

# REPORTER



One State, Many Faces: The Mosaic of the Illinois Library Community

**INSIDE**

*Art Issue*

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# Help Needed

## by Gulf Coast Libraries and Their Patrons

To make donations easier for both Illinois librarians and for the libraries affected by the recent hurricane, ILA is establishing a Disaster Relief Fund to coordinate support from Illinois. Receiving and acknowledging donations is just one more task for the already over-taxed libraries in the area, but the need for cash support is urgent.

Several state library associations—notably Illinois, Texas, and others—will collect monetary donations to support libraries in the Gulf Coast area. Donations are tax deductible and may be made by mail or online ([https://www.ila.org/events/donate\\_gulfcoast.htm](https://www.ila.org/events/donate_gulfcoast.htm)); 100 percent of donations will be sent to the state library agency or state library association of the donor's choice.

ILA is seeking sponsorship to match your donations. Baker & Taylor has already pledged new materials at cost to those libraries receiving funds from the ILA Disaster Relief Fund and possibly free shipping. Other sponsors are being encouraged to join the effort.

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# Profiles of Illinois: Its To

*No need for piles of multiple sources with this volume on your desk.*

**444 PROFILES OF ILLINOIS / Public School Educational Profile**

Schools (2002-2003)	Value	Category	Value
Instructional Level	4,402	Diploma Recipients (2002-2003)	116,657
Primary	1,419	White	82,454
Middle		Hispanic	16,294
High		Black	5,234
Other Level		Other	433
Curriculum			12,242
Regular			6.0
Special Education			3.5
			12.9
			2.7
			6.4
			10.4
			156,215.0
			131,055.0
			34,496
			1,940.3
			2,943.4
			15.9 to 1
			1,074.2 to 1
			708.1 to 1
			7,956
			J
			64
			11
			583
			596
			100
			20.2

**422 PROFILES OF ILLINOIS / Community Income and Poverty**

Place	Average Household Income (\$)	Median Household Income (\$)	Per Capita Income (\$)	Households with income of \$100,000+ (%)	Poverty Rate (%)
Addison (village)	69,662	56,241	22,535	18.8	9.6
Algonquin (village)	104,471	89,411	34,404	41.8	1.7
Alton (city)	41,767	33,404	17,829	5.7	18.7
Arlington Heights (village)	91,328	72,900	37,618	22.9	2.5
Aurora (city)	76,724	61,164	24,935	40.0	
Bartlett (village)	102,047	88,191	33,910	22.9	
Batavia (city)	90,805	78,402	32,112	40.0	
Bellevue (city)	47,753	37,888	20,937	18.8	
Belvidere (city)	50,708	44,425	18,528	18.8	
Berwyn (city)	57,081	44,425	18,528	18.8	
Bloomington (city)	68,456	46,940	18,528	18.8	
Blue Island (city)	47,036	51,396	18,528	18.8	
Bolingbrook (village)	85,397	38,433	18,528	18.8	
Buffalo Grove (village)	111,172	75,297	38,433	18.8	
Burbank (city)	63,940	86,968	18,528	18.8	
Calumet City (city)	50,232	55,629	18,528	18.8	
Carol Stream (village)	81,218	41,972	18,528	18.8	
Carpentersville (village)	68,495	71,627	18,528	18.8	
Champaign (city)	50,774	59,961	18,528	18.8	
Chicago (city)	60,119	35,064	18,528	18.8	
Chicago Heights (city)	49,209	42,363	18,528	18.8	
Cicero (town)	46,380	39,022	18,528	18.8	
Collinsville (city)	54,451	40,183	18,528	18.8	
Crystal Lake (city)	86,630	46,092	18,528	18.8	
Darien (city)	42,517	74,100	18,528	18.8	
De Kalb (city)	99,909	31,758	18,528	18.8	
Decatur (city)	47,414	79,826	18,528	18.8	
Des Plaines (city)	47,008	35,992	18,528	18.8	
Dolton (village)	69,387	34,634	18,528	18.8	
Downers Grove (village)	58,564	58,477	18,528	18.8	
East Saint Louis (city)	88,547	51,028	18,528	18.8	
Edwardsville (city)	32,286	70,509	18,528	18.8	
Elgin (city)	77,253	22,631	18,528	18.8	
Elk Grove Village (village)	67,692	59,086	18,528	18.8	
Elmhurst (city)	82,614	58,106	18,528	18.8	
Elmwood Park (village)	97,208	69,091	18,528	18.8	
Evansville (city)	63,429	75,562	18,528	18.8	
Freeport (city)	90,457	51,449	18,528	18.8	
Galesburg (city)	45,069	61,359	18,528	18.8	
Geneva (city)	44,284	36,340	18,528	18.8	
Glen Ellyn (village)	109,874	33,720	18,528	18.8	
Glendale Heights (village)	111,173	87,353	18,528	18.8	
Glenview (village)	87,876	80,658	18,528	18.8	
Granite City (city)	126,665	59,854	18,528	18.8	
Gurnee (village)	45,481	86,530	18,528	18.8	
Hanover Park (village)			18,528	18.8	

You will turn time and time again to this rich resource it's so chocked full of vital information. But see for yourself. Order your copy today!

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work: 35.5% less than 15 minutes, 40.8% 15 to 30 minutes, 6.8% 30 to 45 minutes, 17.1% 45 to 60 minutes, 0.0% 60 minutes or more (2000)

**ROYAL LAKES (village)**, Aka Royal Lake. Covers a land area of 0.466 square miles and a water area of 0.046 square miles. Located at 39.11° N. Lat.; 89.36° W. Long.

**Population:** 272 (1990); 190 (2000); 220 (2004); 249 (2009 projected).  
**Race:** 23.2% White, 70.9% Black, 0.0% Asian, 1.8% Hispanic of any race (2004); **Density:** 472.6 persons per square mile (2004); **Average household size:** 2.34 (2004); **Median age:** 39.0 (2004); **Males per 100 females:** 101.8 (2004); **Marriage status:** 22.7% never married, 53.8% now married, 13.6% widowed, 9.8% divorced (2000); **Foreign born:** 0.0% (2000); **Ancestry (includes multiple ancestries):** 39.2% Other groups, 4.5% German, 1.1% West Indian, 1.1% African (2000).  
**Employment:** In agricultural and coal-mining region. Employment by occupation: 0.0% management, 3.4% professional, 33.9% services, 8.5% economy, 0.0% farming, 16.9% construction, 37.3% production (2000).  
**Income:** Per capita income: \$11,469 (2004); **Median household income:** \$19,583 (2004); **Average household income:** \$26,888 (2004); **Percent of households with income of \$100,000 or more:** 2.1% (2004); **Poverty rate:** 27.3% (2000).  
**Taxes:** Total city taxes per capita: \$32 (2002); **City property taxes per capita:** \$32 (2002).  
**Education:** Percent of population age 25 and over with: High school diploma (including GED) or higher: 53.5% (2004); Bachelor's degree or higher: 1.4% (2004); Master's degree or higher: 0.0% (2004).  
**Housing:** Homeownership rate: 77.7% (2004); **Median home value:** \$55,000 (2004); **Median rent:** \$265 per month (2000); **Median age of housing:** 32 years (2000); **Work:** 90.9% car, 0.0% public transportation, 9.1% walk, 0.0% work from home (2000); **Travel time to work:** 23.6% less than 15 minutes, 21.8% 15 to 30 minutes, 21.8% 30 to 45 minutes, 14.5% 45 to 60 minutes, 18.2% 60 minutes or more (2000).

**SAWYERVILLE (village)**, Covers a land area of 1.013 square miles and a water area of 0.046 square miles. Located at 39.07° N. Lat.; 89.80° W. Long.

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Here you'll find need-to-know data on the Hispanic and Asian population of the state along with data on all ancestry groups reported in the state. Details include population concentrations, income, educational attainment and much more.

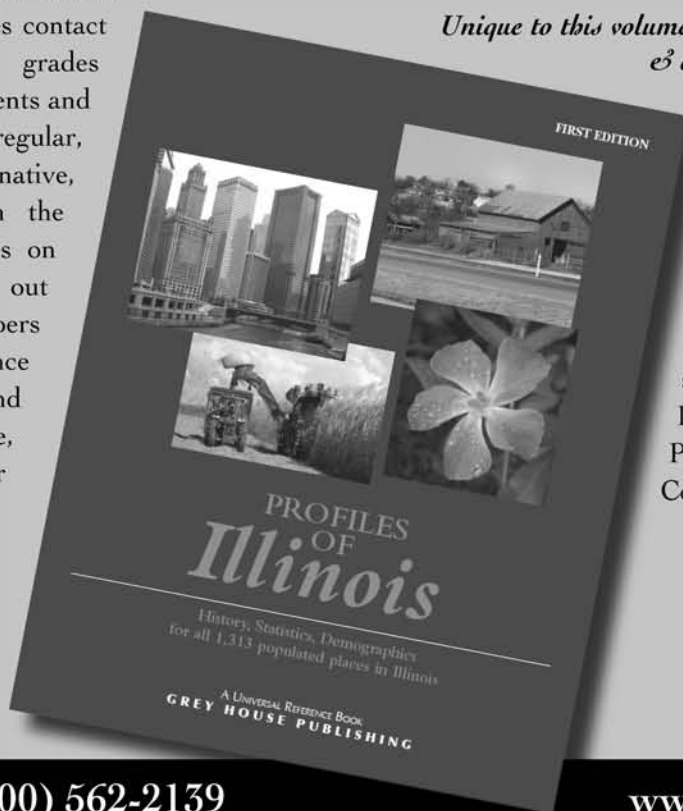
## DETAILED WEATHER DATA

Provides extensive climatological data on all of Illinois' weather stations, including statistics on maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, extreme temperatures, foggy days, humidity, and more.

## COMPARATIVE RANKING CHARTS

*Unique to this volume! Puts cities data side-by-side for fast & easy comparison across 22 data points*

Selected statistics are pulled for 100 of Illinois' largest towns and cities, based on population. Each of 22 different data points has its own two-page spread so researchers can easily compare and rank cities. Among the statistics selected for this section you will find Employment, Income, Unemployment Rate, Population Characteristics, Taxes, and Cost of Living.



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# One State, Many Faces: The Mosaic

**T**

his year's cover feature explores the excellence and diversity of librarians and library advocates in Illinois. From small towns to big cities, universities to elementary schools, the best of Illinois's library community provide a model for outstanding performance in the profession. The variety of services provided and the individual styles that mark these library leaders make this a true mosaic, with many small parts creating a beautiful design.

This issue features special librarians who work with collections at a major research university, a state agency, and a federal reserve system. While their organizations and positions have much in common with other types of librarianship, they also face unique challenges and opportunities. *(continued on page 8)*

# of the Illinois Library Community



(continued from page 6)



## Roberto Sarmiento

*Head, Northwestern University's  
Transportation Library*

**What do you offer that other libraries do not? What kinds of resources do you work with? Who are your users? How large is your staff?**

The Transportation Library at Northwestern University collects materials on all modes of transportation worldwide. The library offers a comprehensive, in-depth collection covering the historical, scientific, sociological, and economic aspects of transportation. The library holds more than 420,000 items — the earliest dating to the 1760s — and has earned a reputation as one of the largest transportation libraries in the country. This position allows us to acquire, through gift or purchase, valuable materials that are not available elsewhere. The library also has secondary collections in law enforcement and the largest collection of environmental impact statements in the country.

