

From the Director

“When are you going to build onto the library?”

That is the question that I have been asked most often since I became director of Ames Public Library. Long time visitors to the library have noticed how book stacks and computers have been crowded into spaces once held for studying, reading, and other activities. In fact, since the last addition to the building in 1985, library usage has increased far beyond the expectations projected during that expansion planning process.

Typically, the long-range view for planning is about 20 years. Having passed that time frame, we hired a library planner to assess our needs based on our current activity, projected growth of Ames and Story County, and anticipated changes in library usage. The end result was a recommendation for a facility of about 94,000 square feet, nearly double the size of the existing 48,000 square foot building. It may sound large, but the 94,000 square foot recommendation is in the mid-range of libraries with similar performance statistics and service populations.

In the coming year, we will work with an architect on the location, design, and cost. The starting point for the choice of location is at the current site or very nearby. We aim to stay downtown, both for our central location and to preserve the vibrancy of downtown Ames.

This building project will be an exciting and inclusive community process. Watch for upcoming opportunities to get involved!

Art Weeks
Library Director

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www.amespubliclibrary.org



2007/2008 Highlights

Downloadable Audiobooks

June 2008 saw the introduction of downloadable audiobooks at Ames Public Library through the WILBOR consortium.



Now APL users can check out and listen to an audiobook from the comfort of home!

Smart Investing

Ames Public Library was awarded a \$77,672 grant to promote investor education. The library was one of 13 nationwide selected for participation in Smart Investing @ your library®, a joint grant program sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation.



Iowa Lounge

Ames Public Library unveiled a new lounge area for Iowa books and magazines. The project was made possible by a donation from John and Marcia Imsande and the Friends of the Ames Public Library.

Foundation Supports Smyles

This year, the Ames Public Library Foundation's annual campaign raised over \$40,000 for Project Smyles, APL's outreach program for children in daycares and preschools.

Biking Books Across Ames

Ames Public Library and the Iowa State University Library got a little greener this year with a new collaborative effort: interlibrary loan by bicycle.



By the Numbers

Population Served.....	63,001
Ames.....	52,263
Gilbert (by contract).....	917
Rural Story County (by contract).....	9,821

Usage Statistics	2006/2007	2007/2008
Total Circulation	1,361,888	1,346,924
Books/Magazines	741,579	765,098
Videos, CDs, Audiobooks, etc.	620,309	581,826
Total Collection	198,178	198,292
Average Loans per Volume	6.9	6.8
Items Added to Collection	23,404	24,804
Items Withdrawn from Collection	26,501	24,687
Borrowers *	27,176	38,453
Ames Registered Borrowers	18,808	31,900
Circulation per Ames Borrower	57.4	33.2
Circulation per Capita for Ames	26.1	25.8
Percent of Ames Population	36.0	61.0
Visitors	459,000	462,967
Programs		
Youth/Family Programs	1,502	1,637
Attendance	29,148	30,163
Young Adult Programs	52	60
Attendance	1,230	1,259
Adult Programs	314	291
Attendance	10,882	10,165
Total Programs	1,868	1,988
Total Attendance	41,260	41,587
Meetings	2,201	2,170
Attendance	41,778	41,109
Volunteers	525	534
Hours Contributed	13,681	14,675
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)	6.6	7.1
Interlibrary Loans		
Borrowed for APL Users	790	752
Loaned to Other Libraries	3,773	4,582
Reference Questions	52,780	51,584
Electronic Resource Use	77,110	68,105
Computer Use		
Number of Customers	56,040	56,241
Hours of Use	35,491	37,494

* Borrower registration statistically corrected for FY 2007/2008

Dollars & Cents

