The Iowa City Public Library will continue to work to CONNECT, ENGAGE, and ENRICH the community under the priorities of a new strategic plan that is scheduled for final Board approval in September.

The plan will cover the Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021, with the following mission statement: The Iowa City Public Library is a center of community life that connects people of all ages with information, engages them with the world of ideas and with each other, and enriches the community by supporting learning, promoting literacy, and encouraging creativity.

The strategic plan is the result of months of data gathering, data analysis, and community conversations. Thank you to everyone who responded to surveys and/or participated in focus groups.

Watch for more details on the future Iowa City Public Library strategic plan.
You also can apply for a card in person. Stop by the Help Desk any time the Library is open. You will need photo identification and proof of your residence address.

Children’s cards: Children of all ages may have a library card. For children 12 and under, a parent/guardian must be present when the card is issued. Because we value confidentiality, access to information on children’s accounts is only available if the child is present or if the parent has the child’s library card.

University of Iowa 2014 Homecoming
Be on the lookout for the ICPL Book Cart Drill Team and Bookman at the Homecoming Parade Friday, October 10.
Every contribution has a positive impact on your Iowa City Public Library! Thank you for giving as generously as you can to ensure the Library’s continued success.

**Giving is easy**

**Online** - Visit our secure site to donate using your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express cards [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 local public and private employers.

**Check or Credit Card** - Use the form below. Mail to ICPL Development Office, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

**Questions?** Contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, 319-356-5249, patty-mccarthy@icpl.org

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**Celebrate Intellectual Freedom at ICPL**

The Intellectual Freedom Festival is an annual event that affirms everyone’s right to freedom of thought and expression. This year’s Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival will be held Sept. 21 through Sept. 27.

This year’s event feature documentary screenings including *Dixie Chicks: Shut Up and Sing*; presentations on censorship; a read aloud of banned poetry; and a social media safety computer class.

All programs are free and open to the public. For a complete listing of events, visit [www.icpl.org/iff](http://www.icpl.org/iff)
FY 2014 Annual Report

The Library’s 2014 fiscal year ended June 30, and the numbers show another busy year.

Many positive comments have been received about the completion of the Library’s “facelift,” a two-year project to make improvements throughout the building.

The Koza Family Teen Center on the second floor attracted many new teens to programming and other events just for them. If you or family members are in 7th through 12th grades, be sure to stop by during special after-school hours to check out what’s happening.

The renovation project also saw improvements in the Ellen Buchanan Children’s Room where child-oriented technology advancements – including our Library’s first interactive touch table – were provided. We thank local software developers who created innovative software for the table. Their work continues this year in an effort to keep the Library’s young patrons learning while playing.

The improvements made possible by the remodeling project would not have been so significant without your generous charitable contributions. Thank you for your increased support of two fundraising events. Donations topped $17,000 for the second annual Library Links Golf Classic and the Arts & Crafts Bazaar.

The importance of summer reading programs is receiving new attention both nationally and locally. Our community responded with record participation by all ages—babies, children, teens, and adults. For the first time, we partnered with two other libraries that serve students in the Iowa City Community School District, Coralville and North Liberty, to track registrations by school. A grant from the United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties enabled us to provide weekly programming at Iowa City Neighborhood Centers this summer.

The use of library collections remains strong. Although circulation of some traditional collections is down, electronic collections saw an 18 percent increase. Many people know what they want and appreciate the convenience of placing holds electronically anytime. This corresponded to a 15 percent increase in reserves.

The complete annual report is available at www.icpl.org/annual-report/
ICPL Introduces Redesigned Website

In June, the Iowa City Public Library updated its website to incorporate responsive web design. Responsive web design enables the best viewing experience across a range of devices.

“Part of our long-term strategic plan was to make improvements to the Website that’s easier to navigate from both a Desktop computer and mobile devices,” says Brent Palmer, the Library’s Information Technology Coordinator. “We also wanted to make our website more dynamic.”

Visit the Library’s new website at www.icpl.org.

Library Debuts Podcast

The Iowa City Public Library’s newest podcast, On Air: The ICPL Podcast, is available to download at www.icpl.org/podcast.

On Air: The ICPL Podcast features Library staff discussing the Library’s collections in a casual conversation. It’s now available with other podcasts, including One of a Kind and Tell Me Your Story.

One of a Kind is a series of interviews, 1993-present, with Iowa City community leaders. One of a Kind is produced and hosted by Ellen Buchanan especially for the Library.

