

## Library building, collection use reach all-time highs

**F**or a decade or more people have been saying libraries are no longer needed, everything is or will be online, a physical space for a library is not necessary. And yet, across the country and the state, library use continues to grow. The Iowa City Public Library adds to that story.

Use of the Library building and collections reached all-time highs – more than 768,000 people visited the Library and 1,570,865 items were borrowed or downloaded in Fiscal Year 2011.

Highlights for the year included completing a facilities needs study, working with the University of Iowa to provide student and faculty access to children's literature, expanding children's outreach programming, offering video streaming, increasing access to electronic collections, improving customer service, and beginning a staff reorganization.

### E-Collections & Content

The most dramatic story of the year is the growing popularity of electronic collections. eBooks saw circulation increases of almost 500 percent.

"Interest is expected to continue to increase, especially with the growing number of devices that support eBooks," said Library Director Susan Craig.

By the end of the year, about 600 people had electronic materials checked out on the average day, up from just over 200 per day at the beginning of the year.

*see Annual Report, continued inside*



*Children's outreach programs were expanded, and programming was increased by 124% this year. For more on children's outreach, see pg. 3.*

## What it means to be free

**B**en Stone says that what we're witnessing in our government today is a profound misunderstanding of the role of individual liberty in our society.

"Many people seem to think individual liberty means they don't have to be bothered with their fellow human beings, that having this means you can disregard the social contract and insist on kind of a belligerent attitude," said Stone. "I think what people seem to think is that being free means not having to contribute anything to the greater society. That's really not what individual freedom is."

Stone, the Executive Director of the Iowa American Civil Liberties Union, hopes to bring greater understanding of how the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court shape and reflect civil society in his presentation, "What's the Bill If We Don't Get It Right? Individual Freedom and the Constitution." It is the second in a series of eight monthly community conversations being co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County and the Iowa City Public Library.

Stone's talk is just one event planned as part of the 2011 Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival. Other highlights include a documentary film created by ICPL staff about intellectual freedom, a children's storytime about banned books, and a discussion of the 2011 One Community, One Book Johnson County Reads book, "Zeitoun".

In 1995, the Library established the annual festival to honor Spaziani's 26-year career at ICPL and life-long commitment to the freedom of ideas. Spaziani believes the public library's role is to be a resource and a forum for an individual's pursuit and expression of diverse points of view.

"Individual rights are about people's thought, freedom of belief, right to privacy, right to fairness if you're accused of a crime, right to petition the government. It is not about freedom to ignore your responsibilities as a citizen in a democracy," said Stone. "Taxation doesn't really have much of a role. You don't have the right to not be taxed. It's just not in the Constitution."

***The Intellectual Freedom Festival kicks off Sept. 16, continues during Banned Books Week from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1, and includes events through Oct. 11 at ICPL. For more information, call the Fiction Desk at 319-356-5200, option 4. For a complete schedule, visit <http://newsroom.icpl.org/>.***



**Ben Stone**

7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 11  
Meeting Room A, ICPL

**"What's the Bill If We Don't Get It Right? Individual Freedom and the Constitution"**

*with guest speaker Ben Stone, Executive Director of the Iowa ACLU*

Part of a free series co-sponsored by ICPL and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, entitled, "The U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court: How They Impact Your Daily Life."



### One Community, One Book

One Community, One Book is an annual community-wide reading project coordinated by the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights. **Join ICPL staff at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in Meeting Room B for a discussion of "Zeitoun" by Dave Eggers**, the 2011 selection. "Zeitoun" is the true story of one family caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. The discussion is co-sponsored by the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center and is part of ICPL's Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival.



