HELPING OUR LIBRARY SOAR

Katie Roche, Development Director
Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation

Our community has a long history of supporting the Iowa City Public Library. Whether it’s breaking records for seasonal reading program sign-ups, the number of materials circulated, or the number of Library cards in use, our curious, engaged, and literary community consistently demonstrates that they value intellectual freedom and access through strong participation in the community-building power of our public library. With about 120 people through our doors every hour, we should all feel a sense of pride that the Library is one of our most robust and active public services. With outreach services engaging people in neighborhoods throughout the community, we continue to adapt and offer new and improved programs and services to people of all ages and backgrounds, meeting Library users where they live, work, learn and play.

LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION ACCESS AND PUBLISHER PRICING

Anne Mangano, Collection Services Coordinator

Have you wondered why there are shockingly long waits for the newest digital titles or why we may not have that popular title from several years ago? There’s a reason for this: digital collections are extraordinarily expensive.

Let’s start with “metered access.” Most publishers use the “metered access” lending model for eBooks. The Library purchases access to one digital copy of a specific title for either a specific length of time (one to two years) or a specific number of uses. After we’ve reached the determined threshold, we lose rights to the title and must repurchase access.

DONATE AND BUY USED BOOKS AT THE BOOK END

Amber Capps, Library Assistant
Iowa City Public Library

Did you know that there is a used book store on the second floor of the Iowa City Public Library? The Book End, one of Iowa City’s best kept secrets, sells gently used fiction, general nonfiction, cookbooks, poetry, history, biographies, young adult and children’s books, as well as puzzles, vinyl records, DVDs and audiobooks on CD. Keep an eye out for book bundles including eight or more copies of the same book for only $5 to $10, perfect for local book clubs looking to stock up. The Book End also supports The Book Nook on the first floor — a pay-what-you-can display open during Library hours.
Dear Friends,

Thirty-one years ago, the two distinct organizations—the Iowa City Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library—joined forces to establish the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. The uniting of these groups brought together a powerful team of library supporters dedicated to advocating for the library and raising funds to enhance library services. Over the years, the legacy of support ICPL has received from the Friends Foundation has touched nearly everything we do; it is not possible to overstate the profound impact their work has had on ICPL.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Friends Foundation is that there are many ways to be involved. Whether volunteering time or making a financial gift to attend a Friends Foundation event, the approachable, skilled staff in the Development Office are ready to talk through options with you. If you are new to volunteering or making financial gifts, Katie, Amber, and Indya can help you understand the process and answer all your questions.

Another great way to support ICPL is simply to use library services. Check out materials, access digital resources, come into the Downtown Library or visit the bookmobile, or participate in programming. We are here for you, and your use demonstrates the value of ICPL in the community in a tangible way. We look forward to serving you soon!

Thank you for joining me in celebrating this milestone anniversary of the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation.

With gratitude,

Elsworth Carman, ICPL Director
As each year goes by, the costs of keeping any title are compounded. For example, after initially purchasing Amor Towles’ popular novel, “The Lincoln Highway,” in 2021, we had to repurchase it in October 2023 to keep it in our digital collection. We will have to repurchase it in 2025 and 2027. Having to continually buy new titles and discard the majority of our backlist titles leads us to decide not to repurchase titles that are actively used, simply because we cannot afford them. We also need to balance this repurchasing with the addition of new releases and lower wait times.

Titles also start out pricey. In addition to repurchasing, licenses are expensive, unlike the options available to consumers. For example, you can purchase the eBook version of “The Lincoln Highway” for $12.99, but the Library pays $55.00 for a two-year license. This price only covers access to a single copy of the title; we pay an additional hefty yearly fee to OverDrive to administer the lending. And, while eBooks are expensive, audiobooks are often twice the price.

Consumer and library price differences do not exist in physical formats, or if they do, it is largely to a library’s advantage. We negotiate discounts, and the more we purchase overall, the lower our costs per title. However, we are unable to negotiate pricing on digital collections. Pricing — set by the publishers — is fixed across all library digital vendors.

We need fair and manageable digital pricing for libraries. Public libraries are unable to access the same digital pricing, and in some cases, the same digital content, as consumers. This situation strains the Library’s budget and impedes our ability to provide a tried and true library service: access to collections. These unsustainable costs result in long wait times, less title variety, and the inability for us to maintain a collection our community deserves.

Don’t miss out on the fun – join us from Dec. 16 to Feb. 16 at icpl.org/wrp and warm up your winter with great reads and rewards!

Recently, the Book End added ICPL-branded tote bags, tees, baby onesies and stickers to our inventory so that you can promote your love of the Library wherever you go!

Check out supporticpl.org/book-sales to learn more about donation guidelines, upcoming book sales, store hours and more!

and a great way to replenish your Little Free Library or home library.

The materials available at The Book End include donations from the public and discards from the Library. The Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation enriches our community by distributing donations to local fundraisers, complimentary gift certificates as prizes for school fairs, and other partnerships that increase access and literacy. Any materials sold at The Book End, The Book Nook, or through our annual book sales benefit the Library and help the ICPL Friends Foundation grant funds in support of Library collections, staff learning, technology upgrades, and free public programs.

Donate, Buy Used Books at The Book End, continued from front page
Gracious contributions from the friends of the Iowa City Public Library made a difference for thousands of people.

The special gifts of money, books, movies, music, and other items were received from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023) by the Iowa City Public Library Friends. Please visit us at development@icpl.org or 319-356-5249 with any questions. Thank you for sharing your love with our wonderful generosity.

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- We have spoken with one another about the ICPL Friends. Without your support we would not have the resources needed to continue to provide services to our community. We are grateful for the continued support of our donors. Please visit us at development@icpl.org to learn more about supporting the ICPL Friends. If you wish to contact us, please contact our office by emailing development@icpl.org. We’re happy to assist you! We are grateful for the continued support of our donors. Please visit us at development@icpl.org to learn more about supporting the ICPL Friends. If you wish to contact us, please contact our office by emailing development@icpl.org. We’re happy to assist you!
Your Gifts Grow ICPL
Give everyone great library experiences with your financial donation to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. Every donated dollar makes a difference. Thank you for giving as generously as you can!

Giving is Easy!

Online - Visit supportICPL.org to use your credit card for a monthly or one-time donation.

Mail - Deliver or mail this completed form with a check payable to Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) Friends Foundation. Mail to ICPL Development Office, 123 S. Linn St, Iowa City IA 52240-1803.

Text - iclibrary to 366283

Payroll deduction - Employees of the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, The University of Iowa, or other local public and private employers can donate through Iowa Shares by naming "Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation" at bit.ly/IAshares

Enclosed is my/our contribution of $________

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Breaking your gift into smaller monthly donations really adds up! Donate $10 or more a month to join our Reader’s Circle Friend Group! Donate $100 a month to join our Publisher’s Circle.

Questions? Please contact development@icpl.org or call 319-356-5200.