for ILA’s Annual Legislative
Day. Thank you to all those who attended! We had more than 60 ILA members in attendance, and we visited with over 80 senators and representatives during the reception in the Law Library. Despite the bleak reports from the State’s REC (Revenue Estimating Committee) that emerged just prior to our Legislative Day, Library representatives did not falter in their messaging on the importance of libraries and library funding for Iowa’s citizens and communities. ILA members talked with Senators and Representatives from both sides of the aisle, letting them know how important libraries and library services are to their constituents.

We underscored the importance of fully funding the State Library, insuring that Enrich Iowa received level funding in the next fiscal year, and preserving the funding for Learning Express which has been supported through the IWD budget, since the closure of several IWD offices and the transfer of those job seeking access points to public libraries.

This has been a challenging year at both the State and Federal levels. Representatives from Iowa will also be attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. on May 1-2. It is always beneficial for our representatives to have compelling anecdotes to share with legislators regarding the importance of federal LSTA dollars to our libraries. When we can relay personal stories of how those dollars transfer into services and actions that benefit Iowa citizens, our message is heard more clearly. If you have an anecdote or example to share, please send it to one of Iowa’s NLLD representatives:

Alison Ames Galstad, Chair, ILA Governmental Affairs Committee: agalstad@coralville.org
Rebecca Funke, ILA President rsfunke@dmacc.edu
Michael Scott, State Library Michael.Scott@iowa.gov

Photos from Legislative Day
Want to know what's happening with library-related legislation at the Iowa State Capitol? See Amy & Craig's newest report.
Library Funding Update

State Level: Not much has changed on the state level, regarding funding. While the House and Senate have put forward their own broad proposals, there are no specifics to date.

Federal Funding: Not much has changed on the federal level, either. The push from ALA to get legislators to sign the LSTA and IAL appropriation letters generated an increase in signatures to support funding for these two initiatives. Officially, 114 Representatives signed on to the LSTA letter (up from 88 last year) and 146 Representatives signed on to the IAL letter (up from 124 last year). Iowa Representative Dave Loebsack was the only Representative to sign. If you live in his district, please send him a note of thanks for his support!! There will be a second push in the near future, asking Senators to sign the LSTA and IAL letters.

What’s Happening in Iowa Libraries?
This section of the newsletter is dedicated to all different kinds of news stories from our different library communities. Feel free to send us information about what’s happening in your library and we’ll post it in the newsletter. We encourage short stories, achievements, awards, events, or any other special topic you want to share with the membership.

General News Stories
Want to help fight for libraries nationwide? Check out the ALA website that will help you do just that.

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The Iowa Library Association Video Project has some excellent stories available on its YouTube channel. Check them out and consider telling your library’s story as well!


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Cool news! Just short of a month out from Kids First, we are already breaking the record for our Kids First attendance. We have 157 registered for May 1, and 156 registered for May 2. We usually don't get more than 125-130 for both days. Find out more about Youth Services Subdivision here.

Sam Helmick, Burlington Public Library & Chair of Youth Services Subdivision

Public Libraries
Dara Schmidt, Director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, is one of 28 librarians from across the country selected to attend the prestigious PLA Leadership Academy this spring in Portland, Oregon. This career-changing program is designed to empower public librarian participants with the knowledge necessary to be innovative and successful leaders of change. Its groundbreaking focus develops the skills needed to work with municipal officials to enhance the position and effectiveness of the library and its activities within the community.

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Cedar Rapids Public Library was named a finalist for the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. Find out more here!

www.crlibrary.org, @CRPublicLibrary

Academic Libraries
Got internet?? Got s-l-o-w internet service? Ankeny campus students can now borrow a Verizon hotspot, giving them access to the internet. While we can’t provide internet service to
Verizon hotspot, giving them access to the internet. While we can't provide internet service to students for an entire semester, we can help them with internet access for short periods, when having access to the internet is critical for assignments. Hotspots circulate for 1 week and can be renewed once.

Rebecca Funke, Des Moines Area Community College, @DMACCAnkenyLib

Atlantic Public Library Hosts Very First SW Spring Symposium

April 6 and 7 marked the dates for the very first SW Spring Symposium organized by the Leadership Development Committee. This event was modeled after the NC Symposium, an event that has taken place in Mason City since 2012. The original organizers wanted to provide continuing education opportunities to librarians geographically distant from the location of the ILA Annual Conference. By adding a Southwest location, even more librarians had an opportunity for continuing education. The NC Spring Symposium is scheduled to take place in Mason City April 20 and 21.

Day 1 began with Deb Frazee, the SW Regional STEM Manager. She shared partnership and resource opportunities with librarians. There are 6 regional STEM managers. If you have not met the manager for your area, contact him or her today: http://www.iowastem.gov/regions. The day wrapped up with librarian-led sessions ranging from a summer reading program refresher to painting programs and more.