## Give the gift of reading

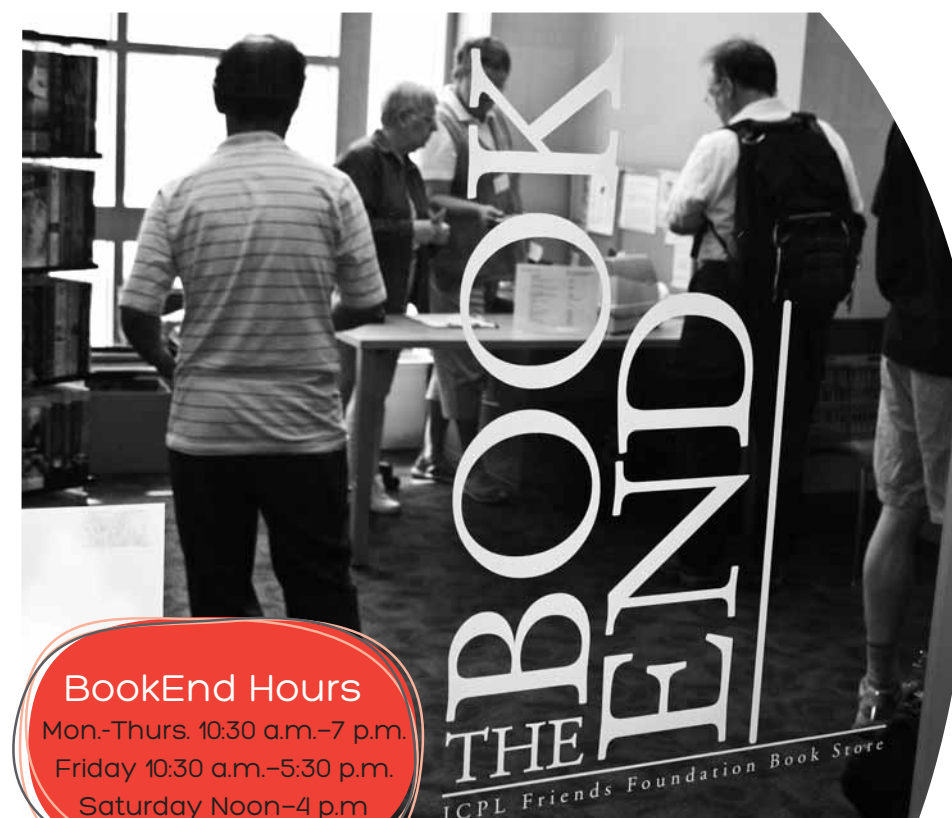
"We're visiting our grandchildren who insisted we come in to see 'their' library. Now we know why. We are amazed by everything, and especially the Children's Room. Our library in California is nothing like this," said a note included with a cash contribution left in the donation box across from the Fiction Desk. That donation bought books last year that would not have been purchased otherwise. Giving is easy. Here's how:



- **Scan this QR code** to give. \$25 adds two more children's books. \$40 brings two fiction books. \$65 buys an audio book for the collection. \$100 supports 40 prize books for the Children's Summer Reading Program. \$300 sponsors a performance during Popo's Puppet Festival.

- **Online:** Visit our secure site to use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express at [www.icpl.org/support/donate](http://www.icpl.org/support/donate)
- **Payroll Deduction:** Give through Iowa Shares if you work for University of Iowa, City of Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa City Community School District and other employers.
- **Mail a Donation:** Payable to ICPL Friends Foundation. Send to Development Office, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, IA 52240.
- **Bring a Donation to the Development Office** on the Library's second floor, weekdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.
- **Deposit in Donation Box** across from the Fiction Desk. Envelopes available. Checks will be acknowledged as a charitable contribution to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation.

Questions? Contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, 319-356-5249, [pmccarthy@icpl.org](mailto:pmccarthy@icpl.org).



### BookEnd Hours

Mon-Thurs. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday Noon-4 p.m.

## Shop The BookEnd

When the number of "holds" on the newest Janet Evanovich mystery is no longer in the double digits, and the Library needs to clear multiple copies from the shelves to make room for the next best-seller, books usually end up in The BookEnd. It's the used bookstore of the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation located on the second floor of the Library.

