



IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

# WINDOW

Fall 2023

*"The opportunity to choose what we read and believe is a freedom we all deserve."*

Bruce Teague, Mayor of Iowa City,  
on Freedom to Read, page 03



## Standing Up for Ideas This Fall

### Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival

Jason Paulios, Adult Services Coordinator

Join us this fall for ICPL's annual Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival. Established in 1995, the festival honors Carol's 26-year career at ICPL and her lifelong commitment to the freedom of ideas. In Iowa, this has been a difficult year for library workers and all other intellectual freedom advocates. They fought tirelessly to inform and dissuade those who introduced legislation or policies attacking civil liberties, including our freedom to read, learn, and communicate.

Continued on [page 04](#)



IOWA CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

123 S.Linn St  
Iowa City, IA

319-356-5200  
[icpl.org](http://icpl.org)

Scan to browse  
the shelves!  
[icpl.org/browse](http://icpl.org/browse)



## A Community United By Books:

# How Iowa City's Public Library is Fostering Freedom, Learning, and Connection This Fall.



Elsworth Carman  
ICPL Director

Fall in Iowa City is a special time. The “back to school” energy adds a feeling of optimism and excitement to the community, and seasonal events like college football and the Iowa City Book Festival bring people together to enjoy the cooler days. Fall is also a great time to visit the Iowa City Public Library—in person at the Downtown Library and the ICPL Bookmobile, or online at [icpl.org](http://icpl.org)—to get reacquainted with our services. Whether you are looking for early literacy programs, tech help for seniors, or something in between, we’re here to connect you with the things you need to keep learning and growing.

Iowa City Public Library is proud to support the freedom to read of every learner in our community. Intellectual Freedom, defined by the American Library Association as “the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction,” is a core value of the Library that impacts everything we do. This year, we are specifically reminded of the significance of Intellectual Freedom for youth as we work to support elementary, middle, and high school students and their families in navigating new restrictions on public school library collections.

To learn more about our commitment to access, communication, education, and staff well-being, check out our 2023-2026 strategic plan, available at [icpl.org/strategic-plan](http://icpl.org/strategic-plan). We are excited to engage with you in new ways this fall and beyond and look forward to seeing you soon!

## IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN (FY24-FY26)

### Goal: Access

*We provide equitable opportunities for all people to connect with the resources they need and want.*

Maintain welcoming, accessible, and sustainable spaces and services

Ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to all library services

Connect people with resources offered by the library and with other essential services within the community

### Goal: Communication

*We effectively share information and seek feedback from our community.*

Tell the library's story in accessible and diverse ways

Connect library staff with the information they need

Engage both library users and non-users in conversation about what they need and want from the library

### Goal: Education

*We champion lifelong learning.*

Create opportunities for the community to learn about the issues affecting the library

Provide services that meet current and emerging community needs

### Goal: Staff Wellbeing

*We recognize that staff are our greatest resource, and celebrate that each employee has distinct skills, needs, and aspirations.*

Ensure policies, workflows, and staff spaces are up-to-date, inclusive, sustainable, and make the most of our team's skills and abilities

Support staff growth by investing in professional development and ongoing education opportunities





# Mayor Bruce Teague Talks Intellectual Freedom

Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator

## Can you tell us a little about yourself? Your length of service, interests, hobbies, etc.?

I moved to Iowa City from the inner-city of Chicago when I was 17 years old. Here, I found a welcoming and inclusive community full of opportunity for a young, gay, Black male. I earned degrees in Psychology and Nursing and started my own business providing health and family services. In 2018, I took the opportunity to give back to a place that gave me so much – I ran for City Council and won the same year as my friend and colleague Mazahir Salih, the first Sudanese-American elected to office in America. After two years, I was appointed as Mayor in 2020. That keeps me busy, but in my free time I love supporting community events, singing, boating, playing volleyball, traveling, and spending time with my husband, Colton.

## What do you enjoy most about your work and service to our community?

I have always been called to service, so the opportunity to represent the Iowa City community is not a job I take lightly.

*"I see every day as an opportunity to make our City a little bit better than it was yesterday."*

Our City is filled with people who are engaged, passionate, and intelligent and it is my responsibility to lift them up and make the space for progress to play out.

## What intersections, similarities, or connections do you see between your leadership and role and the work of the Iowa City Public Library?

