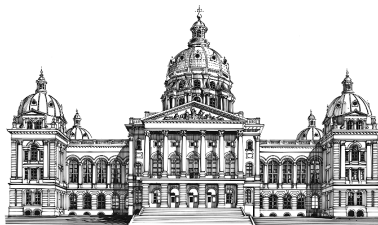

Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Dennis Prouty
(515) 281-5279
FAX 281-8451



State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
August 30, 2002

State Medical Library

ISSUE

The State Library of Iowa maintains a medical library that provides resources and information services to the medical and legal communities, State government, and the general public.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Education, Division of Libraries and Information Services

CODE AUTHORITY

Section 256.54, Code of Iowa

BACKGROUND

Section 256.54, Code of Iowa, requires that the State Library include a medical library administered by a medical librarian, who is appointed by the Director of the Department of Education. The medical library must be available for free use by Iowa residents. It must give no preference to any school of medicine and must secure materials for every legally recognized school of medicine without discrimination.

In administrative rules (286-1.3(2), Iowa Administrative Code), the medical library is designated as part of the Information Services unit of the State Library, which also includes federal and state documents collections and the patents depository collection. The other six units are library development, the State law library, technical services, the State data center, audiovisual services, and administration.

CURRENT SITUATION

The State Library's medical collection includes approximately 3,000 medical books, 300 active journal subscriptions, and 89,000 journal volumes. It is housed on the second floor of the Ola Babcock Miller Building at East 12th Street and Grand Avenue in Des Moines.

One full-time employee staffs the medical library with an annual salary of \$48,600 for FY 2003. Fiscal Year 2002 expenditures for medical library materials totaled approximately \$58,700.

During FY 2002, the medical library researched approximately 1,530 requests for medical information and supplied copies of approximately 4,000 medical journal articles to health professionals, State employees, and Iowa libraries. The State Library maintains a consumer health information web site at <http://www.healthinfoiowa.org> and trained more than 700 librarians and health professionals in the use of the site in FY 2002.

The medical library provides materials and research assistance to State government, most frequently the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Attorney General's Office. In FY 2002, the DHS eliminated its own library and transferred some of the more current materials to the State Library's medical collection.

ALTERNATIVES

The General Assembly may wish to consider eliminating the requirement that the State Library maintain a medical library. Options for disposition of the current medical collection include:

- Transfer of the collection to one of the State's schools of medicine, such as University of Iowa or Des Moines University. An agreement could specify requirements for making the materials and services available to State government, the health care community, and the general public.
- Allowing the State Librarian to dispose of the materials in accordance with administrative rules (286-1.7(5) and (6), Iowa Administrative Code), which permit disposal by sale, donation, or destruction. Revenue from any sale would be credited to the State Library Fund established by the Treasurer of State and used for the purchase of resources for the State Library. Funds in the State Library Fund do not revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

BUDGET IMPACT

The FY 2003 General Fund appropriation (with salary adjustment) to the State Library is \$1.2 million, a decrease of \$410,000 (24.9%) compared to estimated net FY 2002. The State Library estimates the FY 2003 expenditures for the medical library will be \$78,000 or 6.3% of the FY 2003 General Fund appropriation.

STAFF CONTACT: Robin Madison (Ext. 15270)