



A family browses for books inside Franklin Avenue Library. Aaron Gernes/Des Moines Public Library

ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC, SIGNS OF NORMALCY AT DMPL

When the Des Moines Public Library first closed its doors in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic first swept through Iowa, few could have guessed it would be more than a year before the buildings would open to the public for full days again.

As of press time, all six Des Moines Public Library buildings planned to open for in-person services in late March for full days Monday through Saturday. COVID numbers continued to decrease into the early spring in Des Moines, and the library moved into a new, more complete phase of reopening — after nearly a year of no services being offered, then curbside pickup, then a combination of curbside pickup and limited “DMPL Express” in-person services inside the buildings.

Continued on page 2

ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC, SIGNS OF NORMALCY AT DMPL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“We have had a lot of patrons excited for us to reopen more extended hours, closer to what we offered prior to shutting down,” said Susan A. Woody, Des Moines Public Library Director. “As more people are vaccinated and cases continue to decline, we’re excited to be able to provide more people access to our important services.”

Anyone entering the library will still be required to properly wear masks and social distance. Browsing and public computer use will still have time limits. Programming will remain virtual. Curbside pickup will continue with limited hours at all locations (except Central Library, where the pickup window will be available all day).

But a sense of normalcy is slowly returning — as are library users. And library staff will smile (under their masks) and greet customers as they walk in once again.

Staying open for in-person services for full days, in addition to giving readers more chances to browse and pick out books, also is vital for maximizing access to public computers and free internet — essential services only the library can provide.

“People in our community rely on using our public computers to utilize job and career readiness tools as well as to connect digitally with friends and family,” Woody said.

Branches have taken safety measures in order to assure safe usage of public computers. In some cases, that means computers were moved and spread out. In other cases, some computers have been turned off to ensure there is distance between users. Computers are also cleaned between uses.

As the number of vaccinated people increases and the weather gets warmer, library administrators will be keeping an eye on current COVID-19 case numbers and continue to make changes and increase available services and programs.

More information about library hours, changes, and more can always be found on our website, dmpl.org, as well as on our social media feeds: Des Moines Public Library on Facebook, @dmpl on Twitter, and @desmoineslibrary on Instagram.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: LEARNING AND RESEARCH TOOLS

The Des Moines Public Library’s digital learning databases help you find full-text sources when you need help learning something specific. With just a few keystrokes you can find resources to help your children in school and so much more! We provide library cardholders the tools they need to prep for everything from the ACT to the GRE to exams for trade certifications like plumbing and electrician work.

Here are a few resources to help you out:



Credo Research

When you’ve been assigned a project on a topic you don’t know much about, Credo Research is the perfect place to start. This database lives up to its name, with more than three million articles from a wide range of publications and professional journals. It’s easy to use; just search for the topic and subject to find the information you need.



Learning Express Library

Learning Express Library is a resource for each step in your educational and professional journey. It starts with the School Center, where elementary, middle, and high school students can find supplemental resources to improve their reading, math, science, and social studies skills.

Getting ready for college? Find tutorials, preparation eBooks, and practice exams for the ACT, SAT, and more than a dozen AP courses.

Looking at a new career? On Learning Express Library, you’ll find practice exams and preparation eBooks for a variety of careers, including electrician, plumbing, nursing, cosmetology, culinary arts, EMS, and more. You’ll also get tips on resume building and job interviews.

Whether you need help for a school project or you’re just curious to learn more about a topic, your first step should be to check our digital learning tools. Go to dmpl.org/learning to get started.

5 other things to do at dmpl.org right now:

- 1 Find book lists and listen to podcasts on the DMPL Blog!



- 2 Ask our librarians for help finding your next great read by using Book Chat!



- 3 See what programs are coming up on our events page!



- 4 Learn a language using Mango!



- 5 Start crafting with Creativebug!

creativebug

AViD FINDS SUCCESS WITH VIRTUAL FORMAT

This year's Authors Visiting in Des Moines series shifted to Zoom due to COVID-19, but the library quickly learned that fans of the series didn't seem to mind.

