

Westgate Public Library Customer - "I love libraries because they are a place of respite from a hectic world. A library is a world of ideas, dreams, fantasies, and knowledge all waiting to be explored. Is the word "love" too strong of a word to describe how my children and I feel about libraries? Absolutely, positively, resoundingly--no."

Independence Public Library Customer - "Our public libraries are one of the very few things left in our communities that we can continually count on. Regardless of age, race or financial abilities, our libraries are always here for us to use."

Use of lowa public libraries is up by every measure...



...but libraries can't live on love alone

STATE LIBRARY				ENRICH IOWA				
State Funding	Dollar Gain/Loss	Percent Gain/Loss	FY	General Fund	Infrastr. Fund	Total Funding	Dollar Gain/Loss	Percent Gain/Loss
\$1,819,616 \$1,643,746 \$1,222,051 \$1,265,788 \$1,378,555 \$1,420,694 * \$1,666,761 \$1,879,827 \$1,744,827	(\$175,870) (\$421,695) \$43,737 \$112,767 \$42,139 \$246,067 \$213,066 (\$135,000)	-9.7% -25.7% 3.6% 8.9% 3.1% 17.3% 12.8% -7.2%	2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	\$2,352,422 \$1,781,168 \$1,741,982 \$1,698,432 \$1,698,432 \$1,698,432 \$1,698,432 \$1,698,432 \$1,823,432 \$2,048,432	\$0 \$500,000 \$600,000 \$600,000 \$900,000 \$950,000 \$950,000 \$950,000 \$950,000	\$2,352,422 \$2,281,168 \$2,341,982 \$2,298,432 \$2,298,432 \$2,598,432 \$2,598,432 \$2,648,432 \$2,773,432 \$2,048,432	\$240,632 (\$71,254) \$60,814 (\$43,550) \$0 \$300,000 \$50,000 \$125,000 (\$725,000)	<pre>11.4% -3.0% 2.7% -2.5% 0.0% 13.1% 1.9% 4.7% -26.1%</pre>

*Includes \$200,000 from RIIF

State Library Provides Leadership and Service

Comments from satisfied lowa librarians:

"The State Library does a great deal in the way of helping keep my staff well-educated at an incredibly low cost. Keep up the excellent work! I don't know what we would do without the training you provide."

"The State Library is doing a great job applying for Gates grants to help us improve our knowledge and thereby offer better technology services! Thanks for always thinking ahead for us.... lowans deserve the best libraries that we can provide. No other place do we get the support of our peers than at our library meetings and workshops. Please keep them coming - on all different subjects. And keep being our cheerleaders! You make us feel good about all the hard work we do."

"I have been meeting and talking to rural library folks all across the country...What has become very clear to me is how much the State Library of Iowa provides for its librarians."

"I am so pleased with the whole project [Putting Libraries on the Web]. If it wasn't for this opportunity, our library would never be able to have a Web site. The training has been great and very helpful. I can't wait to get back at the site and start customizing it for our library."

Comments from satisfied State Library customers:

"The State Data Center has come to our aid and even our rescue on countless occasions. While we are adept at finding our way around the Census Web site, occasionally we hit a question that just has us stumped. We call Beth Henning and without hesitation, she knows where to find what we're looking for....We consider the State Data Center one of the secrets of our success."

"Staff at the State Library know the meaning of going the extra mile to respond to requests for health information. It is an invaluable resource in our quest to make lowa one of the healthiest states in the nation."

"As a sole proprietor building consultant I rely heavily on the State Data Center and the State Library for statistical information I and my clients need for successful building projects....They know what they're talking about and deliver the goods – the State Data Center is a quality service I can't do without."

"The two articles I asked [the State Library] for help in finding were ones that, try as I might, I could not easily get my hands on....You were able to access those articles for me in just a couple of days. I really am so appreciative...."

"I must tell you that as a state employee, I really appreciate the library book checkout. What a fantastic service! I was happy that I could look up a book in your library on my computer. I was thrilled when I could request it online. I was awestruck and overjoyed when it was delivered to my office mailbox."

(from one of our Law Librarians) "...I got a call from a Representative who was on the floor of the House—I could hear the debate going on around her—and she kind of yelled into the phone: 'We need to know the Code citation for the law that says marriage is only between a man and a woman!' I hollered back: '595.2, subsection I!' She asked, 'You know that right off the top of your head?' I replied, 'Yes!' She said, 'Man, you're GOOD!...I'm really glad I called you guys!' I told her we were really glad she called us, too.''

