

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2007

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 2



WATCH HIM
READ AND LIFT!

The Mighty

ILLUSTRATION BY [unreadable]

The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



ON THE COVER

This *ILA Reporter* cover showcases Harry Bliss — the award-winning cartoonist and children's book illustrator for the 2005 IREAD theme "Superheroes — Powered by Books." Our April issue focuses on the library community's attempts to instill the love of reading, growing, and learning to upcoming Illinois generations. It celebrates the twenty-five year history of the IREAD summer reading program, one of Illinois's premiere cooperative programming efforts. Take a walk down memory lane with a superhero — Harper Lee and the IREAD folks. We hope you enjoy the journey.

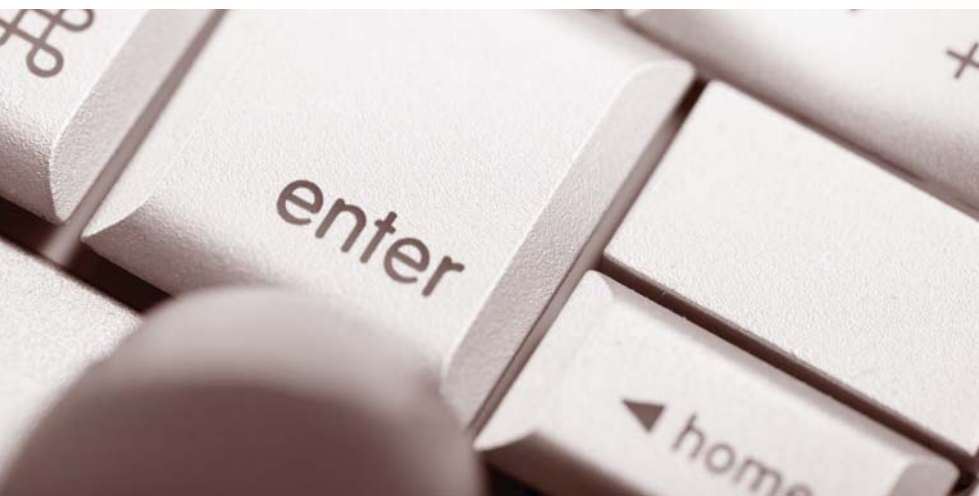
The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 2,900 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

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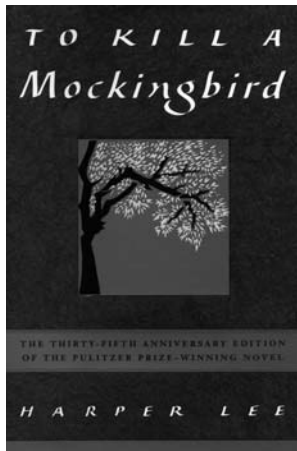
Kristy M. Mangel

A Letter from

Harper Lee



The author on the set of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Mary Badham, the young actress who played Scout Finch, 1962. Photo: The Everett Collection.



Nelle Harper Lee's 1960 novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, about a girl named Scout and her moral awakening in an era of racism and injustice, was a publishing phenomenon; it won the Pulitzer Prize, inspired a movie, and achieved the almost unheard of honor of being the book that, to this day, American students hold closest to their hearts. For example, as Lee received an honorary degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2006, all of the graduates stood and hoisted a copy of her classic novel in salute. Over the past four-plus decades, this most genially private of writers has lived quietly in her native Alabama, warding off media scrutiny even as the film "Capote" highlighted the two writers' longtime friendship. This *Reporter* focuses on our attempts to instill the love of reading, growing, and learning to upcoming Illinois generations. Lee reminds us about what reading means and has always meant to her.

Do you remember when you learned to read, or, like me, can you not even remember a time when you didn't know how? I must have learned from having brothers, much older, read aloud to keep me from pestering them; my mother read me a story every day, usually a children's classic, and my father read from the four newspapers he got through every evening. Then, of course, it was Uncle Wiggily at bedtime.

So I arrived in the first grade, literate, with a curious cultural assimilation of American history, romance, the Rover Boys, Rapunzel, and *The Mobile Press*. Early signs of genius? Far from it. Reading was an accomplishment I shared with several local contemporaries. Why this endemic precocity? Because in my hometown, a remote village in the early 1930s, youngsters had little to do but read. A movie? Not often — movies weren't for small children. A park for games? Not a hope. We're talking unpaved streets here, and the Depression.

Books were scarce. There was nothing you could call a public library, we were a hundred miles away from a department store's books section, so we children began to circulate reading material among ourselves until each child had read another's entire stock. There were long dry spells broken by the new Christmas books, which started the rounds again.

As we grew older, we began to realize what our books were worth: *Anne of Green Gables* was worth two Bobbsey twins; two Rover Boys were an even swap for two Tom Swifts. Aesthetic frissons ran a poor second to the thrills of acquisition. The goal, a full set of a series, was attained only once by an individual of exceptional greed — he swapped his sister's doll buggy.

We were privileged. There were children, mostly from rural areas, who had never looked into a book until they went

to school. They had to be taught to read in the first grade, and we were impatient with them for having to catch up. We ignored them.

And it wasn't until we were grown, some of us, that we discovered what had befallen the children of our African American servants. In some of their schools, pupils learned to read three-to-one — three children to one book, which was more than likely a cast-off primer from a white grammar school. We seldom saw them until, older, they came to work for us.

Now, seventy-five years later in an abundant society where people have laptops, cell phones, iPods, and minds like empty rooms, I still plod along with books. Instant information is not for me. I prefer to search library stacks because when I work to learn something, I remember it!

Can you imagine curling up in bed to read a computer? Weeping for Anna Karenina and being terrified by Hannibal Lecter, entering the heart of darkness with Mistah Kurtz, having Holden Caulfield ring you up — some things should happen on soft pages, not cold metal.

The village of my childhood is gone, with it most of the book collectors, including the dodgy one who swapped his complete set of Seckatary Hawkinkses for a shotgun and kept it until it was retrieved by an irate parent.

Now we are three in number and live hundreds of miles away from each other. We still keep in touch by telephone conversations of recurrent theme: "What is your name again?" followed by "What are you reading?" We don't always remember.

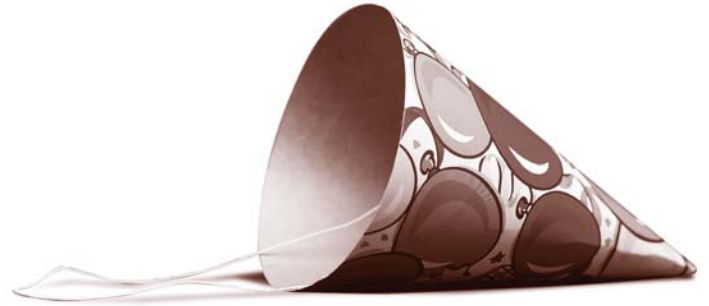
Every effort has been made to locate the owner of the copyright for this letter. Anyone having information should contact ILA, 33 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60610. The Nelle Harper Lee letter first appeared in the July 2006 *O, The Oprah Magazine*, pp. 151–52. **ILA**

Voyage to Book Island



I READ 2006!

Happy Twenty-fifth Birthday IREAD!



Yes, the IREAD program turned twenty-five this year! IREAD is one of Illinois's premiere cooperative programming efforts. Many librarians too numerous to mention participated in its birth and its continued success. Let's take a look back at this wonderfully successful program — a program that stands for cooperative effort with a capital C.

