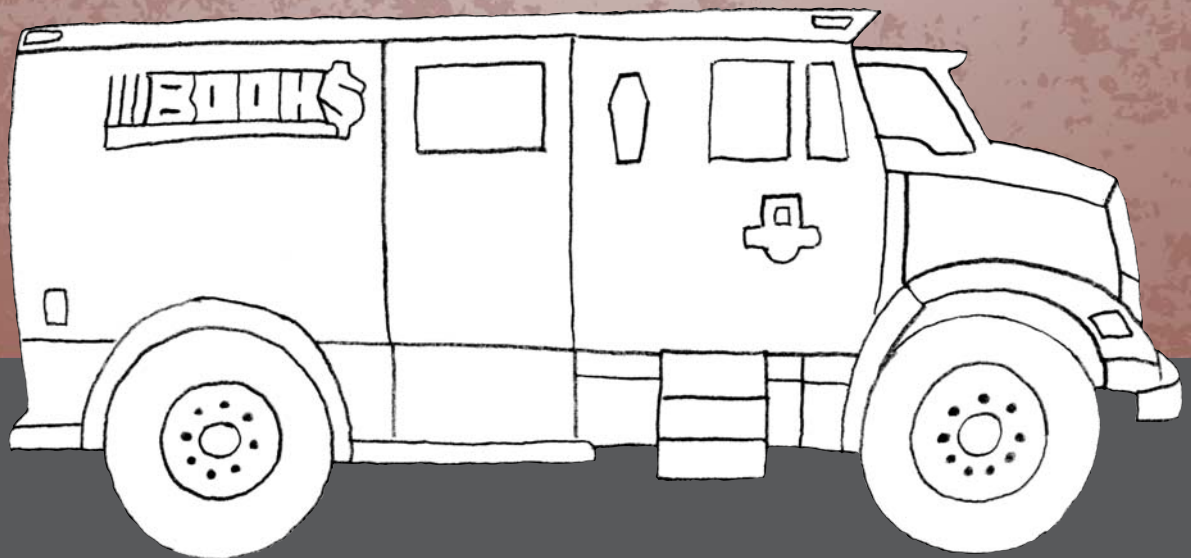


**ILLINOIS  
LIBRARIES:  
GENERATING  
VALUE IN  
DOLLARS  
AND SENSE**



**The Illinois Library Association** is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

Its primary goals are:

- Advocating for the Public Interest
- Promoting Professional Excellence
- Preparing for the Future

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

I can't believe a year has passed since I assumed the duties of ILA president. Time flies when you are busy and this year has been busy. So I'd like to take a moment to review what we've done and what I've learned in talking with library workers around the state. You also need to know about the exciting plans developed during your board's first strategic planning retreat in ten years.

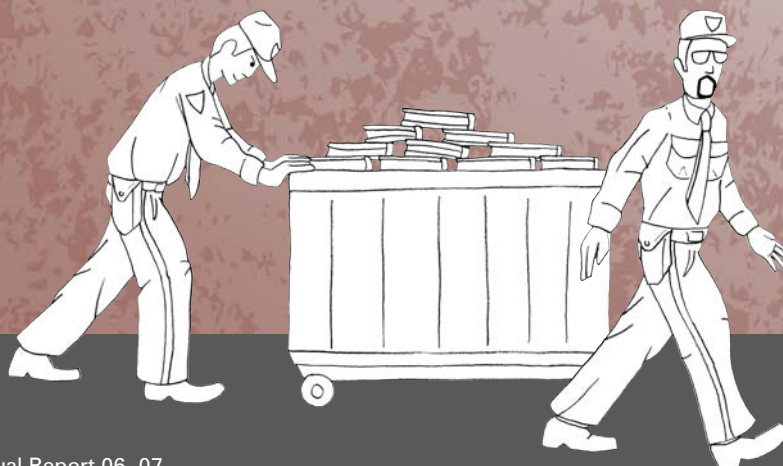
The theme of this year's ILA conference — "Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense" — is an apt one, as it mixes both the practical need of libraries to show a return on investment and the ever-increasing demands on librarians to provide visionary leadership both as library leaders and as community leaders.

Managing a library is about far more than keeping the doors open and the shelves filled. It is about gaining a place at the table when communities are planning their development, cultivating relationships with local, state, and federal legislators, and keeping the lines of communication with our customers open so we can stay abreast of their information wants and needs. While we need to keep working for improved — and increased —

lines of funding and common sense solutions to issues such as filtering, we also need to be able to continually assure our relevance to the quickly changing communities we serve.