We provide service at the local, state, national, and international level. Because the library is located at Northwestern University, we spend approximately 40 percent of our time working with Northwestern faculty, students, and staff. For example, we support an MBA program with an emphasis on transportation. We provide reference service to anyone who calls, free interlibrary loan to the national and international transportation community, and indexing of transportation information for our own database called TRANweb (as well as for the Transportation Research Information System or TRIS database). Approximately 10 percent of our traffic comes from non-U.S. patrons via the Web. We currently have three librarians, four support staff, and several student workers.

### **When was the Transportation Library established?**

In 1959, the Transportation Institute (now called the Transportation Center) and the Traffic Institute (now called the Center for Public Safety) combined their previously separate book collections to create a single library that would serve both organizations. They hired a librarian, Taylor Kanardy, who immediately purchased a good dictionary, subscribed to the journal *Traffic World*, and conceived a far-sighted vision for the new library. He believed the Transportation Library “must be far more than an ordinary library...It must be a place to which the country can turn with confidence for comprehensive and reliable information on transportation.”

### **What is your background? How did you become involved with the Transportation Library?**

I have a bachelor's degree in geology from Saint Louis University and began my career as an exploration geologist. I then worked as an interpreter and translator before returning to school to earn my MLS from Dominican University.

I went to library school with two objectives: to be a reference librarian and to work in special libraries. My first job out of library school was as a reference librarian at the Smithsonian Institution where I researched snakes, ants, algae, dolphins, and all kinds of other topics for a group of very energetic scientists. In 1987, I was hired by the Panama Canal Commission as head of reference and circulation. I was named head librarian several years later.

Coming from Panama, I had the background and interest in transportation that the Panama Canal Commission was looking for. It was a wonderful opportunity to build a very sleepy, technical library into an information center with a large maritime collection. I worked with a lot of engineers, conducting research to make the canal work better and faster. The position provided a front-seat look at the highly political and sensitive issues surrounding the canal. It also offered terrific opportunities for professional development in areas such as reference, management, personnel, negotiation, and public speaking. I joined the Transportation Library at Northwestern University in 1998. I couldn't resist the allure of one of the best transportation libraries in the country.

### **What are some of the issues you face as the head of this library? How do you see the library evolving over the next several years?**

Over time, I would like to make this library the preeminent transportation library in the world. I need to keep things running smoothly, projects advancing, and services always improving. Like many libraries, we need to look for ways to keep the collection relevant in the electronic world.

More of our materials need to be made available electronically.

On a broader level, we need to work with the federal government to make transportation information more accessible to researchers. Though there is a rudimentary collection development policy in place, the government needs advice from information specialists to improve access to national transportation information.

We also need to cooperate with transportation libraries throughout the world. Right now we lack important transportation information from many countries because of language and accessibility issues.



### What are some of the challenges unique to special libraries?

One of the most serious challenges facing special libraries today, particularly corporate libraries, is closure due to mergers, downsizing, or consolidation. Libraries are often the first place within an organization to lose budget or to be closed entirely. This makes job security an especially pressing issue.

### What are the advantages of working in a special library?

Working in special libraries has allowed me to do in-depth research and become very knowledgeable about specific subjects, such as maritime transportation and the history of Panama. Special librarians tend to work in non-traditional fields and rely on non-traditional tools, including many electronic resources. The nature of the work is dramatically different from that of public or academic libraries because it is so concentrated in one specialized area.

### What is your involvement with the Special Libraries Association?

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and work with the Transportation Division. SLA provides an important opportunity for networking and advocacy at the state, national, and international level. I have also been involved with the Midwest Transportation Knowledge Network, designed to increase collaboration among the region's transportation libraries and knowledge centers.

*"I am often very close to the researcher, can see the results of my work, and feel as if I am making a difference."*



## Laura Barnes

*Librarian, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center*

### What do you offer that other libraries do not? What kinds of resources do you work with? Who are your users? How large is your staff?

The Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC), a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, helps Illinois industries, businesses, and citizens reduce and manage waste by providing technical information and consulting about waste management, pollution prevention, and energy efficiency; funding research projects that focus on the Illinois environment; and helping teachers integrate environmental education into their classrooms.

In addition, I serve as the Help Desk Librarian for the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable and WMRC's Greening Schools project. I also answer information queries from anyone who finds us on the Web or via the Lincoln Trail Libraries System's MyLibrarian service.

The library's primary clients are WMRC staff including engineers, chemists, an environmental education coordinator, and several environmental policy specialists. The collection focuses on pollution prevention, energy efficiency, industrial process engineering, and environmental education. We have also begun collecting resources on the technical aspects of producing and using biodiesel fuels. The staff consists of myself and a ten-hour-per-week student worker.

### When was the Illinois Waste Management & Research Center established?

WMRC came into existence in 1985 as the Illinois Hazardous Waste Research and Information Center; the center changed its name in 1996.

### What is your background?

I have a BA in history and an MLS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During my undergraduate studies, I worked in the Circulation Services department at the Champaign Public Library. After graduating, I worked in the receiving department of a local independent bookstore. I left that job to attend UIUC's Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

*(continued on page 10)*

(continued from page 9)

### **How did you become involved with the Illinois Waste Management & Research Center?**

I was hired as their library graduate assistant in 1993. After receiving my MLS, I continued working on several pollution-prevention information grant projects that the center received. I was hired to run the library in 1995.

### **What are some of the issues you face at the center?**

We are a state agency, so budget has been a huge issue for both the organization and the library. We are an affiliate agency of the University of Illinois, so we are able to utilize the resources of their library, which helps a great deal. Staffing is also a huge issue. We lost a half-time position when our other librarian retired a year and a half ago. It has been a difficult adjustment for me.

### **How do you see the center evolving over the next several years?**

Energy consumption/efficiency and alternative fuels have started to become a focus for us. I think we'll get more and more involved in these areas. Beyond that, it's difficult to say. Funding is really a problem.

### **What are some of the challenges unique to special libraries?**

The longer I am in this profession, the more I see that all types of libraries have similar challenges. The biggest challenge I face is getting everything done as a solo librarian. This is something I share with solos who work in academic, public, and school libraries.

### **What are the advantages of working in a special library?**

For me, it's the variety. I'm not happy doing the same thing every day. In this library, I am acquisitions manager, cataloger, reference librarian, serials librarian, and interlibrary loan clerk. It's hectic, but it's certainly not boring. Because we don't have a lot of foot traffic, I don't have to worry about keeping the front desk staffed all the time.

I also have the opportunity to work on pollution prevention information projects funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has been interesting to work on these projects because I'm usually the only librarian involved.



## **Susan Chenoweth**

*Manager, Knowledge Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*

### **What do you offer that other libraries do not? What kinds of resources do you work with? Who are your users? How large is your staff?**

We are the Knowledge Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, which is different from the Federal Reserve Board library. Technically, the twelve Reserve Bank libraries, along with the Federal Reserve Board library, make up the Federal Reserve Library System. We have a collection of materials related to the history of the Chicago Fed and Federal Reserve System.

Since 9/11, we are not physically open to the public. We answer many telephone calls related to the Federal Reserve. We have early materials about banking, economics, and Chicago. Our users are Chicago Fed staff, internal customers from other Reserve Banks, and calls from the public. The staff of eight includes six information professionals and two administrative support staff. We provide services including research, interlibrary loan, cataloging, and acquisitions.

Several of the staff work closely with the Web and information management teams and provide support to projects including using semi-automated textual analysis for indexing and classification/ taxonomy efforts and usability testing of Web sites. Several others are working to develop our historical archives program.

### **When was the Knowledge Center established?**

In our historical archives we found a mention of the Research Library of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in fall of 1926. Throughout the years we have found stories and photographs of our early library spaces and services. Early in 2002 we changed our name to the Knowledge Center to reflect a broader perspective and more diverse clientele than are characteristic of a library or research library, as other libraries within the Federal Reserve System are often called.

*“It has been a wonderful experience, full of learning and experimentation.”*

**What is your background? How did you become involved with the Knowledge Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago?**

Early in my career I worked in the Business, Science, and Technology department of a public library. From there I worked in several consulting firms. I found myself in need of a position several years ago when the division of the consulting firm I supported was sold. I thought I might like to try something different and an opportunity came up at the Chicago Fed.

**What are some of the issues you face as the head of the Knowledge Center? How do you see the center evolving over the next several years?**

As with all libraries, budget and space issues are concerns. We just renovated our space, and now have one quarter of our old space in our active collection area. As part of the renovation, we increased space for the historical collections and gained a training room, usability room, and quiet room, so overall we probably have half of what we had before. Just like other libraries, we continue to evaluate our collections and migrate to electronic services whenever feasible. Desktop resources will continue to expand and customers will need more training on the resources we make available. Marketing will continue to be essential to develop new customers and inform them about new services.

**What are some of the challenges unique to special libraries?**

Often the challenges are related to the particular industry the library supports. For example, industry slowdowns and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) activity have affected many libraries. Also, some special librarians may work for someone who is not an information professional and is not aware of what we do or how we work. We are lucky here in that my boss is an information professional and knows the issues we face.

**What are the advantages of working in a special library?**

Often, there is more repeat business and the potential to develop relationships with your customers. Staff can become subject specialists within the industry served. In many cases, special libraries offer the same services and adopt many of the same processes as academic or public libraries, but on a smaller scale.

Special librarians tend to wear many hats including acquisitions, cataloging, research, planning, bill paying, budgeting, training, and marketing.

**What is your involvement with the Special Libraries Association?**

Currently, I am the Illinois chapter president and am learning the workings of a professional association. I have always attended meetings and conferences and encourage staff to join and support associations. I have been lucky at the places I have worked that this involvement has been encouraged and supported. Even if not supported, I would be involved as part of my professional development.

**IIA**

This is the sixth in a series highlighting art in Illinois libraries. Each year we feature a noteworthy academic, school, special, or public library whose innovative use of art merits attention. Please send suggestions for future features to ILA, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610-4306; phone: (312) 644-1896; fax: (312) 644 1899; e-mail: doyle@ila.org.