The store is staffed by more than 40 dedicated volunteers who sell books, DVDs, and music CDs donated by the public and the Library at bargain prices. Volunteer Al Paxton says the best things about The BookEnd are "exposure to very nice customers, great books and CDs, and the opportunity to be my own best customer from time to time." BookEnd volunteers also plan and help during at least one annual book sale in the Library meeting rooms.

Last year, the store brought in more than \$28,000 from some 15,000 sales of more than 18,000 items. That's an amazing number considering the store's prices start at 25¢ for children's books and go up to \$3, or possibly \$5 for a book autographed by its author. Proceeds from The BookEnd support the Library's Children's Summer Reading Program, Teen Summer Reading Program, the Art Purchase Prize for the Art-to-Go program, and additions to the Library collection.

Donations of gently used books, DVDs, and CDs are welcomed and accepted at the store when it is open, or at the Library's Fiction Desk.

If you are interested in becoming a BookEnd volunteer, find an application at <http://www.icpl.org/work/>.



## Annual Report, continued from front page

### By The Numbers

Last year records were set for people entering the building and number of items borrowed or downloaded. Meeting room use remains near the all-time high set last year at more than 2,200 non-Library meetings booked. Use of electronic databases increased by more than 50 percent and downloadable media use increased by more than 100 percent in FY11.

The Library contracted to provide access to children's literature materials for students and faculty of the University of Iowa's College of Education and School of Library and Information Science following the closing of their Curriculum Laboratory. This brought new users to the Children's Room. Funding from the contract provided an increase in hours for two part-time staff. The extra hours resulted in an increase from 133 children's outreach programs in FY10 to 327 in FY11.

The number of questions asked at both the Children's and the Reference Desks increased, and the use of Reference Chat service at the Reference Desk is up 66 percent.

### Partnerships

ICPL celebrated one of its oldest continual partnerships in February. Hills Bank and Trust Company was recognized for supporting the Begin with Books program for 20 years. Hills Bank and Trust Company has provided 2,500 books and reading kits annually to parents of newborns at Iowa City hospitals since the program began.

ICPL's partnership with the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature continued and took on a new look this year – a BIG book look. In June, the BookMarks project debuted more than 20 statues by Midwest artists. BookMarks is a joint public art project of the City of Literature and the public libraries of Coralville, Iowa City and North Liberty. The statues will remain on display through October and then be auctioned as a fundraiser.

ICPL staff once again planned Children's Day at the Iowa Arts Festival and contributed to the Iowa City Book Festival. Other partners included Orchestra Iowa, Therapy Dogs of Johnson County, Englert Theatre, Iowa Public Television, Johnson County Livable Community, Prairie Lights, Iowa City Hospice, and Friends of Historic Preservation.

### Customer Service

"Several significant changes were made this year with the goal of making things easier for our customers," said Craig.

Staff at all service desks were trained to update expiration dates on library card accounts. Previously, patrons with an expired card were directed to the Circulation Desk. Now they can receive help at the closest desk. Training for staff also focused on supporting users with electronic devices that download books. Renewals of Library materials were improved by allowing a second renewal on non-new three-week materials, and, for the first time, offering the option to renew seven-day items.

In January, an Express Internet Kiosk station was introduced near the Fiction Desk on the first floor. This provides short sessions and no library card is needed. More Express stations are planned in the coming year. In the spring, a fifth self-checkout station was added in the Children's Room, just in time for the busy summer season.

### Staff Reorganization

A new organizational chart was introduced that changes the names and responsibilities of some of the Library's departments and creates cross-departmental teams to work on programming, public relations and marketing, selection, technology, customer service and staff development.

In anticipation of combining support at the Circulation and Fiction Desks into one new Help Desk, some staff have started to cross-train. More people will work in multiple departments and be trained to move easily between service points. Come rediscover all your Library has to offer this year, and look for other new initiatives coming this fall, including improved access to public computers at a new remote location convenient for residents of southeastern Iowa City.