Tell Me Your Story is a series of forty interviews, taped in 1989 through 1992, with people who have made a difference in the life of Iowa City. This program was also produced and hosted by Ellen Buchanan.

Welcome New Board Member

David Hamilton joined the Library Board of Trustees on April 1, 2014, and will complete the term vacated when Mark Edwards resigned. His term will expire on June 30, 2015.

Hamilton is a retired Professor of English at the University of Iowa. He has lived in Iowa City nearly 40 years.
It’s the first thing you see on the Library’s second floor, the glow of the illuminated INFO sign beckoning you closer: ICPL’s Reference Desk.

Staffing this station is a team of individuals ready to answer questions, help find a book, provide assistance with the computers and… well, it depends on the day.

“We may not always know the answer, but we can get you started at finding it,” Clark says. “Or we may not have the exact resource, but chances are we know where patrons need to go for help or who they need to call.”

Too few people know it’s OK to go to the Reference Desk and ask for help,

“A typical day doesn’t exist,” says Maeve Clark, coordinator of Adult Services, the department that staffs the Reference Desk.

Mornings may begin the same – Librarians respond to patron requests that arrived overnight, be it a request for information or an interlibrary loan – but anything goes once the doors open.

From teaching the public how to research their genealogy to helping patrons use the latest technology, the Reference Desk is your one-stop place for information. Staff at this desk are trained to locate the answer to any question, or point you in the right direction.

Sometimes Reference Desk staff research questions long after finding a satisfactory answer. Some of these stories can be found on the Library’s blog, 123 South Linn, under the From the Reference Desk category.

“People are so appreciative when we are able to find something for them – even when we can’t help,” Reference Librarian Heidi Lauritzen says. “They appreciate the effort.”

Of course, finding the answer is the ultimate goal – not only for the patron, but for the staff.

“It’s a great job for anyone who’s curious,” says Beth Fisher, Adult Programming Librarian. “When someone asks a question, suddenly I want to know the answer, too.”

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“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one.”

— Neil Gaiman

DID YOU KNOW?
The Library has access to more than 50 databases, including:

Mango Languages – online language learning courses.

Learning Express – a catalog of practice tests and tutorial courses including GRE, ACT, SAT and others.

Value Line – provides investment research.

ASK A LIBRARIAN
Librarians can provide quick answers to short questions, or direct your research for longer questions. Trained staff can help you use a wide variety or reference materials, both print and electronic.

Questions can be asked in person at the Library’s second floor Reference Desk.

ONLINE - www.icpl.org/ask/
E-MAIL - refquest@icpl.org
CALL - (319) 356-5200
(when the Library is open)

Staff strive to answer questions within 24 hours.
Iowa City celebrates books and literature in October

The Iowa City Public Library is one of many sponsors of the Iowa City Book Festival, Oct. 2 through Oct. 5.

Now in its sixth year, the annual celebration of books and writing leverages the unique mix of local resources that helped Iowa City earn the UNESCO City of Literature designation.

This year’s festival kicks off on Thursday, Oct. 2, with a free event featuring crime novelist James Ellroy in conversation with fellow novelist Craig McDonald. Other event highlights include:

**Saturday, October 4:** A full day of programming that includes readings, panel discussions and demonstrations related to writing and book arts. Events are held at venues around downtown Iowa City, including the Library and the Old Capitol on the University of Iowa campus.

**Sunday, October 5:** Jane Smiley will read from her new novel, *Some Luck*, to start the annual “Day in the City of Literature.” Today also will feature readings and activities at more than two dozen businesses and locations throughout the Iowa City area.

For more information about the Iowa City Book Festival and a complete schedule of festival events, visit [www.iowacitybookfestival.org](http://www.iowacitybookfestival.org).

**Annual Kids Chess Tournament Scheduled for November 15**

The Iowa City Public Library Annual Kids Chess Tournament saw record participation numbers in 2013.

“We had 80 kids register to play last year,” Children’s Librarian Katherine Habley says. “It was amazing.”

The 2014 Annual Kids Chess Tournament will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Library. This free event is available to students in third through sixth grades.

Younger children may participate if they are a member of the United States Chess Federation.

The tournament is funded by the Steve Young Memorial Fund.

More information about the tournament, including registration details, will be on the Library’s website closer to the event date.
Donations now being accepted.

shop the arts and crafts bazaar

December 6, 10-3

www.icpl.org/artsandcrafts