*Allen Lanham and Marlene Slough, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University*

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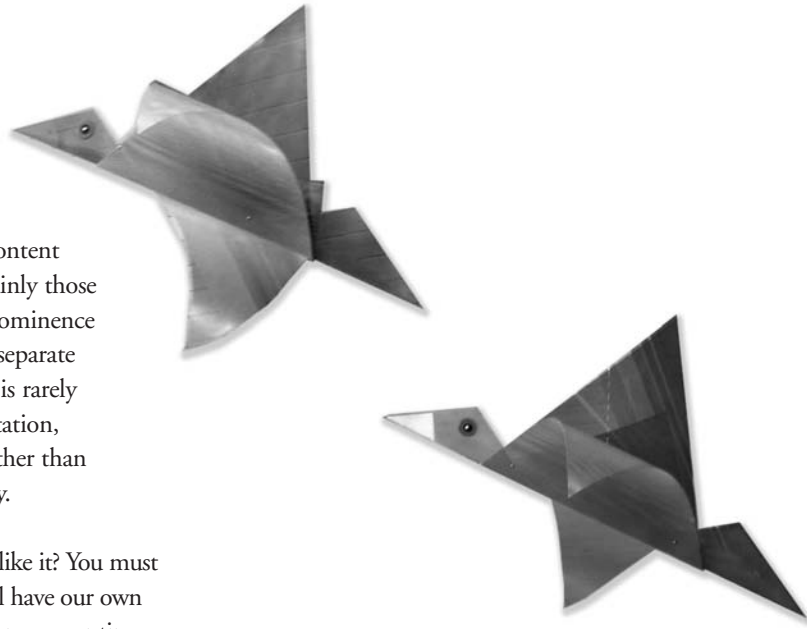
emember the “Illinois Library great wall” in the exhibit halls of the 2004 Illinois Library Association and the 2005 American Library Association conferences? It was an exhibit of twenty-four panels, ninety feet long, six feet tall, titled “Exploring Illinois Libraries and Librarians,” developed by volunteers from across the state. What became clear from our many visits to libraries during the process was that art reflected local heritage and provided a sense of pride. Why is this true? According to Michael Gorman (1998) the desire to beautify and individualize arises from the ancient, deep human need to make every place a “home” and to please and interest the “guests” in that home.

The Art and Architecture of Illinois Libraries, an LSTA-funded project led by Allen Lanham and Marlene Slough at Eastern Illinois University, is bringing focus to the many artists and architects who have played a crucial role in the success of libraries in our communities over the past century and a half. In addition to compiling an electronic inventory of the specifics of our art and architectural heritage, the grant will also provide programming monies for eighty libraries to host a traveling exhibit developed from the data and images collected for this study. Programming can be of the host institution’s choice under specific guidelines agreed upon, but could range from a community event honoring local artists who have made important contributions to public art, a lecture by an Illinois architect or interior designer, or the compilation of a local inventory of public art (hopefully including all local libraries) which could be linked to a variety of Web sites.

As we approach art in our libraries, we find that many buildings are so crammed with materials that there is little space to feature specific works. This often happens as a library facility ages; we trade beauty for more content or computers. Newer libraries, and certainly those from a century ago, provide places of prominence for their art. It is sometimes difficult to separate the art from the building—the staircase is rarely more functional because of its ornamentation, the niche is there to be filled with art rather than merely echo the footsteps of the passerby.

What does the art do for us? Why do we like it? You must answer those questions for yourself. We all have our own thoughts and tastes. It is a fact that art changes over time. The portrait of our founding librarians seems right at home in our library today, while portraits of today's librarians are somewhat rare. The special poster announcing this year's conference will not be art for some time, but the day will come when we will cherish the lone remaining advertisement and find a place to display it.

*(continued on page 14)*



*Journey* (2002, three geese total, 33" wingspan x 54")  
by Diana Thornhill Miller, from the collection of the  
Zion-Benton Public Library District.

*Woodland Spring* (2002, 27" x 48" forged metal)  
by Lorelei Sims, from the collection of Booth Library,  
Eastern Illinois University.



*Woodland Spring* (2002, 27" x 48" forged metal)  
by Lorelei Sims, from the collection of Booth Library,  
Eastern Illinois University.



***“I think the importance of public art is to provoke people into thinking.”***

—Janice Rosen, University of Manitoba

*(continued from page 13)*

While undertaking the research on the art in Illinois libraries, and I assure you that our quest is still in its infancy, it becomes apparent that we have a tendency to support local artists to display their works in our libraries. The Illinois State Library’s (ISL) permanent collection perhaps demonstrates this best (featured in the April 2002 *ILA Reporter*). Their community being the entire state, their art collection, “Portrait of Illinois,” was gathered or commissioned from artists from all corners of the Prairie State. Harold Gregor, a painter from Bloomington, is featured in the grand hall with his *Illinois Autumn Evening* (1990) and his *Illinois Spring Morning* (1991), gigantic landscape partners at nine by fourteen feet each. Smaller works appear throughout the library, ranging from the *Bryon Nuclear Plant* (1987), a black and white photograph by Douglas Busch of Rockford juxtaposing a nuclear plant behind the silos and hay rolls of an Illinois farm, to the painted fiber work, *Southern Illinois 1930’s* (1989), of Geneva Basler of Anna depicting the prairie farm life.



Booth Library in Charleston has built its collection around Illinois landscape artists. Their collection includes two works by alumna Lorelei Sims, a local blacksmith whose metal works depict Illinois plants and grasses. Her *Prairie Summer* (2002), a forged metal mural, wraps the foyer to the library's conference room as if you were entering a protected botanical area. James Butler of Bloomington was on hand at the library's rededication in 2002 to see his work unveiled, *Hannibal Flooded* (1993), a 66" by 132" oil on canvas, depicting the devastation on the Mississippi River and the Illinois view beyond.

*(continued on page 16)*

*Once Upon a Time*  
(2002, 17" x 12" and 9" x 17" bronze)  
by Dennis Smith, from the collection of  
the Harrisburg Public Library District.



*Byron Nuclear Plant* (1987, 8" x 20" black and white photograph) by Douglas I. Busch, from the collection of the Illinois State Library.



*Hannibal Flooded* (1993, 66" x 132" oil on canvas) by James D. Butler, from the collection of Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University.

*(continued from page 15)*

Fantastic sculpture pieces are resident in Illinois libraries, capturing the imagination of all who pass. To celebrate the grand opening of their newly renovated and enlarged library last summer (featured in the February 2006 *ILA Reporter*), the Urbana Free Library sponsored a live public art display of sculptor Todd Frahm creating *Slow & Steady* (2005), from a twenty-ton block of limestone on the library's grounds. His rendition of the tortoise and the hare delights all who pass, but is especially meaningful to those who saw the work take shape slowly and steadily that year.

Other sculptures include *A Book for Everyone* (1998) by James Haire of Colorado in the outdoor reading room at the Addison Public Library and *Once Upon a Time* (2002) by Dennis Smith of Utah at the Harrisburg Public Library. Noticing the lions guarding the gates to the Art Institute of Chicago or the goddesses hovering at the doors of the library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, people know they are entering places of honor. Based on mission, all libraries need not fit the same mold, but in their own way, they seem to find ways to make their presence known within their communities. Art makes libraries more interesting places to work in as well as to visit.



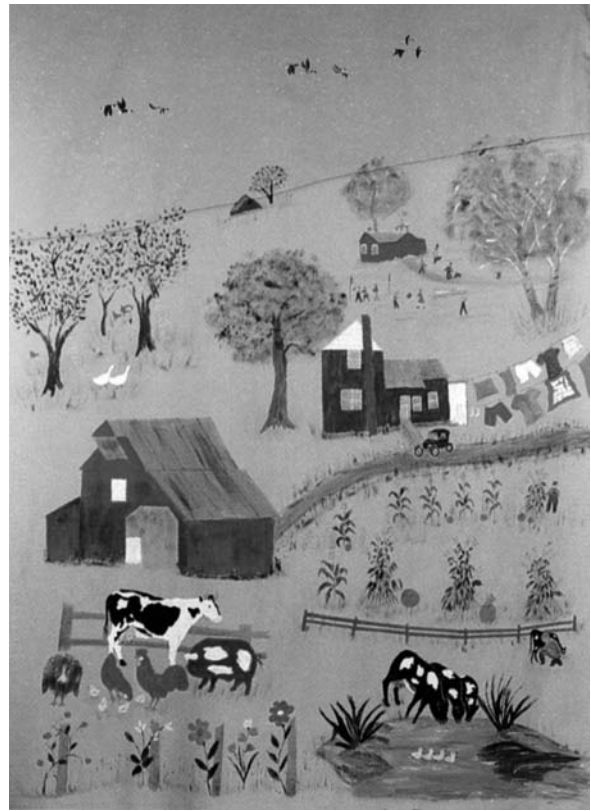
*Southern Illinois 1930's* (1989, 38" x 54" painted fiber) by Geneva Basler, from the collection of the Illinois State Library.

The Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries project continues and needs your participation. Whether you can only report when your building opened or what it replaced, or can report data about ten pieces of art which are important to your library, the information will help to fill the gaps of the inventory of our rich artistic heritage. We encourage you to host the traveling exhibit. Communicate with us by sending e-mail to [artarch@eiu.edu](mailto:artarch@eiu.edu) or by calling (217) 581-6061.



*I will beautify my library  
to honor its guests.*

—*Michael Gorman, California State University, Fresno,  
from Our Singular Strengths, 1998*



*Sing a Song of Sixpence* (1958, 53" x 98" painted mural) by Miriam McKinnie Hofmeier, from the collection of the Edwardsville Public Library.

images used by permission March 2006



# Sally in Libraryland

*Sally Decker Smith, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling*

B

y now, many of you know that what happens to me at, say, lunch often becomes the topic for a column. It happened again! And if those of you who generously responded to my request for input are wondering why you haven't seen this one sooner, it's because I received far more than I expected, and had to figure out how to manage all of it. And I am grateful to ILA for telling me not to let space concerns make me nuts.

**Here's what happened:** at the Michigan Library Association conference, I spoke to a brand new director. She was shaking her head over all the things she wished her staff understood about her position—while freely admitting that she didn't understand those things herself before she became a director. Later I spoke to an Illinois colleague who was frustrated because their director thought the reference staff was goofing off because whenever he walked past, they were reading magazines (they were journals, and they were doing selection between patrons at the desk because there was no other way to get it done).

So I sent out a few e-mails, and asked people to forward them on to anyone they thought might have something to say, from either point of view, and then watched as my e-mailbox filled up! It made for mighty interesting reading—I hope it does the same for you. (The first thing I learned is that, as a department head, I have one foot firmly in each side of this discussion.) My deepest thanks go to the people who trusted me enough to send in honest input, even when it was obviously painful.

I promised everyone anonymity, and I can just about guarantee that if you think you know who said something, you're wrong. In order to protect all of us, none are from anyone at my library at any level. (Although I will be inserting my own experiences parenthetically from time to time). I am aware of the enormous trust placed in me by all the people who bared their souls. I promise not to betray that trust.

**One of the things that surprised me:** the directors' responses were, by and large, more emotional. When I thought it over, though, it made a sort of sense. Staff members can vent to each other all day long (and some do, but that's a whole other topic). Directors rarely get an opportunity like this. They can't vent to their staff, and perhaps don't want to vent to other directors, for fear of looking less...directorial.

The number one thing directors wish their staff understood? By a very large margin, it's that when they're out of the building, they are still doing the library's work.

**Some quotes:**

"The perception that the director is not working if s/he is not in the library. And the bigger the library, the more true it is."

