Preconference Sessions

Book Repair Using the Cover One Book Repair System

We will learn all about book repair using Cover One, a thermal machine. By the end of class the participants will successfully bind and repair books using our thermal machine and bind participants’ writing projects into books that can be taken home.

*Participants should bring 2-4 books from their collection in need of repair. We will repair as many as time permits*

Presenter: Pat Williams

Intersections: Where Cities and Their Libraries Meet

Intersections looks at 3 major areas where city governments and city libraries must meet in the middle of policy and practice when dealing with library buildings, budgets, and personnel.

Presenter: Bonnie McKeown

Going on a Treasure Hunt: Finding Free but Hidden Historical and Archival Gold

Few libraries offer the wealth of historical information offered by Iowa’s largest universities libraries – yet very few Iowa citizens will travel to these often distant and imposing campuses. Fortunately, there are many, many freely available online historical primary sources that could be used locally by Iowa residents and the librarians who serve them- IF-they can find them. Jaycie and Chris have plenty of ideas, and plenty of experience, on where to look, how to look, and are eager to share.

Presenter: Jaycie Vos and Chris Neuhaus
Breakout Sessions

A Fireside Chat With Julie Finch
Settle in for a fireside chat featuring ILA President Julie Finch to hear about continuous efforts to promote community resilience that is led by libraries in an effort to create a sustainable environment for future generations.
Presenter: Sustainable Libraries Initiative, Julie Finch

Become Interwoven By Doing What You Do Best
Identify your library strengths, both inside and outside the library box, and use them to build strong partnerships and open doors to new ones!
Presenter: Janette McMahon

All Together Now: Scalable Programming for All Ages & Schedules
Learn how adult and youth services staff can work together to create scalable and engaging intergenerational programming based on the feedback and schedules of library patrons.
Presenter: Becky Maher-Jacobsen, Bailey Keimig-Gehrke

The Big Move
We will share practical knowledge and advice when updating your library spaces. Learn tips on planning, preparing, and using your existing budget and staff creativity to move and change 3 different spaces in 3 months merging our Lyons Library Branch with our 1904 Carnegie Library. Clinton Public Library staff designed and moved the Youth Space, Local History & Genealogy, and Friends Bookstore, creating 2+ meeting spaces, joining all of our staff and services into the Main Library.
Presenter: Susan Mesecher, Kendra Evers

FIRST Lego League Robotics Minicamp
This session will provide instruction and materials to create a robotics camp based on FIRST LEGO League, targeting kids ages 10-14, with the overall goal of spreading robotics and STEM education across Iowa.
Presenter: Abigail Good

Read to GO!: Going Places with Public and School Library Collaboration
This session will chronicle a highly successful collaboration between Waverly's public and school libraries and provide nuanced guidance on how to create a successful public/school library.
Presenter: Trevor Krug, Emily Mcclimon, and Lyndsi Luck
Social Media is a Telephone, Not a Megaphone
Think of social media like a digital branch; open 24/7/365. It can be the basis for the reputation you build in your community — good or bad. This session will share how to build stronger community connections, how to plan for social media, and 4 tips for growing your social media presence.
Presenter: Liz Deets

Practical Solutions for Combating Burnout in Library Staff
This presentation explores practical strategies to prevent burnout in libraries by addressing workload management, autonomy, reward systems, community support, fairness, and value alignment based on Christina Maslach’s six identified causes of burnout.
Presenter: Bobbi Newman

You Are Not Alone: Leveraging Community Advocates for Children to Unite Against Book Bans
Learn from ALA Policy Corps members how to advocate against book bans, and how to work within the context of small and rural communities.
Presenter: Tyler Hahn

Does it Have Spice: How Adult Readers are Changing Young Adult Literature
This session is intended as a discussion of the rise of New Adult Fiction and the impact of its emergence on existing Young Adult and Adult literature and readership, and how to evaluate Young Adult fiction as compared to New Adult fiction.
Presenter: Emma Stoffer

STEM? Yes, You Can!
Provide STEM programming for any size library; no matter how small; and learn about the Governor’s STEM Council/Scale Up Awards, including how to use the Scale Up kit in partnership with other organizations.
Presenter: Sue Petersen, Dawn Miller, Casey Wenstrand

The Robots Are Coming! Intellectual Freedom in the Age of AI
Learn about the current state of AI in libraries and how it has an impact on intellectual freedom, including tools already in use and the benefits and drawbacks of using AI with respect to patron privacy.
Presenter: ILA IFC Committee, Amanda Sand, Becky Maher-Jacobsen, Janette McMahon, Erin Coughlin
**Starting Off on the Right Foot = Long Term Success**

Learn how to start off on the right foot with your city and grow interdepartmental partnerships when starting a new director position.

Presenter: Janette McMahon

**Private Sector Gems for Public Libraries**

Learn the three steps to cultivating key partnerships with local entrepreneurs from an award-winning entrepreneurship-certified librarian with a 20+ year career in sales, marketing, and program management.

Presenter: Kellee Forkenbrock

**Reducing Barriers: A Roadmap to Making Your Library Accessible**

Accessibility is more than ADA; our roadmap will help participants will learn how to self-assess the current physical and mental accessibility of their library, solicit feedback from community partners, and implement solutions to reduce barriers on a budget.

Presenter: Kate Thompson and Susan Greenwood

**Unconference: Incorporating Alternative Formats in Your Library**

This unconference-format session features brainstorming plus question and answer on how the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled can help libraries incorporate alternative formats into programming and services.

