April 15 set for 2011 Spring Meeting

Perks and Perils of Internet Filtering

After the business portion of the ISLA spring meeting, Art Weeks of the Ames Public Library will represent the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Iowa Library Association, speaking on Internet Filtering.

As the Internet is now entering its third decade as a public utility, the medium continues to be a balancing act for the library director who is committed to the defense of intellectual freedom while responding to the concerns of a public that is offended by content transmitted over computer screens that had not previously found its way onto public library shelves.

The session will examine American Library Association’s position on intellectual freedom in general and Internet filtering in particular. We will examine the Children’s Internet Protection Act and the subsequent Supreme Court decision of 2003. The session will explore how to best respond to patron concerns and possible alternatives to filtering at your library.

Does Your Library Question Filtering?

By Beth Crow

Filtering has long been a hot topic in the library world. It garnered heightened attention in November of 2005 after an incident at the Des Moines Public Library which prompted directors in small libraries to bring this subject into board discussion. We often deal with questions about our computers from our trustees, our patrons, their families, and even onlookers.

The Iowa Library Association issued a statement on information access in September 2005. You may look at the full statement online, but it includes this sentence: “The ILA vigorously supports free and unfiltered access to the Internet in Iowa’s schools and libraries…” The ALA website also has information about filtering on their website and their position mirrors the ILA position.

Our libraries are governed by local control; the Boards of Trustees. In some cases there are Boards who adamantly support filtering on library computers. If filters are already in place, how effectively are they working? What are they blocking and what are they letting through?

“Consumer Reports’ (CR) latest tests of filtering software (June 2005) show that while Internet blockers have gotten better at blocking pornography, the best also tend to block many sites they shouldn't.

Filtering...continued on page 2.
Will Iowa/Nebraska partner to host ARSL in 2013?

By Tena Hanson

The ISLA ad hoc Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Committee’s proposal to pursue hosting the 2013 ARSL Conference in Iowa / Nebraska (Council Bluffs/ Omaha) was approved by the ILA Executive Board in August of 2010. The ensuing months were spent looking for partners on the Nebraska side to join the committee, and by February 2011 the proposal had been revised by the joint committee for submission to the ARSL Board. The conference, should our proposal be accepted, will take place in mid-September 2013. Our proposal to the ARSL Board included not only information about the compatibility of our missions, and a listing of those willing to serve on a local arrangements committee, but also an entire section filled with conference site options and the many attractions that conference attendees would be able to enjoy in the Council Bluffs/ Omaha area.

On February 15, ARSL President Sonja Plummer Morgan shared the proposal with the ARSL Board, and with their site selection committee. At this point, a tentative listing of the ARSL Conference sites will be as follows:

- 2011 Frisco, Texas
- 2012 North Carolina
- 2013 Iowa / Nebraska
- 2014 Pennsylvania

For those interested in attending this year’s conference in Frisco, TX, please visit the ARSL website for a press release with more information: http://www.arsl.info/annual-conference-awards-calendar/frisco-conference-2011/.

Please be sure to thank the ISLA members who have worked to make possible the opportunity for Iowa to jointly host a national conference of interest to librarians in small and rural communities: Linda Adams, Paula Brown, Karen Burns, Mary Frisbie, Tena Hanson, Becky Heil, Kay Iversen, Kim Kietzman, Jet Kofoot, Ketta Lubberstedt-Arjes, Pat Means, Barbara Peterson, Diane Sinclair, Kolleen Taylor-Berven, CJ Thompson, Shirley Vonderhaar and Sarah Willeford.

Internet Filtering….cont. from page 1.

In addition, Consumer Reports found the software to be less effective at blocking sites promoting hatred, illegal drugs or violence. The June issue includes ratings of 11 popular filtering software products and advice for concerned parents who are trying to better protect their children online. Filters kept out most, but not all of the pornography. The worst performer blocked 88 percent, enough to serve as an obstacle, but not impervious to a persistent teen. Information sites can be snubbed, too. "The best porn blockers were heavy-handed against sites about health issues, sex education, civil rights and politics." (from the ALA web site)

There are many kinds of filtering softwares available, but most have a price tag attached, so the matter becomes a budgetary question also. If filters are not used, what policies are in place to address the public concerns? Are these policies explained to new patrons when accounts are set up?

