Goals

• Develop and enhance a collection that will tell the story of Iowa and engage Iowans across all 99 counties
• Utilize the collection to inspire Iowans to connect with their past, present and future
• Ensure the accessibility, preservation, and sustainability of the State Historical Society of Iowa collection
• Implement and maintain industry best practice to the maximum extent possible

Work completed to-date

Collection Management Policy

Strategy
Mission/Scope
Best Practices/Industry Standards
Prioritization

Management
Processes
Staffing
Technology

Collection
Organization
Accessibility
Preservation

Storytelling
Education
Exhibits
Outreach

Preliminary Survey (June/July 2015)

Respondent Characteristics
• First all-encompassing collection survey in the history of the State Historical Society of Iowa to gauge user demographics and preferences
• 906 total respondents; response exceeded expectations and were primarily experts in the field and known users
• 60% were 55 years of age and older
• 77% consider themselves intermediate, advanced or expert researchers

Key insights
• Strong preference for easy and fast searches via online database as first point of interaction across all users
• Preference for in person collection research (in order): state government, vital records, photographs, newspapers, manuscripts and books
• Users under 35 years of age need introduction to use the State Historical Society of Iowa collection
Collection Evaluation (November 2014 – August 2015)

Collection Highlights

- **Photographs**: 1.5 Million, < 1% Cataloged
- **Manuscripts**: 20.7 Million, < 1% Cataloged
- **Newspapers**: 25.9 Million, 71% Cataloged
- **State Archives**: 114 Million, 3% Cataloged
- **Historical Libraries**: 46.7 Million, 40% Cataloged
- **Museum/Sites Objects**: 150,000, 73% Cataloged

209 Million Content Pages & Objects

Staff Assessment (February – July 2015)
- First all-encompassing collection assessment has been conducted over the last year
- Captured over 200 years of staff institutional memory
- Reconfirmed the need for further assessment, cataloging, promotion and conservation

Industry Expert Analysis (January – May 2015)
- Evolve current collection management structure
- Modernize overall collection management
- Streamline collection bureaus
- Introduce collection management system
- Re-prioritize resources into collections

Timeline – Next 18 Months

- Draft Collecting Plan
- Draft Collection Initiative Priorities
- Research content management system specifications and budget
- Develop and refine project timing and budget
- Develop strategic partnerships