

IOWA STORIES 2000

INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

Results of public forum held October 12, 2000

(additions to focus group from public forum appear in bold italics)

Current Literacy Programs and Activities in Independence

Infants and Toddlers

1. Buchanan County "Books For Baby" (6 Libraries Assist)
2. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone"
3. Parenting Instruction, such as Bedtime Reading and Books for Homes Without Books
4. ***Child Care Resource and Referral (provides programming for registered care providers.***

Preschool Age

1. Book Fairs (PTA Provided)
2. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone"
3. Eastern Iowa Reading Association (Support Books for Waiting Rooms of Medical Facilities)
4. Librarians Read To Preschoolers
5. Parenting Instruction, such as Bedtime Reading and Books for Homes Without Books
6. Reading Buddies in Schools – 3rd Graders Read To Preschoolers
7. Summer Reading Program for 3-12 Year Olds
8. Weekly Story Time
9. ***RIF- Reading is FUNdamental***
10. ***Headstart's "Everybody Reads" Program***
11. ***Scholastic Book Orders w/ Parents***

Elementary Age

1. Accelerated Reader for K-7

2. After School Program Initiated by Extension and Continued by Library, Schools, & Falcon Recreation (Monday-Thursday, 3-5 Grades, Funded By Decategorization Monies)
3. Book Fairs (PTA Provided)
4. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone"
5. Direct Reading Instruction for K-6
6. Eastern Iowa Reading Association (Support Books for Waiting Rooms of Medical Facilities)
7. Historical Society Education Programs at Area Schools
8. Mentoring Program – Adults Provide in Area Schools to Elementary Children
9. Pizza Hut "Book It"
10. Pizza Ranch (Individualized by Teacher)
11. Reading Buddies at St. John's 5th Grade
12. Reading Buddies in Schools – 3rd Graders Read to Preschoolers
13. Reading Partners in School For 1-2 Grades
14. Reading Recovery in 1st Grade (1-on-1 for 30 Minutes)
15. School Fieldtrips to Library
16. Subway Teacher Awards
17. Summer Reading Program for 3-12 Year Olds
18. Title 1 Reading Program (Supplements Classroom Instruction with Groups of 4)
19. Weekly Story Time
20. **PTA Activity Nights**
21. **Iowa Children's Choice Books (grades 3-5)**
22. **"Honors" Book List for high achieving AR readers**
23. **? Newberg Award Winners**

Middle School Age

1. Accelerated Reader for K-7
2. Book Fairs ~~(PTA Provided)~~
3. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as ~~"Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch,"~~ "Wishbone"
4. Direct Reading Instruction for K-6
5. Email Reading Buddies between UNI and Public 6th Graders
6. Explore Reading for 7th Grade
7. Historical Society Education Programs at Area Schools
8. **Iowa Teen Award Books**

High School Age

1. Cable and IPTV Programming, ~~such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone"~~

2. Individualized Reading Course(s) for H.S.
3. Hawkeye Community College Adult Education and GED, including program at MHI
4. Hawkeye Community College Alternative High School
5. Historical Society Education Programs at Area Schools
6. Language Arts with Writing Course(s) at High School
7. Scholastic Book Orders for High School
8. ***High School Internships Tutoring***
9. ***Homecoming Projects***
10. ***High School Paperback Book Exchange***

College Age

1. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone," and college credit courses
2. Email Reading Buddies between UNI and Public 6th Graders
3. Hawkeye Community College GED and Adult Education, including program at MHI

Adult Learners

1. Cable and IPTV Programming, such as "Reading Rainbow," "Sesame Street," "The Big Comfy Couch," "Wishbone," and college credit courses
2. Chautauqua Literary Club
3. Church Book Exchanges
4. Eastern Iowa Reading Association (Support Books for Waiting Rooms of Medical Facilities)
5. Friends Of Library Book Sale
6. "Laces" Writer's Workshop
7. Ladies Literary Club
8. New Book Club
9. Parenting Instruction, such as Bedtime Reading and Books for Homes Without Books

"Special" Audiences / Special Needs or Disabilities

1. Books On Tape for the Visually Impaired
2. Eastern Iowa Reading Association (Support Books for Waiting Rooms of Medical Facilities)
3. Iowa Blind Library
4. Literary Club to Area Nursing Homes

SERVICE POPULATIONS

	Number of Services Targeted <u>To This Group</u>	Number in Forum Who Believe This Group is <u>Underserved</u>
Infants and Toddlers	4	10
Preschool	10	0
Elementary	22	0
Middle School	8	10
High School	10	0
College Age	3	0
Adults Learners	9	4
Disabled or Special Needs	4	15

WHO IS UNDER-SERVED?

