

## 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.

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Katie Roche rides the new Iowa City Climate Action and Outreach and ICPL Book Bike in the 2023 University of Iowa Homecoming Parade. Learn more about the Book Bike at [icpl.org/book-bike](https://icpl.org/book-bike)

## 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.

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## 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

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NEWSLETTER STAFF

Manny Galvez, EDITOR  
Yvonne Jiang, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CONTRIBUTORS:  
Elsworth Carman  
Katie Roche  
Anne Mangano  
Amber Capps  
Stacey McKim

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Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
Saturday 10am - 6pm  
Sunday 12 - 5pm

CONTACT US

123 S. Linn St.  
Iowa City, IA 52240-1820  
PHONE 319.356.5200  
WEBSITE icpl.org  
THE NEW ICPLFF WEBSITE supporticpl.org

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Director's Letter

Elsworth Carman, ICPL Director

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. From volunteering time or making a financial gift to attending 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,

The Book End

The Book End, located on the second floor of the Iowa City Public Library, features gently used books for sale at extremely affordable prices! You're sure to find lots of great reads to take home.

- Hardcover – \$5
- Paperback – \$2
- Young adult – \$1
- Children's books – 25¢

The Book End is staffed entirely by volunteers who love reading and are happy to recommend books or authors for you to enjoy. From fiction and non-fiction to audiobooks and DVDs, there's plenty to explore at The Book End! Stop by and find your next favorite book today!

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Sunday    | 1:00pm – 3:30pm  |
| Monday    | 10:30am – 7:30pm |
| Tuesday   | 10:30am – 4:30pm |
| Wednesday | 10:30am – 7:30pm |
| Thursday  | 10:30am – 4:30pm |
| Friday    | 10:30am – 4:30pm |
| Saturday  | 11:00am – 3:30pm |

**THE BOOK END**  
ICPL Friends Foundation Book Store

Volunteers operate The Book End to benefit ICPL. If volunteers are not available, the store is not open, and you may shop at The Book Nook on the first floor of the Library. Thank you!

Helping our Library Soar, continued from front page

A landmark merger 31 years ago between the Iowa City Public Library Foundation (founded in 1982) and the Friends of the Library (founded in 1974) resulted in a new organization called the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation (ICPLFF) that stood poised to respond to the changing needs of the Library and the greater community. In celebration of three decades of service to our Library, the ICPLFF staff and Board of Directors recently engaged in a strategic planning process to reimagine the impact our organization and supporters could have on the Library, today and into the future. Informing our planning, we recognized that these are historically challenging times.

According to PEN America (<https://bit.ly/pen-america>), censorship of library materials in schools and libraries is at an all-time high with a record number of book challenges and legislation negatively affecting library operations and public education. One particularly impactful piece of legislation passed during the 89th General Assembly in 2023 was HF718, which removed direct allocations of special levy dollars dedicated to libraries. In our community, the Library levy received overwhelming community support when it was voted into place in 1991, with 68% of voters in favor. Those dollars are still being assessed through taxation, but now must be requested by ninety-seven communities, including Iowa City, in order to be allocated to library services.

We are in unprecedented times. We understand clearly that we are in a strong position to motivate the next generation of informed Library users and advocates. The ICPLFF will focus our next three years to that end. Inspired by the words of ICPL Community & Access Services Coordinator, Sam Helmick, we began our work to advocate that, "the best way to support your Library is to use your Library card." From there, we created a new vision statement for our organization, one that strives to invite every member of our community to the table as a Library supporter.

To help members of our community find the best way or combination of ways to support the ICPL, we are proud to announce our first website, **supportICPL.org**, where you can learn more about who we are, what we do and ways to give your time, talent, or treasure in support of one of our most cherished community resources. And because we believe that engaging in advocacy is an important part of civic engagement, we've included resources from the American Library Association and Iowa Library Association where you can learn more about the

legislation and issues facing libraries today and access tools and contact information to energize your advocacy.

**ICPL FRIENDS FOUNDATION VISION STATEMENT**

 [supporticpl.org](https://supporticpl.org)  
scan here for more info!

**To inspire every member of our community to support the Iowa City Public Library as a**

 **Library user**    **Volunteer**    **or Donor.**

Thank you for having a positive impact on the future of the Iowa City Public Library. Whether you are checking out a book, donating used materials to one of our book sales, attending one of the hundreds of free programs, advocating, volunteering, or contributing financially, your support makes our Library a vibrant center of community life. Together, we can maintain future where everyone has access to the resources and experiences they need to learn, grow and thrive.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
craft preparation, cleaning, program assistance, or general office tasks

**COMMUNITY & ACCESS SERVICES**  
welcome desk, collection inspection, sorting, cleaning, or straightening

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**  
Book End store, book sorting, special book sales, or data entry

**TEEN SERVICES**  
straightening, cleaning, tutoring, ideas, programming, outreach, or loans

**VOLUNTEER AT IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY!**  
Adults and teens are welcome to participate in the volunteer program. Each department has a minimum expected time and commitment of attendance. Volunteer opportunities depend on the number of openings and applicant's availability.



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 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.