A little bit of history

In the fall of 1981, Illinois Valley Library System youth consultant Ann Barnett Hutton called a meeting of all system youth consultants (at the time there were eighteen systems) to discuss the possibilities of a statewide-shared theme for summer reading programs. Most of the systems sent a representative to this meeting, which was held at the 1981 ILA Annual Conference. A representative from DEMCO was also there and expressed their desire to create promotional materials and programmatic publications for youth reading programs. In this one intense meeting, the first theme was born, "A to Zebra." Ann Barnett Hutton became the first chair. System consultants were assigned various roles to develop content and DEMCO printed the booklet, bookmarks, and a small poster and distributed them free of charge. Utilizing the Illinois statewide delivery system (ILDS), free materials were delivered to libraries for the summer of 1982. Prior to this statewide effort, many system youth consultants spent a great deal of their year helping public libraries develop a theme, bookmarks, and a program manual. Although many libraries continued to create their own programming, the idea of sharing and cooperation caught on.

The second year's theme, "Reading Rainbow" was aligned with the PBS series theme. Chicago Public Library System youth consultant Elizabeth Huntoon was the 1983 chair. Huntoon was involved at the national level in an advisory capacity for the then-new PBS television program. Libraries utilized multi-colored program manuals printed by the Lewis & Clark Library System. The manuals were distributed by ILDS.

In the few years of the statewide program, IREAD received Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant funds from the state library to support the program. Rolling Prairie Library System youth consultant Maxine A. Payne was the 1984 chair. Lincoln Trail Libraries System graphic artist, Cindy Carlson, was hired to develop the graphics and to prepare the camera-ready booklet, bookmarks, and activity sheet master.

"In this one intense meeting, the first theme was born, 'A to Zebra'."

The technology of the early 1980s made it difficult for libraries to print their own materials. To put this into perspective, Kinko's only had seventy-two stores in the U.S. in 1979. IBM launched its first ever personal computer utilizing Microsoft's DOS operating system in 1981. The print shops in the various systems around the state were filled with electric typewriters, early word processors, and printing presses. Mass production of materials was costly and time-consuming. As more and more materials to support summer reading were produced, the systems held "sorting parties" at many of their headquarters to help get the product out statewide. This initiative was begun in an era before video teleconferencing equipment, e-mail, and other technologies. It was a superb example of the Illinois cooperative spirit and also fostered excellent comradery.

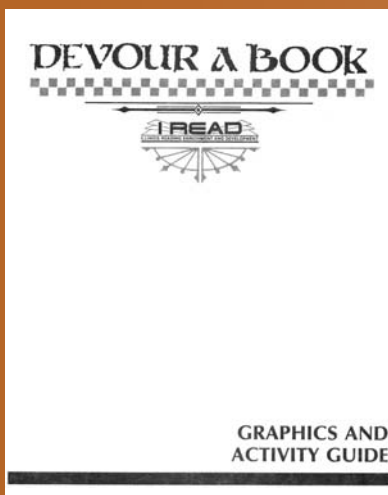
Where did all these great theme ideas come from?

Ideas were generated in sharing sessions and submissions were funneled through the library systems. There were volunteer editors and representatives from local public library staffs, all of which were cooperating statewide to bring a high-quality reading program to life.

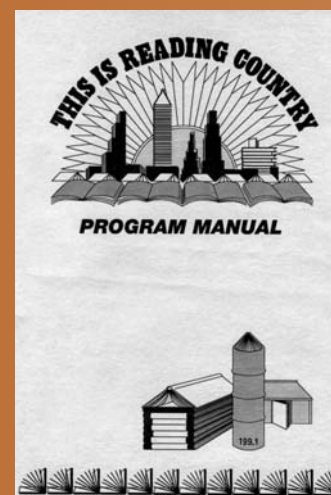
Creating and continuing to create a high-quality product each year requires dedication, cooperation, and teamwork. It was a risk to start such a large endeavor. Each public library and each system had its own history for reading programs and what worked best in their community. One of the best parts of the IREAD program is its flexibility — a library can use all, some, or none of the products or theme in a given year.



1985



1988



1991

What's in a name?

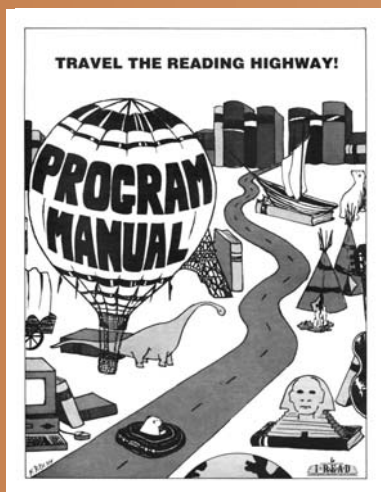
Although the statewide summer reading program had been around for four years, it wasn't until Ruth Faklis, then multi-type consultant at the Suburban Library System, and Paula Moore, then youth services manager at the Downers Grove Public Library, were in a car driving back from a meeting with the system directors that "IREAD" came into being. The system directors wanted an umbrella name for the program, so they took to brainstorming in the car. At that time, the Illinois Secretary of State Jim Edgar had a program called "Read Illinois." They inverted the words to become Illinois Read and then came up with words for each letter until they hit upon the "Illinois Reading Enrichment And Development" program. And that's how IREAD was born. The term IREAD was first used in the 1986 program.

How did ILA get involved?

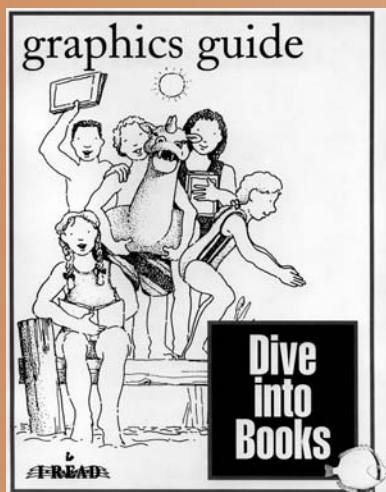
It was clear that IREAD could not continue to be supported by annual LSCA grants, since the purpose of these grants focused on new initiatives and not funding ongoing programs. Another base was needed, and it was necessary to develop an entirely new structure for administering and creating the program each year. In 1985, Ruth Faklis and Paula Moore as the president of the children's librarians section of ILA initiated the process of seeking ILA's sponsorship of IREAD's future. The last program funded by a grant was the 1986 program.

Rolling Prairie Library System youth consultant Rachel Miller was the chair of the 1986 program, and she was given the challenging task of pricing IREAD materials more realistically, with the goal that the purchases from 1986 needed to generate enough seed money to cover the administrative cost of starting up the next year's program. As part of the presentation to ILA, Lincoln Trail Libraries System youth consultant Brenda Pacey coordinated a summary survey and fiscal analysis of the history of library systems' support of IREAD. This report was given to the ILA Executive Board with the recommendation that ILA take on IREAD for broader programmatic development and sustainability led by librarians throughout the state (not just system consultants). The ILA Executive Board voted to support the program on an initial basis, and the 1987 IREAD program titled "Quest — Journey into Reading" was the first program offered under ILA.

“Creating and continuing to create a high-quality product each year requires dedication, cooperation, and teamwork.”



1996



1998



2003

The 1987 and 1988 IREAD programs were test years. The bar was set for Rachel Miller and Denise Farrugia from the Woodridge Public Library to prove to the ILA membership that IREAD was not only a great cooperative undertaking but that it would not deplete ILA's limited resources. The 1987 and 1988 IREAD programs were also the first time that professional artists were invited to submit their interpretations of the themes.

In 1989, the ILA membership voted to approve IREAD as one of its programmatic offerings to the public libraries of Illinois. Farrugia was instrumental in convincing the ILA membership to vote for IREAD. When asked about her involvement as chair of three IREAD committees, Farrugia commented that IREAD was the "most rewarding professional work" and that "IREAD always strived to be relevant to [the current] generation of children."

Over the last eighteen years, IREAD has expanded and grown with its offerings. Many public libraries from other states utilize IREAD. Each year, IREAD has instituted changes: hiring a children's illustrator and a resource guide editor, employing a product selection and development consultant, and utilizing the services of a warehouse for order fulfillment. An online submission form was made available this year so it is now easier than ever to submit your ideas for the resource guide. Other changes include: placing the graphics on a CD-ROM; instituting online orders; planning a full year earlier in order to get themes and illustrators lined up; changing the virtual showcase back to a live showcase during the ILA Annual Conference; introducing artwork and programming to support Young Adult summer reading programs; and making the 2008 resource guide available at the 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield. And the rest, as they say, is history.