Infants and Toddlers from Impoverished Circumstances
Middle School Age
Teen Parents
Children of "Disinterested" Parents
Exhausted Parents
Adults in Generally
Potentially "Illiterate" Adults
Adults from Impoverished Circumstances
Senior Citizens / Community Elders

WHAT OVERLAPS EXIST IN SERVICES OR GROUPS SERVED?

Consensus of the focus group was that any overlaps that MIGHT exist (none were specifically identified) represent a strength in service rather than an area of concern. Redundancy in literacy efforts is seen positively, as reinforcement.

GAPS IN LITERACY PROGRAMMING

Young adults aged 17 to 25

Need to re-encourage reluctant readers

Attention to worksites – reading as a work skill

Do current literacy programs address Internet users?

IOWA STORIES 2000 LITERACY PROJECT IDEAS

❖ WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Focus Group Results

School children record the oral histories of community elders

- ❖ Public and parochial schools, nursing homes, fraternal organizations, churches

Establish book clubs in area school

- ❖ Public and parochial schools, Chautauqua and Ladies Literary Clubs

Establish a school newspaper in middle school

- ❖ Public and parochial schools, Independence newspaper, including local reporters

School children conduct television news programs on Channel 1

- ❖ Public and parochial schools, public access television, KWWL or similar television organization

Establish an adult reading program with strategies to reach non-reading adults

- ❖ Medical facilities, Project Literacy US, AARP, School literacy programs

Public Forum Results

Infants and Toddlers

Presenting Problems:

Can't get to the library. Can't afford books. Don't know how to get involved in literacy programs that could benefit their toddler. Focus on parents of toddlers – the primary care givers.

Potential Solutions:

Expand the "Books for Baby" Program to a periodic or ongoing activity, not just a one-time book gift to parents of newborns. Get books into homes of toddlers through parents/caretakers who can't afford books and/or can't get to the library.

***Involve parents in activities with their children
Provide workshops for parents***

Teach adults/parents what brain research has to say about the importance of reading to toddlers

Teach adults HOW to read to children.

Parents need book lists and names of authors (age appropriate suggestions for reading to toddlers)

Develop Parent Newsletter

Create a costumed "Mother Goose" character – a volunteer who will dress the part and attend literacy functions for toddlers.

Middle School Aged

Presenting Problem:

Age group loses interest in reading. Need incentives and encouragement to make continued reading a peer valued activity.

Possible Solutions:

Summer Reading Program (Group Sessions in Collaboration with ?) Include Book Exchange among students, Book Talks, Use of web site as resources for reading (locate or create a Literacy Web Site for middle schoolers), Use of Accelerated Reader, and Book Buddies, especially for younger readers Cap off summer reading activities with a "Meet the Author" finale.

Also:

Book Clubs

Independence Choice Awards

Participate in Iowa Teen Award

Adult Learner Program Ideas

Presenting Problems:

Seniors may find it difficult to read. Low fixed income limits spending on books and magazines. Lack of transportation isolates some seniors making it difficult for them to use library services. Seniors may not be aware of literacy programs designed for their needs.

Possible Solutions:

Secure transportation and/or communication assistance for seniors who may want to come to the library but have barriers to doing so.

Enlist assistance of RTC for transportation to library.

Secure more audio books (books on tape?) and/or assistive technology for reading.

Record oral histories of isolated/shut-in seniors and create as audio books.

Request community donations of magazines to be distributed to seniors through the library.

Organize senior reading groups (book discussions).

Design adult "awards" for reading.

Mount a publicity campaign through the newspaper and with flyers in public places frequented by seniors informing the community of literacy programs for seniors. Issue direct invitations to seniors welcoming them to the library.

Enlist the help of community partners, including the Public Library, the RTC Van, the local senior center, Friends of the Library and other volunteers (High Schoolers, for example).