One of the most important duties I have as Mayor is to listen. Being a leader doesn't mean being the boss or always telling others what to do or how to think. I listen to understand and to learn. The Iowa City Public Library does something very similar – they pay attention to what our community looks like, what they're asking for, and what they need.

*"For many, the library is a safe space; a place where everyone can find something that makes them feel seen, heard, and like they belong."*



## How do you practice or celebrate your Freedom to Read?

I believe in my right to read books written by authors who look like me and authors who don't. I believe in my right to read books with characters who love like me or have faith like me and characters who don't. I believe in my right to read books that share diverse cultural perspectives about defining moments in history. At the end of the day, the opportunity to choose what we read and believe is a freedom we all deserve. Can you imagine what a trip to the library would be like if we didn't have those same freedoms as we browsed the shelves?

## While we honor, support, and uplift the privacy of our patrons, if you'd like to share what you are currently reading or viewing, we'd love to hear about it.

I'm currently reading *Bleeding Out* by Thomas Abt. It discusses the devastating consequences of urban violence, while calling for a bold new plan for peace in the streets. I serve on the steering committee for the local Community-Based Violence Intervention Program, which aims to reduce violence through community-centered initiatives. We're using this book to better understand how we can disrupt cycles of violence and connect our community with services and one another to address trauma, save lives, and provide safety and opportunity. ■



## A Window into Inclusivity: The Passionate Journey of Josh Coleman Diversity Champion in Literature and Education

Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator



**Josh Coleman, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Ulowa

For the Fall 2023 edition of The Window we sat down with Josh Coleman a member of faculty for the College of Education's Literacy, Culture, and Language Education doctoral program at the University of Iowa and the recipient of a National Academy of Education (NAEd)/ Spencer postdoctoral fellowship. The opportunity to dialogue with Josh on his eleven years of experience revealed his championing of both inclusivity and diversity.

Josh's journey covers teaching in Title 1 schools to engaging with the Iowa City community's shared LGBTQ+ commitment to equity and justice. Their passion of LGBTQ+ youth literature and intellectual freedom resonates with the core values of the Iowa City Public Library. His efforts toward coalition-building, intellectual freedom, and education in a world hungry for representation and empathy are inspiring calls to support and celebrate access to all.

**Can you tell us a little about yourself? Your length of service, interests, hobbies, etc.?**

I am currently an Assistant Professor of English education at the University of Iowa and have been an educator in K12 and Higher Ed for eleven years. I began my teacher career in public, Title 1 schools in the Deep South, where

Continued on [page 05](#)

Standing Up for Ideas, continued from [front page](#)

We've seen challenges and protests of library events and exhibits, a record number of school district and public library book challenges and bans, as well as widespread legislative restrictions impacting what may be taught or shared in libraries, school classrooms, and workplaces. The work of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom documents these censorship attempts, and reveals that the vast majority of targeted books involve the stories and lived experiences of America's traditionally marginalized populations, books "written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community or by and about Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color."

The Iowa City Public Library will continue to shine a light on these topics and more at this year's festival, featuring events and displays coinciding with the American Library Association's annual Banned Books Week: Let Freedom Read during the first week of October. Learn more at [icpl.org/iff](https://icpl.org/iff).





I'm from. I taught 10th grade inclusion English and found in those spaces a deep commitment to ensuring that every student has "mirrors" to their own experiences as LGBTQ+ and BIPOC young people.

### What do you enjoy most about your work and service to our community?

As a Southern in the Midwest, I am overwhelmed by the generosity and care of folks in the Iowa City area. In particular, I have found energy in the deeply held commitments to equity and justice by the K12 teachers and libraries I am working with, and in a moment of increased political strictures, the Iowa City community continues to infuse love and care into every event and action with young people.

### What intersections, similarities, or connections do you see between your scholarship and role and the work of the Iowa City Public Library?

My scholarship has focused on bolstering intersectional representation in LGBTQ+ youth literature and to exploring what said literature can do in the lives of students and teachers. The questions of access that ICPL engages everyday intimately mirrors my own commitments, and it creates a space for forging coalition in pursuit of social change.