In a very informal survey conducted in the month of January 2007, twenty-two public librarians were asked this question, “Do you think IREAD is valuable to your community?” Here are a few of their answers:

“I think IREAD is valuable to all communities, because it provides the tools to create an organized program. The themes are universal and easy to put a community’s personal spin on, the prizes and decorations look very professional, plus we are given a resource manual created by youth librarians.” Sara Marsh Darding, Kewanee Public Library District

“I like the idea of IREAD because it is developed by Illinois librarians...librarians develop the themes, librarians decide the materials, and librarians come up with the resource guide. The grassroots effort is what makes it important.” Sharon Hrycewicz, Downers Grove Public Library

“It connects us, in the summer, to all the other public libraries in Illinois that are using the state theme.” Vince Sovanski, Glenside Public Library District

“We have always used it in the past, and have been able to pull community members in to compliment the theme and draw the kids in. They learn about their community through these people and their programs.” Marie Schieler, Hoopston Public Library

“The program is valuable because the themes are varied each year to keep interest high in the community.” Judy Groom, Freeburg Area Library District

“Yes, definitely. It has helped me as a youth librarian over the years to provide a good quality summer reading program for the children of our community. The manuals offer good ideas, which I have been able to utilize. I appreciate the promotional items, the shirts for the staff, the prizes — everything. In offering these materials, IREAD has helped to make my job easier and more efficient in organizing and planning for the reading program each summer.” Jane Robertson, Carterville Public Library

“Yes, it provides a valuable resource guide with graphics and materials (shirts, bags, banners, etc.) that would be too costly for one library to afford on its own.” Barb Driesner, Edwardsville Public Library

“Great way to get community involved. Teachers love it because kids keep reading in summer. We have families come to the library during the summer that never come during the year.” Karen Marple, Galesburg Public Library

“Yes. It provides us with the theme and program materials. It’s our guiding light.” Joan Smeltzer, Dominy Memorial Library

“Themes are universal and usable with kids of all ages. Artwork is great. The manual is a great source of ideas and a springboard to generate ideas. Suggestions are tried and true.” Barb Lintner, Urbana Free Library

“Yes, it helps not only by offering themes, but by giving us reasonably priced prizes along with a wonderful idea book that we can use for a variety of purposes. I think it is especially helpful if you do not have a large staff or budget because it offers cost-saving ways to have a great summer!” Kate Hall, Park Ridge Public Library

“Yes, many communities in the northwest part of the state are located very close together. It is good for people to get the same message from all libraries they may visit.” Jessie Exum, Crystal Lake Public Library

It is apparent from the quotes above that the IREAD program is very valuable to the libraries that utilize the program. It has become a standard for cooperative effort in Illinois.

IREAD will face challenges as it continues. When asked, the 2008 chair, Lori Craft, had this to say about IREAD: “The challenges that IREAD faces are: 1) keeping the quality of our program products high, while trying to keep the cost low, and 2) competing against the ever-increasing number of non-IREAD reading programs available that one can buy into.”

Lori was also asked if she foresaw a time when IREAD would not be needed: “When IREAD started, it certainly filled a need that was not being met elsewhere. Now, one can put together their own reading club or buy into another program fairly easily. What

Top Thirteen Suggestions for a Successful Summer Reading Program

I think makes IREAD special and still needed is that it brings the state together. Input is taken across the state for possible theme concepts and resource guide ideas. For the past few years, Illinois artists have done all the artwork for the program. I think that it is great that children living in different towns, but attending the same schools, can find the same reading club theme being used at their home libraries. Having a statewide program not only unifies the state, but celebrates it, as well.”

In the IREAD Resource Guide, you will find a list of the names of the librarians who chaired the IREAD committees over the last twenty-five years. You will also find the current contributors to this rewarding and challenging program. But, there are many who are not listed here. So to them, thank you for your time, patience, persistence, and hard work!

Currently, there are more than forty different public libraries involved in the creation of the annual theme and manual. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of IREAD, contact the ILA office at ila@ila.org. From the dedication of system consultants and the system’s resources to the boards and directors that made those first leaps of faith, to the Resource Guide Task Force and the individual contributors, the annual creation of IREAD is truly a remarkable demonstration of cooperative effort! Happy birthday IREAD!

Fast iREAD Facts

In 2006, 451 out of 637 Illinois public libraries, or 71 percent, ordered IREAD materials. The average order was \$344; 55% ordered online, 28% by mail, 11% by e-mail; 4% by fax, and 2% by phone.

The 1985 IREAD chair Ruth Faklis became ILA President. Two chairs became system directors, 1990 IREAD chair Jan Eakins Jones and 1999 IREAD chair Tina Hubert. Many chairs and committee members are now library directors.

Many themes are rejected each year, but one of the more memorable was: Read or Die.

In 2007, the IREAD committee determined to re-brand the program with a lower case “i”; thus becoming iREAD! This is part of a continuing effort to build the program’s recognition and approval with children and parents, as well as librarians and educators.

- 1...** Plan, plan, and plan some more.
- 2...** Advertise, advertise, advertise.
- 3...** Make it fun.
- 4...** Rules are important, but make the rules fair.
- 5...** Give lots of freebies or prizes, kids want to take something home.
- 6...** Piggyback on other programs in your community.
- 7...** Ask local businesses or organizations to donate prizes or money for prizes.
- 8...** Have a backup plan if a performer cancels.
- 9...** Have a backup plan if you attract more kids than anticipated.
- 10...** Be willing to be silly with the kids.
- 11...** Always engage the children.
- 12...** Remember you are not a school.
- 13...** Always be ready to punt.

enter

A close-up, macro photograph of a white keyboard key. The key is rectangular with rounded corners and has the word "enter" printed on it in a dark, lowercase, sans-serif font. The key is slightly angled, and the lighting creates soft shadows, highlighting its texture and the surrounding keys. In the bottom right corner, a portion of another key with a downward-pointing triangle is visible.

Electronic Attendance at Meetings

On January 1, 2007, the Illinois General Assembly, passed Public Act 94-1058, which amends the Open Meetings Act. That act adds some stricter rules regarding violations of the Open Meetings Act, which can come about electronically through contemporary interactive communication. The act also gives library boards and districts the opportunity to legally hold meetings where a number of participants may attend electronically. We discuss these two issues in turn.

The scary part of the new law deals with situations in which library and other governmental officials can find themselves inadvertently violating the Open Meetings Act through participating in contemporaneous interactive communication. This provision is an expansion of the law which states that public officials can not participate in telephone conversations where a majority of a quorum is participating. If those conversations discuss public business, they constitute an illegal meeting. Since many of us have now moved from telephonic conversation to electronic conversation utilizing computers, the law has moved along with us.

The new law expands a meeting to include a gathering of persons by means of contemporaneous interactive communication, which constitute a majority of a quorum of the corporate authorities or a committee of a public body which is held for the purpose of discussing public business. This law is in the early stages of being interpreted, but it is quite clear that even casual instant messaging, involving a majority of a quorum of a public body, which moves from non-library discussion to book circulation numbers, library budget issues, or long term library planning, constitutes a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

“The scary part of the new law deals with situations in which library and other governmental officials can find themselves inadvertently violating the Open Meetings Act...”

We still believe that public officials utilizing electronic transmission which goes out to individuals, who might collectively constitute a majority of a quorum, does not violate the Open Meetings Act if the nature of the communication is not contemporaneous and interactive. One way to think about this new rule is that, under the pre-existing statutes, notes or letters exchanged between elected officials did not constitute a violation of the Open Meetings Act. That would be the case even if one library trustee sent a letter to all of the other trustees asking for a return note indicating their views on a particular matter. What did become a violation of the Open Meetings Act, as technology changed, was a single telephone conversation involving a majority of the quorum. That rule has now simply been extended to incorporate e-mail.