Thus far, the response has been tremendous. More than 200 guests attended the January program, featuring Adam Higginbotham, and more than 350 attended the February event featuring Robert Kolker. The March event with best-selling novelist Tayari Jones, organized in collaboration with the DSM Book Festival, was trending toward a high number of attendees as of press time, as well.

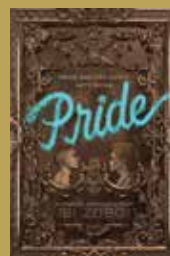
Though we miss having people at our live events to see the authors speak, meet them face-to-face, and get books signed, there are certainly some advantages to the virtual programs.

For our patrons, there are less physical accessibility concerns. In-person programs means driving to the site, parking, and finding a spot before the program begins. With virtual programs, you register in advance and just click the link in the email. Some technological barriers that may have been an issue in the past have been lessened over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as more people have adapted to the use of technology like Zoom.

There are three AViD events left in 2021. See the schedule below for more details, and for more information, go to dmpl.org/avid.



HANIF ABDURRAQIB
WED, APRIL 14, 7:00 PM



IBI ZOBOI
TUE, MAY 11, 7:00 PM



ELIN HILDERBRAND
WED, JUNE 9, 7:00 PM

ALL EVENTS VIA **ZOOM**

**Registration required. Registration opens approximately one month prior to each event. Register at dmpl.org/avid.*

PRAISE FOR AViD FROM VIEWERS

I usually attend AViD with my girlfriends. We texted each other through the program since we couldn't all get together and watch the program. The "group" aspect was nice. – Sara T.

I love being able to participate in this program from home. After a busy day, to be able to sit in the comfort of my chair and eat and drink while watching was wonderful. – Nancy E.

I really liked the convenience of attending this one virtually. It was super easy to ask a question and I was happy that the moderator shared it. – Wendi H.

It was a nice way to safely attend an event that I would have in person. I am very grateful to the library for continuing to have services throughout trying times! – Ashley H.

I thought it was very well done given the pandemic circumstances. It might be nice to livestream future in-person author visits for those unable to visit in-person! – Lee Ann B.

LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ITS NEW MISSION AND VISION

Following a year-long strategic plan process, the Des Moines Public Library Board of Trustees has approved a new vision and mission statement, list of core values, and motto for the library. These may seem like small updates, but in reality these words will set the agenda and path forward for the library as it aims to evolve with its community and their needs.

MISSION: To strengthen our community by connecting people with ideas and the tools they need to enrich their lives.

VISION: To create a stronger, more dynamic Des Moines where everyone's potential is realized.

OUR CORE VALUES

- We believe reading improves lives.
- We are committed to our valued customers and partners.
- We cultivate and celebrate our inclusive, engaged staff.
- We are champions for equity.
- We are passionate about literacy and lifelong learning.
- We are a safe and welcoming space for all.
- We are responsible stewards of public resources.
- We are ready to serve.

MOTTO: We inform and inspire the curious.

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

WE INFORM AND INSPIRE THE CURIOUS
STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2023



The Des Moines Public Library has identified its top priorities following a year-long strategic plan process.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR FOLLOWERS!

We asked our Instagram followers how the Des Moines Public Library helped them during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how their usage of the library has changed. Here are some of the many answers we received:



"Love the expanded hours at the Central Pickup Window."



"Getting books to read has helped keep me sane!"



"Book bundles, book chat, moving the eMagazines to Libby... y'all are one of the MVPs during COVID"



"I LOVE Book Chat. I've gotten some great recommendations and kids' bundles!"



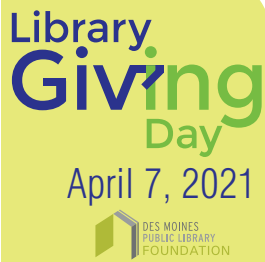
"Reading is my lifeline through the pandemic. The library has been my saving grace. Thank you so much for offering curbside services! A lifesaver!"