### How do you practice or celebrate your Freedom to Read?

I practice my Freedom to Read through reading for publication and for pleasure. As an academic, the list of scholarly texts and novels that center LGBTQ+ youth experiences is ever growing, and I read widely to understand how the identities of the young people represent in those texts are rendered in all their

intersectional fullness (e.g., as queer and trans people who sit at various intersections with race, class, ability, citizen status, and more). Also, and separate from my scholarship, I read for pleasure. Epic fantasy has long been my favorite genre, and getting lost in the magic of those worlds has long provided a balm to a world that often feels on fire.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

In a moment of great challenge to intellectual freedom and, more broadly, to library's themselves, I see hope in the coalitional power of libraries, K12 teachers, professors, administrators, and community members. Together, we can ensure that each child will see themselves represented in books on the shelves of our libraries and schools.

### While we honor, support, and uplift the privacy of our patrons, if you would like to share what you are currently reading/viewing, we'd love to hear about it.

I have recently been lost in the *Stormlight Archive* Series by Brandon Sanderson, an epic fantasy that transports me nightly to another world.

Find these books on Libby 



*Oathbringer* by Brandon Sanderson  
SCIENCE FICTION/Sanderson, Brandon

## Recommended Reading: Intellectual Freedom

Conversing about the art of conversation or lending your speech to promote free speech can prove tricky. Check out these titles on the importance of discourse regarding access, civil repartee, privacy, individual rights, and intellectual freedom.



### THE BILL OF OBLIGATIONS

The ten habits of good citizens  
By Richard Haass  
323.6/Haass



### FREE SPEECH

A history from Socrates to social media  
Jacob Mchangama  
323.443/Mchangama



### AMERICAN REBOOT

An idealist's guide to getting big things done  
Will Hurd  
320.973/Hurd



### I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY

How to have fearlessly curious conversations in dangerously divided times  
By Mónica Guzmán  
153.6/Guzmán

# Celebrate Your Freedom to Read with Your ICPL Card

Casey Maynard, Childrens Services Librarian

Iowa City is bustling with students once again. The annual flux from one apartment or dorm to another, complete with the obligatory week of couch surfing, has finally passed, making way for the start of classes, football, and pumpkin spice seasons. As you start the school year, settle into the new fall routine, and discover which back-to-school essentials will prove most useful, I want to remind you of another annual tradition.

Every September for the last 36 years, the American Library Association, with libraries nationwide, has celebrated National Library Card Sign-Up Month. This promotion syncs with starting Kindergarten and the back-to-school season to ensure equitable early childhood access to everything libraries offer. Considering the wealth of materials, programming, events, and support at the Iowa City Public Library alone, Library cards are one of the most cost-effective back-to-school supplies for families.

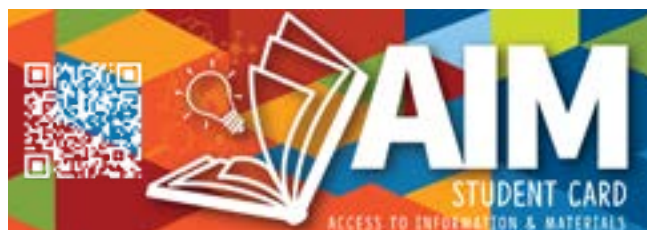
With the AIM card, students can borrow three physical books from North Liberty, Coralville, and ICPL. Students can also access the Johnson County Libraries' digital consortium collection.

Frugal college students would do well to remember that ICPL is here to serve them too! The Downtown Public Library can meet all of your leisure reading and watching needs. We have study and meeting spaces for your groups to gather, online materials,

classes, programs, and a robust inter-library loan system.

Here in the Iowa City of Literature, we are fortunate: our local libraries are well-supported and funded. Much of this support and funding is driven by community use. Circulation and usage of our materials and facilities dictate state funding allocations and what items continue to populate our collections. By supporting your public Library with a card, checking out materials, asking us to purchase materials you want, hosting events in our spaces, and attending programs, you ensure access to these and other services for everyone in our community. By using the Library, you are standing up for our community's ability to read what, how, when, and if we like.

This Fall, consider a library card as more than a vital back-to-school item. Your Library card is a show of support in solidarity with every member of our community. Affirm your belief in everyone's inalienable first amendment rights, get a Library card, and use it freely!