ICPL's Pepperwood Plaza Public Computer Access Site will offer southeast Iowa City a convenient location for computer use starting in October.



## Author Visits

Prairie Lights and the Iowa City Public Library will co-sponsor a visit from bestselling author Neal Stephenson at **7 p.m. Sept. 29**, and a visit from one of the most critically-acclaimed cartoonists of his generation, Craig Thompson, at **2 p.m. Sept. 25**, both in Meeting Room A at ICPL.

Stephenson will read from "Reamde," a breathtaking tale of a wealthy tech entrepreneur caught in the very real crossfire of his own online fantasy war game. Thompson will read from "Habibi," a graphic novel of the tale of Dodola and Zam, refugee child slaves bound to each other by chance, circumstance, and the love that grows between them. Both authors will sign books after the readings. For more information on these and other events for adults, visit <http://newsroom.icpl.org>.

## Teen Game Fest

Teens in Grades 7-12 are invited to join us for our first ever ICPL Game Fest, featuring:

- Open play on Playstation 3, Wii and Xbox 360!
- Magic the Gathering free play (Be sure to bring your deck!)
- All the geeky board games you can handle!
- Pizza and pop!

### Teen Game Festival

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 8  
Meeting Room A, ICPL

The always popular Teen Tech Zone will be held on Thursdays and Saturdays, and a Teen Chess Tournament will take place on Nov. 20. Find out more about upcoming events for teens by visiting <http://teens.icpl.org/> or <http://newsroom.icpl.org/>.



### Popo's Puppet Festival

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 29  
Meeting Room A, ICPL

## Spotlight on the Collection

## Puppetry takes center stage

The Iowa City Public Library has long encouraged the wonderful art of puppetry. Since back in the days of the Carnegie building, the Library has offered puppets for children to check out and live puppet shows. These include performances by the Kidspectacular drama group and shows about Popo the Puppet and Magic Dave. For 20-plus years, ICPL has hosted the annual Popo's Puppet Fest with professional puppet troupes from the Midwest and local puppeteers.

This year's Popo's Puppet Festival will feature three special performances on Saturday, Oct. 29. Liz Schachterle, a professional puppeteer and theatre artist from Minneapolis, will perform her "Three Vignettes" show, featuring a shadow puppet show called "An Afternoon Nap," a performance of "Bony Legs" by local puppeteer Buffy Quintero, and a third show to be announced. Popo, the star of the festival, will appear with Magic Dave in "Popo's Spooky Fun" featuring Deanne Wortman and Dave Panther. And the Library's own Kidspectacular drama group will perform "Shiver Me Timbers: a Pirate Tale" followed by make and take home puppetry crafts. The event is free and open to all ages.

Interested in learning more? ICPL offers great puppetry resources. These include books for all ages on how to create puppets or shows plus hand puppets to check out. Children's Services staff also encourage families to use the Storytime Room's puppet theatre to create their own shows. And, for fourth- to sixth-graders who enjoy acting, a weekly Kidspectacular youth club is offered for children to learn puppetry and creative drama.



For more information, contact Debbie Dunn at 319-887-6028 or [ddunn@icpl.org](mailto:ddunn@icpl.org).



## New Express Check in Children's Room

Did you know there is a new Express Check in the Children's Room? While the children play with the toys or the train set, the grown-ups can take care of business at the new self-check station by the Children's Desk. In addition to checking out library materials, patrons can renew items or check to see if any holds are ready for pickup. Blocked by fines? Pay fines at any Express Check with a VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card. And as always, if you prefer the personal touch, staff is standing by to help you at the Checkout desk with these tasks.

## Get your card today

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month in September and apply for an Iowa City Public Library borrower card. There is no charge for your first card, and most area residents qualify. If you live in Iowa City, rural Johnson County, or the cities of Hills or University Heights, you will receive a Resident Card that entitles you to full services at the Library.