"Back when I was...(a librarian)...we used to complain about how our director was 'not here' or 'out for another lunch' or 'coming in late' or 'leaving early.' What we didn't really get was that a big part of their job was interfacing, as a member or by attending events or meetings, with local organizations, which required absence from the building, and which required doing some of those outside nine-to-five business hours. Our jobs mean we must be present in the district when duty calls, not just present in the building during a 'business' workweek."

"Building relationships in the community is an important part of a director's job...I know many of my staff understand this, but I also know there are some who are rolling their eyes behind my back when I leave for a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, or a Kiwanis meeting, or when I leave early in the afternoon because I'll be returning at night to attend a meeting of the village board."

The number one thing staff wish the directors understood? Everyone wants to feel a part of the team, at every level.

"We all want to feel that we're part of the library's plan and vision."

"One thing for sure that everyone appreciates is some sort of recognition: 'You did a great job.'"

"Staff at all levels are far more than just cogs in a machine."

"Most of us, most of the time, do a really good job, care about the library, and really like our jobs."

**Two points tied for a very close second from staff:**

1) That no matter how nice a person the director is, no one ever forgets that they're the boss.

"You make almost everyone nervous. Even if you are a lovely person, you still have the power, and everyone is acutely aware of that. That being true, there is a lot no one will ever tell you."

"I am not afraid to knock on [the director's] door with a problem, or even just to chit chat—but not everyone feels the same way."

2) That the three seconds of activity observed while a director is walking past a service desk on their way somewhere else reflects only those three seconds, and NOT the overall level of activity at that desk. A lot of people noted that their director seems to be some sort of reverse patron magnet, so that the hordes of patrons who were circling — or calling, or e-mailing, or IMing — the desk simply vanish when the director is within sight of the desk (this happens here, too, and we have often talked about asking Tamiye to walk by when all heck is breaking loose, so we can breathe, and catch up).

*(continued on page 20)*

<p>Photo: Gall Bender Public Library District, Elgin, IL.</p>		<p><b>SPEER FINANCIAL, INC.</b>          INDEPENDENT PUBLIC FINANCE CONSULTANTS SERVING LIBRARIES SINCE 1954          WWW.SPEERFINANCIAL.COM</p>	<p>ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET          SUITE 4100          CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602          PHONE (312) 346 - 3700          FAX (312) 346 - 8833          Kevin W. McCanna, CIPFA; CFA          President          David F. Phillips, CIPFA          Senior Vice President/          Director of Marketing</p> <p><small>Photo: Oak Park Public Library</small></p>
<p>Speer Financial, Inc. serving libraries with independence, honesty, integrity with distinctive expertise and is on the forefront in the application of technology in municipal debt issuance.</p>			
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*(continued from page 19)*

“Just because no patrons are at the desk or on the phone during the four seconds it takes a director to pass does not mean there were not three patrons, two phone calls and an e-mailed question the minute before, and those staff members who look like they’re doing nothing are really recovering.”

So. On to more excellent points made by people at all levels.

**Staff wish directors knew that:**

“Just because someone is loud, it doesn’t mean that they’re right. Or that you should give in just so they go away.”

“Leaders lead, not just react.”

“We want to know that you will support us if a patron is scary, threatening, or just obnoxious. We don’t expect you to take our side if we’re rude or wrong, but when we’re enforcing common sense rules that come from the board (or you), we don’t want to be second-guessed, or overruled.”

“Please lead by example. Don’t expect us to do something that you’d never consider doing if you were in our position.”

“Unless it’s a matter of the law or of safety, don’t expect us to spy on or inform about other staff members.”

“Circulation is often overlooked, underappreciated, or not understood. We are often the first and last impression a patron gets of a library, and we have many more responsibilities than most people understand.”

(I can vouch for this—I started my library career in circulation, and unless you’ve been in their shoes, I can practically guarantee you have no idea what they’re up against every minute the library is open. And before and after!)

“Policies can be difficult to follow once customers are in the equation—there really are no absolutes.”

“Staff opinions should be consulted because they really are in the know—but the down side of that is when staff opinion is not taken, they feel that no one cares.”

“Directors should be visible, and participate in staff activities.”

“All staff have lives, responsibilities, and problems outside the library, and mostly they show up and work hard. It can be irritating when a blind eye is turned to those who don’t.”

“It is discouraging when the ones who do the least and whine the most are regarded better than those who quietly do not only the tasks assigned to them but take on additional duties because a) no one else wants to do them, b) someone is on vacation, c) they NEED to be done, or d) they simply have

a ‘can-do’ attitude. These quiet staff members do these tasks because it’s in the best interests of the LIBRARY, not just the individual or department. If their department heads are also this type, then the staff members are never given credit for their willingness to go above and beyond.

“It is also discouraging when the director cannot or will not fire someone who is consistently doing a poor job. This probably leads into the paragraph above.”

“A problem in a lot of libraries seems to be communication between administration and department heads, and between some department heads and their staff.”

**Directors wish staff knew that:**

“Everything is political. Things you think we should be able to do because it’s obviously a good idea may be impossible due to a board member’s viewpoint, legislative restrictions, the time of year, action the school board just took—many, many factors.”

“Library trustees are volunteers who serve on our boards because they care about libraries. Even trustees who may not be regular library users do value and support what we do. It isn’t ideal, I agree, but these individuals are volunteering their time without compensation, and wouldn’t do so if they didn’t value libraries and library service to the community, even if they only enter the building once a month for a board meeting.”

“I think my staff thinks that I do nothing. My office is in a lonely corner, and sometimes I can’t even leave to go to the bathroom, so my staff doesn’t see me and (I assume) thinks I’m in here playing computer games or something. There are days when they are complaining about this or that and I want to say, ‘Did you get your paycheck this week? Well you can thank me for making sure you actually did get it.’ I am a librarian, Webmaster, accountant, maintenance director, program coordinator, technology consultant, insurance agent, human resources coordinator, public relations officer, etc. I think they know I do something, but they don’t know what that is, and probably couldn’t explain it to anyone else. They probably don’t realize that when we are out of toilet paper, I make sure we get more (or that I make sure someone is responsible for making sure we get more).”

“I’d like to assure people that I am not eating bonbons and reading movie magazines with my feet up on the desk when I’ve been in my office for many hours without emerging every day that week.

*(continued on page 22)*



# LIBRARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

## White Sox vs. Orioles

Thursday, July 6, 2006

7:05 P.M. U.S. Cellular Field

### Specially Priced White Sox Tickets!

The World Champion White Sox have dedicated July 6, 2006 as Library Appreciation Night. On this special night the White Sox would like to offer specially priced tickets to all Librarians, Library Staff, Trustees and their families and friends. Tickets priced at \$28 and \$14 are available for only \$14 and \$7.

#### 3 WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS:

- 1. WEB:** Visit [whitesox.com](http://whitesox.com) — click on Schedule and then click the T in the July 6 box. On the corresponding page, type "LIB" in the password box. Service fees will apply.
- 2. PHONE:** Call Ticketmaster at 866.769.4263 and give the "LIB" code. Service fees will apply.
- 3. MAIL or FAX** the order form. A \$5 handling fee will apply with all fax and mail orders of less than 20 tickets. Orders will NOT be redeemed at the U.S. Cellular Field ticket windows or the White Sox administrative offices.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, JUNE 5.

MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:  <b>CHICAGO WHITE SOX          SALES DEPARTMENT          ATTN: GRAND SLAM          GROUPS</b>  333 W. 35TH STREET CHICAGO, IL 60616	<b>Library Appreciation Night, July 6 vs. Baltimore Orioles</b>		
	# of Tickets	Ticket Price	Total
		Lower Reserved* @ \$14	
		Upper Reserved @ \$7	
		Comiskey Cash \$1, \$2, \$5 denominations	
		Handling Fee <small>(groups of 19 or less)</small>	\$5
		Total Enclosed	

\*Lower Level seats are extremely limited.

All orders must be received by Monday, June 5. Tickets will be mailed to the address listed below. All game times and promotions are subject to change.

Seats will be filled on a best available basis. If the seat location you request is sold out, the White Sox will fill your order with the next-best available seating section. If this happens you will NOT be notified.

NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

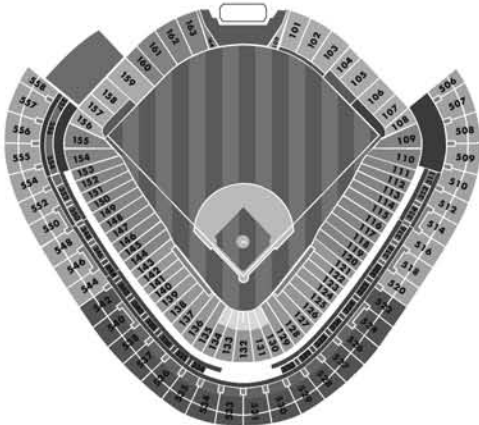
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Discover Credit card orders can be faxed to Grand Slam Groups 312.674.5140

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

OR:

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Chicago White Sox. Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
(If check or money order is greater than total cost of the tickets, the difference will be made up in Comiskey Cash.)



- UNITED SCOUT SEATS
- PREMIUM LOWER BOX
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- CLUB BOX
- PREMIUM UPPER BOX
- UPPER BOX
- UPPER RESERVED
- PATIO AREA
- TERRACE SUITES
- BULLPEN SPORTS BAR
- STADIUM CLUB
- FAN DECK
- PONTIAC FUNDAMENTALS

(continued from page 21)

(I'm probably trying to make sense of the tax levy, or figure out the IMRF contribution rate for next year's budget, or one of those other tasks that has threatened to overwhelm me as a somewhat new director)."

"It's OK to interrupt me. Just as patrons who approach a public service desk and say 'I'm sorry to bother you but...' I'm continually amazed by the staff members who come to talk to me and start the conversation by saying, 'I know you're really busy, and I'm sorry to bother you but...' I think it is because I do make a point of being visible and accessible as often as I can. I regularly stop at public service desks just to check in and see how things are going. (Quite frankly, this is in large part because I really miss working at a public service desk.) When I'm working on something that really captures (or demands) my attention, and I'm not emerging as often, people start to assume I'm uninterruptible. Sometimes I would actually welcome the interruption! ...I have tried to make this point in staff meetings, and have gotten a response along the lines of, 'oh, you're so nice to say that, but we know how busy you really are.'"

"There is just so much money available. We do not pull thousands of dollars out of our back pockets. If you MUST HAVE x, y, or z, tell me where else in the budget you think the money will come from, or what grants you will obtain to pay for it."

"The director is a human being with feelings, who wants to be able to enjoy coming to work. Manipulative comments, childish behavior, and overly dramatic threats really do have an impact on the director even though s/he may appear stoic. Such things can anger the director, or make him/her sad or fearful."

"The director sees things from a different perspective, hopefully that of the entire library. It is his/her job to keep things in balance. Your favorite project may take too much time, or have a harmful impact on public service or other departments, which s/he will see, though you may not."