Libraries in this state span the range from small to extra large, from minuscule materials budgets to budgets in the millions, but all have in common the need to remain relevant to their users and in sync with their funding sources. All across the state, many of our librarians are fast approaching retirement but worry that there is no one to succeed them. And yet again this year, library services were challenged by the filtering issue.

To this end, we hosted more continuing education programs this year than ever before. In the spring, ILA sponsored fourteen workshops across the state, including a series of intellectual freedom workshops, "Defending Access with Confidence," held at eight Illinois library systems. Another first for Illinois was the workshop on the need for leadership succession and retirement planning. This two-day workshop, "Accelerating in the Homestretch," was funded in part by a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, and jointly hosted by ILA and the Indian Trails Public Library District.



# “Libraries and their collections and services are invaluable assets for developing your community.”

—Tamiye Meehan

Thanks to persistence and a lot of hard work by ILA Executive Director Robert P. Doyle, we also participated in an extraordinary partnership with MySpace to produce more than two million bookmarks, providing information to youth and adults on making safe and informed decisions online. Three different bookmarks — *Dealing with Cyberbullies: Tips for Kids*, *Safe Blogging: Tips for Teens*, and *Social Networking: Tips for Parents* — were produced. One million were distributed to Illinois’s libraries, as well as to local officials. Another million were distributed to every attendee at the 2007 American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., and to our national legislators. ILA is continuing its discussion with MySpace and it’s hoped additional useful tools will be developed.

Ensuring the vitality of our association is a critical ingredient in keeping the voice of ILA heard in the state and federal legislatures and in helping libraries plan and prepare for the future. One of the best returns on investment made by ILA is our lobbyist, Kip Kolkmeier, who kept us abreast of ninety-two pending bills affecting libraries. It was a busy year for library legislation, both good and bad. Pages four and five of this report list a few of the key bills.

In addition to maintaining and growing our membership, we embarked this year on a multi-year strategic plan developed under the leadership of incoming ILA president Brad Baker. With the guidance of consultant Dan Wiseman, the board has constructed a strategic plan that provides a great return on the investment of your dues in ILA. The process will need everyone’s attention and help during the next few years, particularly members of the executive board.

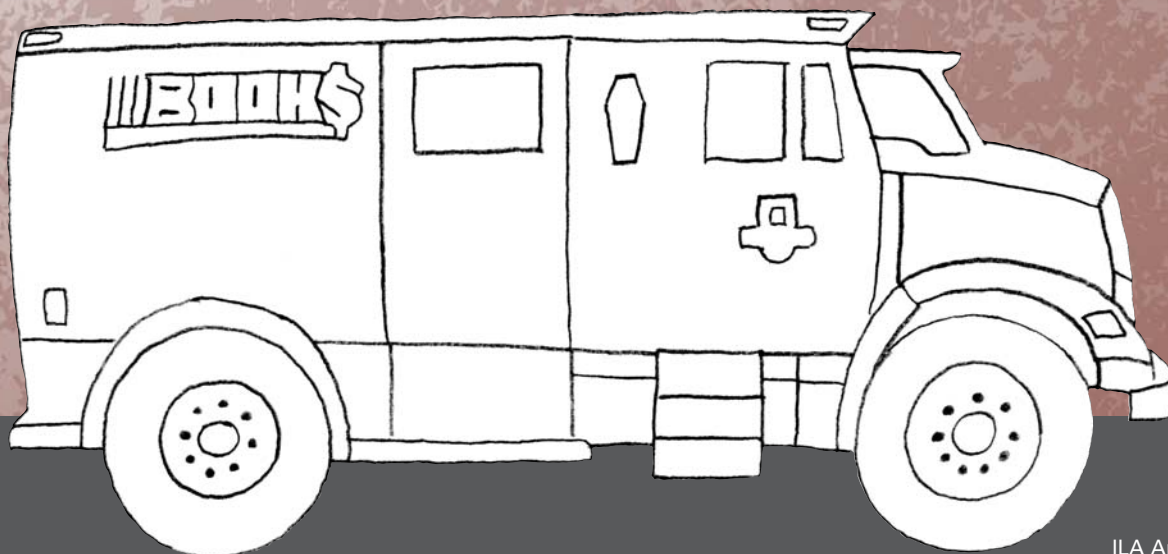
I look forward to working with all of you on this plan and on the many issues we will face in the future, but for now I invite you to look through these pages and join the executive board and me in celebrating a very busy 2006–2007 ILA year.

Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense!

Tamiye Meehan



ILA President, 2006–2007



## ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST: 2006–2007

On April 19, the city of Springfield welcomed 338 library supporters attending the 2007 Illinois Library Day. Sponsored jointly by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Illinois Library Association, Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and Illinois State Library, the event drew librarians from all over the state and from all types of libraries.

The delegation met with their legislators and urged them to take the following actions:

Oppose House Bill 1727, Mandatory Internet Computer Filters. As introduced, the bill takes away local control, imposes a costly unfunded mandate, and punishes libraries and librarians with fines and frivolous lawsuits.

Support Senate Bill 186, Library District Working Cash Funds. The bill makes library district funds more consistent with other local governments, updates a reference tying funds to a 1978 equalized assessed valuation (EAV), and clarifies existing provisions.

Support House Bill 2782, Public Library District Annexation. The bill provides additional public notice and an opportunity to comment on proposed annexations.

In May, Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., with seventy-six attendees, or 18 percent of the total attendance for the event. In addition, Danny Chapman, a senior honor student at Lake Forest High School and the first winner of the National Library Legislative Day 2007 Student Theme Contest, and his family joined the Illinois delegation.

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The 2007 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly seemed misnamed, as it stretched well into summer and the fall. The roiling overtime session was dominated by budget discussions. Legislators filed almost 6,000 bills. The Illinois Library Association tracked more than ninety-two bills affecting funding for libraries, intellectual freedom issues, local government operations, and other issues of importance to the library community.

The association's advocacy efforts successfully defeated legislation requiring all Illinois public and school libraries to filter their public computers, and defeated proposed social networking legislation. ILA opposed proposed legislation weakening the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund; and sponsored bills to bring consistency to the management of public library district working cash funds, allow greater transparency in the public library district annexation issues, and allow greater flexibility for minimum signature requirement for a trustee nomination petition. It was an extraordinarily successful spring session in the Illinois General Assembly, where libraries faced many challenges.

Our success is due to the many calls and e-mail messages from the library community, the other coalition members, and the many citizens who shared our concerns. Congratulations and thanks to all!

**Key bills and their disposition are detailed below.**

### **Senate Bill (SB) 1682, Social Networking Prohibition Act, held.**

This bill would have banned or severely limited access to social networking sites, such as MySpace, on library computers. The Illinois Library Association actively opposed this bill, and it died in committee.

**House Bill (HB) 1727, Mandatory Internet Filtering, held.** The bill was passed out of the House on an extremely close vote; in the Senate, it failed to pass out of committee. The Illinois Library Association opposed this bill in coalition with the AIDS Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union-Illinois, the City of Chicago, the Illinois Municipal League, the Illinois Secretary of State's office, the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, and People for the American Way. It should be noted, however, that HB 1727 still exists and could return in the 2007 Illinois General Assembly Fall Veto Session.

**House Bill (HB) 499, Trustee Petition, passed and signed by governor.**

This bill amends the Illinois Local Library Act by reducing the minimum signature requirement for a nomination petition for the office of library board trustee from 50 to 25. ILA supported this initiative after it was amended to address our concerns.

**House Bill (HB) 2782, Public Library District Annexation, passed and signed by governor.**

An initiative of the Illinois Library Association, this bill requires that the library district shall send notice of an annexation, prior to adopting the ordinance, to be considered by the board of trustees of each public library with service areas within one mile of the territory to be annexed. Within fifteen days of the passage of the annexation ordinance, the library district shall send notice to the president of the board of trustees of each public library with territory within the one-mile radius.

**Senate Bill (SB) 186, Working Cash Funds, passed. Vetoed by governor on August 17. ILA is seeking to override.**

An initiative of the Illinois library community, the bill addresses the management of public library district working cash funds by adopting provisions consistent with other units of local government, such as park districts and schools. Public library districts are entitled to establish working cash funds for a period of four tax years, but the tax years need not be consecutive; the establishment of a working cash fund is subject to a back door referendum. The bill updates the annual limit on the maximum size of a working cash fund to 0.2 percent of the 1998 cash value of taxable property; clarifies that interest earned from temporarily idle funds may be transferred to the general fund; and allows library districts to reestablish working cash funds by the same method as originally created, meaning they are subject to a back door rather than a front door referendum.