If you do not have a library card yet, you can register at [www.alec.icpl.org](http://www.alec.icpl.org) or in person at the Cards Desk anytime the Library is open. To get a card, you need to show a photo ID and proof of your residence address. Acceptable ways to show address are a current driver's license, voter registration card, lease, or a piece of mail that was post-marked within the last month.

Children may get a card when their address is verified with a parent's or guardian's identification. There is no age requirement for library cards.

Did you know?

## Reaching out to children in the community

Some of the free outreach programs and services available to kids:

- **Nearly 40 preschools and daycares** are visited by Katherine Habley, Karen Gordon and Nancy Holland. Children at these sites enjoy stories and activities with ICPL's outreach staff. Each fall, all the sites are sent information on how to schedule 30-minute storytimes at their location.
- **Pheasant Ridge and the Broadway Street Neighborhood Centers** have libraries in their lobbies with large collections of children's books. Children's books are also located at 4Cs Community Coordinated Child Care, the Shelter House, DVIP, the Department of Public Health, DHS, and Mercer Aquatic Center (during the summer). A small budget is allocated for the purchase of new children's books for both neighborhood center libraries.
- **Stories in the Park** are offered for eight weeks during the summer in partnership with Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. Storytimes for 3- to 6-year-olds are held at Willow Creek Park and at Mercer Park. This summer, ICPL outreach staff presented storytimes about eight countries as a part of the 2011 Summer Reading Program theme, "One World, Many Stories."
- **Kindergarten Visits** are scheduled every May with all Iowa City elementary schools. Children's Department staff talk with each class of kindergarteners about the importance of getting their own library card, share a couple of picture books or stories, and encourage children to read over the summer and join the Summer Reading Program.

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Children's Librarian Katherine Habley oversees the many ways young patrons who can't get to the downtown library can still have access to books and programs. For more information, contact Habley at 319-887-6029, [khabley@icpl.org](mailto:khabley@icpl.org), or visit <http://icpl.org/kids/outreach.php>.

## holiday hours

Monday, September 5, 2011	Labor Day	Closed
Friday, November 11, 2011	Veterans Day	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday, November 23, 2011	Thanksgiving Eve	10 am - 5 pm
Thursday, November 24, 2011	Thanksgiving	Closed
Friday, November 25, 2011	City Holiday	10 am - 6 pm
Friday, December 9, 2011	Staff Inservice	Closed
Saturday, December 24, 2011	Christmas Eve	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, December 25, 2011	Christmas Day	Closed
Monday, December 26, 2011	City Holiday	Closed
Saturday, December 31, 2011	New Year's Eve	10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, January 1, 2012	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday, January 2, 2012	City Holiday	10 am - 6 pm
Monday, January 16, 2012	ML King Jr. Day	10 am - 6 pm

The Window  
Fall/Winter 2011

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Brad Gehrke, Facilities Services  
Heidi Lauritzen, Access Services  
Kara Logsdon, Community Services  
Patty McCarthy, Development Office

Elyse Miller, Administrative Services  
Hal Penick, Information Technology

Library Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 10 am - 9 pm  
Friday 10 am - 8 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday Noon - 5 pm

Contact us  
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Iowa City, IA 52240-1820

Phone 319.356.5200  
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[www.icpl.org](http://www.icpl.org)



BookMarks™ statues awards, auction date announced



From the excited squeal of the child who just read his name on the gigantic book statue inside the Iowa City Public Library, to the breathless “OMG, I’m here in Iowa City and just walked by these two huge painted books, and they’re so cool, and I’m sending you pictures,” overheard during a young woman’s cell phone conversation, everyone’s talking about BookMarks™ Book Art of Johnson County.

The BookMarks are the result of a one-of-a-kind, and believed to be first in the world, book-themed public art display. It is a partnership between the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, Coralville Public Library, Iowa City Public Library, North Liberty Community Library, local sponsors, and artists from throughout the Midwest who created the 28 statues. You can tour all of them until late Octo-

ber. A guide map is available at the public libraries, or downloadable at <http://bookmarksiowa.org/>.