"We're always thinking about the library—a thunderstorm in the middle of the night has us wondering if the power is still on at the library (I've actually gotten out of bed, dressed, and driven to the library to check); a commercial on television has us remotely accessing the online catalog to see if the library has enough books on this topic; a display at a store has us reconsidering our own merchandising efforts; even conversations at the dinner table have me taking notes to check on whether we own that CD, or to suggest that we do a program about it; and on and on. Of course, most of the good, dedicated staff I know do these kinds of things, too.

"Most of the work that we do involves other people, so decisions are made based on information about people that we can't always share with someone else on the staff. We can't tell you that a staff transfer in a department was made because the staff person was incompetent in one portion of his/her job, but perfectly fine in other aspects so we're trying him/her in a different position. We can't tell you that firing someone was a result of the number of complaints from the public. We can't tell you all the information we have when we make a decision. Sometimes you just have to trust us."

"And sometimes we make mistakes. But we're not gods. We're human and we're trying the best that we can."

I learn a lot from everyone—and over Christmas in Albuquerque, I learned a great thing from a very smart woman: when her husband reported that he had a sore throat, she replied, "Oh dear. What are you doing about it?" What a brilliant response! Appropriate sympathy expressed in the "Oh dear," and then tacit acknowledgement that he is, after all, a grown-up. Had he asked for help, he would have gotten it. But since he was the one with the sore throat, the responsibility was his. So to staff and directors who feel misunderstood, ill-used, underappreciated, and disrespected, I say with all the sympathy in the world, "Oh dear. What are you doing about it?"

Next time, look for what people are doing about some of these concerns, as well as the single most resonating (with me) comment that came in. And if you have a suggestion, please send it to me! Because of the way the deadlines operate, even if you e-mail me RIGHT NOW your contribution will not be in the very next issue, so please be patient!

E-mail ([sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com))

or fax (847-459-4760)

or write (355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling 60090)

your tale to me, and then watch this space!

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Library-related stories appearing in local Illinois news media are reflected in this section of the *ILA Reporter*. The intent is to alert and inform other libraries about issues and events that are considered significant by the general media. The draft *Reporter* text is sent to the library in question for accuracy before being published here.

## **Library Journal Picks Paraprofessional of the Year 2006—Illinoisan Valeria Fike**

“She practices what we all preach!” a member of her team writes about Valeria Fike, supervisor of reference support and College and Career Information Center services at the College of DuPage Library (CODL), Glen Ellyn, reports the March 1, *Library Journal*. Thus begins a torrent of kudos from her colleagues at CODL, all of whom say Fike was their first thought when *LJ*’s Paraprofessional of the Year Award showed up on their radar screens.

Fike, who supervises some twenty-one paraprofessionals at CODL, modestly attributes her successful career there to her being “simply in the right place at the right time.” Perusing the nomination letters from her fellow workers proves that Fike’s personality, character, talents, and natural abilities were just as crucial. Maybe the most important quality of all was her willingness to spot and take advantage of every opportunity that came up at CODL and to encourage those who work with her to do the same.

“There are no clear steps for moving up in our field,” Fike asserts. “You have to find opportunities. In any job, a ‘can-do’ attitude is the key. When something needs to be done, you volunteer to do it.”

“We all pay lip service to the principle that teamwork can be synergistic, but Valeria practices it every day,” says Cathy Stepanek, public services program assistant at CODL. “She has inspired many of her colleagues to see the role of the paraprofessional as one of multifaceted possibilities combining service, personal growth, leadership, and creativity. She inspires me.” She adds that Fike “represents the very best ethos in librarianship, education, and service in general.”

“My librarianship goes back to the fourth grade,” says Fike. “I took it upon myself to keep the books in our classroom in order. We had the lives of the Presidents and titles like that... There was no school library in that school in Monroe, Louisiana.”

Fike was a “stay-at-home mom” but later worked part time. When she got a full-time job, her bus stopped at the Fountain City Branch of the Knox County Public Library System, Tennessee. It was one of those opportunities spotted and taken by Fike. “I got to know the folks there. I helped them out as a volunteer. I was usually there by the time the kids would hit the doors after school. I would watch and listen,” Fike reports.

Fike earned a master’s in theology at the Bethany Seminary. “I can marry and bury,” she says, and still does a lot of work with her Church of the Brethren. While studying and working in technical services at Bethany, she earned a library technical assistant (LTA) certificate at DuPage and worked in the AV department at CODL.

The librarians Fike worked with encouraged her to consider a library master’s degree. Instead, she decided the DuPage LTA would give her enough credentials to go with her experience. “I stayed at this level because I really like working with people. I enjoy working with computers and materials,” Fike says. “I like the front lines.”

At CODL for some fifteen years, Fike began supervising reference support staff in 1997 and added the staff at the College and Career Information Center (CCIC) to her duties in 2002. Too busy to wait for the elevator, she walks about 6,000 steps a day between CCIC on the upper level of the library and the reference department downstairs.

“I believe that ‘Golden Rule’ concept when I’m working with staff or patron. I try to see what they want or need and help them find the best way to get that in a timely fashion,” Fike says, warming to the ideas. “Whether it is for their work, or whatever, I try to make sure they have the things that they need when they need them.”



## Another Illinoisan Honored

The competition was tough this year for the Paraprofessional of the Year Award, and two candidates stood out as people to watch, including Daniel Burdett, head of circulation, Glencoe Public Library. "A community builder, this year Burdett made e-mail notification to patrons possible while keeping the human touch alive and well. That touch extends to his staff, whom he encourages to attend paraprofessional conferences and whose professional development he actively accommodates."

The Paraprofessional of the Year Award is sponsored by Brodart Library Supplies & Furnishings, McElhattan, Penn., which underwrites the \$1,500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association conference in June. The award recognizes the essential role of paraprofessionals in providing excellent library service.

## Library Trustees Say Badges Are a 'Perk'

Crestwood library trustees' gold stars aren't police badges — they're a perk that serves to identify trustees, reported the February 23 *The Star*. That's what library board president Clyde Petersen says in defending the board's decision to spend \$602 to buy the police-like badges and leather badge holders for the seven trustees.

Some Crestwood residents, including Mayor Chester Stranczek, are angry at the expenditure, calling it wasteful and unethical.

Petersen is puzzled by the response. "I don't know what's the big issue, unless they think the amount of money is over and above," he said.

"... It's somewhat of a perk to me. These people (trustees) don't get paid. They put in a lot of time and effort." Petersen, a part-time Posen police officer and former Crestwood officer, said all elected officials use credentials to identify themselves, and he thought it would be better to have badges than name tags.

Most of the trustees have their five-pointed badges, but they won't wear them during board meetings, he said. And when a board member leaves office, he will pass the badge on to his successor as a sort of legacy, Petersen said. He said trustees will display their badges only in certain circumstances, such as when attending an outside function like a regional library conference where they could wear them around their necks.

Crestwood Police Chief Tim Sulikowski wants Petersen to bring the badges to the police station so he can inspect them. He won't confiscate them because they don't say "police" on them, but he will warn their owners to use them carefully, Sulikowski said. He said he has fielded calls from residents worried that they won't be able to tell library trustees from village police officers. "They are concerned. Like most others, they feel that the library board doesn't need badges," Sulikowski said.

Petersen is not fazed by the criticism. "We're not doing anything that's illegal," he said. "If (the badges) said 'police,' we were wrong. But it says 'trustee.' This is just something to show they are an elected official of the district. Period."



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## Jahn to Design Extension of University of Chicago Library

Chicago architect Helmut Jahn and his firm, Murphy/Jahn, have been chosen to design a \$42 million extension of the University of Chicago's Joseph Regenstein Library, according to the February 23 *Chicago Tribune*.

The selection marks a shift for the university, which has relied on architects from outside Chicago for major recent buildings such as its Graduate School of Business. Jahn won the job from a field of twenty-eight firms.

The extension, which will house 3.5 million volumes of print material, a conservation area, and a reading room, will use high-density automated shelving instead of open stacks. It will be west of the library, which was completed in 1970 to the design of architect Walter Netsch, and south of Henry Moore's sculpture "Nuclear Energy" along Ellis Avenue between East 56 and 57 Streets, a university spokeswoman said.

Jahn is preparing a final design, the spokeswoman said. A groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for August 2007.

## Addison Library Decides to Build near Existing Site

The Addison library board has decided to build a new library just south of its current facility, but a local arts group is disappointed in the decision, reported the February 24 *Daily Herald*.

The library board voted unanimously to build a new, 52,800-square-foot building on vacant land near Kennedy Drive and Army Trail Road. Board President Sandy Super estimates the new library will cost \$15 million. The village board voted last month to find about \$11 million in alternative funding. The board plans to sell redevelopment bonds to supply the necessary funds. Super said the board has set aside \$2 million and hopes to hold fundraisers for the next two years to raise the rest of the money.

Addison owns the land the existing library building sits on and the vacant land where the new building will be built.

The one wrinkle in the library board's plan is that the village had already discussed offering the site for the new library to the Addison Center for the Arts. The group has been looking for years to build the center, group Vice President Harry Theodore said. In a non-binding referendum in 2004, residents voted in favor of a 500-seat theater and arts center for the site.

"It's a little discouraging," he said. "We've been struggling for so long trying to find our identity." However, Theodore said he wouldn't mind trading places with the library after the new library is complete.

Construction would begin in March 2007. The library would be open to the public in September 2008.

## Waukegan's Bookmobile Gets a Ride to the Big Easy

In the end, it took a parade of dinosaurs to help "Gertie," the eight-ton bookmobile from the Waukegan Public Library, to hitch a ride to hurricane-ravished New Orleans to help rebuild the Jefferson Parish library system, reported the March 11 *Chicago Tribune*.

The Gail Borden Public Library District Foundation recently donated \$2,500 to Waukegan from the December auction of more than twenty hand-crafted dinosaurs, officials said. The dinosaurs were made by local artists for the foundation's "Dinos on Parade" festival in Elgin.

The donation allowed Waukegan library officials to hire a Wisconsin trucking company to haul "Gertie," packed with 1,000 books, to Louisiana. There, she will be used as



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a temporary branch library while Jefferson Parish attempts to rebuild its network of sixteen libraries damaged in Hurricane Katrina last August. “We’re hoping it’s going to be a beautiful spring St. Patrick’s Day to send her off,” said Waukegan library spokeswoman Elizabeth Stearns.

In forty-three years of service, “Gertie” — thirty-one feet long, eight feet wide — has logged more than 50,000 miles. Officials feared the 1,000-mile trip to New Orleans would be too strenuous for her, Stearns said. Originally, a railroad company agreed to donate their services to take “Gertie” down South last fall. But the company backed out over concerns about insurance costs, prompting Waukegan officials to make a public plea for help.

## Support Grows for New Cook Library

Despite several failed referendum attempts to get more tax dollars to expand or relocate the Cook Memorial Library, residents living in the district vehemently expressed their desire for a new or improved building, reported the February 16 *Daily Herald*.

During the second of two town hall-style sessions held by Cook Memorial Public Library officials, about a dozen residents spoke, either in favor of a large central library, or individual library branches.

“In 2003, there was a referendum calling to significantly renovate the library or tear down and rebuild,” said board member Karen Broms. “That is the plan a lot of people tonight are saying they want. Unfortunately, it didn’t pass at the polls.”

