Iowa City moves forward when you send it back
Census forms will be delivered to U.S. residents in March

The Census count is used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and to implement programs and services in education, transportation, healthcare, social services, and public safety.

In order to make it as simple as possible, Census forms now have only 10 questions, the shortest Census ever. The library is also serving as a location for procurement of Census enumerators and may be a site where the public can come for assistance from Census staff in completing their forms.

Summer reading is right around the corner!

Kids can “Make a Splash @ Iowa City Public Library” this summer starting on June 4 or “Children’s Day of the Iowa Arts Festival.” Besides great books, special events and prizes, this year’s reading program offers special visits by Dan Wardell of Iowa Public Television and children’s author John Gro, plus plenty of fun for all at the Iowa City Book Festival in July.

ECO Iowa City looks forward to ‘Earth Month’

What is early literacy and what helps it develop?

Early literacy is what children know about reading before they enter school. Early literacy builds a reading foundation which can lead to school success.

Research shows that children who do not read well by the end of first grade are four to five times more likely to drop out of school.

Studies have shown over half of a child’s total intellectual development occurs before the child goes to school. Research also confirms reading success starts from the time a child is born and preschoolers’ earlier experiences with books are an important part of their development.

“Even as infants, children can learn how to handle a book, how to turn leaf, and to imitate the actions of older children,” said Bibliotechnical Services Coordinator Debbie Brown. “They learn how to love books from parents and teachers. Having a positive association with books is an important part of building a strong foundation for reading.”

In Iowa, the Iowa City Public Library has made it a priority to increase public awareness and education of early literacy skills and their importance for young children. This spring, the staff of the Children’s Room is renewing its commitment to strengthening early literacy development, in ICP’s storytelling, services, collections, and facilities.

“We encourage adults to engage their young children in various participatory programs, including reading skills and language development,” said Book Relations Librarian Karen Gordon. “This spring, the Children’s Room will begin new programs to include manipulative toys and activities that children can interact with to help them learn the alphabet and word endings. The Iowa Children’s Museum is also generating interest in children’s participation in their display photographs to the Children’s Room. Their new exhibit on the book market in the Children’s Room will be called the Book Nook. The Library publicizes as the public’s right size for young children to explore and be built with a hundred of disabled children’s books.

Library staff will include early literacy skills and concepts in their storytimes for young children and encourage parents to bring a book or music as well. ICP also hopes to expand the popular Book Bazaar series to additional cities in the summer. A circulating ‘Big Book’ collection of large-format picture books will be added to help early childhood educators and care providers stimulate storytime with larger groups of children.

Early literacy skills will also be available to parents, educators, and caregivers.

“Early in the first grade, children can read, and teachers and parents can begin to see the early signs that these children will have a better chance to learn to read as they progress in school,” added Gordon. “These practices many parents do instinctively can help ensure healthy brain development in children and give them a solid basis for learning later.”

Up-to-date Library News

For the most current ICP news, visit our Newsroom at http://www.icpl.org. It’s the go to place for special event announcements and information on all the newest services your Library provides. You can also subscribe to the Newsletter RSS feed to receive regular updates.

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For more information, visit www.icpl.org/default/?id=2006

Iowa City Public Library
Spring/Summer 2010
The Library Board continues to discuss the strategic plan, e-mail, and a small branch away from the downtown area. Locations to return materials, receiving Library news via interested in electronic books, longer Library hours, more
had been dropped July 1 and has since been reinstated. It was no surprise that parking reimbursement (which
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and flexible organization that provides good service. Determined one goal to be maintaining an innovative
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Spring/Summer
Vanessa Nelson
April Harder
Newsletter Staff

Spring Break: Teen Tech Zone
1-4 p.m. March 19-19, Computer Lab
Come hang out on MySpace, Facebook and YouTube! Learn how to make your own podcasts, blogs and videos. Teen Tech Zone is an interactive space for teens in 7th-12th grade. Come use the Internet, work on school activities, make multi-media projects and be creative.

Check Out Our New Book Nook
As a symbol of the Library’s focus on early literacy skills, ICPL is adding a new innovative feature to the Children’s Room. Called the “Book Nook,” this Library playhouse is just the right size for young children to explore. It was built out of hundreds of decorated children’s books by Nathan Noson, a University of Iowa Civil Engineering graduate student. The Nook was finished and painted by Iowa City artist Dianne Worthington and her woodworker son, Eric Worthington. We know families will enjoy the Nook for years to come. The Book Nook will debut on April 1.

Every day is Earth Day
Kids can catch the Iowa City bag at the Library in April. A display will include “Worm Wrangling” and demonstrate how kids can make “garden gold” from kitchen scraps. On Earth Day (April 22), preschoolers can join a giant Garbage Monster puppet and Iowa City’s Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Jordan, for a fun recycling relay. On April 24, families can help Mother Earth and wrangle worms with Rosanne Minion, create a prism garden, and munch on worm dirt cake. On April 30, 35 school-age kids can take part in a “Pasta Garden” workshop with New haven Preschool’s Karen Koepke. They’ll get down and dirty and plant their own colorful garden that’s good enough to eat Pre-registration for this event starts April 9.

Conferences for 3rd-6th Graders
2-4 p.m. April 10, Meeting Room A
Help celebrate National Poetry Month and creativity at this fun event. Children’s Librarian Katharine Hidicky will lead the workshop and participants will be given poetry prompts to get them started while poetic styles are discussed. Kids can read their poetry aloud if they choose and workshop materials plus refreshments will be provided. Registration is limited. To register, call 356-3500, ext. 6, or stop by the Children’s Desk.

Poetry Workshop for 3rd-6th Graders
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Call for altered books artists
Emilies are welcome for the Fourth Annual Altered Books Show and Sale, sponsored by the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation as a fundraiser for the Iowa City Public Library. Interested artists may pick up an entry form at the Library, or online at icpl.org/support. Altered Books Show and Sale will be held in early June in conjunction with the Iowa Art Festival. For additional information, e-mail development@icpl.org or call Perry McCarthy, Library Development Director, 319-356-3249.

Sowing Seeds: Year of the Earth
Located in the Children’s Room on April 1. A display will include “Worm Wrangling,” “An Ocean In Iowa”) will read from their poetry aloud if they choose and poetic styles are discussed. Kids can read their poetry aloud if they choose and workshop materials plus refreshments will be provided. Registration is limited. To register, call 356-3500, ext. 6, or stop by the Children’s Desk.

Surveys results help guide strategic plan
“The strategic plan is an important tool that determines priorities and guides the design and delivery of Library services.”
– Library Director Susan Craig
Every five years or so the Library updates its strategic plan. The Library Board is currently in the midst of a planning process that began with a community survey in the fall, followed by a survey of Library and Library Web site users. In December, a planning facilitator met with the Library Board and staff. The Board has determined one goal to be maintaining an innovative and flexible organization that provides good service. “Lifelong learning and literature are core values and everyone should have good access and know what the Library has to offer,” said Craig. The survey results were very positive. Nearly three-fourths of residents in Iowa City and ICPL service areas (University Heights, Hills, and rural Johnson County) have visited the Library in the past year, and 83% of the respondents rate the Library as good or excellent. They also consider the Library an essential City service.

Cone of Literature

For more information, visit http://www.iowacitylibrary.org

Top eBooks

Top eAudio

Do you download?
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For more information, visit www.icpl.org/ebooks