Day 2 began with Dr. Richard Caplan, a member of the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau. Librarians were treated to a presentation on Sherlock Holmes and his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Libraries can host a Humanities Iowa speaker for as little as $50. For more information or to identify speakers that might be of interest to your community, visit https://www.humanitiesiowa.org/. The afternoon included ILS user group meetings, an active shooter training, and other sessions led by librarians.

This event couldn’t have taken place without the willingness of librarians to share their knowledge at afternoon sessions. Several session leaders were graduates from the Leadership Institute. Those graduates included: Misty Gray, Nancy Medema, Joy Stortvedt, and Natalie Struecker. Other session leaders were Julie Tjepkes, Jeannie Stone, and Lieutenant Devin.
Initial feedback for the SW Spring Symposium has been overwhelmingly positive. After the Mason City event, the Leadership Development Committee will evaluate the events and consider hosting future Symposiums.

ILA Executive Board Nominations

If you are interested in serving in a leadership position in the Iowa Library Association, or know someone else who would be a good fit, please fill out the Nominee Information Form found here.

If you have any questions, please contact Leo Clougherty, the Nomination Committee Chair, at leo-clougherty@uiowa.edu
LISSO & ILA Student Subdivision

By: Rebekah Walker, with Elizabeth Brown, Katheryn Lawson, and Benjamin Schmidt

The Library and Information Science Student Organization (LISSO) is the student government body of graduate students in the University of Iowa’s School of Library and Information Science (SLIS), and serves as Iowa’s student chapter of the ALA and student subdivision of the Iowa Library Association. LISSO provides services to SLIS students and represents them among the University of Iowa and wider LIS community. LISSO officers consult with students to put on professional development workshops, host speakers, and plan social activities. The 2016–2017 academic year has seen great activity and growth.

Professional Development Activities & Mentorship

LISSO regularly hosts professional development workshops for students. To date this spring, we have hosted workshops featuring panels of professionals discussing social media use in libraries and hiring practices and the state of the library profession. In combination with the interview workshop and career panel in March, LISSO officers worked with SLIS Liaison Librarian Duncan Stewart to set up resume mentorship meetings, matching individual students with librarians to get direct feedback on cover letters and resumes. Also with Duncan Stewart and the head of human resources at the University of Iowa Libraries, we are expanding job services available to students, offering mock interviews and presentation preparation and practice. LISSO works with the University of Iowa Libraries to facilitate the librarian mentorship program. Each semester, participating students are paired with librarians within the career interest areas they indicate. Starting this year, the mentorship program will also be offered over the summers. LISSO also hosts regular social events that bring students together to relax, bond, and/or explore LIS institutions in and around Iowa City.
Librarians for Social Justice
On December 3, 2016, the Iowa City-based group Librarians for Social Justice held a book brunch to benefit Lisa Libraries. The breakfast and silent auction raised over $700 to benefit Lisa Libraries, an organization that donates small libraries and children’s books to organizations that work with kids in underserved areas. Some of the libraries established have been at day-care centers, prison visiting areas for children of incarcerated parents, and after-school programs. Since its founding in 1990, the Lisa Libraries has contributed over 375,000 books to nonprofit organizations across the country. Visit Lisa Libraries’ website at http://www.lisalibraries.org/.

Librarians for Social Justice focuses on the many social justice issues librarians face today, from information access and banned books to services for underrepresented populations. Founded in Fall 2015 by SLIS graduate Kelly Grogg, the group is comprised mostly of University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science graduate students and practicing librarians. The 2016 Book Brunch was the group’s second successful fundraiser. On April 20, the group is hosting a concert fundraiser to benefit the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa. The concert will feature local musicians and be held at The Mill in Iowa City. Doors open at 7:00, with music starting at 7:30.

The group also leads a twice-monthly reading group at Anchor House, an inmate transitional facility in Cedar Rapids. The group is always looking for ways to expand its activities in the wider Iowa City area. Contact the group at libs.social.justice@gmail.com.

2016-2017 LISSO Officers
President: Rebekah Walker holds a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and history. She currently serves as Director of Operations for Iowa Digital Engagement and Learning (IDEAL), a curricular program at the University of Iowa that utilizes multimodal assignments to engage students with the community beyond the classroom. In the summer of 2016, she was an intern in the Exhibitions Department at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. In her time at
at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. In her time at the University of Iowa, Bekah is also completing the Public Digital Humanities certificate. Bekah will graduate with her MLIS in May 2017 and plans to pursue a career in an academic library or museum that allows her to define and/or explore outreach possibilities to underserved communities and expand information access.