"Thanks for all the ways you've pivoted to serve us and keep us connected to reading. As a mom, I also love the ongoing kids' crafts that have been handed out."

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Opening Doors. Books. Minds.



APRIL 7, 2021: LIBRARY GIVING DAY

Join us to strengthen and support the Des Moines Public Library during this national celebration of public libraries. This past year during the pandemic, the Des Moines Public

Library met the challenges of serving you by expanding virtual programs, digital offerings, and curbside pickup. Library staff worked harder than ever to advance literacy, knowledge, and learning.

Give a gift today! Giving is easy in one of four ways:

- Use the enclosed donor envelope
- Make an online gift at dmpl.org/foundation and click on Donate Now
- Text 41444 to LIBRARYGIVING
- Call us at 515-412-0180

MEET THE NEW FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS



Trevor Meers
President



Belinda Alexander
Vice President



Chris Nebons
Treasurer



Paul Melde and Sam Reed
Co-Secretaries



Cory McAnelly
Immediate Past President

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Nicole Krueger,
Associate Attorney,
Davis Brown
Law Firm



Amy Randeris-Schultz, Senior
Audit Manager,
LWBJ, LLP



Brianne Sanchez,
Community
Leader

CATHERINE WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT FUND



The Library Foundation has created a new endowment fund with the \$50,000 Catherine Williams estate gift. The Catherine Williams Fund will award \$3,500 each year to the Library for programming addressing racial justice and diversity. Catherine was an Iowa State employee for 33 years, beginning as a secretary and retiring in 1981 as Deputy Commissioner for the Iowa Department of Social Services.

She became the highest-ranking African American female in state government and one of the highest ranking in social services nationally. Throughout her career she advocated for racial justice and diversity.

THANK YOU TO OUR AVID SPONSORS

Since 2001, there have been 147 author events attended by 49,442 readers like you.

Des Moines Register

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Nationwide
Foundation



BUILDING AMERICA®

KELLY & BRAD EDMISTER



**Mary K. And Daniel M.
Kelly Family Foundation**

**Karen Shaff and
Steven Jayne**

**Pamela Bass-Bookey
& Harry Bookey**



Dr. Katherine and Andrew Hauser

**CYNTHIA O'BRIEN &
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK**

**Douglas
and
Deborah
WEST**



*Books available for purchase
and signing from Beaverdale Books.*

The mission of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation is to raise funds and advocate for the Des Moines Public Library System.



Like us on Facebook at
dmpl-foundation

YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT

With gift matching opportunities, like company matching of charitable gifts or volunteer time, your giving will increase. Ask your Human Resources Office for the required forms.

Please consider a gift to the Des Moines Public Library Foundation.

Leave a legacy by designating a planned gift today – you will make a difference in the future. Planned gifts can show a lifetime of caring and be in the form of a bequest, gift of life insurance, stocks or annuities. Please contact Foundation Executive Director Dory Briles at 515-412-0180.

WE LOVE OUR DONORS! Kersti A. Rutledge Estate



The Library Foundation is grateful for the generous Kersti A. Rutledge \$16,231.32 estate gift. The gift was designated to the South Side Library in memory of Rutledge's stepfather, Alexander Sharp.

For a long time, a wish of the South Side Library has been to improve their study rooms by enclosing and soundproofing them. The Rutledge estate gift would cover

about half the cost of the construction project. In January, the Des Moines Public Library Foundation Board awarded the Library a grant of \$18,000 for completion of the project.

The construction has begun and will make the rooms more private for people to use for such purposes as interviewing online, discussing custody arrangements, conferencing with teachers, receiving feedback on supervised visits, and recording oral histories.

Brenda Hall, the South Side Library Supervisor, wrote: "Libraries commonly have private spaces for users to checkout to meet a variety of needs, but until now, South has lacked this private space. Once enclosed, one room will be dedicated to digital use and the other for small conferences. It will truly impact the community the South Side Library serves."

WATCH FOR 2021 TRIVIA SMACKDOWN DATE!



We are hopeful to meet in person this year. Please keep checking dmpl.org/foundation and our Facebook page for upcoming announcements!

HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER

We sadly say thanks and goodbye to our outstanding board member Craig Sieverding, Chief Legal Officer at Iowa Clinic, for his board service.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

In 2020, with designated Foundation gifts, the Library purchased 2,133 new books and 13,125 digital circulations.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donations were received by the Des Moines Public Library Foundation from December 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us, and we will make corrections.

IN MEMORY OF

Jeffrey Armstrong
DMPL Staff Association

Leah Blair
Linda Blair

Nicola Bleakney
L. Kay Cross

Lorene Briles
Christine Summy and Ayers Family

Harry Downing, Jr.
Sally Downing

John Grzybowski
Carrie Anderson
Karen Baker
Marci Behm
Katie Bliss
Dory Briles
Tina Brooks
Rebecca Cloud
Deborah Cox
Lois Crozier
Sandy Deyoe
DMPL Staff Association
Brenda Hall
Donna Jordan
Chris Knox
Sarah Lane
Alicia Mangin
Cathy Newton

Shari Olson
Brooke Santillan
Kris Sheaffer
Burke Shiffler
Mary Slattery
Sue Woody

Clyde and Mary Lou Herring
Victoria Herring

Eden Celeste Hoque
Julie, Patrick, and Olivia Sanagursky

Liz and Ray Jackson
Deanna Jackson

Sally Morrow
Anonymous
Shelley Bain
Mackenzie Highlanders Pipes & Drums

Martha M. Masid
Susan and John Kerss

Lorraine Metcalf
Merlynd Metcalf

Russell D. Parks
Sheena Thomas

Jerrica Hilleman Ruden Phelan
Franci Phelan and Randal Peters

Joy Rohm
Anna and Rob Hueston

Dr. Eugene Rowley
Laura Hilker

Virginia and Harold Sedgwick
Sara Sedgwick

Alexander Sharp
Kersti A. Rutledge Trust Estate

Jean Stauffer
Sasha and Mike Kamper

Ruth Catherine Tibboel
Carrie Anderson
Karen Baker

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS (CONTINUED)

Marci Behm
Katie Bliss
Dory Briles
Tina Brooks
Rebecca Cloud
Deborah Cox
Lois Crozier
Sandy Deyoe
DMPL Staff Association
Brenda Hall
Jon Hobbs
Donna Jordan
Chris Knox
Sarah Lane
Alicia Mangin
Cathy Newton
Richard Nordin
Shari Olson
Brooke Santillan
Kris Sheaffer
Burke Shiffer
Mary Slattery
Sue Woody

Dorothy Wade
Donald Wade

Kayla Joy Waters
Beverly Waters

**Elyse Weiss and
Nikki Keller**
**both women advocates
for the underdog**
Susan Jellinger

Janet Westhoff
Judi and Norbert Kaut

IN HONOR OF

**"All the authors, toiling in
silence, for the betterment
of us all."**
Jennifer Wilson and
Jim Hoff

Kate Aspengren
Mary Lou Aspengren

Dory Briles
**and "her commitment to
the Library"**
Dr. Katherine and
Andrew Hauser

**Joe Ferrentino and
Maggie White**
Robert Ferrentino

The Eastside Library
**in Honor of the
Fabulous Staff**
Mary Benetti and
Thomas Phillips

Fall4Learning Scholarship
Anonymous

Ellen Harrington
Jo Cox and Charlie
Harrington

Judith A. Hess
Carol L. Horner

William Joseph Horner
Carol L. Horner

**Leanne and
Robert Kennard**
James Walrath

Anna Kingery
James C. Walters

The Library
**"What a great job the
library is doing during
Covid."**
Jamie and Scott Seitz

The Madison Children
**in Honor of our 3 children
who love the Library**
Jenna and Aaron Madison

David Rowley
Perry Klein

Nathan Seyfer
GreenState Credit Union

Maggie White
Kathryn Ferrentino
Mary White

Matching Gifts
Meredith Corporation
Foundation: Matching
Brian Wirt and Janet Figg

