

Iowa County Library Plan for Library Services

I. Mission Statement

To make library service available to all Iowa County residents and to provide for equitable funding of that service.

II. Background

A. The Iowa County Library Planning Committee is established under Section 43.11 of the Wisconsin State Statutes as revised by 1997 Wisconsin Act 150. *See Appendix C.*

B. Iowa County has eight public libraries.

1. Public libraries located wholly in Iowa County.

- a. Barneveld Public Library (pop. 1,231) was established in 1958.
- b. Cobb Public Library (pop. 458) began in 1931.
- c. Dodgeville Public Library (pop. 4,693) was founded in 1900.
- d. Mineral Point Public Library (pop. 2,487) was founded in 1893.

2. Public libraries located partly in Iowa and partly in Grant Counties.

- a. Livingston Public Library (pop. 664) was established in 1934.
- b. Montfort Public Library (pop. 718) was established in 1937.
- c. Muscoda Public Library (pop. 1,299) was established in 1928.

3. Public library located partly in Iowa and partly in Lafayette Counties.

- a. Blanchardville Public Library (pop. 825) was established in 1950.

- In 1961, the Public Library Service Center of Southwestern Wisconsin was created by five counties including Crawford, Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, and Richland to help provide library service to county residents. This entity became the Southwest Wisconsin Library System in 1974.
- An Iowa County Library Planning Committee was appointed by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors in 1991. The twelve-member committee had one member from each of the four public libraries, one representative from each of the four geographical quadrants, one county board member, one library system member and two representatives-at-large. The committee developed the “Iowa County Long-Range Plan of Library Service 1991-2001”.
- Iowa County is part of the unglaciated area of southwestern Wisconsin with a total population of 23,687 (2010 census) a 907 increase over the 2000 census. It is primarily a rural county with two cities, nine villages and fourteen townships wholly within the county, and includes parts of 4 villages: Blanchardville (partly in Lafayette County), and Livingston, Montfort, and Muscoda (all partly in Grant County). The populations of the villages vary from 288 (Hollandale) to 1,231 (Barneveld). The populations of the townships vary from 306 (Clyde) to 834 (Arena). Many citizens are employed in retail trade, farming and related fields, or commute to Madison, WI and Dubuque, IA.

C. Iowa County is a member of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS). The method for allocating system board representation is by population. The Iowa County Board of Supervisors appoints three county residents to serve on the SWLS Board, one being a county board supervisor. An ad hoc Library Planning Committee was appointed in December 2017 and held its first meeting in April 2018 to revise the Iowa County Library

Plan for Library Services. The committee consisted of Vickie Stangel, Director of Dodgeville Public Library; Barbara Polizzi, Director of Mineral Point Public Library; Linda Gard, Director of Cobb Public Library; Alex LeClair, Director of Barneveld Public Library, Daniel Nankee, Iowa County representative and Judy Lindholm, Iowa County representative.

III. Current Library Services to County Residents

A. Libraries and Governance:

Iowa County is currently served by four public libraries completely within its borders: Barneveld Public Library, Cobb Public Library, Dodgeville Public Library, and Mineral Point Public Library. It also is served by Blanchardville, Livingston, Montfort and Muscoda. Each of the eight municipal libraries is administered by a Library Board of Trustees. These boards are created and maintained according to Wisconsin State Statute 43.54 based on municipality size.

See Appendix A for an inventory of current county library services.

B. Method for determining nonresident usage:

Libraries in Iowa County use automated integrated library systems and at any time, reports may be generated showing, by taxing municipality, the nonresident usage of libraries in the county. In all Iowa County municipal libraries, customers are asked to provide their taxing municipality and proof of address upon registering for a library card. Statistics on county residents' usage of system libraries outside the county are obtained through the same methods as referenced above and reciprocal agreements among the counties will be utilized for matters of reimbursement.

IV. Funding of Library Services to County Residents

See Appendix B for current comparison of funding amounts.

V. Goals and Objectives

A. Learn -- Iowa County libraries are key players in the advancement of educational achievement in Iowa County.

1. Support early learning to promote school readiness.
 - a. Provide parents and caregivers with quality story times and materials that encourage them to talk, sing, read, write, and play with their children.
 - b. Reach out to Pre-K classrooms, childcare facilities, and stay-at-home parents.
 - c. Investigate and invest in technology, resources, and creative tools that support early literacy.
2. Support a strong partnership with local schools.
 - a. Cooperatively work with teachers, school administrators, and school support staff to expand the reach of marketing efforts, increase the attendance at library programs, and improve the quality of library services.
 - b. Promote attendance in summer reading programs and summer activities.
 - c. Attend community school events to promote library services and gain insight into community needs.
 - d. Develop strong relationships with homeschoolers and homeschool networks.
3. Support personal growth and lifelong learning through high quality programs, materials, and services.