Secretary: Katheryn Lawson is an Obermann Graduate Fellow and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English, a Bachelor of Music in trumpet performance, and a Master’s and PhD coursework in historical musicology. She has attended the University of Iowa and McGill University in Montréal, Québec. She is completing her third year as a tutor at the University of Iowa Writing Center and worked in the special collections department during both of her Master’s degrees. This summer, she will work as a processing student at the Iowa Women’s Archives. As an interdisciplinary scholar, her research investigates the intersections between childhood, music, birds, trauma, and embodiment in American culture. Her work in SLIS focuses on archives and their role in representing or suppressing children’s voices in the historical record. This March, she presented a paper entitled “Libraries as Symbolic American Music Spaces in the Great Depression” at the Society for American Music conference in Montréal, Québec. Katheryn will graduate with her MLIS in May 2017 and will begin a Ph.D. in history at the University of Delaware this fall.

Treasurer: Benjamin Schmidt holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Brandeis University and has a strong background and interest in medieval history. Ben has held or holds jobs in the special collections department, assisting a graduate level science communication course, and with the International Writing Program. He is also a HASTAC Scholar at the Obermann Center at the University of Iowa. In addition to the SLIS curriculum, Ben is completing the Public Digital Humanities Certificate. Ben will graduate with his MLIS in May 2018, at which time he plans to pursue a career in the overlap between library science, computer science, and information technologies.

Social Chair: Elizabeth Brown is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and creative writing from Cornell College. Before beginning the
SLIS program, Elizabeth worked as a reporter at a chain of small newspapers in Sarpy County, Nebraska before transitioning to the Springfield Memorial Library as an assistant librarian and head of the Teen Advisory Group. She was the 2015–2016 Children’s Intern at the Iowa City Public Library and remains on staff there as an hourly librarian. Inside the SLIS curriculum, Elizabeth focuses on public libraries with a specific focus on developing children’s collections and engaging youth in libraries. Elizabeth will graduate with her MLIS in May 2017 and plans to pursue a position as a children’s librarian in a public library.

[Photo taken outside conference location, Dubuque]

Caption: SLIS students at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

Pictured (left to right): Christopher Taylor, Emily Friend, Anne Kuipers, Allie Paarsmith, Laura Sauser, Beth Paul, Alycia Pringle, Shari Neal, Elizabeth Brown, Amanda Jenkins, Rebekah Walker, & Willa Liburd Tavernier.

ILA Fall Conference Sessions

Interested in attending the fall conference in October? Here are the session titles! Please share with your colleagues.
Iowa ACRL - Spring Conference
This year’s theme is Looking in, reaching out: Whom do we serve? The conference will focus on ways in which libraries are preparing to sustainably serve users in an environment of respect for all. The Planning Committee is particularly excited to have Lisa Hinchliffe, Professor/Coordinator for Information Literacy Services and Instruction in the University Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The title of Lisa’s presentation is Seeing Those We Serve: An Ethos of Hospitality. She will be discussing the concept of personal and organizational hospitality in the context of equity and inclusion in our field.
Online registration: Deadline for registration is May 12, 2017
Lodging: A block of rooms have been reserved at two hotels in the downtown area for May 18th. Rooms at the Holiday Inn Express Des Moines are available for $159 and may be reserved by calling (515) 657-8181 on or before 5:00 p.m. April 18, 2017. Those wishing to stay at Holiday Inn Des Moines Downtown – Mercy for $109 may make a reservation by calling (515) 283-0151 by April 27, 2017.
Dine Around locations and sign up
Direction to and map of the Grand View Student Center and parking
Travel
Map of the Grand View campus

South Dakota MLS
Hello! My name is Caitlin Burk and I’m emailing you on behalf of Dr. Wooseob Jeong, Dean of the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University. We are extending our distance Master of Library Science program to Sioux Falls, South Dakota starting in fall of 2017 and were wondering if it would be possible to post the following information as an announcement on the Iowa Library Association website:

Get your MLS in South Dakota!

The School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University, is happy to announce a new cohort location. Beginning in the Fall of 2017, SLIM will be offering classes in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The ALA-accredited MLS is a 36-credit hour graduate degree program that prepares students for professional work in public, academic, school, and special libraries as well as in corporate, private, and government information services.

Our seven core courses are offered in a blended format, some online, but with face-to-face time with your professors. The face-to-face time is accomplished during our weekend intensives, where classes are held on Friday nights from 6-9 and then on Saturdays from 9-5. (Each core course requires 2 face-to-face weekends per semester.) The bulk of the electives are in an online format.

The face-to-face classes will be held at either Augustana University or Siouxland Libraries.

If you wish to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please apply by July 1, 2017.

For more information, contact Kathie Buckman at kbuckman@emporia.edu or 620-341-5065.
Thank you so much for your time, and please feel free to email me or Dr. Jeong (wjeong1@emporia.edu) if you have any questions or if there is anything else we would need to do to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Burk