Mike Omelanlik of Mundelein said the reason for those failures is the library board has never presented a plan that shows one central location. “My personal preference is for the library to stay in Libertyville,” Omelanlik said. “But I would just as easily vote for it to be anywhere. If you have one sensible location on the ballot, you’ll probably get the money. Two locations and there is not a snowball’s chance in Hell.”

Broms said building a large central library could prove to be difficult because there is not enough available land in the district, which serves Libertyville and parts of Mundelein, Vernon Hills, and other villages.

Library district officials held the town hall meeting to discuss the district’s services and facilities and the challenges it faces as the community grows. The first meeting was sparsely attended and the second meeting had about thirty people at the ninety-minute meeting. The library district has been plagued with space and other problems for several years.

## Vernon Library Eases its Rules

If you live outside the Vernon Area Public Library District and wanted to check out a Harry Potter adventure from the library, located in Lincolnshire, you’ve strictly been limited to the original print versions, reported the January 31 *Daily Herald*.

Because of a four-year-old policy preventing out-of-district patrons from checking out DVDs and other audio-visual materials, the video versions of *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Gone With the Wind*, and *The Godfather* have been off-limits, too.

Starting in February, however, out-of-district patrons again will be allowed to borrow movies, compact discs, recorded books, or similar materials at Vernon. Restrictions on other items will be eased, too. Vernon Area leaders are making the changes because the percentage of materials checked out by out-of-district users has dropped to below 5 percent, director Allen Meyer said. Before the limitations were enacted in January 2002, out-of-district patrons were responsible for nearly 32 percent of Vernon Area’s annual circulation. In fact, the figure has dropped so low that Vernon Area patrons actually are borrowing more materials from other libraries than out-of-townners are taking from Vernon, Meyer said.

The library board approved the changes after the North Suburban Library System made changes to its regional reciprocal borrowing program, the effort that allows cardholders to check out materials at multiple libraries. The NSLS’s new rules, updating a policy from the 1990s, say libraries can restrict out-of-district patrons but must review such policies annually.

Historically, most of Vernon’s out-of-district patrons come from the Libertyville-based Cook Memorial Public Library District or the Wheeling-based Indian Trails Public Library District. Both border Vernon Area.

## Fremont Library Board Suing over Structure's Roof Defects

The Fremont Public Library board is suing the architect and contractors who designed and built the Midlothian Road facility because of water drips due to condensation and other defects in the five-year-old building's roof, court records show, reported the January 21 *Daily Herald*.

The sixteen-count suit, filed in Lake County circuit court, requests at least \$800,000 in damages plus legal fees and other costs. However, an attorney for the Mundelein-based board said district leaders really want the amount of money needed to fix the roof, a sum that isn't known yet. Attorney Keri-Lyn Krafthefer also said library officials hope to settle the dispute without the case moving forward. The board sued because its ability to do so was about to expire, she said.

Named as defendants in the complaint are: general contractor Camosy Inc.; architects PSA-Dewberry; subcontractor James Mansfield & Sons; roofing manufacturer Hunter Panels; and project manager Project & Construction Services.

The two-story, 56,000-square foot library opened in January 2001. It cost an estimated \$10 million and was funded by a tax-rate increase voters approved in 1998.

According to the complaint, representatives from the construction and architectural firms noticed water leaks from the roof area after the building was finished. The firms initially suspected the leaks were caused by snow blowing into vents or an insulation problem, but repair efforts made in 2002 were unsuccessful, the lawsuit says. Additional repairs attempted in 2003 and 2004 also were unsuccessful, the suit says. Tests performed last year revealed twenty-eight construction defects or problems, the complaint says, including split shingles, insufficient venting at the roof, and missing fireproofing.

The problems have not been rectified, said library board President Bill O'Brien. Camosy President and CEO Raymond Camosy said he was aware of the problems at the library but didn't think they were serious enough to warrant a lawsuit. The case will be turned over to the firm's insurance company, he said.

## Poplar Creek Library Trustees Take Steps to Decrease Loitering

In an effort to disperse persons that congregate at and block the entrance of the main building in Streamwood, administrator Pat Hogan asked officials of the Poplar Creek Public Library District to establish a no-loitering zone there, reported the January 12 *Daily Herald*. Violators who hinder foot traffic at the library's entryway are guilty of trespassing and could face fines between \$2 and \$500, according to the ordinance approved by library trustees.

"In the olden days, when librarians or staff told someone to please move, they usually moved," said library attorney Donna Baffoe McDonald. "In modern days, that doesn't so often happen, and that's a reflection of where we stand." The ordinance gives police and security guards the authority to remove anyone who is asked to leave but refuses, she said. "This provides a buffer zone," McDonald said. "We can't have people at the door interrupting other users."

Another step taken by library trustees to limit recent disruptive behavior was the adoption of a second ordinance that outlined rules of conduct and sanctions, should those rules be broken. "The conduct that we all used to assume from people... now has to be mandated," McDonald said. Both ordinances "allow the library not to have to deal when it becomes out of bounds. Now the police can do it."

Violators who disturb patrons or damage library property are threatened with exclusion between one and thirty days and the relinquishment of their library cards, according to the second ordinance.

## Springfield's Library Needs New Revenue Sources

Springfield's public library needs to find new sources of revenue, and an eleven-person task force will be charged with finding them, Mayor Tim Davlin announced in the February 3 *State Journal-Register*.

Davlin also said the city will spend \$170,000 in excess downtown tax increment financing funds to replace the carpeting on the first floor of Lincoln Library, whose director, Nancy Huntley, said must be removed for safety and aesthetic reasons. "It has certainly been brought to this administration's attention in the last three years about how funding levels for the library system have consistently gone down," Davlin said. "Just to continuously take money out of the corporate fund isn't always the answer. It's been a short-term solution for the last couple of years. We really need to look for long-term solutions."

Revenues for Lincoln Library, which come mainly from property taxes, have not kept pace with expenses, so the city's corporate fund has subsidized some operations. The library is set to receive just under \$3 million from property taxes for the fiscal year that begins March 1. It gets \$112,000 from fees for services and about \$760,000 from intergovernmental sources. The mayor's proposed budget for fiscal 2007 also calls for a \$550,000 transfer from the corporate fund to the library fund. For the current year, about \$475,000 was transferred.

Another duty of the task force, Davlin said, will be to examine what to do about the library's shuttered north-end branch. It has been closed since summer because of mold problems. The books from the branch are unusable without being cleaned, but electronic media, such as CDs and DVDs, will be moved to the downtown library, Huntley said. There is no money in the budget currently to reopen the branch elsewhere.

The task force, consisting of Davlin-appointed library board members and other residents, will examine the branch system as a whole and how it is funded. The city has been refunding excess downtown Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) money, which is taken from property tax revenues, to governmental entities since April 2004 because the city paid off early bonds used to create the district. The city has not spent its yearly refund share, which comes to about \$85,000, Davlin said.

In a TIF district, tax dollars generated by new development are deposited in a special fund instead of going to schools and other taxing bodies. That money is used to improve the TIF area, creating incentives for developers to renovate rundown properties or build anew. Among other planned library upgrades discussed, the downtown entrance doors will be redesigned so they are energy-efficient, and a \$30,000 grant will be used to make elevators compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Downers Grove Public Library Spells out Home Rule Impact

Downers Grove Public Library trustees got some bad news about how the potential loss of the village's home rule status will affect them, reported the February 24 *Suburban Life*.

Library Director Christopher Bowen told trustees the DuPage County clerk's office has confirmed that if home rule status is repealed, the library will be forced to revert to a tax levy rate of 0.15 percent, in contrast to the current levy of 0.168 percent. And because non-home rule libraries are bound by state statute to that amount, the board will not be able to levy more in the future.

"We can't levy higher than 0.15 percent no matter what the tax cap is, without a referendum," Bowen said. This will create a shortfall of 9 percent below projected income in the first year following repeal, or about \$300,000.

Bowen provided some ways to cut spending. These include reducing funding for training, newsletters, and adult and children's programs, saving up to \$30,000. The amount spent on library materials could be cut 25 to 30 percent, saving \$123,000 to \$148,000. An additional \$73,000 savings could come from closing on Sunday afternoons.

Downers Grove resident William "Buzz" Howell, chairman of the Downers Grove Watch, the government watchdog group that placed the question on the March 21 ballot, asked if the board could seek a tax hike in November. Board President Stephen Daniels said it would be premature to decide that now. "But I think in the not-too distant future we'd have to (go to a referendum), because we couldn't provide the services people are used to," he added.

Watch treasurer William Wrobel said people "would likely support" a tax hike for the library, but library trustee Pat Vlcek noticed some irony in that. "Here they're trying to lower taxes but then suggesting we go for a referendum to raise taxes," she said.

## Make someone's year — nominate him or her for an ILA award

Do you know someone, a librarian, staff member, or library board member who is helping make library service in Illinois stronger and better? Reward them by making their year — nominate them for an ILA award. ILA awards recognize cooperation and collaboration; best practices; outstanding new professionals, youth service librarians, academic librarians, trustees, and support staff; innovative libraries; exemplary careers and commitment to advocacy and intellectual freedom; service to blind and handicap patrons; and much more. Don't wait another moment, recognize the extraordinary: identify the appropriate award and submit your nomination today! For more information on awards visit <http://www.ila.org/membership/awards.htm>.

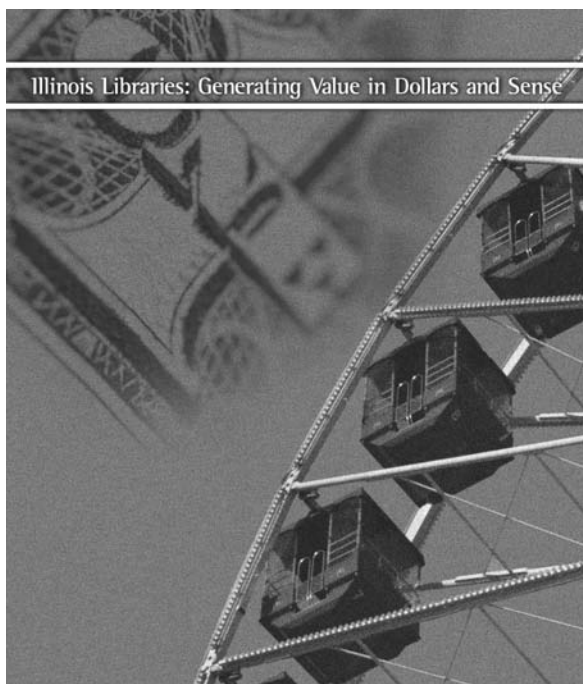
### General Award Information:

Nominations are due at the ILA Office (33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610-4306) on or before May 15, 2006 (unless otherwise noted). Write the award name on the lower left-hand corner of the envelope.

Simply submit the ILA nomination form and any other materials required for the award you have chosen.

Award winners will receive notification in July 2006, and will be a guest of ILA at the annual presentation ceremony in Chicago (October, 2006).

