

## LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO IOWANS 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Libraries are essential for meeting Iowans' needs and supporting information-driven economic development. In difficult economic times Iowans turn to their libraries in increasing numbers. The Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2009.

- Allocate funds to assist flood-damaged libraries so they can replace their collections, repair their facilities, and resume full service to their customers.
- Enhance Iowa's workforce by providing statewide access to additional high-demand databases, such as test preparation software. These databases help Iowans prepare for a wide variety of educational and career tests, from GREs to college preparation to civil service and military service exams. This would require a \$250,000 new appropriation to the State Library of Iowa.
- Increase funding for Enrich Iowa to support the dramatic increase of Iowans' need for and use of libraries. Not every library can own everything; Enrich Iowa funds resource-sharing that enables Iowa's library system to be an efficient resource-sharing network accessible to all Iowans.
- Support efforts to develop a statewide shared library catalogue and check-out system.
- Sustain the budget of the State Library of Iowa and Library Service Areas for providing critical leadership and support to libraries.
- Preserve hometown governance in Iowa's public libraries by maintaining support for the local decision-making of Iowa's public library boards and avoiding costly one-size fits all mandates for Iowa's diverse public libraries.

The Iowa Library Association is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. ILA has 1500 members across the state working to support Iowa's 543 public libraries, 79 academic libraries, 1500 school libraries, 65 special libraries, as well as the State Library of Iowa and seven Library Service Areas.