

Welcome New Directors

Dear Esteemed Colleagues:

Indiana libraries are a great value for Hoosiers. In these difficult economic times, the public library remains the only place many Hoosiers have access to new technologies, the Internet, and free entertainment opportunities. Indiana libraries are so much more than a bricks and mortar repository of books. Today, the local library is a catalyst for economic development, provider of professional development and lifelong education services, gateway to digital information and online resources, and cultural and civic center of the community. During this time of heightened scrutiny and concern over local spending and property taxes, it's reassuring to see that Indiana libraries remain a beacon of fiscal responsibility and efficiency by providing at least \$2.38 in direct economic benefits to the community per each dollar in cost.



As libraries move into the 21st century we face challenges, but remember that you are never alone. Chances are someone in Indiana's statewide library community will have overcome the very same obstacles you may one day face. Also, do not hesitate to contact the Indiana State Library for help or reassurance. The State Library staff is dedicated to providing you assistance on wide range of library issues, including programming, law, professional development, board policies and so much more.

This handbook was developed as a tool you can turn to for answers to common questions. Please call our staff if you need clarification or assistance with anything covered in this handbook. You are also welcome to join one or more listservs for Indiana librarians to find help from your peers and other library staff.

Congratulations on your recent appointment as an Indiana public library director. I wish you the best of luck in all your future personal and professional endeavors.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta L. Brooker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roberta L Brooker
Indiana State Librarian
Indiana State Library
rbrooker@library.in.gov