## Access Consumer Reports with Your Iowa City Public Library Card: Empowering Consumers

Anne Mangano, Collection Services Coordinator

**CR** Consumer Reports

Are you looking to make well-informed financial decisions but feel overwhelmed by hidden costs, confusing terms, and unseen risks in the digital marketplace? Need to make a purchase but not sure what to choose or even what to think about when evaluating your options? The Iowa City Public Library provides access to Consumer Reports (CR), a vital resource committed to financial fairness and consumer protection. With your Library card, you'll find an array of consumer tools and resources at your fingertips. If you are buying a toaster, seeking information on mortgages, or trying to understand

credit card debt, CR provides clear and unbiased information to guide you.

The service offers ratings and reviews for over 9,000 products and services. In conclusion, the Iowa City Public Library is more than just a place for books; it's a hub for resources that empower you economically. By providing access to CR Consumer Reports, we hope to make your journey to financial security and stability smoother and more informed. Visit [icpl.org/digital](http://icpl.org/digital) to learn more about how you can take advantage of this incredible resource!

# LIB CON RETURNS TO THE IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator

It's a bird . . .  
it's a plane . . .  
it's a celebration of all things  
comics and fandom at the ICPL!

Lib Con, the Iowa City Public  
Library's very own comics  
convention, returns on Saturday,  
September 9. The festivities will  
be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
throughout the library building,  
123 S. Linn Street.

Lib Con offers all the elements of  
a larger fandom and comics con  
– vendor and artist booths, judged  
costume contests, cosplayers  
and costumed characters, live  
performances, gaming, escape  
rooms, props, an art exhibit, etc.  
– with the welcoming, thoughtful  
atmosphere of your public library.

Lib Con is fun, FREE, and all ages  
friendly. Featured events include:

## **Artist Alley**

check out and buy local  
comic books and art

## **Fandom Lab**

make a creation from your  
favorite fandom

## **Programs**

learn about cosplay  
and creating comic books

## **Transformation Station**

become your favorite superhero by  
taking pictures using our green screen

## **Anime Viewings**

## **Face-Painting Booth**

## **Tabletop Gaming Collaboratives**

Attendees are encouraged to visit  
attired in their favorite costume. Lib  
Con will award prizes for the best  
dressed of all age categories.

Judging will take place after the  
10:30 am Super Hero Storytime with  
the winners announced immediately  
after 11 am. Winners must be present  
to collect their prizes.

For a complete list of events,  
vendors, and activities, visit  
[icpl.org/lib-con](http://icpl.org/lib-con).

Lib Con is made possible by the  
Iowa City/Coralville Area Convention  
& Visitors Bureau and the Iowa City  
Public Library Friends Foundation. ■



Scan here  
for more  
information!

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9**

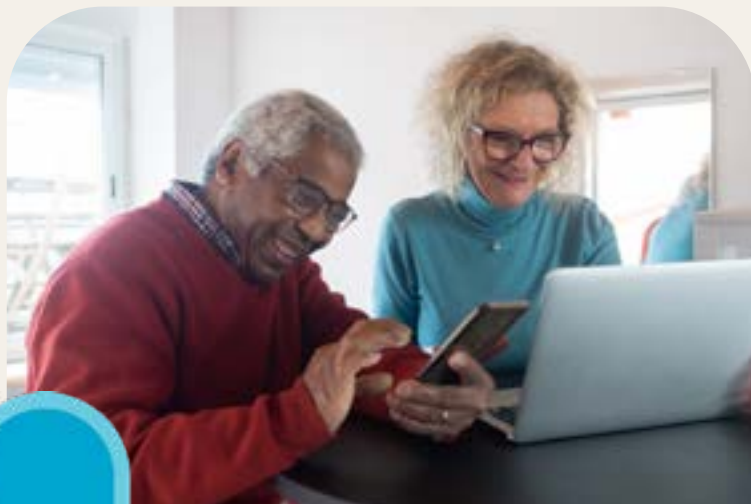
**11 A.M. - 3 P.M.**





# Digital Literacy for Everyone

Stacey McKim, Adult Services, Digital Media Lab



Coming this fall:

Your public library will offer  
**technology workshops**  
all over Iowa City!

**Get ready to catch up on some technology basics!** ICPL has received a grant courtesy of the Public Library Association and AT&T for digital literacy workshops targeted at seniors, new Iowans, and anyone else interested in expanding their skills.

