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

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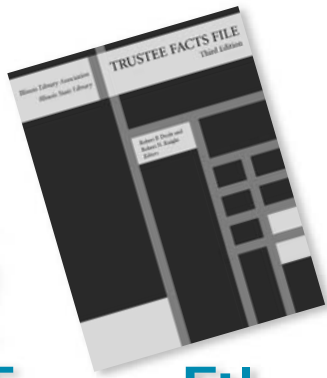
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One State, Many Faces: The Mosaic

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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.

The following profiles public librarians, including the director of a newly established library; director of a library that is more than one hundred years old; an adult services director of a small public library; and a teen coordinator of a large public library. Though they all work in the public sector, each of these people have different perspectives and ideas of the needs of the community they serve and the roles public librarians fill. *(continued on page 6)*

of the Illinois Library Community



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Amy Alessio

Schaumburg Township District Library

What are the most pressing issues or challenges facing libraries today?

Staying relevant to patron needs is the continuing challenge for all types of libraries serving all ages.

In my work with young adults, this is particularly pressing as they are only young adults for a few years! I attend as many training workshops as I can on new technologies and other subjects important to them so I can offer services that retain their interest. Then there are times when offering fiction and non-fiction relevant to today's teens clashes with what adults think the library should offer, and young adult literature from graphic novels to girl series garners media attention and challenges everywhere. This is an example of another issue — serving patrons from diverse backgrounds and interests within the same area.

How have these issues changed since you started as a librarian?

When I started working in libraries eleven years ago, there were not as many information resources for public library patrons outside of the library, so libraries have had to become more creative about capturing the attention of patrons. I have seen exciting trends in community partnerships and electronic services that raise the profile of the library in communities. Of course I have enjoyed being part of the latest growth spurt in young adult services. More and more libraries are employing specialized young adult librarians who provide educated in-depth library services for that age group, which will keep them returning to the library into adulthood. I am very excited about the new ILA Young Adult forum, which will allow us to share specific teen ideas throughout the state.

What are your thoughts on the idea that libraries are passé and unnecessary?

Having presented training sessions at more than forty workshops in the past four years, I think administrative attitude is a major influence in the impact a library has on its surrounding community, whether it is public, corporate, college, school, or museum. Before Schaumburg

I worked at a small public library that offered Internet training and job training as a major service. These were badly needed in that lower income area where people did not have their own computers. While this may seem logical, I have also seen libraries with healthy resources that are not receptive to trying new services and listening to patron input, especially from teens.

I wonder what will happen when those teens start voting! Library administration that encourages new ideas from staff and sends staff at all levels to share ideas with other libraries and groups seems best positioned to stay relevant and important to their patrons. I've seen staff of all ages serve teens well with the right training and support — it is all about attitude!

What new forms of technology are you using that enable you to assist patrons in a more timely manner?

I recently took a YALSA online course in technologies for teens. I learned about podcasting, wikis, online gaming, RSS, blogs, and more. It was amazing, and it changed my perspective on each type of service I offer. I do not know if it will change the speed of offering teen book reviews, for example, but it will allow me to offer more interactive services to more teens at more times, such as podcast reviews (similar to those offered at the Thomas Ford Library in Western Springs). I also work on the My Web Librarian program that many Illinois libraries participate in, which certainly offers reference service in a timely manner. I am always amused when people ask me what is taking so long when a search takes more than thirty seconds!

What are the most fascinating and satisfying aspects of your job?

Absolutely, working directly with teens is my passion. They keep me humble and at the same time they inspire me. For example, many of my Teen Advisory Board members found my studies of videogaming and new technologies for the YALSA class hilarious, but they have pitched in and helped me design new services with those technologies. Working with teens has led me to become a YALSA trainer and I have met people in libraries all over the Midwest and further through teaching, which I also enjoy. Some of my most successful programs for teens were inspired by staff from tiny libraries in rural Wisconsin or southern Illinois!



Anita Dolson

West Union District Library

What are the most pressing challenges facing libraries today?

I feel one of the challenges facing libraries today is keeping up with ever-changing technologies. Librarians feel they need to know how to operate the computers,

digital cameras, iPods, and more. Patrons many times do not know how to add an attachment or download their digital camera's pictures. The Internet causes issues and challenges also.

How have these issues changed since you started as a librarian?

When I began as a librarian, we did not have the Internet. We had a public computer that was the Commodore 64. We did not own a fax machine. All our records were kept on ledger sheets. Now we have our circulation records on the computer.

What are your thoughts on the idea that libraries are passé and unnecessary?

I don't believe that libraries are unnecessary. We technically serve 914 persons. Children from three school districts use our library. We have lower income families that use our computers and the Internet. The library is a place to

congregate and see neighbors. It is place to browse around for a good book. The closest video rental store is approximately thirteen miles away. Our patrons appreciate being able to check out DVDs or VHS tapes. We have eighty to a hundred people attend a summer puppet show.

Approximately 80 percent of our population owns a library card. We circulate almost 16,000 items. We have an automatic counter. Last year it recorded 11,257 persons entered the library. That is not too bad for a rural library serving 914 persons that is only open twenty-five hours a week.

