From the Director

The public library is the lifeline people reach for during recessionary times. This year, Ames Public Library responded to these challenging times and the result was the highest level of library activity we have ever achieved.

Especially gratifying was the increase in the number of books lent. People are definitely turning to traditional books for information as well as leisure reading. We also saw an increase in attendance at library programs. Truly, our library is fulfilling its goal to be a community gathering place, the “agora” of Ames.

Coincidentally, the “Smart Investing @ Your Library” workshops began just as the recession was beginning to affect Iowans. In this collaborative effort with ISU Extension, we featured both online and in-person workshops about various investment options. This project was made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association.

As library use continued to grow, Ames Public Library took a big step on the path toward growing its space. This past year, the Library contracted with Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, one of the foremost public library architectural firms in the nation, to hold public forums on library expansion. Interested citizens and library staff explored options and narrowed down the possibilities to an expansion at the current site or a new library across from City Hall. On September 24, 2009 the Library Board voted to move forward with design of a new library at the City Hall site. With another busy year behind us, we look forward to working together to create a great library for future generations.

Art Weeks, Library Director

Boards & Leaders

Ames Public Library
2008-2009 Administration
Art Weeks, Director
Lynne Carey, Assistant Director

Ames Public Library
2008-2009 Board of Trustees
Bob Anderson, Harry Budd, Al Campbell,
Jennie LeGates, Dudley Luckett, Sherry Meier,
Dale Ross, Richard Seagrave, Melody Warnick

Ames Public Library Foundation
2008-2009 Board of Directors
Bob Anderson, Annette Boehlje, Gary Botine,
Stevin Dahl, Dan Divine, Lisa Eslinger,
Roger Kluesner, Sheila Lundt, Monica Porter,
Dale Ross, Art Weeks

Friends of the Ames Public Library
2008-2009 Board of Directors
Fred Brown, Greg Bruna, Michale Hansen,
Sally Lapan, Irene Mews, Marsha Miller,
Anneke Mundel, Norma Sisson, Joan Van Norman, Barbara Weber, Frances Wilke
Public Forums for Building Project
A series of public forums, some of which drew as many as 200 participants, was held at the Library and locations throughout the community to begin the process of site selection and design concepts for Ames Public Library’s building project. At the conclusion of the forums, the Library Board of Trustees voted to develop a design for a library located on Clark Avenue across from City Hall.

Smart Investing @ Your Library
Ames was one of 13 public libraries in the nation to receive a grant from the American Library Association and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation to provide investment education to the public. Through a partnership with ISU Extension, the Library provided several workshop series and expanded its collection of financial information resources.

I Geek Libraries
This summer, central Iowa was selected as a test market for a campaign promoting public libraries and strengthening public financial support for libraries. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign takes the word “geek,” meaning a person passionate about a given subject, and transforms it into a verb. With the campaign, we are asking people what they geek and helping them find the resources to support their passion at the Library.

Storytimes Get Worldly
This year, the Library added to its world language storytimes. We now offer special storytimes in Russian, German, and Chinese.

2008-2009 Highlights

Population Served.........................................65,805
Ames..........................................................54,745
Gilbert (by contract).................................1,048
Rural Story County (by contract)..............10,012

Total Circulation 1,346,924 1,386,273
Books/Magazines 765,098 799,349
Videos, CDs, Audiobooks, etc. 581,826 586,924
Total Collection 198,292 201,838
Average Loans per Volume 6.8 6.9
Items Added to Collection 24,804 25,470
Items Withdrawn from Collection 24,687 20,369
Borrowers 38,453 31,149
Ames Registered Borrowers 31,900 22,767
Circulation per Ames Borrower 33.2 48
Circulation per Capita for Ames 25.8 25
Percent of Ames Population 61.0 41.6
Visitors 462,967 424,504

Programs
Youth/Family Programs 1,637 1,801
Attendance 30,163 34,437
Young Adult Programs 60 102
Attendance 1,259 1,143
Adult Programs 291 102
Attendance 10,165 9,131
Total Programs 1,988 2,166
Total Attendance 41,587 44,711
Meetings 2,170 2,182
Attendance 41,109 40,869
Volunteers 534 544
Hours Contributed 14,675 15,825
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) 7.1 7.6
Interlibrary Loans
Borrowed for APL Users 752 1,421
Loaned to Other Libraries 4,582 4,941
Reference Questions 51,584 54,548
Electronic Resource Use 68,105 197,872
Computer Use
Number of Customers 56,241 59,073
Hours of Use 37,494 39,382