“Public officials need to become increasingly attentive to any situation in which they may be involved in contemporaneous interactive communication by any electronic method.”

The second part of Public Act 94-1058 is not mandatory, but permissive. Governmental bodies, which include libraries, may now allow individuals who serve on boards, councils, commissions, committees, and any other governmental entity subject to the Open Meetings Act, to permit absent members of those bodies or their committees to participate in meetings electronically rather than physically. The first thing for each library district and municipality, including its public library, to decide is whether it wishes to take advantage of this new opportunity. The corporate authority of each governmental body has the ability to decide for itself and all of its sub-units whether this permissive form of attendance will be permitted. If it is to be permitted, it can be allowed for all or some of the units and sub-units within the government. Each gov-

ernmental body should make a determination as to whether it will allow electronic participation. The local library board of a municipality should first check to see if the corporate authorities of the municipality have already allowed electronic participation, as there may be a conflict between the electronic participation policy of the library board and that of the municipal board or council. It is not clear if a library board of a municipality could choose to go in another direction. A strong argument can be made that the library boards can independently establish such rules of procedure. If a government wishes to allow electronic participation, it will need to pass an ordinance or a resolution permitting electronic attendance. That ordinance or resolution should contain rules of procedure or have such rules attached as an exhibit.

Library Jobline of Illinois

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



Positions for Librarians and Support Staff

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

There are a few matters, which need to be understood as a governmental body develops the rules, which will apply to electronic participation in its meeting processes. Those key elements are the following:

1. For all library boards and districts, there must be a quorum physically present at the meeting in order for some other member of the body to participate electronically.
2. An individual allowed to participate electronically can do so at both an open session meeting and a properly-called closed session meeting, unless the rules otherwise provide;
3. A person seeking to participate electronically may only do so as a result of personal illness or disability, employment purposes, or the business of the public body; or family or other emergency. An absence due to either a brief or an extended vacation will not qualify an individual to seek permission to participate electronically. Legislation has been introduced to extend the privilege.
4. Unless your rules allow an absent member to participate for a specific number of meetings and for a qualifying purpose or purposes, the public body must approve each participation.
5. If an important matter, such as a bond issue, is on the agenda, the law firm which opionates on your bonds may require that the authorizing vote include not only a majority of a quorum, but a majority of all the members of the board then in office. For uniformity, it may be best to choose this higher standard.

The Illinois Municipal League, an association of Illinois municipalities, through its Home Rule Attorneys Committee, and Paul Keller of this office participated in the production of sample ordinance/resolution and two versions of a set of rules which are attachments to the ordinance. With some changes to reflect the difference between municipalities and libraries, these documents can put in place the process of allowing members to electronically attend and participate in meetings. The report is available electronically at <http://www.iml.org>, search electronic attendance at meetings.

To summarize, public officials need to become increasingly attentive to any situation in which they may be involved in contemporaneous interactive communication by any electronic method. Participating in such a discussion regarding public business, with a majority of a quorum of a public body or its subsidiary bodies is a criminal violation.

Left for another day is the issue of how the courts might treat a governmental body, which allows representatives of one view to attend electronically, while refusing to allow others to participate in similar circumstances. It would be best if this privilege is granted or denied in an equal way.

If you have any questions about the contents of this article, please contact either Stewart Diamond or Britt Isaly. Phone: (312) 782-7606, e-mail: sdiamond@ancelglink.com or bislay@ancelglink.com. For specific legal questions about the application of the Open Meetings Act to your library board, you may want to speak with your legal counsel. ■

“It would be best if this privilege is granted or denied in an equal way.”

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So, what's on your mind these days? What's keeping you up at night? I know, it sounds familiar. Librarians over coffee, friends on the way to the movies, self-questioning while driving home from work. Close colleagues might say, "what's eating you?"

Well, I am trying to get my arms around a topic that has been pushing on me the past few months. It relates to what conference presenters, journal articles, and Web sites tell us about how today's students want to receive information, what their learning styles are, and how our library might reach them.

Dedicated to public service, my library is certainly interested in reaching the 11,000 students we serve. We have a great Web presence, extensive print collections, a spacious and comfortable facility at the heart of campus, and offer toll-free phone access to reach reference or circulation personnel. Add to that an outstanding stable of online databases and journals, a proxy server allowing our patrons worldwide access to our materials, and hundreds of computers in-house and wireless connections throughout to accommodate whatever e-devices show up next.

"Let's harness their youthful energies to build on the solid foundations the library has achieved."

So what's the problem? We have heavy use of our library, solid marks on our assessment tools, and people tell me everyday how much they love the library. But, as an administrator, I must explore the edges of public opinion to find the most interesting stuff. In so doing, I find that some students tell us they want something else. Their library work should be easier, faster, and exciting. I am assuming that this is not just another generation gap since this new group includes a variety of ages.

ON THE EDGE OR OVER THE EDGE?

To start, I find that these "speak to me this way or not at all" folks are only interested in using their newest e-device or toy and want to ignore the noble traditions libraries have established over, let's say the past decade (let's stay on their radar memory, right?) or since Web-based library services were highly developed. (Telling them about microforms, print indexes, or even CD-ROMs would mean getting out the Emergency Procedures Manual for one or the other of us.) They are adept at the new and want nothing of the old. I suspect some people fit here because they feel powerful, talking machine language to someone older who (gasp, spit, and knock three times) grew up with a party-line phone (a shared phone) and black and white television.

What most alarms me is that so many of our younger patrons have now decided that whatever it is they want today, is what they are *entitled* to, and everyone else's ideas or regulations be hanged. These "me" folks are not always aware of nor care about the needs of others. Life revolves around them; public servants and library people are to grovel to them for pats on the head. If what you are doing is not entertaining to them or if it is not available at three in the morning, watch out.

Apparently, from what I hear from my colleagues in reference, the best way to get today's college student to retrieve a journal article from your print collection is to tell them you have hidden it in the stacks and have posted the coordinates at geocaching.com. They will know how to use their global positioning system to lead them from floor to floor, aisle to aisle, shelf to shelf until their curiosity is satisfied. The old adage "it's not the destination but the journey" may be meaningful here. When mentioning this idea to

Rodney Dawson, a student research assistant in my office, he suggested a refinement. "Tell them you've hidden it, and they will never find it. That would get them searching. Students love a challenge from the professor."

On another front, today's student does not necessarily have high regard for protocol or procedure. I am reminded of a recent tale relayed to me from my library's circulation department. They had just experienced an encounter with a student who was incensed at having received a bill for lost book charges and felt we were entirely too cruel. As it turns out, she had more than twenty items charged and had been sent dozens of (automatic) courtesy notices and overdues from the library using her official university e-mail address, had been called twice by telephone (had to leave messages), and finally was sent a letter using the U.S. Postal Service. All that communication was ignored, so we billed her university monthly account for an impressive but justifiable amount.

Boom! That was the action that got her attention. I suspect the fear of missing spring break in Cancun was too much to bear. So, she returned most of the items and we reduced her bill. She was enraged because we had not reached her on MySpace.com nor troubled to send her text messages on whatever gadget she held in her hand. She cried that she should not have to check her official e-mail account.

WE DO CARE!

Libraries deserve credit for trying to be the best possible stewards and educators possible in our academic institutions. We seek input from our patrons, we listen, and we help. What we cannot do is change our policies and procedures every time a new hand-held device comes on the market. Nor should we. After all, we have learned some lessons from all the now-dead technologies we invested in over the decades. We need surefire results, things that work once and are a million times on target. That is what will provide the greatest service and be worth the effort.

What should we tell the early adopters of new technologies? How about, as Marsha Grove, director of the Champaign Public Library, said the other day as a few of us chatted at Lincoln Trail Libraries System, "We would love to use the newest technologies, but we may need some help from those who are already using the product to steer us toward library applications that would be good." I like that because it involves those who are geared to participate. Our younger patrons tell us that they want to be involved, and in some cases they want to administrate, be judge and jury, and set your calendar.

