

# MINUTES

## IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

Date: February 3, 2026

Location: Ola Babcock Miller Building & Online via Zoom

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Commission Members Present:** Fred Schuster, Mark Campbell, Alison Ames-Galstad, Bob Gast, Matthew Goddard, Brandon Denner, Melissa Kane (online), Mindy Reimer (online),

**Staff:** Brenda Hall, Emily Bainter

### 1.0 Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

**F. Schuster** called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed Iowa Dept. of Administrative Services Director Mark Campbell to the Commission.

### 2.0 Set Agenda

No objections to agenda. **B. Denner** made motion to approve proposed agenda. **M. Campbell** seconded. Agenda approved.

### 3.0 Action Items

#### 3.1 Receive and Approve October 2025 Meeting Minutes

No objections to minutes. **A. Galstad** made a motion to approve the August Minutes. **M. Reimer** seconded. Minutes approved.

### 4.0 Reports

- **State Librarian's Report**

**B. Hall** presented the following items in the State Librarian's Report:

- The State Library published the FY25 Enrich Iowa Legislative Report and Direct State Aid Report. Both reports were submitted to the General Assembly.
- The 2026 All Iowa Reads program launched with a webinar featuring the authors of the three selected titles.
- The FY27 Accreditation & Tier Status Application process is underway on a new platform using WhoFi Question Sets. Applications are due Feb. 28, 2026.
- The Iowa Libraries Online Conference occurred on Jan. 29 with the theme of *Worth Celebrating!*
- Registration for the Summer Reading Summits is open. The events will take place in March at six in-person, half-day sessions throughout the state.
- Pop YS Con will be held in April and will be offered online at no cost to attendees. The call for session proposals is open now and will close Feb. 27.
- B. Hall will be traveling to Washington D.C. in early March to attend the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Voices for Libraries event to meet with Iowa's Congressional delegates. COSLA will hold their spring meeting in conjunction with the event.

- **Commission Reports**

- **M. Reimer:** The audit and accreditation process for the AEAs is underway; reports are submitted to the Iowa Dept. of Education. The AEAs are also currently meeting with all school districts across the state for service planning meetings. The

partnership with the State Library continues to support IA shares delivery for public libraries; it has been a year of growth, learning and moving a lot of materials.

- **M. Kane:** Cascade Public Library is up for accreditation this year and she has entered all of the library's information into WhoFi. The library recently had their ten-month walk-through of the building with their contractor to identify areas for fixes and touchups; the building's one year anniversary is in march. The library is also preparing for programming events, including Dubuque County Reads.
- **F. Schuster:** The Ankeny library has two new city council members and the library board is scheduling meetings with them. An ongoing elevator issue in the library has finally been repaired.
- **A. Galstad:** Coralville Public Library has been busy. Staff are looking forward to attending the Pop YS Conference online and the PLA conference in Minneapolis. Coralville has a large number of people who come to the community and stay long-term or commute from distant areas; the Open Access program allows them to use the Coralville library when they are in town. The library is a net lender with IA Shares and receives twice weekly stops to pick up interlibrary loans for Iowans outside of the community. State Library Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering is a great help with logistics for the Iowa Student Ambassador Program. The selected high school student hosts the All Iowa Reads virtual author visit with the kids and teen authors in June. The library's teen program attendees enjoy seeing the role modeling and hearing from the author.
- **B. Gast:** The pilot program for Iowa Court Navigators has been expanded; his office is currently training two college students to support the online portion of the program, which will allow more reach to rural areas. It is possible that this program will rely more on libraries for partnership, including access to information and technology to facilitate the online meetings.
- **M. Goddard:** The spring semester in full swing at Iowa State University and the library is quite busy. The university and library are in the midst of change; President Wintersteen retired last month and the new President Cook will begin in March. The Dean of the Library will retire at the end of July and more information about the search for a successor should be announced soon. The Collections Strategy and Open Access unit is also currently under interim leadership. The library recently unveiled a new game design learning lab equipped with high performance technology, allowing students to collaboratively design games and work on projects using specialized equipment.
- **B. Denner:** No report.

## 5.0 Commission Business & Discussion

- **Federal Funding:** **B. Hall** shared that the State Library is waiting for news on federal funding for FFY26. The federal government is in partial shutdown at the moment; a large appropriation package is making its way through Congress. IMLS (the State Library's funding agency) is under the Labor appropriation in that bill. Once federal funding is confirmed, the State Library will begin work on filling some positions that are currently open.
- **Legislative Update:** **B. Hall** is monitoring bills that have been introduced that could impact the State Library or Iowa libraries. If called upon, the State Library will provide information and answer research questions about bills but remains neutral on proposed legislation.
  - HSB636 would prohibit schools from entering into contracts with public libraries and hosting mobile libraries (bookmobiles).