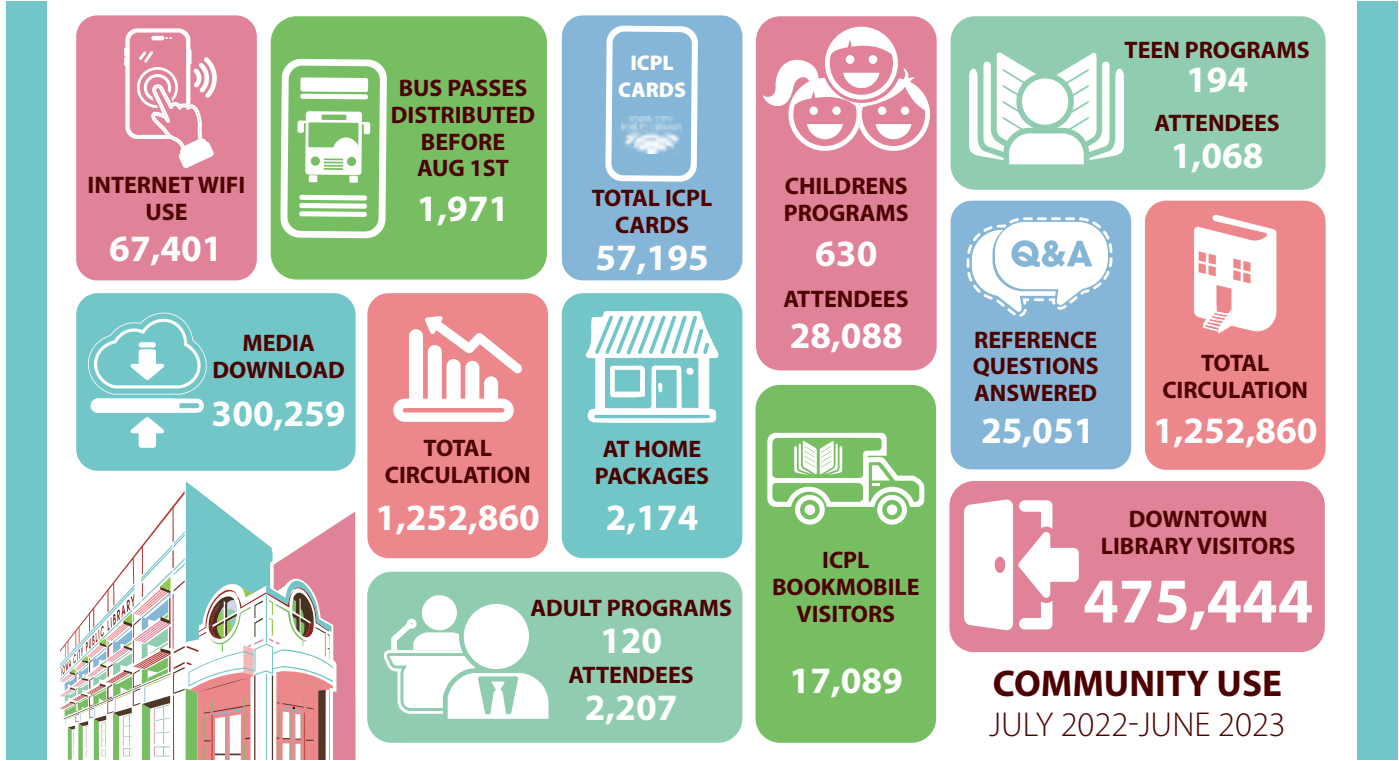
Titles also start out pricey. In addition to repurchasing, licenses are expensive,

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.



Donate, Buy Used Books at The Book End, continued from front page

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.

Recently, The Book End added ICPL-branded totes, 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](https://supporticpl.org/book-sales) to learn more about donation guidelines, upcoming book sales, store hours and more!



### ICPL WINTER READING PROGRAM

Manny Galvez, Public Relations Specialist

Sign up for the ICPL Winter Reading Program! Available to all readers ages 3 to adults, it's the perfect way to embrace the cozy season. Simply register and log your reading online or grab a game card from the Library. Adults, we've heard you—Book BINGO is back by popular demand! Complete your game card or BINGO card to win fantastic prizes. There are unique challenges for kids, teens, and adults.

Don't miss out on the fun – join us from Dec. 16 to Feb. 16 at [icpl.org/wrp](https://icpl.org/wrp) and warm up your winter with great reads and rewards!



### BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: FREE TECHNOLOGY BASICS WORKSHOPS NOW UNDERWAY AT ICPL

Stacey Mckim  
Adult Services, Digital Media Lab

Exciting news for everyone looking to enhance their digital skills: The Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) has launched a digital literacy series, made possible through a generous grant from the Public Library Association and AT&T. These workshops are designed to empower seniors, new Iowans, and anyone eager to boost their tech know-how.

We’ve got a lineup of the major essentials: computer basics with Windows 10, internet skills, setting up an email account, and keeping yourself safe online. Join us for one or all of the workshops to ensure you're fully equipped for the digital age.

Visit [icpl.org/DL](https://icpl.org/DL) for a complete list of events. If your organization, club, or neighborhood group is interested in hosting a workshop, please reach out to [Stacey-McKim@icpl.org](mailto:Stacey-McKim@icpl.org) at 319-887-6073 for more details. Let's bridge the digital divide together!



# ICPL Friends Foundation Honor Roll of Donors

Generous contributions from the following 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 Foundation. Please contact us at **development@icpl.org** or **319-356-5249** with any questions. *Thank you for showing your library love with your wonderful generosity.*

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