Directors of small libraries know that keeping a library running smoothly involves constant self-education on the technologies out there, a good ear to listen to concerns of the public and the Board, and PR on the policies in place. For more views on this subject, be sure to attend the spring ICN meeting.
Virtual Statistics from ISLOC!

by CJ Thompson

January 20, 2011 was a busy day in the adobe rooms throughout Iowa. The Iowa Small Library Online Conference ran from 8:30 a.m. and concluded with the final session at 6:30 p.m. Registration totaled 201 participants. The morning’s keynote speaker, George Needham, spoke to 141 attendees.

The breakaway sessions followed and the numbers for each are listed with the session - Dewey, or Do We Not: 67; What are Library Districts: 21; Enliven Your Work: 41; Geek the Library: 1; Social Media Trends and the Library Profession: 69; Presentation Zen: 29; Volunteers: 30; It's In the Bag: Preschool Outreach Plus: 33; eRA for eBooks: 35; and SMILE Stellar Morale Incentives: 52.

Jim Connor was the evening keynote speaker with 41 attending. The Poster Sessions had the following numbers - Memories of the 30s: 21; Library Ark 20; QR Codes: 17; and eReaders: 72.

Our hats off to the Library Service Areas for sponsoring the event and the many workers who made this a success, they are an amazing team.

Thanks go to Janie Bealieu, NW Iowa Library Services; Karen Burns, Administrator, SW Iowa Library Service Area; Jean Chesterton, NW Iowa Library Services; Ann Coulter, Director of LRC, Southwestern Community College; Katie Dunneback, Consultant, East Central Library Services; Tena Hanson, Director, Milford Memorial Library; Kim Kietzman, Director, Altoona Public Library; Jet Kofoot, Central Iowa Library Service Area; Bonnie McKewon, Administrator, Northwest Iowa Library Services; Pat Means, Director, Villisca Public Library; Alysia Peich, Continuing Education Coordinator, State Library of Iowa; and last but not least Sarah Wilford, Director, Kirkendall Public Library.

The State Library of Iowa provided the rooms for the conference.

Paula Brown and Sue Kroesche show off the ISLA tee shirts that will be available at the spring meeting.

They are a steal at only $10.00 for short sleeve tees or $15.00 for long sleeve tees.
ILA’s Spring meeting is scheduled for April 15 at the 7 ICN locations. (See registration form on page 7). The business meeting will be in the morning, with the afternoon program to feature Internet Filtering, with Art Weeks, Administrator of the Ames Public Library and a member of the ILA Intellectual Freedom committee presenting the program. At each of the ICN sites, discussions by attendees will allow for informal sharing with those in attendance.

Program Ideas or Speakers: If you have ideas for speakers or topics you would like to see ISLA sponsor, please don’t hesitate to communicate with one of the ISLA officers as listed below so those ideas can be considered for upcoming conferences and meetings.

Getting Involved: ISLA would like to have at least one member in every county in Iowa. A representative for each LSA area has been selected to help spread the word about the Iowa Small Library Association. If you are having a county meeting and would like to know more about ISLA, please contact one of our officers and we will put you in touch with your LSA’s ISLA representative.

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Iowa Small Library Association
2011 Budget Proposal
(To be approved at April 15 business meeting)

Beginning Balance January 2011 $679.07

Projected Income
Dues $1,000.00
Fundraising - ILA booth & spring meeting $200.00
Sale of t-shirts & mouse pads
Total Income $1,200.00

Projected Expenses
Spring Meeting (ICN charges) $0.00
ILA Fall Conference scholarships (2) $200.00
Summer Reading Program Award $100.00
ILA Fall Conference Booth Rent $175.00
Conference (speaker) programming $0.00
Total Expenditures $475.00

Balance after expenses $1,404.07

Reserved for future expenses:
Rental for Farm Progress Booth (2012) $1,200.00
ARSL Conference Scholarships 2013 and beyond – funded as able $200.00
ISLA 2011 Officers and Committees:

**Executive Committee:**

Chair: Linda Adams of Fayette/Arlington Public Library  
fayettelib@iowatelecom.net
Vice Chair: Sue Kroesche of LeMars Public Library  
Kroesche@lemars.lib.ia.us
Secretary: Jill Sanders of Elkader Public Library  
director@elkader.lib.ia.us
Treasurer: Shirley Vonderhaar of James Kennedy Public Library  
svonderhaar@dyersville.lib.ia.us
Public Relations: Kolleen Taylor-Berven of Bertha Bartlett Public Library  
scbbpl@iowatelecom.net

**ILA Liaison to Executive Bd:**  
Tena Hanson of Milford Public Library  
tenah@milfordlibrary.net

**Nominating Committee:**

Chair: Sue Kroesche of LeMars Public Library  
Kroesche@lemars.lib.ia.us
Member: Val Haverhals of Hawarden Public Library  
valerhals@hawarden.lib.ia.us
Member: Mary Bucy of Hudson  
staff@hudson.lib.ia.us

**Program Committee:**

Chair: Karen Burkett-Pederson of Bondurant Public Library  
karenp@bondurant.lib.ia.us
Member: Brandie Ledford of Sac City Public Library  
bledford@saccity.lib.ia.us
Member: Valerie Ballhagen of New Hartford Public Library  
valerieballhagen@newhartford.lib.ia.us

**LSA Committee Areas**

SE (Chair): Anne Skaden of Kalona Public Library  
kalopl@kcctc.net
NW: Nathan Clark of Emmetsburg  
nclark@emmetsvill.lib.ia.us
C & EC: Shelley Barron of LeGrand Public Library  
sbarron@legrand.lib.ia.us
SW: Carrie Falk of Shenandoah Public Library  
shencirc@questoffice.net
NC: Sandy Long of Whittemore Public Library  
sandyl@whittemore.lib.ia.us
NE: Cathy Shaw of Edgewood Public Library  
cshaw@edgewood.lib.ia.us

**Public Relations Committee:**

Chair: Kolleen Taylor-Berven of Bertha Bartlett Public Library  
scbbpl@iowatelecom.net
Member: CJ Thompson of Grundy Center Public Library  
cjthompson@grundycenter.lib.ia.us
Member: Tena Hanson of Milford Public Library  
tenah@milfordlibrary.net
Member: Beth Crow of Blairstown Public Library  
btown@netins.net

**ARSL committee members--- Tena Hanson, Chair**

Linda Adams, Fayette Community Library  
Paula Brown, Spencer Public Library
Karen Burns, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area  
Mary Frisbie, Lake Mills Public Library
Tena Hanson, Milford Memorial Library  
Becky Heil, Dubuque County Library
Kim Kietzman, Altoona Public Library  
Jet Kofoot, Central Iowa Library Service Area
Kay Larson, Spencer Public Library  
Ketta Lubberstedt-Arjes, Kendall Young Public Library
Pat Means, Villisca Public Library  
Barbara Peterson, Council Bluffs Public Library
Diane Sinclair, Williams Public Library  
Kolleen Taylor-Berven, Bertha Bartlett Public Library, Story City
CJ Thompson, Kling Memorial Library, Grundy Center  
Shirley Vonderhaar, James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville
Sarah Willeford, Kirkendall Public Library, Ankeny
Iowa Small Library Association

All are welcome and invited to attend!

**ISLA Spring Meeting**
Friday, April 15, 2011
10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Offering 2 hrs. of C. E. credits

We are providing **seven** sites throughout the state to make it easier for all to attend. The business meeting will be from 10 a.m. – noon. The Executive board and committees have been busy planning this year’s programs and looking toward future plans for Iowa Small Library Association.

**Lunch will be on your own** then return at 1:00 p.m. for a one-hour program (Via ICN). Art Weeks from the Ames Public Library will be providing an informational program: **Intellectual Freedom and Internet Filtering: Balancing Freedom and Prudence.** ISLA is partnering with the ILA Intellectual Freedoms committee, of which Art is a member, to bring this program to libraries across the state. Following Art’s presentation each site will hold discussion on filtering with questions provided by the ISLA program committee and Art.