- HF2136 relates to the confidentiality of library records for minors.
- SF2119 relates to obscenity exemption for public libraries and educational institutions.
- HF2270 relates to standards and performance measures for public libraries.
- **Sioux Center Public Library Standards:** **B. Hall** shared that Sioux Center Public Library contacted her to inquire if changing their collection development policy to an opt-in tiered library card model based on age would conflict with the Public Library Standards. As stated in the Standards, collection development policies are required to adhere to intellectual freedom principles by the U.S. Constitution and professional library associations. **B. Hall** informed Sioux Center that the system they described would not meet that standard because it abridges access based on age. If they move forward, the library would be considered a Tier 0 library in their next accreditation cycle and would be ineligible for Enrich Iowa funding for the Direct State Aid and Open Access programs. Sioux Center followed up to request information on the appeal process. **B. Hall** responded that they could file a petition for declaratory order or file a financial support appeal once funding has been denied; both processes are outlined in DAS Administrative Rules. **B. Hall** noted that one of the Commission duties is to approve Public Library Standards, which were last revised in 2016. **F. Schuster** asked if HF2270 becomes law, would Sioux Center be able to move forward with their plan without repercussions? **B. Hall** confirmed that's how she would interpret the bill's language. **M. Goddard** asked if there is any room for the State Library to interpret Sioux Center's restriction as based on a parental decision and not age? **B. Hall** referenced the section on youth in the Intellectual Freedom manual, which states that it is the responsibility of the parent, and not the library, to monitor what their minor children check out. **A. Galstad** noted that library boards have local control and the right to set the minimum age required to get a library card. **M. Reimer** asked what next steps are recommended for Commission members? **B. Hall** stated it would be a good idea for members to read through the standards and understand what they say. She will email a link to the Standards document out to Commission members. **M. Kane** shared that Cascade Public Library offers family accounts, where parents can see what their children have checked out. When a minor gets a card, the parent acknowledges responsibility for lost materials. The library does not act in the place of parents. **M. Campbell** asked if this would be a mechanism already in place that could address these parental concerns. **B. Hall** noted that this could be an option for libraries that have this capability with their integrated library system; however some integrated library systems do not have this capability, and these may be used in smaller libraries. The difference may be preventing checkouts by minors from happening versus being able to see what a minor has checked out.
- **State Library Chapter IPB 21 & 22 Training:** The State Library is preparing to launch on-demand training on Iowa's open meetings and records laws geared towards library board members to meet requirements in IAC 21.12. The course has been approved by the Iowa Public Information Board and will be available in Workday Learning later in February. Individual accounts are required in order to take the training and receive a certificate; group training sessions are not permitted. Commission members are encouraged to complete the training once it becomes available.
- **Upcoming State Library Contracts & Procurement:**
  - **IA Shares Delivery Service:** The State Library initially signed a one-year agreement with the AEAs for delivery service. The AEAs performed a cost analysis and informed the State Library that an increase will be required to maintain the service for FY27. As a result, the State Library will not be adding more libraries to the list that receives twice weekly deliveries. The State Library

will also review a small number of on-demand libraries with regular usage for weekly stops.

- **Data Collection Tool:** The Bibliostat platform, formerly owned by Baker & Taylor before their shutdown, had been used for collecting information for the Accreditation & Tier Status application, the Public Library Survey and the Direct State Aid Report. The State Library will go out for a bid for a new data collection system. The Accreditation application will remain with WhoFi using Question Sets.
- **5-Year LSTA Plan Evaluation:** The IMLS Grants to State funding requires an evaluation of the first three years of the State Library's 5-Year LSTA plan. B. Hall sent information to DAS Procurement and hopes to have a contract for an evaluator in place by this summer. Stakeholders, including the Commission, will be involved in the evaluation process. The evaluation is due to IMLS March 2027.
- **Library Discounts:** Before Baker & Taylor shut down, a master agreement was in place with the State of Iowa, allowing local government entities such as public libraries to purchase discounted library materials. The State Library learned about a different state master contract with Brodart, another library supplier, that had recently expired. Some public libraries had been purchasing based off of the contracted rates and were not able to access the discounts after the contract's expiration. B. Hall contacted DAS Procurement to start the process to obtain another master agreement for general library discounts.

**6.0 Public Comment:** F. Schuster outlined the guidelines for public comment.

- **Teri Hubbard** of Sioux Center commented on the proposed Sioux Center collection development policy and the Public Library Standards.
- **John Worden** of Green Valley commented on Marshalltown Public Library's collection development decisions and the State Library Trustee's Handbook.

**7.0 Adjournment**

A. Galstad made a motion to adjourn. B. Gast seconded. F. Schuster adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Submitted by: Emily Bainter, Information Specialist