Voya: Matching Carissa
Daughtry

**Workplace Giving
Programs**
City of Des Moines
Employees
Nationwide Employees
Principal Financial
Employees
State of Iowa Employees
(Iowa One Gift)
Voya Employee
Wellmark Employees
Wells Fargo Employees

**ANNUAL
Up to \$99**
Frederick Adams
Megan Bannister
Lois and Robert Beh
Paul Bebensee
Thomas Biedenfeld
Jane Brimmer
Inez Busch
Don Corrigan
Carol and Peter Curnes
Kathy Eastman
Elise Fiscus
Carrie and Jeff Fleming
Amy Getty
Judith Guinn
Lois Hartline

Lorna and Stephen
Holland
Naomi (Nikki) Hubbard
Joyce Jansz
Douglas Jensen
Genevieve Johnson
Virginia Johnson
Joanne and Kenneth
Kalaha
Loren Kane
Irma and Tim Kelly
Veronica Kirk
Deborah Knight
Lisa Langan
Margaret Maloney
Sydney Marshall
Francis Mariner
Network for Good
Donna and Kenneth
Reams
Diana Rezac
Genevieve Rosenbalm
Barbara Rosst
Shields Family
Jessica and Nicholas
Siefert
Sherry and Harold Swihart
Andrew Tatge
Jacqueline Thompson
Jill and Ben VanVleet
Sarah Wilson

\$100 - \$249
Anonymous
Robin Ahnen Cacciatore
and John Cacciatore
Betty Augspurger
Lee Ann Bakros
Cheryl Bergren
Marjorie Best-Peterson
and Jay Peterson
Ellen and John Burnquist
Karen and William
Claypool
Terri Combs and Thomas
Swartwood
Christine and Brendan
Comito Fund
Judith Conlin
Sandra and Ray Crabtree
MJ Dolan
John Domini
Carla and Rod Dougherty
Pamela and Robert
Douglas
Katherine and Herb
Eckhouse
James Erwin
Joe Ferrentino
Janet Figg
Carolyn Greufe
Thalya and Mark Hanson
Barbara and Douglas Hein
Karen and Steven Herwig
Christine Hines
Alex and Cooper Hubbell
Brenda Jensen
Barbara John
The Kelson Charitable
Fund
Kenny's Bail Bonds, LLC.

Bess, Tom, and Hazel
Lamoreux
Frances Landers
Michael Lipsman
Karen Massetti Miller and
William Brauch
Sheila and Kent Mauck
Lindsay Mayland
Julie and Paul McGarvey
John Morrissey
Maribeth Mulready and
Jon Koehn
Susan and Cal Murdock
Bill and Joan Nassif Family
Fund
Marion Nehmer
Catherine and Bill Newton
Ernest Nino-Murcia
Barbara and Andrew Nish
Jessica Oster
Marginell Powell
Kristi and Mike Reck
Christine Riccelli and
Charles Ball
Dr. Lois Roets
Melanie and Rick
Scupham
Chris Segar
Sonya and Mark Siebert
Ann Sokolowski
Marjorie Spevak
Marilyn Staples
Jon Staudt
Mary Tabor and Phillip
Roeder
Molly and Robert Veenstra
Donna and Ronald Walker
Amy and Murray Williams
Amy Worthen

\$250 - \$499
In the Bag
Judy Blank
Judith and Marshall Flapan
Mary Ann Juhl
Laura Lockard
Jo Oldson and Brice
Oakley
Judy and John Perkins
Nelda Sampel
Vicki Sehgal and Ryan
Clutter
James Spevak
Diane and Dr. Michael
Versackas
Martha Willits
Barbara and Jon Yankey

\$500 - \$999
Marlene and Robert
Buckley
Wendy and Timothy
DeVries
Friends of Forest Avenue
Library
Mary Pat and Joseph
Gunderson
Dixie and Will Hoekman
Judith Jaastad
Edward Loeb
Lauren and Cory McAnelly

