

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:  
“SUPPORTING THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF IOWA’S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES – AN  
UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARIES AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF  
IOWA, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA”**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** Christopher Cox, John Culshaw, and Beth McNeil will provide an overview of how the role of academic libraries has changed over the last several decades. No longer simply buildings to store physical collections with space for solitary study, today’s libraries are dynamic service-based organizations that support the information needs of students, faculty, and Iowans. The physical facilities encourage collaboration and creativity. The electronic and physical collections serve broad and diverse research and scholarship interests. This presentation will highlight the critical role libraries have in today’s higher education environment. It will also describe the individual and collaborative successes of the libraries in addition to discussing efficiencies gained by working together and some of the challenges all libraries face in the future.

Christopher Cox has been Dean of Library Services at the University of Northern Iowa since August 2013. As Dean, he is responsible for marketing the library, overseeing its budget, and working collaboratively to set strategic direction and respond to student needs. Prior to coming to Iowa, Mr. Cox was Dean of Libraries at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and Interim Director of Libraries at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Connecticut, and a Master of Library Science from the University at Albany in New York.

John Culshaw is University Librarian at the University of Iowa. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, pursued graduate coursework in History at Marquette University, and received a Master of Science degree in Information Studies from Drexel University. Mr. Culshaw is the co-author of *Managing Information Technology: A Handbook for Systems Librarians*. He currently serves on the HathiTrust Board of Governors, the Board of Directors of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the North American Library Advisory Board for the Elsevier Publishing Company.

Beth McNeil is Dean of Library Services at Iowa State University. Dr. McNeil earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Science degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Ph.D. in Human Sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to joining Iowa State in 2015, she served as Associate Dean in the libraries at Purdue University (2007-2015) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1996-2007). She is the author of *Fundamentals of Library Supervision* (2010), *Human Resource Management in Today’s Academic Library* (2004), and *Patron Behavior in Libraries* (1996).