Perhaps this is success. Our students want to take over! Eureka! Isn't that why they are at the university? They want to practice being in charge, begin to take the lead, get a feel for power, and explore the edges. (Oops, that's my job!) What we need to do is work both sides toward the middle. Let's harness their youthful energies to build on the solid foundations the library has achieved.



BE NICE...

but keep a bit of humor in your work. Get as creative as the library materials around you.

PATRON ASKS...

"I don't ever check my university email account. Can't you find me on MySpace?"

LIBRARIAN ANSWERS...

"The university sends all its official mail to you using that account. I hope you will take a few minutes each week to keep up with your important messages."

LIBRARIAN DREAMS...

"Earth to airhead. We don't have time to search UFOs on a daily basis. Perhaps you can arrange for a few wake-up calls."

PATRON ASKS...

"Why can't you put everything about Mozart in ONE place in this library? I mean, like you've only had 250 years to do it!"

LIBRARIAN ANSWERS...

"As nice as that sounds, it becomes impractical when one item contains information about more than one composer, such as one book on Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Plus, the variety of formats in our collection makes shelving them together a waste of space."

LIBRARIAN DREAMS...

"Interesting thought, but the only thing we put in ONE place here are smarties like you! The library sub-basement is perfect."

PATRON ASKS...

"I am SO far from diggin' Dewey."

LIBRARIAN ANSWERS...

"I am sorry to hear that. Perhaps you would find helpful one of our bookmarks on both the Dewey and Library of Congress classes. I am certain it will save you some time."

LIBRARIAN DREAMS...

"Yeah, well, I am SO far from diggin' those pajama bottoms and bunny slippers you've got on today."

2007 Illinois

Library Day



Illinois Library Day will be Thursday, April 19. This is our opportunity to show Illinois legislators that we care about how they vote on issues of importance to the Illinois library community. On that day, the House and Senate will be in session and will spend most of the day on the floor of their respective chambers. They will be taking final votes on many important bills.

If possible, library advocates should try to schedule appointments in advance with their own legislators to discuss our issues. However, it may be necessary to find their legislator by “calling them out” of the chamber while they are in session. Library advocates should send in a business card at the main doors of either the House or Senate indicating that they want to talk to their local legislators. When the legislator comes out, this is your chance to connect with that legislator, make sure they know you are aware of the issues and ask them to support our positions. Your messages will need to be laser precise.

Face-to-face discussion is the most effective means of communication with your elected official. It is essential to establishing a solid working relationship if you and the legislator do not know each other — and it provides a useful reminder of your existence if you are already acquainted. The more convenient and more productive meetings are scheduled when the governing body is not in session

— before pressure builds up. Legislators usually have a district office, or even better, invite them to your library! Considering the possible pressures on April 19, the committee has organized an early morning breakfast at the state library to enable library advocates to have slightly longer discussions with their elected officials before the day’s work begins.

On Illinois Library Day, the Illinois Library Association will provide all participants with a brief summary of the key bills of importance. The summary, provided on a small card, often referred to as a “Palm Card,” will say exactly which bills we support and which bills we oppose. Your job is to get a commitment from your local legislator to vote our way on those bills. At this point, we expect the major issues to include supporting library budget appropriations, opposing mandatory Internet computer filters, and supporting initiatives to help libraries increase operational efficiencies. However, many new issues may arise between now and advocacy day, and we will make sure the latest information is provided to all participants.

In preparation, you may want to look at the ILA Web site under the “advocacy” section to become familiar with the major bills of concern and the major tools on shaping the message, delivering the message, handling tough questions on the major controversial issues — social networking sites, the Internet, privacy, and confidentiality concerns.

RALLY

Plans call for participants to gather (11:15–11:30 A.M.) at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and march en masse (11:30–12:00 NOON) to the Lincoln statue on the east side of the state capitol building for a rally featuring speeches from library leaders. In case of inclement weather conditions, the rally will be held inside the Illinois Capitol Building’s Rotunda. Participants will be carrying signs and banners, and we are confident a large turnout will make lawmakers take notice and hopefully generate positive media coverage for our efforts.

FOOD/UMBRELLAS

Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 6:30–9:00 P.M., Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive in Springfield, featuring ILA Legislative Consultant Kip Kolkmeier, a cash bar, and buffet dinner. The cost is \$30, payable to the DuPage Library System.

Thursday, April 19, 2007, 7:30 A.M., \$10 for breakfast at the state library. The legislative breakfast with your state legislator will include coffee, teas, juices, muffins, croissants, fruit, sausage, bacon, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, and a ham, egg, and cheese casserole. (Price includes breakfast for your legislator.) To find out if your legislator is registered for this event, visit https://www.ila.org/events/reg_ild.htm.

Thursday, April 19, 2007, 1:00 P.M., \$8.50 for a box lunch at the state library. The box lunches will include your sandwich selection, chips, apple, a brownie, and bottle of water.

If you have purchased an umbrella, you may pick it up at the state library.

SECURITY

Last year, security concerns at the state library posed problems. The Illinois State Capitol Police will be implementing the following measures to alleviate that problem:


- two doors (the north and west entrance) of the state library will be open,
- individuals will not go through the Magnetometer security machine, a.k.a., the “tunnels,” but will be hand wanded — this is a faster technique to move large groups through a facility than the machines, and
- all metal objects, for example, cell phones, change, or cameras should be placed in a bag. According to the Illinois State Capitol Police, visible metal objects such as belts, jewelry, or watches need not be placed in the bag. The Illinois Library Day sponsors will provide plastic bags to all participants.

HOTEL/TRANSPORTATION/MENTORS/PACKETS

Some Illinois library systems have reserved a block of hotel rooms and are organizing buses/carpools for participants plus a mentor program and a program to contact each legislator. In addition, the Illinois library systems are preparing and distributing the packets for the event. Please check with your system regarding these arrangements.

REGISTER

Go to the ILA Web site: https://www.ila.org/events/reg_ild.htm.

Illinois Library Day is sponsored by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization, the Illinois School Library Media Association, the Illinois Special Libraries Association, and the event will be hosted by the Illinois State Library. 

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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 *ILA Reporter* text is sent to the library in question for accuracy before being published here.

Once Again, Fate of City Libraries Put in Question

The Evanston City Council considered whether to send a “sacred cow” to the slaughterhouse during its budget workshop, reported the January 29 *Daily Northwestern*.

Though the item was not on the agenda, aldermen spent 45 minutes discussing whether to close Evanston’s two branch libraries. The proposed shut-downs have been floated repeatedly for at least five years, and discussion signaled the council’s growing unease about the future of the libraries.

Aldermen Melissa Wynne and Edmund Moran brought up the subject because they wanted to alert supporters of the North and South branch libraries about a possible closing. “I want to see maybe not a final vote, but I’d like to see a straw vote about how broad the support is for eliminating any branch libraries,” Moran said. “I’ve been telling people this is not an issue.”

The library provides an important service by promoting literacy and reaching out to younger residents, said Alderman Cheryl Wollin. “We’re not cutting jobs just to cut jobs, we are cutting functions,” Wollin said. “This to me is an essential service.”

But Alderman Lionel Jean-Baptiste said other aldermen were too focused on their own specific areas and should look at the gap in the library’s outreach to parts of the city, referencing the lack of a west Evanston branch. Moran told Jean-Baptiste he supports having a west Evanston branch but that such a project might not come to fruition if the North

and South branches are closed.

“If we cut the branch libraries now, the notion of having a West Side branch will be dead,” Moran said. “The force of economy will be such that if they’re amputated from (the) city’s operations, they will be amputated for good.”