**House Bill (HB) 237, Library Records Confidentiality Act, passed and signed by governor.**

This bill passed after the ILA Executive Board proposed various changes and adopted a position of neutrality. The changes, originally proposed to draft legislation in 2004, narrowed the scope of the law and gave the library greater discretion in determining how to handle requests for information from law enforcement agencies. In addition, the bill was amended to require that all requests be in writing, be made only after an actual request for a court order has been initiated, and be reviewable by a court after the fact. Further amendments limit the information provided about the identity of the library patron in question, thus reconfirming confidentiality of circulation records. (For further information, see the article "Emergency Exception to the Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act," by Kiplund Kolkmeier in this issue of the *ILA Reporter*.)

**Senate Bill (SB) 729, College Campus Press Act, passed and signed by governor.**

This bill provides that all campus media produced primarily by students at state-sponsored institutions of higher learning is a public forum for expression by the student journalists and editors at the particular institution. It also provides that campus media, whether campus-sponsored or noncampus-sponsored, is not subject to prior review by public officials of those institutions.

**Senate Bill (SB) 364, Sex Offender Community Notification Law, passed and signed by governor.**

This bill provides that the local law enforcement agencies shall disclose to libraries located within their jurisdictions the name, address, date of birth, place of employment, school attended, and offense or adjudication of all sex offenders and violent offenders against youth required to register in their jurisdictions under the Acts. At the November 2006 ILA Executive Board meeting, the board discussed SB 364 and determined the association should not be opposed to receiving information. The board also determined the following general principle/operating guideline regarding sex offenders and access to libraries: All are welcomed in libraries, but individuals may be excluded based on individual behavior that violates the law or library policies. ILA was neutral on this bill.

**Senate Bill (SB) 417, Elections and Sex Offenders, held.**

This bill would have required sex offenders whose polling place is a library or school to vote by absentee or early voting ballot. ILA successfully sought an amendment to remove libraries from this proposed legislation.

**Senate Bill (SB) 1472, Internet Safety Education Act, passed and signed by governor.**

ILA supported this bill requiring school districts to provide education about Internet threats and risks. The bill creates the Internet Safety Education Alliance under the authority of the Office of the Attorney General and amends the State Finance Act to create the Internet Safety Education Fund. The School Code for the 2008–2009 school year is amended to mandate instruction and discussion on effective methods by which students may recognize and report inappropriate, illegal, or threatening communications on the Internet.

**Senate Bill (SB) 1158, Changes to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, held.**

This bill would have amended the Illinois Pension Code by providing that specified unfunded liabilities of participating municipalities be spread over the remainder of the period allowable under generally accepted accounting principles, except that the employer may provide for a longer period by adopting a resolution or ordinance specifying a forty-year period and submitting a certified copy of the ordinance or resolution to the fund. ILA opposed this bill.

## PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: 2006–2007

The topical theme of the 2006 ILA Annual Conference—"Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense"—focused on the practical as well as the visionary in librarianship. Jim Morgenstern of dmA Planning & Management Services and Laurey Gillies of the Southern Ontario Library Service presented the keynote address, "The Library's Contribution to Your Community," which engaged and challenged conference attendees. The conference was held October 3–6 in Chicago.

Other highlights included author/illustrator Eric Rohmann speaking at the Youth Services Breakfast and receptions at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum and Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. The Illinois Authors' Luncheon featuring Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, drew a capacity audience to hear about the book's librarian protagonist and Chicago setting.

ILA members attended over seventy sessions addressing topics from electronic intellectual freedom to serving ethnic populations, from passing your referendum to library professional education. Conference attendance was 2,130, including 368 exhibitor representatives. A special thanks to the many sponsors and donors who made the conference possible, along with the members and visitors from around the world who made it memorable.

Continuing education is a year-round event for the association. Selected examples include:

- From February to May, ILA sponsored fourteen workshops across the state, including a series of intellectual freedom workshops—"Defending Access with Confidence"—held at eight Illinois library systems.
- The Illinois Library Trustee Forum sponsored their annual Spring Workshop at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle.
- In April, "Accelerating in the Homestretch" was held at the Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center. This workshop, designed for library directors planning to retire in the next five to seven years, offered tools to assess their library's current state of health, determine what needs to be done to ensure sustained improvement, and plan for succession management.
- On Friday, May 18, the seventeenth annual Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants drew more than 1,000 attendees to the Rosemont Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Stephen Abram, vice-president of innovation SirsiDYNIX, presented the keynote address, "Next Generation Libraries: The Social Web 2.0."