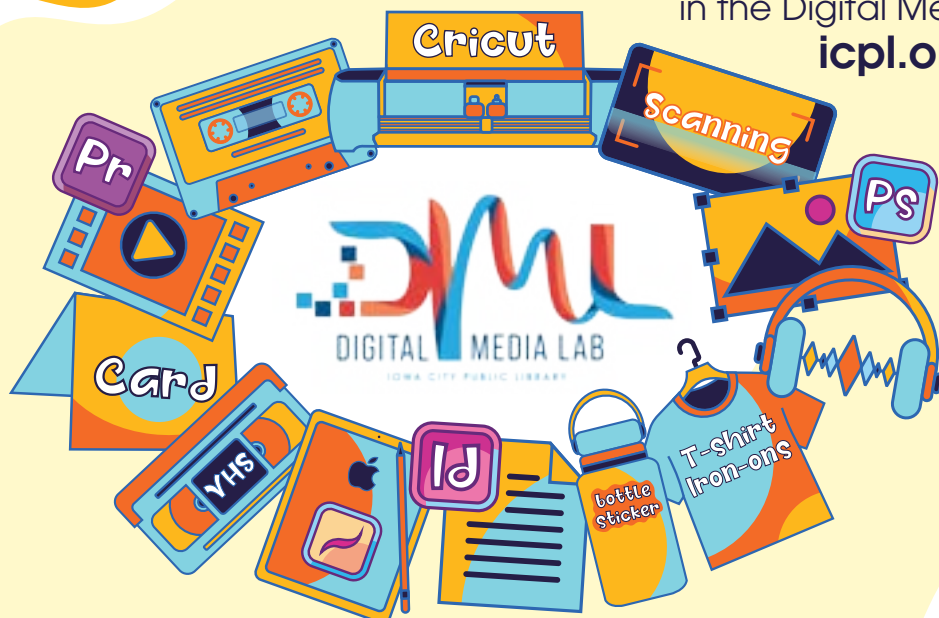
Six free workshops will be repeated in the library and around town this Fall. Our general topics are **computer basics, internet skills, and cybersecurity**. For greater confidence with operating systems, we'll cover **Windows 10, iOS, and Android**. Watch [icpl.org/DML](http://icpl.org/DML) for events from September through December.

Is your organization, club, or neighborhood group interested in hosting a workshop? Please contact [Stacey-McKim@icpl.org](mailto:Stacey-McKim@icpl.org) 319-887-6073 for more information.



It's free to use the software and equipment  
in the Digital Media Lab!

[icpl.org/DML](http://icpl.org/DML)



Drop in anytime the Library's open for your DIY projects or come during our staffed Help Hours.



September is...

# Library Card Sign Up Month!

Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator

Library Card Sign Up Month began in 1987 as a national campaign encouraging every child to obtain and use a library card. The initiative has expanded to all ages and is still observed by the American Library Association and public libraries throughout the country.

Anyone in Iowa who lives in a community that supports public library services can obtain an Iowa City Public Library card. Skip the lines by pre-registering at [icpl.org/cards](http://icpl.org/cards) then pick up your physical card at the Help Desk of ICPL Bookmobile when you show your photo identification and verify your address.

In addition to a broad array of educational programs, helpful services, and fun family activities, the Iowa City Public Library collection offers many wonderful things to enjoy.

## Books, Audiobooks, and eBooks

You can check out audio books on CD and typically carry unabridged editions, as well as ebooks in many different formats. Eligible cards can access streaming ebooks and audiobooks through **Libby** and **hoopla**.

## Library of Things

Beyond checking out traditional Library materials such as books and movies, your library card becomes your ticket for much, much more! Did you know the Library checks out toys, Book Club kits, video games, and more?

## Movies & Films

The library offers a great selection of mainstream movies and television series as well as educational, independent, and foreign films on DVD for children and adults. Eligible cards can also enjoy streaming television series, movies, and documentaries through **hoopla** and **Kanopy**.

## Music CDs

Music is the universal language. You can check out pop, rock, and country CDs as well as classical, jazz, blues, world music and more.

## Periodicals

Newspapers, magazines, and special interest periodicals are available for both in-library use and for check out. Eligible cards can hop the paywall for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*.

## Experiences

The Iowa Libraries Adventure Pass Program provides free access to Iowa attractions and museums for eligible Iowa City Public Library cards.

## Art Prints

Check out 2 art prints for two months from our Art-To-Go collection.

## Databases

Browse **Consumer Reports** before you buy your next appliance or level up with **LinkedIn Learning** to grow your skill set and resume. Access to these and more can be accessed from the ICPL Digital Library.