See the ILA nomination form (p. 55 of the downloadable pdf document) and complete award information at <http://www.ila.org/membership/awards.htm>.



## Generating Value in Dollars and Sense — ILA Annual Conference 2006

### Does Your Library Contribute to the Community?

Keynote speakers at ILA Annual Conference show how to make a difference

Every day librarians throughout Illinois provide materials and services to the patrons they serve. But is that enough? Meeting the needs of the community first involves discovering what those needs are through various methods aligning library services and then documenting your contribution. Sometimes the results of that research may be very different from the expected outcomes.

Jim Morgenstern, of dmA Planning & Management Services and Laurey Gillies, with Southern Ontario Library Services, will present the keynote address on how to be sure your library is truly addressing the needs of the community. Based on the internationally recognized manual, *The Library's Contribution to the Community*, Morgenstern and Gillies will show how Ontario libraries looked at the library environment and developed measures to ensure a direct correlation between what services the library offered to the needs they saw in the community. What they were surprised to find, in several cases, was that the library made some striking contributions to the community and often in unexpected areas. For example, in talking to the retail sector, they discovered that library users provided an economic contribution; every time they came to town to visit the library they also shopped in area businesses. This information, in turn, provides valuable data and a persuasive argument to build support for libraries that in turn is helpful when needing additional funding.

Jim Morgenstern is a principal consultant with dmA Planning & Management Services with thirty years of consulting experience. He has worked with libraries, parks, and other municipalities throughout Canada and the United States to create master plans, feasibility studies, and strategic plans. He has successfully guided library boards through difficult challenges and helped to develop innovative service partnerships.

Laurey Gillies is the director of the Southern Ontario Library Service, a consortium of two hundred libraries. She worked with Morgenstern to develop *The Library's Contribution to Your Community*, which has become a benchmark for service in many communities.

To learn more about generating value in your library community and other important library topics, plan to attend the ILA Conference October 3–6 at Navy Pier, Chicago.

## ILA Annual Conference Poster Session and Talk Table Forms Available Online

Become actively involved in the 2006 ILA Annual Conference by presenting a poster session or talk table. Poster sessions and talk tables will be offered on the exhibit floor October 4 and 5.

Poster sessions showcase successful research projects, display a grant, or present an innovative program from your library. These presentations are displayed on bulletin boards and are ninety minutes in length. Presenters should be available during this time to answer questions.

Talk tables are informal one-hour discussions on pertinent, often everyday, topics led by a moderator. If there is a library topic or question you want to discuss with your colleagues in an informal setting, consider moderating a talk table.

For more information, please contact: Connie Steudel, Carbondale Public Library, 405 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL 62901-2995; phone: (618) 457-0354; e-mail: [csteudel@shawls.lib.il.us](mailto:csteudel@shawls.lib.il.us), or visit the ILA Web site at <http://www.ila.org/events>.

## In Electronic Age, Americans' Use of Library Services Grows

A new national study from the American Library Association (ALA) finds that Americans overwhelmingly are very satisfied with their public libraries, agree more public library funding is needed, and believe public libraries will be needed in the future. Two-thirds of adult Americans (roughly 135 million people) visited their public libraries last year.

KRC Research & Consulting conducted the study, which interviewed 1,003 adult Americans in a national random-sample telephone survey conducted January 3–13. The estimated margin of error is +/-3.1 percent.

Libraries and librarians, as well as the services they offer, are clearly valuable to Americans. Findings show that:

- Seven out of ten Americans report being extremely or very satisfied with their public libraries, up from six out of ten in 2002;
- More than eight in ten Americans (85 percent) agree that their public libraries deserve more funding, including 58 percent who strongly agree;

- More than half of survey respondents (52 percent) believe \$41 or more per person should be spent per year on libraries. Americans currently provide, on average, about \$25 per year per person in local tax support for public libraries;
- Ninety-two percent of survey respondents believe libraries will still be needed in the future even with all of the information available on the Internet; and
- More than one-third of Americans put the benefits of libraries at the top of the public services list as compared to schools, roads, and parks, up six points from 2002.

The more frequent the user, the more satisfied she or he is with libraries. In fact, Americans' use of library services has grown in almost every category, from taking out books (up fourteen points), to consulting with librarians (up seven points), to taking out CDs, videos, and computer software (up thirteen points), to attending cultural programs like speakers or movie showings (up eight points).

Nearly all Americans (96 percent) agree that because public libraries provide free access to materials and resources, they play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.

Sixty-one percent of library users report using the computer in some way, including checking the online catalog, connecting to the Internet, and writing a paper or preparing a resume when they visited the library. African American and Hispanic adults are significantly more likely to use their public library for job searches or writing resumes than Caucasian adults.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans own library cards and report that taking out books and using computers/Internet are the top services they use in public libraries. The most frequent library users are women, younger adults (ages 25 to 44), college-educated adults, and parents of younger children. Adults in the Midwest and West are more likely to have visited their public library than their counterparts in the South and Northeast.

For more information on this study, please visit [www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf).

## Illinois Library Day

The event was sponsored by the 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. Advocates went to Springfield to request:

- Support for House Bill (HB) 4217: Legislation protecting Illinois public library districts by clarifying annexation procedures;
- Support for increased library funding in the budgets of the Illinois Secretary of State and the Illinois Board of Higher Education including:
  - Library Equalization Aid Grants
  - Public Library Per Capita Grants
  - School Library Per Capita Grants
  - Library System Grant Funding
  - Illinois State Library
  - Library Capital Projects
  - Academic Library Collections; and
- Strong libraries need strong support from legislators.

## Strong Libraries = A Strong Illinois

Attendees represented the following systems: Alliance Library System (76); Chicago Public Library System (6); DuPage Library System (41); Lewis & Clark Library System (40); Lincoln Trail Libraries System (42); Metropolitan Library System (81); North Suburban Library System (69); Prairie Area Library System (114); Rolling Prairie Library System (36); Shawnee Library System (76).

### Registration Numbers for Illinois Library Advocacy Days

2006	581
2005	259
2004	337
2003	346
2002	352
2001	313
2000	358
1999	no event
1998	no event
1997	no event
1996	83
1995	86
1994	153
1993	175
1992	211
1991	284
1990	unknown

2006 Palm Card

**Illinois Library Day**  
March 1, 2006

We need your support for Illinois libraries.

- Support HB4217  
Legislation protecting Illinois public library districts by clarifying annexation procedures
- Support increased library funding in the budgets of the Secretary of State and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, including:
  - Library Equalization Aid Grants
  - Public Library Per Capita Grants
  - School Library Per Capita Grants
  - Library System Grant funding
  - Illinois State Library
  - Library Capital Projects
  - Academic Library Collections
- Strong libraries need strong support from legislators.

**Strong Libraries = A Strong Illinois**

**Strong Libraries = A Strong Illinois**

**Illinois State Library Budget**

22% reduction, a loss of \$18,195,900

Fiscal Year	Budget
FY 2000	\$18,481,800
FY 2001	\$18,211,000
FY 2002	\$18,001,000
FY 2003	\$16,160,000
FY 2004	\$13,341,000
FY 2005	\$12,546,000
FY 2006	\$12,351,000
FY 2007	\$10,245,900

**Illinois Regional Library Systems Budget**

17.7% reduction, a loss of \$3,917,343

Fiscal Year	Budget
FY 2000	\$22,360,000
FY 2001	\$22,360,000
FY 2002	\$22,360,000
FY 2003	\$20,190,000
FY 2004	\$18,240,000
FY 2005	\$18,100,000
FY 2006	\$18,100,000
FY 2007	\$14,182,657



## Remarks at Illinois Library Day, March 1, 2006

*Richard Norton Smith, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

We historians are often accused of not only loving the past, but of living in it as well. Considering the alternatives to include Britney Spears, Bode Miller, and *A Million Little Pieces*, I'm not sure the past is such a bad place to inherit. In a period when genuine community is so elusive, does it come as any wonder that millions of us should flock to shopping malls and sporting arenas and movie screens and — yes — museums and libraries, in search of something — anything — that can overcome the division and alienation of modern life?

Libraries, it goes without saying, serve many functions. They instruct and entertain, inform and inspire. They gather the wisdom of the ages and they supply the diversion of a summer afternoon. But if they have a single overriding purpose, it is to connect us with the people and places, ideas and traditions that enrich our lives, deepen our humanity and designate us guardians of a glorious heritage. Entering a library, one soon discovers the essential truth of informed citizenship — that so long as books are kept open, then minds can never be closed.

But that's just the start of it. To visit a library is to disprove the limiting notion that we have but one life to live. For books enable us to live as many lives and as many different kinds of lives as our curiosity can conjure. With a library card and a little imagination, it is possible to cross the American continent with pioneering women, or relive the missionary zeal of youthful Freedom Riders in a segregated South. We can hear the buzz bombs over London, the bugle calls at Waterloo, the strange, mournful clatter of muskets on Lexington Green. We can march with Dr. King at Selma, explore the trackless West with Lewis and Clark, take passage on HMS Titanic, or reach, with the Apollo astronauts, for the hem of heaven.

Open a book and the calendar becomes irrelevant. Codes of fashion vanish like a snowdrift in July. Open a book and forget the hard mentality that can otherwise reduce modern human beings to little more than interchangeable parts. Chase a great white whale named Moby Dick. Float down the broad Mississippi in the company of Huck Finn. Trail a criminal with Agatha Christie. Stand at Gettysburg with Sandburg's Lincoln. Fly the Atlantic with Charles Lindbergh. Or storm the beaches of Normandy with Stephen Ambrose.

Open a book and learn the ways of a world that only yesterday was a stranger. More than diversion, more even than instruction, to read is to gain perspective. And to

reinforce one's humanity in an age of laptops and cellphones and beepers and TiVo. For man does not live by e-mail alone. In this age of virtual reality, automated tellers, and five hundred channels on which to watch reruns of Gilligan's Island and infomercials for the AB Flex, may I suggest that we frazzled humans have need of inspiration as well as information, and of faith to match our facts.

And that is where you come in. A library is a bridge to what has been and a gateway to what may yet be. It is a powerful assertion, in brick and glass and fiber optic cable, that we will not be severed from our roots, or walled off from our neighbors. At a time when too many Americans are barely on speaking terms, an understanding of our common heritage can help to foster badly needed connections. Modern Americans pursue such connections with all the poignant intensity of Dorothy Gale seeking a way back to Kansas — and many of us are just as blind to the fact that the object of our desire is right under our noses. Especially if our noses are buried in a book.

Outside a library's walls, the world can sometimes seem a chilly place. Inside we warm ourselves by the fire of memory and the spark of a child's curiosity. Lives end, customs change, fads come and go. But books live on, to cast their glow of inspiration and perspective — and by that light we can all find our way home.

## What's Your ROI?

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# ILA Welcomes New Members

We would love to welcome your friends and colleagues, too. By sponsoring a new member, you share the benefits of membership with others... and help create a stronger and more effective voice to promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

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## Best Practices Committee

*Betsy Adamowski, Itasca Community Library*

### Now You Can Boast About Your Best Practices on the ILA Web Site

View the Best Practices Committee Web site [http://www.ila.org/about/com\\_bp2.htm](http://www.ila.org/about/com_bp2.htm). On this site, learn more about the Best Practices Committee, how to submit your library's best practice, and read what other libraries have submitted.