Noth Family Charitable
Fund
Martha Reno

\$1,000 - \$9,999
Pamela Bass Bookey and
Harry Bookey
Shelley and Martin Brody
Sue Haskell
Dr. Katherine and Andrew
Hauser
Tim Hickman and Frank
Vaia
Rusty Hubbell Family Fund
Wes Hunsberger and
Mark Holub
Frederick James
Lauridsen Family
Endowment
Nancy Main
Barbara and Bruce Martin
Jim Meier
Heidi Mendez
The Meredith Corporation
Foundation
Susan B. Moore Charitable
Fund
Amy and Chris Nebons
The Pillsbury Foundation
Anastasia Polydorin
Rose Mary and Robert
Pratt
Janis and John Ruan, III
and John Ruan
Foundation Trust
Walter Smith and the
Smith Family Foundation
MaryAnne and Robert
Sobiech
Sally Titus
Leann Treloar and Scott
Galenbeck
Deborah and Douglas
West
Brian and Kelly Wirt
Nancy Woods

\$10,000 - \$49,999
Kelly and Bradley Edmister
Friends of the Franklin
Avenue Library
The Rotary Club of
Des Moines Foundation
Kersti A. Rutledge Estate
Karen Shaff and Steve
Jayne
Windsor Charitable
Foundation

IN-KIND
Michael Ehrmann
Cory McAnelly
Principal

SPRINT  **PRINT**
PRINT | COPY | BINDERY | DIRECT MAIL | DESIGN



President
Trevor Meers

Vice President
Belinda Alexander

Treasurer
Christopher Nebons

Co-Secretaries
Paul Melde
Sam Reed

Past President
Cory McAnelly

Belinda Alexander
Alex Duong
Steve Jayne
Sasha Kamper
Nicole Krueger
Amy Randeris-Schultz
Brianna Sanchez
Martha Stephenson
Kathie Swift
Brian Wirt
Ellen Yee

The Next Chapter
Cassie Bonefas

Library Board of Trustees
President
Isobel Osius

Library Executive Director
Sue Woody

Library Foundation
Executive Director
Dory Briles

Donate Online

Simply go to
dmpl.org/foundation
and
click on **Donate Now.**



CENTRAL LIBRARY TURNS 15!

Fifteen years ago this April, the Central Library opened its new doors in downtown Des Moines' Western Gateway Park area. The sprawling, 110,000 square-foot building, which replaced the original Main Library that opened in 1903 on the Des Moines Riverfront, was designed by famed London architect David Chipperfield, and helped redefine the architectural and cultural landscape of downtown Des Moines.

Go to dmpl.org to read more about the building, see photos, and celebrate this beautiful building's birthday!



LIBRARY DIRECTOR
Sue Woody

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Isobel Osius | President
Jennifer Fiihr | Vice President
Bob Mahaffey | Secretary
Wes Graham
Jule A. Thorsen

Spring Holiday Closures:

- April 4
- May 29-31



Funding to print *Insight* is provided by the
Des Moines Public Library Foundation.



dmpl.org



Phone: 515.283.4152



Email: reference@dmpl.org

CENTRAL LIBRARY 1000 Grand Avenue

9 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
9 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Pickup Window: Available during open hours

EAST SIDE LIBRARY 2559 Hubbell Avenue

10 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Curbside Pickup: 10 AM - 1 PM Monday-Saturday

FOREST AVENUE LIBRARY 1326 Forest Avenue

10 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Curbside Pickup: 10 AM - 1 PM Monday-Saturday

FRANKLIN AVENUE LIBRARY 5000 Franklin Avenue

10 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Curbside Pickup: 10 AM - 4 PM Monday-Saturday

NORTH SIDE LIBRARY 3516 Fifth Avenue

10 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Curbside Pickup: 10 AM - 1 PM Monday-Saturday

SOUTH SIDE LIBRARY 1111 Porter Avenue

10 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday
10 AM - 6 PM Friday
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday
Curbside Pickup: 10 AM - 1 PM Monday-Saturday

**Hours are subject to change due to COVID-19. Please visit dmpl.org for up-to-date hours and information on available library services.*