In addition to these workshops and conferences, the *ILA Reporter* offers members a bimonthly window to the wider world of librarianship around the state and the nation. This year the *ILA Reporter* received a makeover, based on the fall 2006 member survey. The publication became more colorful, and we hope more practical, inspirational, and filled with ideas. Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2006–2007 included:

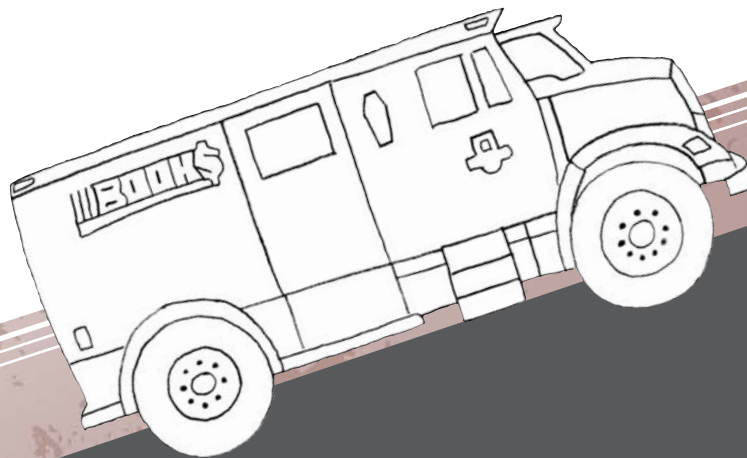
- *Books Challenged or Banned, 2005–2006* (August 2006)
- *2005–2006 ILA Annual Report: Extending Our Reach* (October 2006)
- *2007 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2007)

Finally, the 2007 iREAD theme, *Mission Read: To the Library and Beyond*, brought Illinois libraries the colorful and imaginative graphics of Caldecott winner Eric Rohmann.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: 2006–2007

The association ended the fiscal year 2006-2007 with a surplus for the eleventh year in a row. ILA's auditors, Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., "commended the executive board and management for an increase in net assets of \$37,199 during 2007. This is an accomplishment to be proud of considering the current economic condition." In addition to sound fiscal management, the executive board believes ILA must continue to diversify income streams in order to maintain the financial health of the organization.

The health of the 2006–2007 financial statement is due to the association's long-term investments. Since 1998, the association has maintained an investment portfolio; some years the portfolio yields little or no gain, depending on our ability to make additional contributions and the valuation of the market. At the end of the fiscal year, the portfolio showed a gain of \$43,322 for a total value of \$304,892 and an increase of 17.36 percent. As we do not budget for a gain, the association's long-term investments made the association's bottom line in 2006–2007 positive.



"commended the executive board and management for an increase in net assets of \$37,199, continuing your remarkable string of ten plus years of net assets growth. This is truly an accomplishment to be proud of considering the current economic condition."

—ILA Auditor

## ILA FISCAL REPORT Year Ended June 30, 2007

### REVENUE

General Operations	\$ 40,749
Membership	\$ 317,411
Directory/Reporter	\$ 22,031
Conference	\$ 354,799
Board	\$ 325
Publications	\$ 18,111
IREAD	\$ 162,526
Public Policy	\$ 5,600
Awards	\$ 2,804
Endowment	\$ 2,597
Workshops/Projects	\$ 34,235
Reaching Forward	\$ 105,347
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,066,535</b>

### EXPENSES

(before allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits to functional areas)

General Operations	\$ 378,900
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 85,386
Conference	\$ 246,955
Board/Committee	\$ 6,215
Publications	\$ 7,078
IREAD	\$ 149,844
Public Policy	\$ 61,011
Awards	\$ 8,060
Workshops/Projects	\$ 32,579
Professional Development	\$ 1,128
Forums	\$ 753
Reaching Forward	\$ 94,749
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,072,658</b>
Income/Expenses Before Unrealized Gains	\$ -6,123
Unrealized Gains on Investments	\$ 43,322
Income/Expenses	\$ 37,199
Net Assets at end of FY2006	\$ 329,497
Net Assets at end of FY2007	\$ 366,696

