# Iowa Department for the Blind

# Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

# Report and Statistics June 2024

# **Library Updates**

The Elizabeth Perowsky Volunteer Workshop and Luncheon was held on Friday, April 19th at the Iowa Department for the Blind. We were excited to recognize all the wonderful volunteers and the hard work they have done over the past year. The volunteer narrators gave 685 hours, recorded 105 Books and added 400 hours of audio to our collection. Our volunteers who assist in prepping, cleaning and repairing audio players for check out by patrons worked on over 600 players. Don Wirth received the Florence Grannis Library Service award. The Elizabeth Perowsky Memorial Volunteer Award was awarded to Sue Ketelsen. Sue took the lead on transcribing graphic novels and pictures books using audio description. Her first projects contained over 250 pages and over 1,000 images to describe. She has continued to narrate numerous graphic novels along with magazines. Congratulations and a huge thank you to all of our volunteers.

The Instructional Material Center (IMC) Team has completed the implementation of another module to the Athena Ordering Portal currently being used by schools to order accessible educational materials. The second module allows our IMC staff to track production of non-educational materials such as collection books and materials for other agencies and organizations. The module also adds production tracking for materials being transcribed into audio.

The Youth Summer Reading program will begin in June. This year’s theme is Read, Repeat, Renew. Programs will be conducted virtually on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:00-2:45 pm. The activity kit for each week will be mailed to participants. Youth can join Denise Bean, our Youth Librarian for Guest Quest Mondays, Adventure in Arts on Wednesdays and STEAM Theme Fridays.

The Library will also be hosting an 8-week STEM experience for teens 14 years and older this summer. The programs will include special guest speakers throughout the summer introducing different topics and hands-on STEM activities.

The library is proud to announce that there is a finalist from Iowa competing in the Braille Challenge finals. Nathan Deeds is a finalist in the Varsity group for the second year in a row! He has been invited to compete at the National Finals on June 23 and 24 at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

**Library Programs and Outreach**

**Youth Programming:**

* Summer Reading Program will begin in June for our youth patrons. This year’s theme is Read, Repeat, Renew.
* Youth Service Librarian, Denise Bean and will be visiting public libraries this summer to provide the program, When Storytime Comes to You, focusing on the story of Louis Braille, braille, and hands on activities.

**Adult Programming:**

* The *Peek-a-Box Program* will continue in 2024 for patrons, ages 18 years and older. Each month patrons in the program receive a special box filled with books – audio or braille or large print – and goodies as we follow Interstate 80 from the west coast to the east coast reading books about or set in each state we pass through. Participants will also receive a tactile map of the United States with I-80 featured. Patrons who opt for audiobooks will receive a cartridge with 10-20 books dedicated to the theme of the month.  Patrons who choose to get braille or large print will receive 1-3 books around the theme.

**Online and Social Media**

Library Blogs

* *Turning the Pages* Library Blog. Find information on library services, programs and resources. <http://iowalibrary.blog>
* Instructional Materials Center Blog. For educators and transcribers. Information on accessible educational materials, braille transcription, universal design and more. <http://idbimclibrary.blog>

Podcasts

* Library News. A monthly podcast by library staff about upcoming library events, programs, latest books and more.
* Library Chat. A monthly podcast by library staff where we review books and podcasts on all types of subjects.
* Braille Bits. A podcast reviewing each Braille Bits lesson and a discussion with a special guest about braille.

# **Library Statistics**

For March 2024, April 2024, and May 2024

Library Patrons Added: 113

Library Material Circulation

Total Circulation: 69,966

Braille: 691

Large Print: 253

Digital Books: 63,506

Magazine Issues: 5,378

Digital Players: 138

Instructional Materials Center Orders Received

Total Orders Received: 367

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Usage

Total Books Downloaded from BARD: 10,468

Audio: 9,591

Braille: 877

BARD Active Accounts: 395

Newsline Service Usage

Current Subscribers: 1,805

Blog Usage

Library – Turning the Pages Blog

Visitors: 902

Views: 2,081

Instructional Materials Center Blog

Visitors: 323

Views: 1,007

Library Podcasts

Monthly Podcast Episodes: 6 produced

Listens Online: 217

Sent Out on Cartridges: 1,968

Programming Statistics

Adult Programs Held: 6

Adult Program Attendance: 136

Youth Programs Held: 10

Youth Program Attendance: 63

Outreach Programs Held: 12

Outreach Program Attendance: 623

Total Programs Held: 28

Total Program Attendance: 822