Remember, best practices are defined as strategies, activities, or approaches that have been shown through research and/or evaluation to be effective and efficient. The ILA Best Practices committee is now collecting practices that constitute excellence in libraries. The committee recognizes that librarianship is both an art and a science and the belief is that the ideas presented on this Web page are starting points for discussion about the service that libraries strive for.

ILA is working hard to identify and make known services, community outreach initiatives, and administrative/management procedures that are innovative and replicable. The Best Practices Committee would like to hear from ALL types of library organizations.

Listed below is an example of a Best Practice that was submitted by the Des Plaines Public Library.

#### InfoPro

The Des Plaines Public Library asks its patrons — Have a question or topic you'd like to research, but can't decide where to start? Going back to college, but don't know how to use online databases and resources?

Any library patron high school age and above can make an appointment for an hour of one-on-one help from a professional information specialist — an "InfoPro" at the Des Plaines Public Library. The new InfoPro service supplements the telephone, walk-in, and electronic reference services already offered by the library.

Individuals and small groups may also make appointments with an InfoPro for personalized tours to learn more about library materials and services.

At a scheduled session, an InfoPro will spend about an hour with a patron suggesting useful library materials and databases based on individual research requirements. An individual will learn how to conduct successful searches on a chosen topic and how to use the catalog and printed materials more effectively.

In addition, the patron will receive a customized research guide tailored to his or her specific needs. The guide will list suggested books, databases, Web sites, and other resources on a particular topic. The Website of InfoPro is [www.dppl.org/reference/InfoPro.html](http://www.dppl.org/reference/InfoPro.html).

Submitted by Holly Richards Sorensen, Des Plaines Public Library, [www.dppl.org](http://www.dppl.org).

To date there are four best practices listed on the Web site. Check out the ILA Web site today to find out how you can get a new idea for a best practice for your library along with how you can submit a great best practice that you are currently practicing in your library.

## Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL)

The Thomas Tredway Library at Augustana College is the winner of the 2006 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Winner of the college category, the library demonstrated success at implementing innovative library programs in order to enhance its involvement with faculty and students on campus.

“The Tredway Library at Augustana College provides an impressive range of services, well beyond what would be expected by a library of its size and resources,” said Julia Zimmerman, member of the 2006 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee. “The staff has developed a number of exciting and often quite innovative collaborations with faculty, academic support units, and student groups. They are committed to accountability and assessment, with results that show that students and faculty place a very high value on the library as a vital contributor to academic life and ‘the living room of the campus.’”

## Illinois Reading and Enrichment Development (IREAD) Committee

*Jane Kauzlaric, Joliet Public Library*

The 2007 Resource Guide will only be as good as your contributions! Submissions for *Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond* are now being accepted by Kristi Miller-Pease at [iread@geneva.lib.il.us](mailto:iread@geneva.lib.il.us). This new submission period is in direct response to your requests for an earlier printing of the Resource Guide.

Lori Craft, Head of Youth Services at Itasca Community Library, has been selected as the 2008 Summer Reading Program Chair.

Brainstorming to select the 2008 theme will begin online this spring. Go to the IREAD page to contribute: <http://www.ila.org/pub/iread.htm> .

Then join us at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference in Chicago to brainstorm the 2009 theme. We will meet immediately following the Youth Services Forum Breakfast, Thursday, October 5 at Navy Pier.

2006 Summer Reading Program products are still available for sale at <http://www.ila.org/pub/iread.htm>. The order form will be periodically updated to indicate out-of-stock items.

## Intellectual Freedom Committee

**Ensuring That a Periodicals Collection is Balanced Between the Political Left and Right: One Library's Experience**

*Heather Shlah, Joliet Public Library*

It was a pleasant surprise to discover the treasure trove of a periodicals collection that I inherited as the new periodicals librarian. It was not a repository nor archive, nor even a research library, but still a resplendent collection in multiple formats — a back-issue dream, complete with wonderfully intact complete runs of titles like *Popular Mechanics*, *Ebony*, *National Geographic* and more. Over six hundred titles, smacking of a hundred years of librarianship.

And balance — this collection, that housed something for everyone, surely was above reproach. Not so. I was on the job about two weeks when the first complaints were leveled, and about one year when a formal complaint found its way to library administration.

Anyone involved in the selection process knows that fault can always be found with selections, and those involved with periodicals know this especially well. Periodicals, by nature, are hard to “control,” and tend to invite controversy. You can select a title based on its general orientation, or based on whatever criteria guides and drives your collection development efforts, but you have no real control over what will appear on the cover or within a specific issue. Likewise, you can never know how or what will violate somebody's perception of community standards.

Okay, back to the complaint. It basically centered on a perceived political bias on the part of the entire periodical collection. The complaint leveled was that the collection was disproportionately skewed to the left. It seemed that it had always been the library's mandate to build a periodical collection that offered something to entertain, educate, and inform people of different ages, cultural, and educational backgrounds, as well as various political and philosophical orientations. While collection criteria strove towards mainstream and/or moderate perspectives, the collection also supported, and attempted to encourage, tolerance for thought and opinions that fostered the growth of new ideas and understanding.

Nobody in the library ever thought of the periodicals collection as being skewed in either direction along the political spectrum, but the complaint did raise an interesting thought about balance. That is, that balance, in itself, is a very subjective idea. Perception of balance depends somewhat on one's personal interests, and what they themselves believe and value. This having been said, no collection can reflect every individual's need or agenda. Collections, rather, should respond to the interests of the community and should reflect the standards of that community. In defense of intellectual freedom, it is a mandate of a librarian to serve up information in an objective and balanced manner. It was deemed essential that our library respond to a complaint of this nature with careful analysis.

What ensued was a full-scale periodical assessment, which I would encourage and challenge all libraries to pursue. Once complete, this assessment offered a clear snapshot of our holdings broken down by subject. It became the basis of a collection development policy, as well as a ready, palpable defense in situations of attack. Periodicals were grouped into thirty different subject areas, which were borrowed from *Ulrich's International Periodical Directory*.

Every title that even hinted at political agenda was analyzed using an objective source, *Magazines for Libraries*, as well as a great deal of old-fashioned professional discussion/debate. When staff was satisfied that titles had been accurately assessed and judged, the percentages were calculated. (The number of titles in each subject area divided by total title holdings.) In the end, we were able to definitively say that there were equal percentages of periodicals representing conservative and liberal views.

I continue to add to the periodicals collection with a view to provide for a wide variety of interests and tastes, and I use the assessment process regularly for collection development. In the midst of this challenge to our collection, intellectual freedom was protected and preserved.

A patron was free to express concern, the library was free to defend its collection, and an objective assessment process arbitrated the dispute in a way that should preserve the collection's balance, while influencing and guiding policy into the future.

## Reaching Forward Forum for Support Staff

*Candace Biancalana, Reaching Forward Committee Member*

Need to plan a staff day? Then the Reaching Forward Conference committee has an idea for you!

If you are in a library of thirty-five employees or less, consider bringing them to the 2006 conference. Participants will hear a great keynote speaker, be able to choose from more than thirty concurrent programs, and enjoy a continental breakfast and lunch.

Past conference evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. We encourage you to consider Friday, May 19 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont as the place where your library could be a part of a wonderful and educational experience. This could ultimately be a "staff day" they will talk about for a long time. Visit [www.reachingforward.org](http://www.reachingforward.org) for more details.

### Conference Awards

We encourage you to nominate a staff member for either the Robert P. Doyle award or the Oberman and Rich award. Anyone may submit an application. Look around you, it's not too late to consider someone — or even yourself — for this year's conference. See our Web site, [www.reachingforward.org](http://www.reachingforward.org) for all the details.

The time is now — invest in your library future. Mark your calendar today for Friday, May 19, 2006 for the annual Reaching Forward Conference. Visit our Web site, [www.reachingforward.org](http://www.reachingforward.org) at anytime for ongoing information. Hope to see you there!

## April 2006

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- 2–8 National Library Week.** Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: [pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org); <http://www.ala.org>.
- 3 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, DuPage Library System, Illinois State Library, Metropolitan Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 4 Reference Services Forum meeting,** via VTEL videoconferencing, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.
- 7 IREAD meeting,** 11:00 A.M., Pontiac Public Library, 211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL 61764; phone: (815) 844-7229; fax: (815) 844-3475.
- 10–16 Young People’s Poetry Week,** sponsored by the Children’s Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children’s Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org>.
- 20 Deadline for June issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

## May 2006

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- 1–2 National Library Legislative Day.** The registration form appears in the February 2006 *ILA Reporter*. The Monday briefing session will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. For further information on the issues and briefing session, contact the American Library Association; phone: 800-941-8478. The Monday night dinner will be at the Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003.
- 8 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, DuPage Library System, Illinois State Library, Metropolitan Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 15 All award nominations are due in the ILA Office.**
- 19 Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants,** Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Ill.

## June 2006

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- 2 ILA Executive Board Meeting,** 10:00 A.M., Joliet Public Library, Black Road Branch, 3395 Black Rd., Joliet, IL 60431; phone: (815) 740-2660; fax: (815) 744-7208.
- 5 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, DuPage Library System, Illinois State Library, Metropolitan Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 20 Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**
- 22–28 ALA Annual Conference,** New Orleans, La.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## August 2006

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- 3 **Reference Services Forum meeting**, via VTEL videoconferencing, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.
- 20–26 **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Council and General Conference**, Seoul, Korea. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org>.
- 20 **Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

## September 2006

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- 13 **Reference Services Forum meeting**, via VTEL videoconferencing, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.
- 23–30 **Banned Books Week—Celebrating the Freedom to Read**. For further information, contact American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611; phone: 800-545-2433 x4220; fax: (312) 280-4227; e-mail: [oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org). Or visit the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>.
- 29 **Reaching Forward South Tenth Annual Conference for Library Assistants**, Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702; phone: (217) 523-7900. For further information see [www.reachingforwardsouth.org](http://www.reachingforwardsouth.org) or contact Rick Mason, Kishwaukee College Library, phone: (815) 825-2086 x368 or [contact@reachingforwardsouth.org](mailto:contact@reachingforwardsouth.org).

## October 2006

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- 3–6 **ILA Annual Conference**, Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill.
- 20 **Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

## December 2006

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- 20 **Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

## January 2007

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- 19–24 **ALA Midwinter Meeting**, Seattle, Wash.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## February 2007

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- 20 **Deadline for April issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

## April 2007

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- 15–21 **National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office**, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: [pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org); <http://www.ala.org>.
- 16–22 **Young People's Poetry Week**, sponsored by the Children's Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children's Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org>.



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**Library Jobline of Illinois**

<http://www.ila.org/jobline>

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All employer job openings are listed on the ILA Web site ([www.ila.org/jobline](http://www.ila.org/jobline)) for 30 days and the cost is \$80.

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