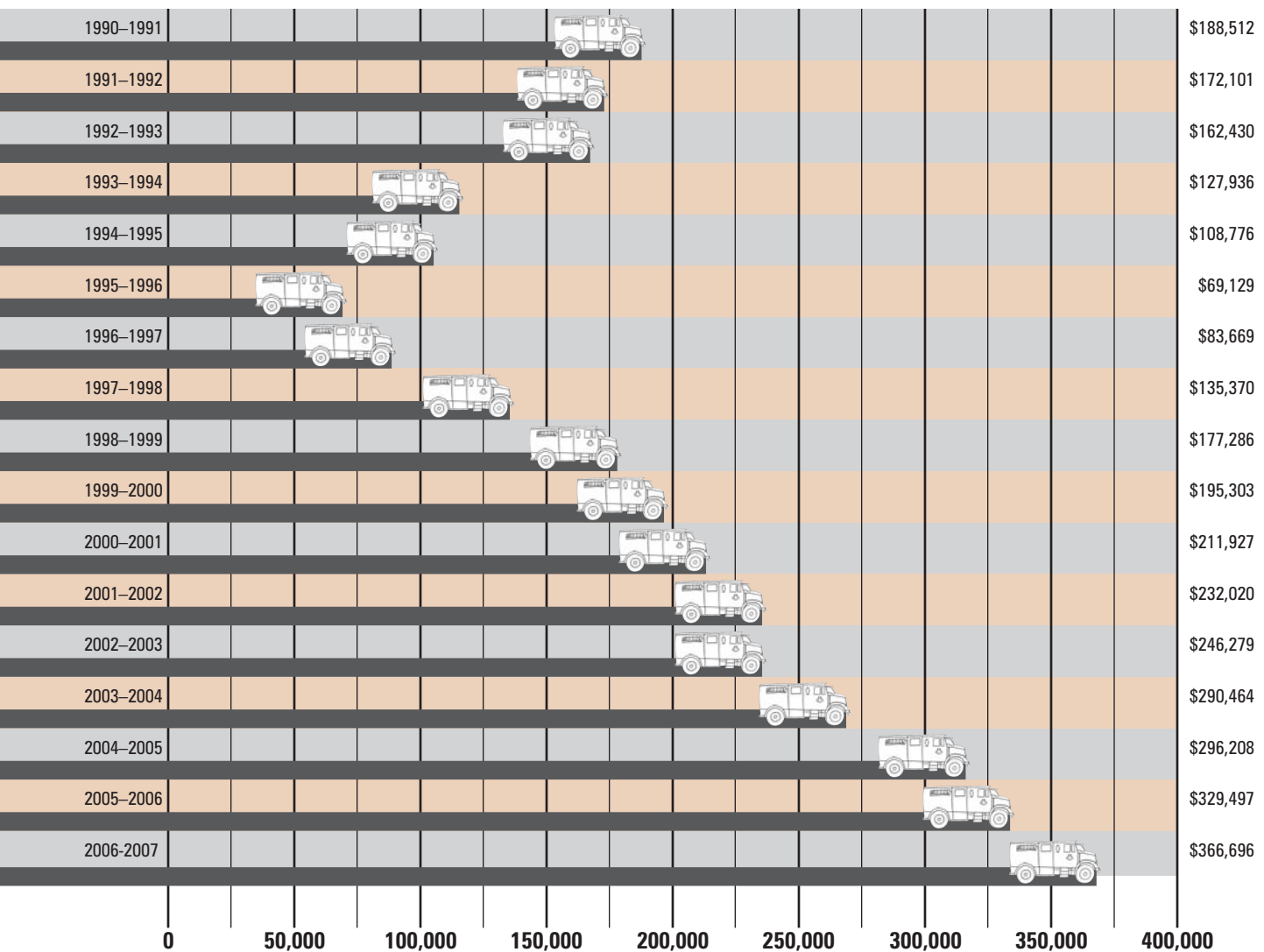
### Net Assets are Comprised of:

Unrestricted Assets	\$ 318,052
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 31,843
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$ 16,801
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS AT END OF FY 2007</b>	<b>\$ 366,696</b>

- Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,831)
- Student Librarian Scholarship (\$6,979)
- DeLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283)
- Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$1,139)
- Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$8,572)
- Legal Defense Fund (\$555)
- Preiser Award (\$2,500)
- Illinois Library Day (\$3,984)



## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NET ASSETS



### CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

After eleven years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last eleven fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$297,567.