Library Board Eyes Geothermal Heating, Cooling Options

The projected costs associated with the design originally recommended for the first branch of the Gail Borden Public Library came in under its \$4.2 million budget, and the district’s board directed the project’s architect to research the possibility of heating and cooling the west-side facility using geothermal technology, reported the February 2 *Daily Herald*.

The branch’s collection of books, technology and media — estimated at \$300,000 — will likely be paid for through fundraising efforts. Construction is expected to begin in July at the new site.

The architect, Milwaukee-based Engberg Anderson Design Partnership, presented five items — totaling more than \$210,000 — that the district could have deducted from the building’s design. But those items, which included eliminating large windows near the top of the building, an overhang, a canopy, and other features, were important to the building, board members agreed.

The board also directed the architect to research installing a geothermal heating and cooling system at the facility.

The firm will now research two grants that could contribute nearly \$150,000 to the \$225,000 geothermal project. But the district may have to pay an additional \$15,000 for its architect to design the plan using both traditional and geothermal systems.

Voters approved \$4 million in bonds in 2000 for the branch, but they were not sold until 2005, library officials say. The delay in selling the bonds was because the library, until recently, did not have enough money to operate the west-side facility.

Work is beginning on a comprehensive fundraiser that will help fill the library. The board has recently tossed around the idea of selling the branch’s naming rights, but no decision has been made.

42 Percent of Kids on Web View Porn

More children are being exposed to online pornography, mostly by accidentally viewing sexually explicit Web sites while surfing the Internet, reported the February 5 *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Forty-two percent of Internet users aged ten to seventeen surveyed said they had seen online pornography in a recent twelve-month span. Of those, 66 percent said they did not want to view the images and had not sought them out, University of New Hampshire researchers found. Their conclusions appear in February’s *Pediatrics*.

“It’s beyond the Wild West out there. You’ve really taken away the age of innocence,” said Dr. Michael Wasserman, a

pediatrician. "It's so common now, who hasn't seen something like that?" said Emily Duhovny, 17. The Marlboro, N.J., high school senior said X-rated images pop up all the time when she's online. Duhovny said the first time she saw one, it was shocking, but now, "more than anything, it's just annoying."

Wheaton Library Workers Get Union Deal

It was billed as the organization that could bring as many as six new unions to Wheaton, reported the February 8 *Daily Herald*. (See February 2006 *ILA Reporter*, p. 31.)

The city fought it. The city council didn't want it. Yet, through a 4-3, teeth-gnashing vote the city approved a union contract for seventeen part-time student employees of the Wheaton Public Library.

The impact for the workers is immediate. New part-time student employees

will earn a \$7.50 hourly wage. That's a \$1 increase and gives them a five-month head start on the minimum wage hike coming this summer. That's key because those with at least six months experience will now earn \$7.75 an hour. Workers with more than a year of experience will see pay boosts of 10 cents an hour.

Also in the new contract is a formal grievance procedure, replacing the previous process that consisted of just talking to the library director.

Wheaton Public Library Director Sarah Meisels stated "the contract is only effective until June. At that point, the union dissolves, but the door is open to re-unionize under a different name should the benefits vanish."

"This contract respects our young library employees," union representative Jonathan Myers said. "It respects the city and it respects the union. It's extremely important that our municipality treat its young residents and its elderly residents with extra care."

Myers, who is running for a city council seat, said a side agreement with the city restricts him from saying anything else about the contract or its impact. Another side agreement will see the union drop several unfair labor practice lawsuits it had outstanding against the city.

Kane State's Attorney Has Say on Library Annexation

The Batavia Public Library's annexation of 1,500 acres west and north of the Mill Creek subdivision has not taken effect and the library can't collect taxes on the land unless a judge says otherwise, the Kane County state's attorney believes, reported the February 22 *Daily Herald*.

Kane County State's Attorney John Barsanti weighed in on the border dispute between the Geneva and Batavia public libraries. (See February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, pp. 28-29, and December 2006



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ILA Reporter, p. 33.) In a letter to Kane County Clerk John Cunningham, Barsanti said the annexation has not taken effect because an objection was filed to it within the state-mandated thirty days and that Batavia officials did not put a question on the April 17 ballot asking whether the annexation should stand.

Geneva library director Jeanne Hintz said it was reassuring that Barsanti's opinion supports her library board's position. "I think a court will have to make a decision even though Mr. Barsanti had given his opinion," Hintz said. "It's not over. There's going to be more to it."

The deadline for the Batavia library board to place a binding question on the April ballot passed last week. Batavia library board president Randy Gibson said the annexation did not include two people — Lori and Russell Ott — and they don't have standing in the case. "The Batavia Public Library legally annexed the territory and followed legal process," Gibson said. "Our first step is to find out what exactly Mr. Barsanti means in the letter. Will there be other steps? Maybe."

The Otts objected to the annexation, which, according to state statute, forced Batavia officials to either vacate the annexation or place a question on the spring ballot. They did neither.

Geneva library leaders have argued that the October 18 annexation violates a gentleman's agreement with Batavia to have newly annexed land match up with

each town's respective school district boundaries. All of the land annexed is in Geneva District 304.

Batavia officials have said the move was needed to provide library service to those who had none. But they later changed their annexation to exclude six of the remaining homes in the area, which is predominantly farmland.

The February 24 *Beacon News* reported that the Geneva Library District has sued the Batavia Library District. In the lawsuit, Geneva's attorney Bob Britz cites twenty-one reasons for voiding three annexations made by Batavia on October 18, December 6, and December 19, 2006. The case is due for its first court date on June 5 before Sixteenth Circuit Court Judge Michael Colwell. Geneva officials had said they would ask the courts to clarify if the Batavia annexations are legal. The case was filed before Kane County State's Attorney John Barsanti released the above-mentioned opinion.



The Geneva lawsuit seeks to have the annexation declared "illegal, without authority and null and void." Many of the twenty-one reasons cited are procedural, saying the Batavia district failed to include proper legal descriptions and maps with the posting and publication of the annexations. Two reasons claim the Batavia Library Board violated the Open Meetings Act on both October 18 and December 19 by not properly identifying the annexations on the meeting agenda.

Chicago Public Library System Receives \$1 Million Donation

On March 2 the *Chicago Tribune* reported that Bank of America donated \$1 million to the Chicago Public Library System to help train residents in computer literacy.

The gift will launch the Computer Smarts Program, which offers free help to anyone wishing to learn computer and Internet skills, officials said. The effort expands the library's CyberNavigator computer-education program, begun six years ago. Fifteen additional instructors will be hired this year with the money, and more branches will become involved, officials said.

Library officials said teaching computer literacy is one of the institution's top priorities in its strategic plan. Many Chicago residents don't have access to the Internet in their homes, officials said, and they rely on library computers to connect them to the digital world. Last year, the library provided more than 3.5 million Internet sessions to its patrons, officials said.

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Photo: Oak Park Public Library

National Study of Diversity in Library Workforce

“Diversity Counts,” a comprehensive study of gender, race, and age in the library profession, finds that the nearly 110,000 credentialed librarians were predominantly ages 45 – 54, female, and white. The number of racial and ethnic minorities receiving accredited library master’s degrees (MLIS) grew 4 percent, up to about 13 percent in 2000 from 9 percent in 1990.

Using 1990 and 2000 Census data (the most current available):

- About 25 percent of Americans were non-white, compared with 11 percent of credentialed librarians;
- African Americans made up 5 percent of the profession but 12.3 percent of the population;
- Latinos represented 2 percent of the profession and 12.5 percent of the population;
- Native Americans were less than 1 percent of the profession and .9 percent of the population; and
- Asian Pacific Islanders were 3 percent of the profession and 3.7 percent of the population.

Academic librarians were slightly more ethnically diverse than their counterparts in public and school libraries, with a representation of 15 percent non-white.

