

From the Director

The public library is the lifeline people reach for during recessionary times. This year, Ames Public Library responded to these challenging times and the result was the highest level of library activity we have ever achieved.

Especially gratifying was the increase in the number of books lent. People are definitely turning to traditional books for information as well as leisure reading. We also saw an increase in attendance at library programs. Truly, our library is fulfilling its goal to be a community gathering place, the “agora” of Ames.

Coincidentally, the “Smart Investing @ Your Library” workshops began just as the recession was beginning to affect Iowans. In this collaborative effort with ISU Extension, we featured both online and in-person workshops about various investment options. This project was made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association.

As library use continued to grow, Ames Public Library took a big step on the path toward growing its space. This past year, the Library contracted with Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, one of the foremost public library architectural firms in the nation, to hold public forums on library expansion. Interested citizens and library staff explored options and narrowed down the possibilities to an expansion at the current site or a new library across from City Hall. On September 24, 2009 the Library Board voted to move forward with design of a new library at the City Hall site. With another busy year behind us, we look forward to working together to create a great library for future generations.

Art Weeks, Library Director

Boards & Leaders

Ames Public Library 2008-2009 Administration

Art Weeks, Director
Lynne Carey, Assistant Director

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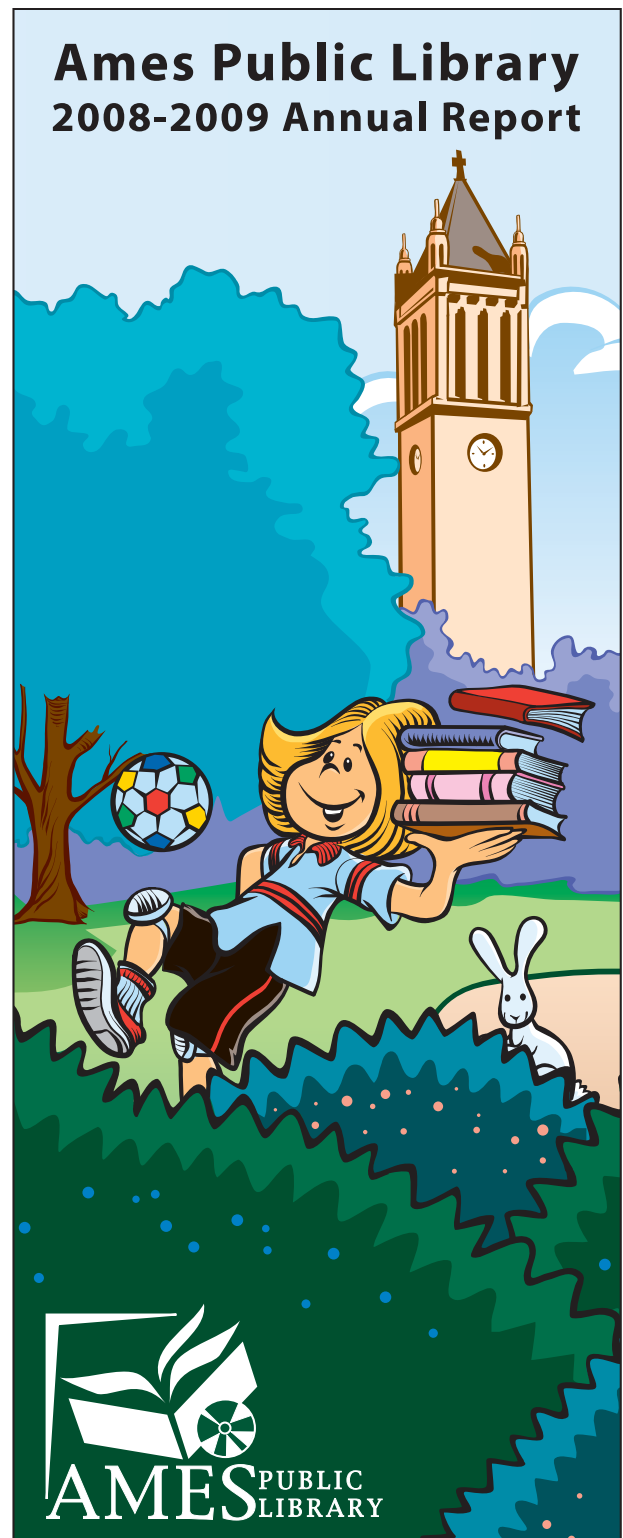
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www.amespubliclibrary.org



2008-2009 Highlights

Public Forums for Building Project

A series of public forums, some of which drew as many as 200 participants, was held at the Library and locations throughout the community to begin the process of site selection and design concepts for Ames Public Library's building project. At the conclusion of the forums, the Library Board of Trustees voted to develop a design for a library located on Clark Avenue across from City Hall.

Smart Investing @ Your Library

Ames was one of 13 public libraries in the nation to receive a grant from the American Library Association and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation to provide investment education to the public. Through a partnership with ISU Extension, the Library provided several workshop series and expanded its collection of financial information resources.

I Geek Libraries

This summer, central Iowa was selected as a test market for a campaign promoting public libraries and strengthening public financial support for libraries. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign takes the word "geek," meaning a person passionate about a given subject, and transforms it into a verb. With the campaign, we are asking people what they geek and helping them find the resources to support their passion at the Library.

Storytimes Get Worldly

This year, the Library added to its world language storytimes. We now offer special storytimes in Russian, German, and Chinese.

By the Numbers

Population Served.....	65,805
Ames.....	54,745
Gilbert (by contract).....	1,048
Rural Story County (by contract).....	10,012

Usage Statistics	2007/2008	2008/2009
Total Circulation	1,346,924	1,386,273
Books/Magazines	765,098	799,349
Videos, CDs, Audiobooks, etc.	581,826	586,924
Total Collection	198,292	201,838
Average Loans per Volume	6.8	6.9
Items Added to Collection	24,804	25,470
Items Withdrawn from Collection	24,687	20,369
Borrowers	38,453	31,149
Ames Registered Borrowers	31,900	22,767
Circulation per Ames Borrower	33.2	48
Circulation per Capita for Ames	25.8	25
Percent of Ames Population	61.0	41.6
Visitors	462,967	424,504
Programs		
Youth/Family Programs	1,637	1,801
Attendance	30,163	34,437
Young Adult Programs	60	102
Attendance	1,259	1,143
Adult Programs	291	263
Attendance	10,165	9,131
Total Programs	1,988	2,166
Total Attendance	41,587	44,711
Meetings	2,170	2,182
Attendance	41,109	40,869
Volunteers	534	544
Hours Contributed	14,675	15,825
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)	7.1	7.6
Interlibrary Loans		
Borrowed for APL Users	752	1,421
Loaned to Other Libraries	4,582	4,941
Reference Questions	51,584	54,548
Electronic Resource Use	68,105	197,872
Computer Use		
Number of Customers	56,241	59,073
Hours of Use	37,494	39,382

Dollars & Cents