**Registration:**

Name ___________________ Library________________Size Code____

Phone:___________ Email:________________________

Site you plan to attend: Creston_____ Fayette______ Eldora____

Belmond______ Hawarden______ State Library____ Solon____

Check one:  ISLA Member (FREE)____ ILA Member ($5) Non-member ($10)______ ( Make checks payable to ILA Association)

There will be a drawings for (2) $100 Fall Conference Awards and (1) $100 summer reading program award

**Mail registration forms** to Linda K. Adams, ISLA President
Fayette Community Library, PO Box 107 Fayette, IA 52142

Questions or concerns: Contact Linda K. Adams, ISLA President
Email: fayettelib@iowatelecom.net or phone: 563-425-3344
How to join ISLA:

Joining ISLA costs only $5, in addition to your ILA membership (that amount is based on salary for those currently working in a library). To pay your dues, go to the ILA website: www.iowalibraryassociation.org and click the “Join ILA” tab across the top menu. The 2011 dues form is now available if you haven’t received one in the mail yet. If you’d like an invoice to pay by check, select the “PDF Membership Form.” The second page of that document lists membership rates.

One important step you must remember: under section C for ILA Subdivisions, please check the box stating that you would like to join the Iowa Small Library Association for an additional $5, and any other subdivision you are interested in joining. Return the form and your payment to the Iowa Library Association as listed on the form. Thank you!!

Please note: Anyone is welcome to join ISLA. Even if your library is not-so-small, you can show your support for the organization and its mission to “empower Iowa’s small libraries” with your membership.

Our Mission:
The Iowa Small Library Association is an active networking organization that strengthens and advocates for public libraries with a population under 10,000.

2011 ISLA Planning Committee and Executive Board:
The Executive Board met with the ISLA Nominating, Program, LSA and Public Relations Committee at the Bertha Bartlett Public Library in Story City on February 18 to discuss and plan ways to maximize your membership.

Front row, left-to-right: Kolleen Taylor-Berven, CJ Thompson, Linda Adams, Shirley Vonderhaar and Sandy Long

Back row, left-to-right: Paula Brown, Karen Burkett, Jill Sanders, Anne Skaden, Nathan Clark and Sue Kroesche
From President Linda Adams

Spring is just around the corner and we are all making plans for our Spring Meeting to be held April 15 from 10:00-3:00 at seven locations around the State. Check out the locations on the Spring Meeting registration form. I’ve been reminded several times that this is National Library Week April 10-16, but what better time to get together with librarians across the state. By Friday you will all be ready to spend a day with us.

I think we have a very informative program planned for the afternoon. This year the ISLA and the Intellectual Freedom’s Committee of the ILA are partnering to present Art Weeks Director of the Ames Public Library to talk to us about “Intellectual Freedom and Internet Filtering: Balancing Freedom and Prudence.” After Art’s presentation attendances will be having an hour discussion at one of the 7 sites with questions prepared by our programming committee and Art.

In the morning there will be the ISLA business meeting. A State Library update and highlights from our ISLA planning meeting which was held in Story City on February 18th will be presented. An Ad-hoc committee for The Farm Progress Show event was appointed with Paula Brown of Spencer as the chair. Paula will be giving us an update as well as Tena Hanson from Milford who will update us on the ARSL proposal that was mailed this past month.

An ad-hoc committee to review the ISLA bylaws was also appointed but will be waiting to review as they have been advised by the chair of ILA BOMC (bylaws and organization manual committee) to hold off on any further bylaws changes as ILA are about to delve into some major re-working of bylaw wordings and of the manual in general. Committee members are Nathan Clark and Shirley Vondehaar.

Other business will be to approve a budget for the 2011 year as it was not done in the fall. Of course we will also have three drawings. One for Summer Reading Program $100 and two (2) $100 awards for ILA fall conference. Please look for the Spring meeting registration in this newsletter.

A special reminder to all that you must be an ISLA member to be eligible for the drawing. Also if you have not paid your dues this year to ILA you will want to do that before our meeting. The membership form is on the ILA webpage and be sure to put a check by the ISLA sub-division. It is only $5.00.

Hope to see you all on April 15th! Linda K. Adams, President ISLA