Iowa Libraries are about Education

Milford Public Library Director - "What we provide to students in the library is priceless. All elementary students get tours of the library and see that we provide relevant and up-to-date materials and computers for classroom research and support. We also do a presentation to school staff and students, and are available during parent-teacher conferences to allow families an opportunity to get library cards. They're also aware that we provide interlibrary loan if we don't have the resources they need."

Atlantic Public Library Director - "Our library assists all ages and collaborates with different agencies in life-long learning. Each month, we checkout 25-30 board books to our three Parents as Teachers coordinators to use in their clients' homes. We proctor tests for several students in our community who are using distance-learning opportunities. We have an ICN facility that is frequently used for community college course work, as well as for emergency medical technician training. Currently, there are several adults taking an ICN sign language course offered through the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs."

Davenport Public Library Director - "I received a call recently from a grandmother who had gone to pick up her third grade grandson after a school outing. He was all excited because he had been to our Fairmount library and learned all about it. He wanted his grandmother to take him there and then he took her to every place the librarian had shown him and talked with her about how important it was to read and use the library. Grandmother got a library card that afternoon and later called to thank my staff and me for helping him."

Estherville Public Library Director - "Our library is the primary center of influence in cultural, educational and recreational life in the community. We contribute to the lifelong learning of area residents by proctoring tests through high educational levels offered on the Internet."

Paullina Public Library Director - "We have a regular customer who is working on her master's degree in nursing. She comes in often to find information for her thesis. We've helped her find what she's looking for using interlibrary loan and databases. She's been very pleased with what we've been able to find for her."

LeClaire Community Library Director - "A consortium of home school families meet monthly at the library to share nature programs. The core curriculum of the students' studies comes from the LeClaire library. When youth athletic program has sign-ups at the library, it brings in new families who immediately register for library cards. Because the school bus stops right outside our door, the library serves as an after school study spot where high school students earn service learning credit by tutoring elementary children."

Iowa Libraries are about Economic Development

Cedar Rapids Public Library Director - "Back in 2005-06, Cedar Rapids hired a consultant to survey community members on how to revitalize the area. One question asked them what the number one reason was for coming downtown. The answer: The Cedar Rapids Public Library. The library is the anchor to downtown revitalization."

Villisca Public Library Director - "We have purchased books on how to start a business, like a restaurant or construction company. We hope this will spur the economy."

Indianola Public Library Director - "Library staff have noticed an increase in the number of people using the computers to apply for jobless benefits online through Iowa Workforce Development. The reason we know that they're filing online is because they are usually laborers with very few computer skills so they require more help than a lot of people do."

Emmetsburg Public Library Director - "When the local casino came to town, we did a good deal of helping people write their resumes."

Decorah Public Library Director - "Winneshiek County has one of the nation's highest percentages of two parents working outside the home. The library's close proximity to the middle school and the downtown area have been instrumental in receiving national and area foundation funding for after school and summer youth programming. The after school youth recently submitted a grant to lowa's Promise Youth Grant Program for plantings along a small "dry run" stream that borders the library property in the middle of town. They researched and wrote the grant. Because of the youths' initiative, last summer this once "eye sore" has been cleaned up from trash and litter."

Iowa Libraries are about Community Enhancement

Elgin Public Library Customer - "It is impossible to say how important the library has become to me and my family. When we had no money at all, the library gave us a chance to see movies, read children's books, magazines, and adult books. The library was truly our lifeline. We use it to its fullest. I can never thank you enough for all that the library did to help me provide a better life for my two kids as a single parent."

Emmetsburg Public Library Director - "We have delivered over 40,000 materials to home and institution-bound patrons over the past 14 years when we began this program. One of our most inquisitive patrons will be turning 100 next month. He keeps us very busy with reference questions. Some of the most exciting interlibrary loan requests have come from him, too."

Ames Public Library Customer - "In addition to enjoying Toddler Storytimes, my 2-year-old daughter and I love to hang out in the children's area where there are so many fun things to do and where we have the opportunity to interact with other parents and children. Being a stay-at-home parent can be isolating at times and I appreciate having a free, safe, interesting and active environment for me and my daughter."

lowa City Public Library Director - "After recently updating our library catalog software, we had a new feature that has the ability to allow our users to post their own book reviews. One nine-year-old girl asked a question about posting a review, and let us know that she thought it was a great way to tell people a little bit about a book and that she believes it is a good way to get kids to read more."