- a. Collaborate with public, private, and nonprofit partners to promote reading for pleasure, expand self-directed learning opportunities, and provide a variety of cultural experiences for all ages.
 - b. Develop strategies that better support distance learning, e.g. exam proctoring.
- 4. Help library staff to develop the skills to search for, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to meet the community's needs.
 - a. Ensure public service staff can readily assist patrons in finding what they need to know.
 - b. Develop and encourage a problem-solving network among Iowa County libraries.
 - c. Develop a staff training and professional development program.
- 5. Ensure that public concerns about library services, as well as the unique challenges of providing library services to rural populations, are communicated to government representatives.
 - a. Encourage the county board representative on the Iowa County Library Committee to keep the Iowa County Board of Supervisors informed on library issues.
 - b. Encourage the county board representative on the Southwest Wisconsin System Board to keep County Board informed on library issues.
 - c. Encourage Library Directors and Library Board members to communicate to government representatives regarding the area's library issues.
 - d. Publicize library issues to the general public and encourage them to contact their elected representatives about these issues.

B. Connect -- Iowa County libraries are open, thriving spaces where people can link to the universe of possibilities and enrich their lives.

- 1. Provide safe and welcoming spaces for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds to connect with others and engage in individual pursuits. Solicit patron and staff feedback to assess customer satisfaction about the quality of the customer experience.
- 2. Customize hours, spaces, services, and collections to meet community needs.
 - a. Apply data analytics to ensure more relevant collections, programs, services, hours, and space utilization.
 - b. Create intelligent displays that highlight aspects of the collections.
 - c. Evaluate the condition of the collection and move forward with a collection maintenance program.
 - d. Include such things as makerspaces, a learning commons, and/or other non-traditional materials in the library experience.
- 3. Use a variety of media and community connections to develop and promote library programs and services.
 - a. Create and distribute a brochure promoting library services available to county residents.
 - b. Work with local community groups to better reach under-served populations.
 - c. Explore ways to improve the digital presence of county libraries, including the re-design of websites, the use of social media, and the promotion of digital collections.
 - d. Promote volunteer opportunities and grow a network of quality volunteers.
- 4. Support cooperative activities, agreements, and evaluation among the county, member public libraries, Southwest Wisconsin Library System, and beyond.

- a. Ensure that Iowa County member agreement with Southwest Wisconsin Library System is in place and is current.
- b. Iowa County will appoint the required number of members to serve on the Southwest Wisconsin Library System Board of Trustees. One of the members shall be a Supervisor and other members will be from the general public.
- c. Annually in April, review and evaluate existing agreements and assist in development of future agreements among county libraries.

C. Grow – Iowa County public libraries are committed to the economic vitality of our communities.

1. Explore and develop 21st century literacies. Develop programs and services to foster innovation and creativity to support science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (S.T.E.A.M.) skills.
2. Educate for digital literacy and marketable workplace skills to improve prospects for employment.
 - a. Create programs and offer resources that help with job seeking and career development.
 - b. Promote proctoring services for local distance education students.
3. Leverage business, political, and professional relationships to properly represent the changing nature of library services and resources.
 - a. Identify viable businesses and economic development partnerships that will pave the way for the library to share resources and co-promote programs and services.
 - b. Coordinate an advocacy message and approach with other county libraries.
 - c. Recommend and advocate for changes in state law, county ordinance, and contractual agreements that will enable library services in Iowa County to be delivered equitably, effectively, and efficiently.
4. Ensure fair and equitable compensation for library services provided to all county residents.
 - a. Iowa County will continue to reimburse municipal libraries-for loans of materials made by the library during the prior calendar year to Iowa County residents who do not reside in the municipality maintaining the public library and whose own residence is in a municipality which does not maintain its own library. Per Wisconsin Statute 43.12 this amount shall be at least seventy percent of the cost of library service provided to nonresidents.
 - b. Iowa County agrees to use the same nonresident usage statistics defined in 4.a. to fund the Iowa County Library Committee at 5% starting in 2022 in order to provide funding for the county-wide promotion of library services available to Iowa County residents. This plan will be evaluated annually to recommend reimbursement levels for future years.
 - c. Iowa County agrees to reimburse libraries operated wholly or partly in Iowa County for library usage by Iowa County residents whose residence is in a municipality which does not maintain its own public library at 78% starting in 2024. This plan will be reevaluated afterward to recommend for future years.
 - d. Annually, a statement will be provided on behalf of each library to the Iowa County Clerk that reports the number of loans of material made by

that library to nonresidents of that municipality in the previous year.

This statement shall show the cost of the individual loan and the formula used to determine that cost; the number of loans made to nonresidents who live in Iowa County; and the number of loans made to nonresidents who live in a county other than Iowa, showing the number of loans to residents of each individual county.

- e. Four of the eight Iowa County libraries are located in municipalities that cross county lines. These libraries only will report Iowa County non-resident use figures to Iowa County.

VI. Future Plans

- A. An Iowa County Library Committee will be appointed and shall be composed of four of the eight Library Directors in Iowa County, one Southwest Wisconsin Library System Board Member, one Iowa County Board Supervisor, and one Citizen-at-Large.

- 1. The Committee will review the Iowa County Library Plan for Library Service annually.
- 2. The Committee will monitor its progress in implementing its goals and objectives.
- 3. The Committee will explore non-traditional ways to serve Iowa County residents through cooperation with other types of existing library and non-library services.
- 4. The Committee will create an annual report to present to the Iowa County Board of Supervisors each year during the second quarter.

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Library Committee.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 21 day of August, 2018.

Modified by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 21 day of September, 2021.

Modified by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 14 day of November, 2023

John M. Meyers, Chairman

Kristy K. Spurley, County Clerk