The study also shows that overall admissions to MLIS master’s programs were stable over the past ten years, averaging close to 4,900 graduates per year. Census data suggest, though, that many of these graduates did not go into the library profession. While the profession continues to grow, veteran librarians stayed longer in their jobs, and entry-level positions did not become available. Roughly half of librarians currently working will reach retirement age in the coming decade. Additional findings include:

- The number of credentialed librarians increased 21.6 percent between 1990 and 2000, with the highest increases in K-12 schools (61.7 percent) and law libraries (27 percent);

- The profession experienced a decline in credentialed librarians of 3 percent under the age of 35, compared to a 19 percent drop among the U.S. population as a whole. The only age range to experience growth among credentialed librarians was ages 45 to 54, which grew 28 percent, compared to 33 percent in the U.S. population;
- Men make up 18 percent of all credentialed librarians. There was a 4.6 percent decrease in male librarians between 1990 and 2000;
- While librarian salaries kept pace with inflation in the 1990-2000 period, they did not increase at the rate of other professions — such as information technology. The mean salary for all library positions in 2000 was \$46,121.

The study was conducted by the ALA Office for Research & Statistics, ALA Office for Diversity and Decision Demographics, a research firm based in Arlington, Va. The research provides a reliable estimate of employment and will influence future recruitment efforts. To review the study in its entirety, please visit www.ala.org/diversitycounts. For more information on the Spectrum scholarship program, please visit www.ala.org/spectrum.

Land of Lincoln Statewide Read

Kay Shelton of Northern Illinois University and Kathryn Harris of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library invite you and your library to join them in celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in 2009.

Patterned after the successful “city-wide reads” that have been held across the country, this project will encourage adults and young adults across the state to read the same book about Abraham Lincoln and to discuss the book, his ideals, and his legacy with others in their communities. The book that has been selected is *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power*, by Richard Carwardine, Knopf, 2006. Not written in the same vein as many biographies of the sixteenth president, Carwardine’s text pres-

ents an insightful look at the growth and development of Lincoln’s moral thought and how he grew as a politician, all in the context of the turbulent time in American history in which he lived.

If you, your library — whether it be a school, university, special, or public — or your library organization or friends’ group are interested in joining this “Land of Lincoln Statewide Read,” please send e-mail to: lincoln2009@gmail.com and ask to be added to the listserv. The plan is to “launch” the read in September 2008 and to have town hall discussions beginning in January 2009.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan Announces Internet Statistics

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said the dangers for children using the Internet are apparent when one looks at the statistics compiled by i-Safe, an organization promoting Internet safety for children:

- 50 percent of high school students talk in chat rooms or use instant messaging with Internet strangers;
- 49 percent of high school students reported they posted personal information on the Internet, including name, age, phone number and the name of the school they attend;
- 20 percent of students in high school and middle school admit they’ve met in person someone they first met on the Internet;
- 34 percent reported seeing sexual material online that they didn’t want to see;
- 13 percent reported being solicited for sex online;
- 40 percent of high school students admitted to hiding from parents their online activities; and
- 65 percent admit to using the Internet in unsafe, inappropriate, or illegal ways.

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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Illinois Reading Enrichment and Development (iREAD) Committee

Jane Kauzlaric, Joliet Public Library

Sharon Hrycewicz, 2007 chair, said all 2007 *Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond* Resource Guides and products ordered, to date, should have been received by now. Additional 2007 merchandise may still be ordered; the online order form at <http://www.ila.org/pdf/ireadorders.htm> will indicate items as they become sold out.

Lori Craft, 2008 chair, announced Tom Lichtenheld as the children's illustrator and Gene Ha as the young adult's illustrator for 2008's *Get in the Game — READ!* In response to your requests, the 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield this October will feature a showcase of the 2008 reading program. The 2008 Resource Guide, along with select 2008 merchandise, will be available for purchase during the conference.

Vince Sovanski, chair of the 2009 Read on the Wild Side, chose Jill Thompson as the children's illustrator and Gene Ha, once again, as the young adult's illustrator. Available in April will be the submission form for the 2009 theme.

The iREAD Committee selected Jason Stuhlmann, head of youth services at the Elmwood Park Public Library, as the 2010 iREAD chair. Jason welcomes your ideas for the 2010 theme. Submit them online via the ILA Web site: <http://www.ila.org/pub/ireadsub.htm>, then join Jason during a live brainstorming session at the 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield.

Youth Services Forum

Kelly Laszczak, Orland Park
Public Library

The Youth Services Forum sponsors the Golden Ticket Award and the Davis Cup Award. The Golden Ticket Award is making its debut this year. The award is for an individual who works directly with children and has made an outstanding local contribution in library services to young people in his/her community by creating and implementing library programs that promote a love of literature and instill positive feelings about libraries. Prizes include a one-year paid membership to ILA and \$150 cash prize.

The Davis Cup Award honors an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library services to young people within their community and beyond. To qualify for the Davis Cup

Award, nominees must be members of ILA, participate in organizations both within and outside of their communities, and have a Masters, in Library Science.

Nominations for 2007 award recipients must be received by May 15, 2007. For further information on the Golden Ticket Award, see:

http://www.ila.org/membership/award_GT.htm. Applications for the Golden Ticket Award, the Davis Cup Award, and all the other awards can be found in the *ILA Handbook of Organization and Membership Directory*, 2006-2007 edition, p. 48. Please send three (3) copies of the nomination form along with support documentation. In addition, please send the same documentation by e-mail to the ILA office (ila@ila.org.)

Awards will be presented at the ILA Conference in October 2007.

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APRIL 2007

- 12** **Defending Access with Confidence Workshop**, Rolling Prairie Library System, Decatur, Ill. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 37.
- 13** **IREAD meeting**, 11:00 A.M., Morris Area Public Library District, 604 Liberty St., Morris, IL 60450; phone: (815) 942-6880; fax: (815) 942-6415.
- 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; <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/>.
- 19** **Illinois Library Day**. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 35.
- 20** **Deadline for June issue of the ILA Reporter**.

MAY 2007

- 1** **Defending Access with Confidence Workshop**, Prairie Area Library System at the Reddick Library in Ottawa, Ill. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 37.
- 1–2** **National Library Legislative Day**. The registration form appears in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 36. The ALA briefing day will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001. ILA has reserved a room block at the Capitol Hill Suites, 200 C St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003; phone: 888-627-7811; \$219 single/double rate for a junior efficiency suite and \$239 for a superior suite or one bedroom deluxe suite, 14.5% sales taxes are not included. When making reservations, please mention the Illinois Library Association.
- 3** **Defending Access with Confidence Workshop**, Alliance Library System, East Peoria, Ill. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 37.
- 10** **Defending Access with Confidence Workshop**, North Suburban Library System, Wheeling, Ill. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 37.

- 15** **Award nominations due in the ILA office**, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610-4306. Please send three (3) copies of the award nomination form (<http://www.ila.org/membership/awards.htm>) with support documentation. In addition, please send the same documentation by e-mail to the ILA office (ila@ila.org).
- 17** **Defending Access with Confidence Workshop**, Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge, Ill. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 37.
- 18** **Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants**, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, Ill. <http://www.reachingforward.org/>. Registration form in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, p. 39.

JUNE 2007

- 8** **ILA Executive Board meeting**, 10:00 A.M., Urbana Free Library, 210 Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3283; phone: (217) 367-4057; fax: (217) 367-4061.
- 20** **Deadline for August issue of the ILA Reporter**.
- 21–27** **ALA Annual Conference**, Washington, D.C.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

AUGUST 2007

- 20** Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- 20-26** World Library and Information Congress: 73rd International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Council and General Conference, Durban, South Africa. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 20-21** Reaching Forward South 11th Annual Conference for Library Assistants, Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702; phone: (217) 523-7900.
- 29-Oct. 6** 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; ph: 800-545-2433 x4220; fax: (312) 280-4227; e-mail: oif@ala.org. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>.

OCTOBER 2007

- 4-7** Library and Information Technology Association, National Forum, Denver, Colo. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/lita/>.