Presenter: Leslie Heinzler, Sarah Willeford, Denise Bean, and Leland Smith

*Note: indicates video and sound will be used during presentation.*

**Setting Up a Seed Library**

Marion Public Library and Carnegie Stout Public Library will share about their different seed library set ups and give ideas and pointers on how to personalize and differentiate seed libraries according to a library's needs.

Presenter: Becca Draus and Maggie Turza

**Effective Governance and Leadership in Public Libraries: Roles and Responsibilities of Library Boards and Directors**

Explore perspectives on building and maintaining a unified, productive approach to library governance, policies, human resources management, and leadership—even in times of great challenge—from a panel of public library directors and trustees representing libraries of different sizes.

Presenter: Elsworth Carman, Robin Paetzold
The Sleuths of Silence: Libraries' Contributions to Resolving Historic Cold Case
The presenters will discuss how to host and research cold case programs within the context of the library, including the role of emerging technologies, such as digitization and data analysis tools, in revolutionizing the accessibility and analysis of historical evidence, reflection on the broader implications of cold case resolution for justice, closure, and historical understanding within communities and society as a whole and share practical skills for effectively navigating archival materials, databases, and other library resources relevant to cold case research.
Presenter: Tyler Hahn, Sarah Enright

Promoting Community Ties Through Library Events and Services
Learn how to develop library events and services that not only provide entertainment and education but help foster connection among members of your community. Come away with an improved ability to serve adult populations and provide them with connection to other members of the community.
Presenter: Nick Shimmin

Reducing Bias in the Library Catalog: Moving the “Othered” Histories to the 900s
This session will explain bias in cataloging and outline how we at Des Moines Public Library reclassified “othered” histories (from the 300s) to the 900s.
Presenter: Abbi Jensen

The Complete Project Management Caboodle (*Not* a Toolbox)
This session will cover the basics of project management (you’re probably already doing a lot of them), some practical tools for GTD (that’s Getting Things Done for the David Allen-uninitiated), and why Cabooodles are infinitely better than toolboxes (sparkles, duh).
Presenter: Samantha Bouwers

Public Libraries: Catalysts for Civic Renewal
Cities and libraries have opportunities to raise the level of community engagement for the people they serve. By collaborating across departments, we build cohesion and foster belonging for
Presenter: Bill Carroll, Jennie Garner, Sam Helmick

Music + Literacy in Your Library
Explore the relationship between music and literacy including what age-appropriate material looks like, vocal tips and health for children, ways to teach a song, and top resources on music. No music reading ability required!
Presenter: Dr. Lucy Santos-Green, Dr. Brad Green
Frozen in Place: The Context and Consequences of Anti-DEI Board of Regents and Senate Filings in State Academic Libraries

This presentation will review the Board of Regents recommendations and Senate File 2435 which limit DEI spending; examine the impact this has in State-funded academic libraries; and explore how this will shape librarian work going forward.

Presenter: Madde Hoberg

Empowering Staff to Turn Your Conduct Policy into Reality

Conduct policies do not always come with instructions; learn how our small library created a behavioral assessment scale and expanded it into helpful training for staff of all perspectives.

Presenter: Jacy West, Jody Ross

The Book(is)Mobile on Channel 5

How we built our own Library TV Channel from the ground up! This is a novel way of expanding outreach and programming potential.

Presenter: Robert Fiedler, Chad Yocom

Become a Dementia Friend

When you become a Dementia Friend, you will understand the basics of dementia and identify ways to effectively communicate with a person living with dementia.

Presenter: Michell Klinker-Feld


More than ever, the traditional roles of libraries are being challenged. To navigate these attacks it’s critical for libraries to build preference and reestablish alliances within their communities.

Presenter: Liz Deets

Community Connections for Mental Health: A Toolkit for Mental Health Information and Programming Partnerships

This presentation introduces a toolkit designed to foster community partnerships in providing mental health information and programming. It will cover the toolkit’s potential benefits, key components, and practical application.

Presenter: Bobbi Newman, Gina Schlesselman-Tarango

Best Practices for Hiring
In this session learn from two seasoned library directors on how to establish an equitable hiring process to ensure you are getting the best possible candidates for your open positions.

Presenter: David Eckert, Antonia Krupicka-Smith

**Sensory Storytime: How Community Partnerships Can Build a Successful Program**
Learn how to start a sensory storytime by utilizing the resources and professionals in your community to engage a diverse population of youth and their families.

Presenter: Emerson Taylor

**Business Librarian: It’s Not as Scary as You Think**
The session will describe what you need to do to serve the business community and what tools are helpful.

Presenter: Rachel Rugg

**How Can We Better Display Historical Photos Online?**
Based on the magnificent Hungarian public portal, Fortepan.hu, Fortepan IA is part of a movement that values and safeguards local history, preserves family photos, elevates user experience, and promotes sharing by virtually reuniting photos from all over the state. Everything about this project is for the public good. This presentation is an invitation to find out (and join through simple easy steps) our quiet but powerful movement.

Presenter: Dr. Bettina Fabos, Olivia Waller, Lindsey Kuhlmann

**Lightning Talks**

**AI Tools Smorgasbord** with Kate Garretson

**Books that Will Change Your Life** with Dennis Cooper and Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez

**Connecting & Engaging First-Gen Students to the Library** with Jenay Dougherty

**Cultivating a Community of Creative Writers** with Jennifer B Pierce and Micah Bateman

**Sourcing Quality Independently Published Books for your Library** with Ben Wolf

**Piecing Together a Puzzle Exchange** with Becca Draus and Jakie Tracey

**Puzzling Fundraisers** with Megan Harding

**Quick Tips to Lure Reluctant Authors to Speak at Your Library** with Ben Wolf

**A Rebellion in Motion: Tech Connection & Multimedia Creation** with Andrew Gehlsen