2006-2007	\$ 37,199
2005-2006	\$ 33,289
2004-2005	\$ 5,744
2003-2004	\$ 44,185
2002-2003	\$ 14,259
2001-2002	\$ 20,093
2000-2001	\$ 16,624
1999-2000	\$ 18,017
1998-1999	\$ 41,916
1997-1998	\$ 51,701
1996-1997	\$ 14,540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 297,567</b>

## MEMBERSHIP

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its almost 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

## ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Illinois Library Association has three full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Kolkmeier Consulting for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational organization.

## FORUMS

Government Documents Forum  
Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum  
Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum  
Library Trustees Forum  
Public Library Forum  
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff  
Reference Services Forum  
Resources and Technical Services Forum  
Young Adult Services Forum  
Youth Services Forum

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards Committee  
Best Practices Committee  
Conference Program Committee  
Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee  
Finance Committee  
Fundraising Committee  
Intellectual Freedom Committee  
*ILA Reporter* Advisory Committee  
iREAD Committee  
Marketing Committee  
Membership Committee  
Nominating Committee  
Public Policy Committee

“Nurture the return on investment at your library by investing in tomorrow’s leaders.”

—Tamiye Meehan



## 2006/2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Tamiye Meehan, Indian Trails Public Library District

### Vice-President/President-Elect

Brad Baker, Northeastern Illinois University

### Immediate Past President

Dianne C. Harmon, Joliet Public Library

### Treasurer

Charm N. Ruhnke, Lewis & Clark Library System

### Directors

Laura L. Barnes, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center

Dean Bryan, Metropolitan Library System

Jamie Bukovac, Indian Prairie Public Library

Emily Guss, University of Illinois at Chicago

Margaret Ming Heraty, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Nancy Huntley, Lincoln Library

Richard C. McCarthy, Gail Borden Public Library District

Julie M. Milavec, Plainfield Public Library District

Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University

Cristy Stupegia, Sparta Public Library

Jocelyn Tipton, Eastern Illinois University

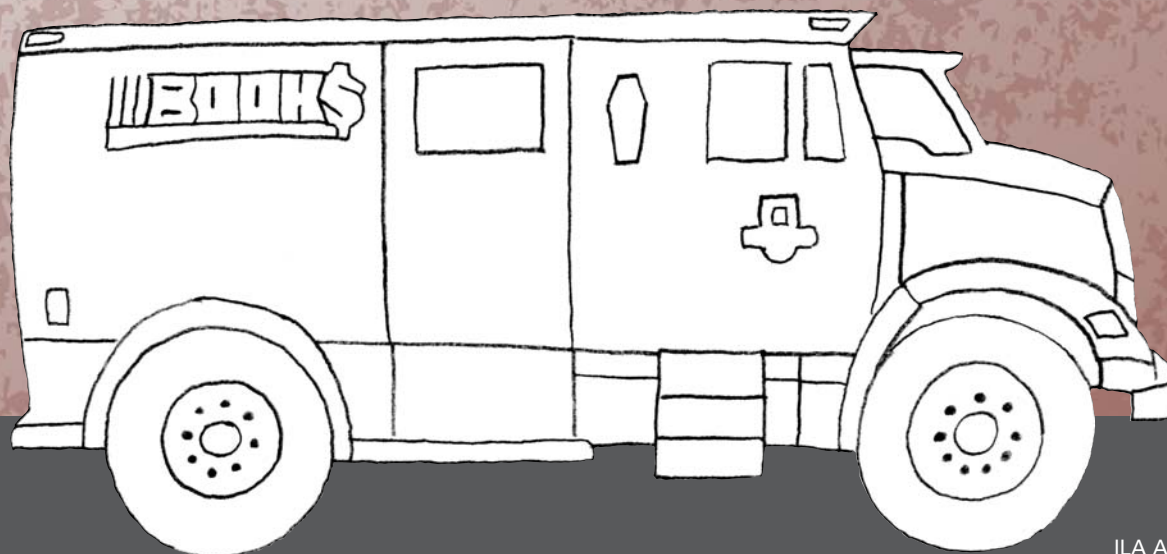
### ALA Councilor

Tina Hubert, Lewis & Clark Library System

### Ex Officio

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association

Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library





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