

2005-2006 Annual Report



From the Director

Ames Public Library is Iowa's premiere public library. Last year we broke our circulation record, with 1,311,122 items circulated in 05/06. That's over 25 borrowed items for each of Ames's 50,731 residents! The people of this modestly-sized midwestern city check out more books than the central libraries of many major cities, including Houston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.



As the newly-arrived director for this high-energy library, I will work with the staff to face the exciting challenges that lie ahead. Continuous improvement and excellence, which are core principles of the City of Ames, will continue to guide the Library as we seek new ways to serve our community.

One of the most important roles the public library plays in today's society is that of a community space for people to come together in the pursuit of knowledge, information, and intellectual stimulation. To truly fulfill that role, Ames Public Library simply needs more space. In the coming year, we will work with the community in setting our priorities and designing a library building for our future.

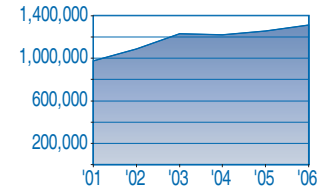
I look forward to working with the people of Ames to keep Iowa's premiere public library vibrant.

Art Weeks, Library Director

Highlights

Record-Breaking Circulation

The number of items checked out from Ames Public Library reached an all-time high at over 1.3 million! That's a 34% increase in the past 5 years.



Record-Breaking Programming

The number of people coming to programs and events at the Library has skyrocketed, increasing 22% over just last year.

Teen Advisory Group Created

A great group of teens has come together to help the Library update and expand its services for teens.



Teen Space Ground-Breaking

It was a great year for teens with the creation of the APL Zone, Ames Public Library's new space just for teens.

Project Smyles

Project Smyles, Ames Public Library's new outreach program to children in daycares and preschools, is a hit! This year, Project Smyles introduced the Library to nearly 300 children in preschools and daycares. Many Project Smyles sites have set up new deposit collections to keep a fresh selection of books available to the children.



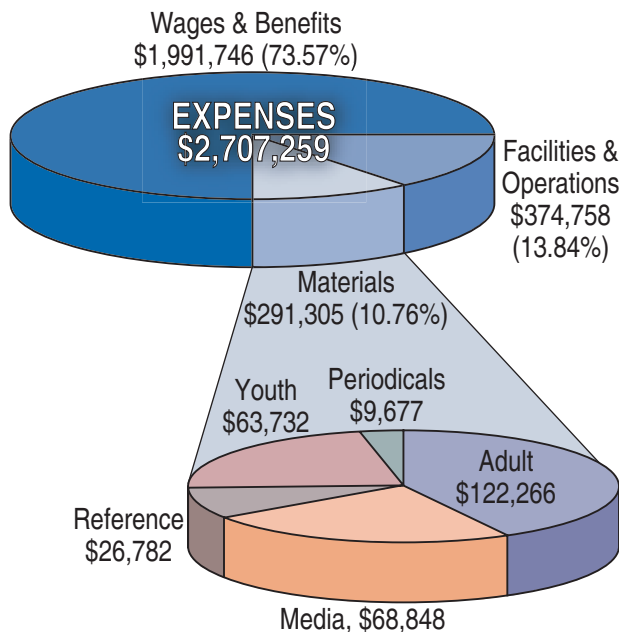
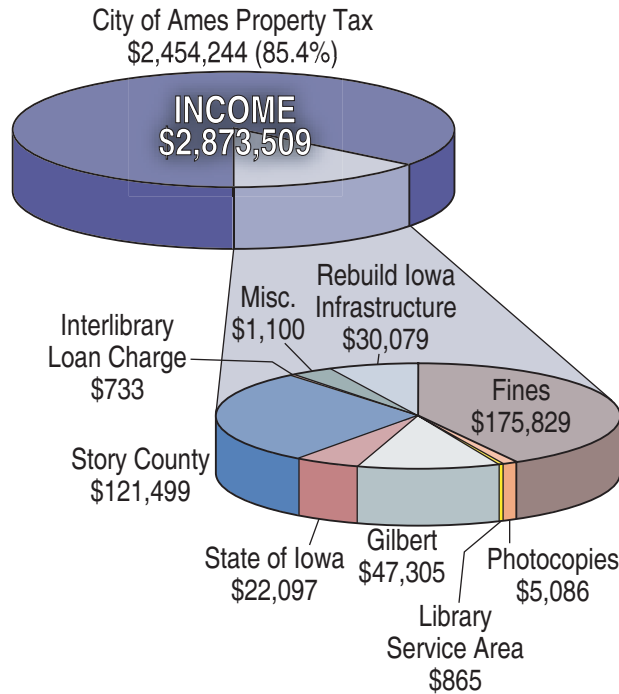
By the Numbers

Population Served.....	61,539	
Ames.....	50,731	
Gilbert (by contract).....	987	
Rural Story County (by contract).....	9,821	

Usage Statistics 2004/2005 2005/2006

Total Circulation	1,256,993	1,311,122
Books/Magazines	715,185	725,014
Videos, CDs, Audiobooks, etc.	541,808	586,108
Total Collection	193,153	201,275
Average Loans per Volume	6.5	6.5
Items Added to Collection	21,860	23,052
Items Withdrawn from Collection	12,653	14,545
Borrowers	31,058	27,176
Ames Registered Borrowers	22,476	19,536
Circulation per Ames Borrower	55.9	53.3
Circulation per Capita for Ames	24.8	25.8
% of Ames Population	44.3	38.5
Visitors	471,164	476,517
Programs	767	1,279
Total Attendance	27,197	33,253
Youth/Family Programs	485	910
Attendance	14,051	19,557
Young Adult Programs	—	49
Attendance	—	709
Adult Programs	282	222
Attendance	13,146	10,476
Outreach Programs	—	98
Attendance	—	2,511
Meetings	1,018	1,383
Attendance	27,356	24,528
Volunteers	355	534
Hours Contributed	12,454	14,752
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)	5.9	7.1
Interlibrary Loans		
Borrowed for APL Users	1,104	905
Loaned to Other Libraries	3,529	3,465
Reference Questions	49,478	48,048
Electronic Resource Use	68,069	69,985

Income & Expenses



Boards

Ames Public Library 2005-2006 Management Team

Dawn Hayslett, Interim Co-Director
Lynne Carey, Interim Co-Director
Marianne Malinowski, Collections
Patti Woo, Administrative Assistant

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