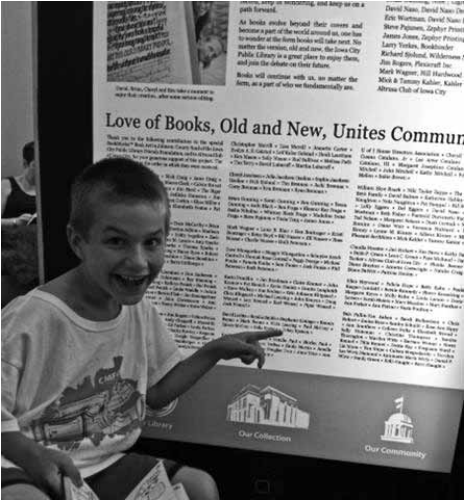
Each of the statues sports a plaque announcing its title, artist and sponsor. Two BookMarks have an additional plaque because they are the People’s Choice Award Winner and Runner-up. During online People’s Choice Award voting hosted by the Iowa City Press-Citizen this summer, nearly 5,600 votes were received. Moby Dick, created by artist John Demory of Iowa City, and sponsored by the City of Iowa City, came out on top with 2,095 votes. The runner-up was Treasure Island, located on City Plaza in downtown Iowa City. Treasure Island was created by Iowa City artist Tam Bodkin Bryk, for sponsor Hands Jewelers.

Each of the statues completed during the time of the balloting received votes

in the unique competition hosted by the Iowa City Press-Citizen. Patrick Riepe, Online News Editor, said, “The Press-Citizen has been a proud supporter of Iowa City’s designation as a City of Literature, and especially proud of our support of some of our area’s greatest assets - our public libraries. It has been a joy for us to take part in this project as the media sponsor as well as operating the People’s Choice voting.”

Everyone is invited to the public auction of many of the statues. Mark your calendar for the evening of Thursday, Nov. 10, at the new Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, to bid on the one you just love, or the one that you and a group want to purchase for one of our local schools. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and the public libraries

of Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty. Additional auction information will be available later in the fall at [icpl.org](http://icpl.org).



Tobey Epstein is delighted to find his name.



Carol Bodensteiner  
2 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 26  
Meeting Room A, ICPL

Free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale. Bodensteiner will autograph "Growing up Country" at the end of the program.

Reading helps residents reminisce

Carol Bodensteiner, who grew up on an Iowa dairy farm, writes about country hospitality, the county fair, milking cows, house chores, and other topics that resonate with people who grew up and live in the Midwest.

Recently, volunteer readers have been sharing Bodensteiner’s book, “Growing Up Country: Memories of an Iowa Farm Girl,” and leading discussions about childhood memories at 11 area retirement residences and care centers.

These discussions are part of a program Iowa City Hospice and the Iowa City Public Library have partnered on for the past three years. Volunteers read books aloud and then lead discussion intended to stimulate memories. So far this year, 14 volunteers have contributed more than 100 volunteer hours reading to more than 360 people.

- The goals of the reading program are to:
- Make meaningful connections
  - Help people reminisce
  - Provide companionship and stimulation
- As a part of this series, ICPL will host Bodensteiner for an author visit on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Meeting Room A. Bodensteiner will discuss her book and invite participants to share their story of growing up in Iowa. She will also

talk about how she came to write the stories and will read short selections from the book.

June Braverman, a volunteer reader who proposed the program said, “We look forward to the opportunity to meet Carol Bodensteiner and talk about how her stories resonate with the people who attend the readings and discussions.”

For more information, call the Fiction Desk at 319-356-5200, option 4.

“ I pulled out a magazine-it was dated October 1968. At first, Bob didn’t seem interested and stood up. Then, I turned the page to pictures of different pickup trucks. Bob sat back down and looked at the pictures while I read the captions. Then, he turned to me and said, ‘I had a pickup just like that one.’ He had a smile on his face. We had made a meaningful connection. ”

– An Iowa City Hospice Volunteer

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