- 9-12** ILA Annual Conference, Springfield, Ill., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Conference Hotels: Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center, 701 East Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701; phone: (217) 544-8800; fax: (217) 544-8079; single/double: \$97, plus tax. Hilton Springfield, 700 East Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701; phone: (217) 789-1530 or 800-445-8667; fax: (217) 522-5346; single: \$105 double: \$120, plus tax.

- 14-20** Teen Read Week. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/yalsa>.

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

- 25-26** Health Science Librarians of Illinois Annual Conference, Champaign, Ill. For further information, please contact: Stacey Knight-Davis; phone: (217) 581-7549; e-mail: slknight@eiu.edu/.

- 25-28** American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Reno, Nev. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/aasl/>.

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NOVEMBER 2007

- 1-3** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

DECEMBER 2007

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

JANUARY 2008

- 11-16** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

FEBRUARY 2008

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

MARCH 2008

- 25-29** Public Library Association's Thirteenth National Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.; phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: pla@ala.org/.

APRIL 2008

- 13-19** National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: pio@ala.org; <http://www.ala.org/>.

- 14-20** 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 2008

- 13-14** National Library Legislative Day. The registration form will appear in the February 2008 *ILA Reporter*. The ALA briefing day will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

JUNE 2008

- 20** Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- 26-2 July** ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

AUGUST 2008

- 10-15** World Library and Information Congress: 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council, Quebec, Canada. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 23-26** ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill.

OCTOBER 2008

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

NOVEMBER 2008

- 6-8** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Chicago Sheraton Northwest, Arlington Heights, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

DECEMBER 2008

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

JANUARY 2009

- 23-28** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver, Colo.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

FEBRUARY 2009

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

APRIL 2009

- 13–19** National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: pio@ala.org; <http://www.ala.org/>.
- 13–19** 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*.

JUNE 2009

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

JULY 2009

- 9–15** ALA Annual Conference, Chicago; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

AUGUST 2009

- 20** Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- World Library and Information Congress: 75th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council, Milan, Italy. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

OCTOBER 2009

- 6–9** ILA Annual Conference at the Peoria Civic Center. Conference Hotels: Hotel Pere Marquette, 501 Main St., Peoria, IL 61602; phone: (309) 637-6500 or 800-774-7118; fax: (309) 671-9445; single/double: \$109, plus tax. Price includes complimentary breakfast buffet. Holiday Inn City Centre, 500 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria, IL 61602; phone: (309) 674-2500; fax: (309) 674-8705; single/double: \$103, plus tax.

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

- 29–31** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

DECEMBER 2009

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

JANUARY 2010

- 15–20** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, Mass.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

FEBRUARY 2010

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

MARCH 2010

- 23–27** Public Library Association's Fourteenth National Conference, Portland, Oreg.; phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: pla@ala.org.

APRIL 2010

- 12–18** National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: pio@ala.org; <http://www.ala.org/>.
- 12–18** 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*.

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Nominations for all ILA Awards are due May 15, 2007 in the ILA Office, 33 West Grand, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610-4306.

Please send three (3) copies of the award nomination form (<http://www.ila.org/membership/awards.htm>) along with support documentation. In addition, please send the same documentation by e-mail to the ILA office (ila@ila.org.) Send them by US mail, send them by FedEx, send them by Pony Express... Just send them in!

If you have any questions about the ILA awards, please contact: Kristy at ILA (312) 644-1896 or e-mail her at kristy@ila.org.



Illinois Library Association



Teen Summer Reading

(and Gaming and Acting and Knitting...)

Like many library staff, I have fond memories of participating in summer reading as a child, finding my name on shapes on the wall of the public library and adding stickers to mark my progress. When I was a teen, I don't think I went in the library during the summer, but I did attend movies in the park outside of the library with friends and boyfriends. I don't know how much of the movies we actually watched.



It's ironic that my job is now to get teens into the Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL). Inspired partially by the weekly outdoor movies I remembered from my teen years, I try to have one to two teen events each week during the summer months to catch and appeal to all types of teens and to keep them coming, in the midst of their jobs, school, camps, and more. There is in fact some sort of program almost every day in the summer at one of the three locations of STDL, including outdoor concerts, author programs, cooking demonstrations, health programs, and all types of popular youth events. I want the teens to know they are just as important as children and adults, and they too are part of our summer celebration.

During the school year, we have five monthly teen club meetings, writing contests, and reading promotions. We have a MySpace site (www.myspace.com/stdlteen), a blog, an online newsletter, and more ways to let teens know what they could be missing if they don't get in here — all the time.

In the nine years or so that I have enjoyed the advice of my Teen Advisory Board (TAB), we have tried different summer events with varying degrees of success, from an abysmal Decades series of themed coffeehouses (too complicated), to some overly successful Lock-Ins with Mini Golf spread throughout the library, to alien impersonator events. Some programs have emerged as annual favorites, and the TAB will not allow me to change them. These include a mystery dinner with local police and teen actors that is written by me and hokey in the extreme; an outdoor "Road Rally" scavenger hunt complete with bazooka water guns; afternoon game and movie days; and a knitting camp where both boys and girls attend. I also coordinate a Teen Invasion program with community agencies each year in which teens receive raffle tickets for gift certificates by participating in programs at area teen centers, park district events, STDL summer reading, and much more.

I was conducting a workshop recently where a director remarked: "These programs sound like all fun and games. What does this have to do with our job?" Everyone's job should have some fun and games, frankly. Also, the circulation of the teen collection has gone up about 70 percent each and every year since STDL started the TAB. In the summer, we enjoy the biggest circulations of the year.

Despite the encouraging book circulation numbers from the teen collection, it's interesting that the actual summer reading element of the events for teens at STDL does not always attract lots of attention. I've tied it in to program attendance for bonus points to help, or just had book review slips for drawings each week. Until last year, nothing came close to the thousands of children who participate in summer reading at STDL or even the hundreds of adults in their program.

Last year, we tied "Book Bucks" for gift certificates to area fast food eateries and stores, along with prizes from iREAD or other vendors. The Book Bucks, complete with book reviews, could "buy" prizes at different amounts. I knew something different was happening when I got an e-mail at home three days into the prize redemption that we were out of some of the prizes. We refilled prizes more than six times in the six weeks teens could turn in their Bucks. While this was labor-intensive and expensive, it attracted more teens than the previous years combined. Many of those teens joined our school year clubs or stayed on our mailing lists. We scaled down the program for Winter Reading — teens usually don't have their own Winter Reading Program here due to lack of interest — and many of the summer regulars finished that program as well. The TAB is choosing a series of prizes for the same type of program for this summer.

Theme is important as a jumping off place for program ideas. The Teen Advisory Board takes the state iREAD theme and chooses its own slogan, programs, and some prizes. This year we will be doing "The Teens' Guide to the Galaxy." Instead of Book Bucks we will have Asteroids or Aliens, or something like that to turn in for prizes. We will have fortune telling, a Flickr contest with sci-fi paraphernalia, and all the annual favorites among other new ones. NASA powdered ice cream will be given to teens (and adults) who sign up for the reading program.

Summer for teens at STDL is always active and surprising. The programs that last and work seem to be the ones with the most teen interaction and input. The combination of old favorites with new events seems to invite older teens to return while attracting younger ones. I'm hoping the crowds of teens participating in all events will be Out of This World.

■

This year's *ILA Reporter* covers are showcasing Illinois libraries's incredibly rich heritage photographed, inventoried electronically, and archived in "Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries." (See April 2006 *ILA Reporter*, pp. 12-17.) This project was supported by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Principal investigators: Allen Lanham and Marlene Slough, Eastern Illinois University.



Kimber (Kim Fiebiger)
Egghead 5/25
bronze sculpture
h 30" w 17" d 20"
Batavia Public Library District



Connie Campbell
Window to the World detail
acrylic mural, 2001
h 106" w 122"
Marion Carnegie Library



Elaine Pawlowicz
untitled detail
acrylic on canvas, 2005
8 panels h 60" w 120" and 4 panels h 60" w 168"
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