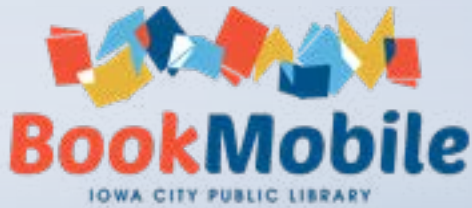
# AIM

STUDENT ID CARD

ACCESS TO INFORMATION & MATERIALS

AIM gives students access to Coralville, Iowa City, and North Liberty public libraries. This card, which doubles as a school ID, gives students access to check out 3 books (or audiobooks) at a time from each library, as well as digital resources, without fines or fees. For more information about this card, ask a school librarian, contact your public library, or visit [iowacityaimcard.org](http://iowacityaimcard.org)

There's so many things you can do with your library card! If you have questions, give us a call at 319-356-5200 during regular Library hours, ask us a question online, or stop by the Library or Bookmobile. We are happy to help! Make the Iowa City Public Library an integral part of your life. Become an ICPL card holder today. More information about the various types of library cards can be found at [icpl.org/cards](http://icpl.org/cards). ■



**All stops are open to the public.**

You can browse its shelves, sign up for a library card, ask questions about library services or your account, and even place items from the Downtown collection to pick up from the Bookmobile.



**RIDE  
READ  
REPEAT**



**USE FARE  
FREE IOWA  
CITY TO VISIT  
THE LIBRARY TODAY!**



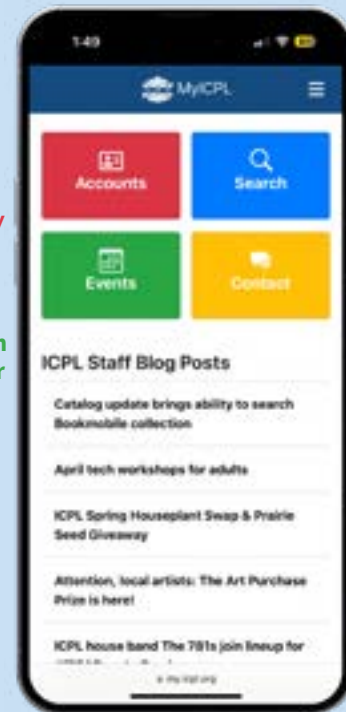
## MYICPL WEB APP

Check due dates & renew books

Save events in your calendar

Search the catalog

Check our hours or contact us



MyICPL  
Install the app at  
[my.icpl.org](http://my.icpl.org)





[icpl.org/digital](http://icpl.org/digital)

# YOUR Digital Library

Did you know you can use Iowa City Public Library from the comfort of your home? All you need is an internet connection, and your ICPL library card and password. Some digital resources require a resident library card.

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS



e-books, audiobooks, & magazines



e-books, audiobooks, music, & videos



films & documentaries



magazines



K-5 ebooks, audiobooks, & videos



download music from Eastern Iowa musicians

## NEWS

The  
New York  
Times

THE  
WALL STREET  
JOURNAL

The  
Washington  
Post

## LEARNING



video tutorials across business, creative, & technical categories



video art & craft classes



view library events and past programs



language learning courses



online tutoring, homework help, & job support

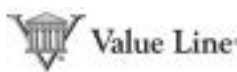
## RESEARCH



consumer advice



historical newspapers



investment analysis & guidance



step-by-step auto repair

## THE WINDOW

Fall 2023

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### LIBRARY HOURS

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](http://icpl.org)

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Give everyone great library experiences with your financial donation to the  
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Thank you for giving as generously as you can!



[icpl.org/donate](https://icpl.org/donate)



[icpl.org/bazaar](https://icpl.org/bazaar)  
Donate a handmade item  
to our Arts & Crafts Bazaar



Order ICPL  
merchandise  
here!



## Giving is Easy!

**Online** - Visit [icpl.org/donate](https://icpl.org/donate) 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](https://bit.ly/IAshares)

Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Literary Circle</b><br>\$2,500 and more   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Author's Circle</b> \$250-\$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Publisher's Circle</b><br>\$1,000-\$2,499 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reader's Circle</b> \$100-\$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Editor's Circle</b><br>\$500-\$999        | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book Lovers</b> \$50-\$99       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bookplate</b> \$1-\$49          |

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