Works Cited

# Homebound Services in Public Libraries:

## understanding an antique service in a modern society

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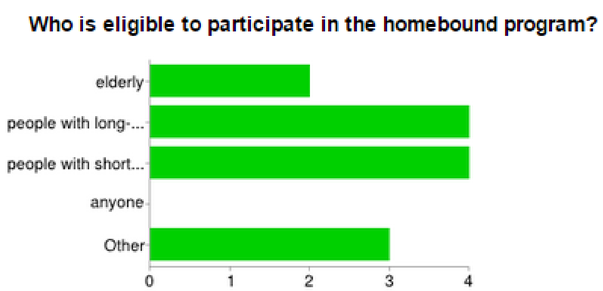
Library Bill of Rights, Article I. *Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.*

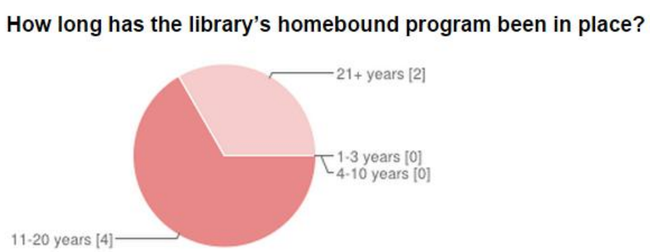
## Who is Eligible for Homebound Services?

Any patrons with physical or mental impairments or a disability that prohibits the patron from visiting the library




## Antique Service

A 1967 ALA survey found that many public libraries across the United States already had programs in place to reach homebound patrons.




## Role in Modern Society

- Aging populations of Baby Boomers
- Increased standard of living → increased expectations

## Homebound Programs in Iowa Today

A questionnaire was distributed to Iowa Public Libraries to:
Gauge services provided
Identify goals for the future
Patrons served by individual Homebound Programs: 0 – 128 participants
Cost to Patrons: unanimously zero cost

Staffing:
- volunteers
- employees

Materials NOT available:
DVD Collection

Delivery and return methods:
- door-to-door
- Postal Service

## Observable Weaknesses

- Little has changed operationally and in services offered to patrons
- Lack of consistency across libraries

"Hopefully, in the future library schools will develop this area more fully. A few of the schools should offer sixth year specialist programs for librarians who wish to work with the homebound or institutionalized, and all library schools should have some offering at the master's level."

American Libraries, 1970.

**What are the Library's goals for the future of the homebound program?**

## Adapting Homebound Programs for the Future

A majority of homebound patrons are elderly community members, a population generally considered to be less digitally literate than most. As we move into a more technological society, ***digital options*** will become increasingly familiar and accessible to all patrons.

## Tools for the Future

Tablets and other devices

- ✓ must operate with or without internet access
- ✓ offer ability to change font sizes
- ✓ may be desirable to patrons who have limited use of hands
- ✓ can be used to
  - allow access to the digital catalog
  - provide a connection to the world
  - supply access to digital newspapers (current and historical)
  - lend with preloaded eResources

## Services for the Future

Informational lessons provided at care facilities about digital services
Optional digital delivery
Online book discussion groups

## Keep in Mind

Though many homebound patrons will become increasingly comfortable with new technology, maintain traditional services for patrons with varying levels of digital literacy

## Outcomes

Community development
Support for life long learners