What new forms of technology are you using that enable you to assist patrons in a more timely manner?

I would have to say that for our library the Internet and fax machine really help the patrons. We are the only location in our small town to fax or photocopy an item.

What are the most fascinating and satisfying aspects of your job?

I enjoy working with the public of all ages. I love to see the look on a child's face when they find a brand new book. It is like Christmas! I enjoy getting to know new people of all ages. The aspects of fundraising are hard work yet very satisfying. We only receive \$12,000 from tax monies, so we have to have several fundraising events to provide the services our patrons deserve. We usually end up with a budget of \$30,000.

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"I feel one of the challenges facing libraries today is keeping up with ever-changing technologies."

(continued from page 7)



Brian Smith

Homer Township Public
Library District

What are the most pressing issues or challenges facing libraries today?

I think the most pressing issue is that the online distribution of media allows publishers and vendors to cut libraries out as owners and repositories of books, audio recordings, videos, and other items. A traditional library function, paying for an item and sharing it, is often treated as piracy in the world of licensed content.

“Libraries need to re-think what business we’re in, sort of how professional sports leagues decided a couple decades ago that they’re in the entertainment business.”

How have these issues changed since you started as a librarian?

Before the development of the Web and broadband Internet connections to homes, online distribution was mainly limited to text-only things like journal indexes, and access was available only on a funky, green-screened computer in the library, if the library had access at all. Now, people can download feature films while in bed with their laptops.

What are your thoughts on the idea that libraries are passé and unnecessary?

I just think that libraries need to re-think what business we’re in, sort of how professional sports leagues decided a couple decades ago that they’re in the entertainment business. My take is that libraries are in the convenience business. People can get books and magazine articles and answers to questions from other places; we need to make using the library so convenient that folks would have to be crazy not to do it.

What new forms of technology are you using that enable you to assist patrons in a more timely manner?

We’ve been providing reference service via instant messaging for more than a year, and have been part of a cooperative Webchat service for several years. We’ve started to buy e-books that patrons can download directly from our catalog.

I’m also working on an LSTA-funded project to create a reference knowledge base for the entire PALS system; that will be partly built on a wiki platform. This stuff isn’t really all that new, but libraries are playing catch-up.

What are the most fascinating and satisfying aspects of your job?

Finding things. The “thing” might be information a user needs, a way around a technical problem, a serendipitous discovery of a great Web site or book, etc. Seeing a user who’s happy about what I’ve found is pretty nice, too.



Anita Driver

Jerseyville Public Library

What are the most pressing issues or challenges facing libraries today?

For me the most pressing issue or challenge is the pace at which things change. It's a challenge not only for my budget but for my mind and abilities. Sometimes I feel that not a week goes by that I didn't have a "crash course" in something to bring me or my library up to speed.

How have these issues changed since you started as a librarian?

Once again it's the time element. Back in the late 1970s, '80s, and '90s, you could learn or buy something new and cutting edge and go for years offering the best that was available to your patrons.

What are your thoughts on the idea that libraries are passé and unnecessary?

I don't think this could be further from the truth. I feel as though people look to us for more and more all the time. Not only do they want us to supply their escape, whether that be pleasure reading, music, programs, etc., from their busy lives, they want us to help them post a resume on the Internet, be their access to high speed Internet because theirs is down. When I hear people talk about this topic and I stop to contemplate it, I might be worried for a half a second! I think people will always look to us for pleasure in their lives and to help them stay at the curve and sometimes slightly ahead of it.

What new forms of technology are you using that enable you to assist patrons in a more timely manner?

Virtual reference—just yesterday I had a QuestionPoint from a Jerseyville patron who had purchased a bromeliad houseplant at Wal-Mart. The plant had no tag nor could Wal-Mart gardening staff help her. After searching for quite some time on the Net she asked via QuestionPoint. We scanned and attached two pages about the care of her plant. How much more timely could this be! She didn't even have to leave her home (or her plant).

"Sometimes I feel that not a week goes by that I didn't have a "crash course" in something to bring me or my library up to speed."

Also, using the LCLS LLSAP and OCLC. These are not new forms but certainly more timely than "in the old days." I can remember our patrons waiting months and months for an item we didn't have or not getting it at all. And, having six-day-a-week courier in LCLS is fabulous. It doesn't do much good to find a requested item if it has to sit in processing somewhere or in the back of a van.

What are the most fascinating and satisfying aspects of your job?

Most fascinating are the people, we get all kinds don't we? Most satisfying is a happy customer—the forty people who loved the Western Illinois program Music of the Pipe, the young mother that praised us for "going the extra mile" just because we had chickens for Easter, and those were just this week. For the most part, patrons are very appreciative.

IIA

Construction Costs

Just Aren't What They Used to Be



Carol Sente, Sente Rubel Bosman Lee (SRBL) Architects

Y

ou've all heard that construction costs are rising exponentially, but we're not sure everyone understands the cause or the impact of this change. Over the last three years, construction costs rose a total of 25 percent. Prior to 2003, cost of construction inflation averaged 3 percent per year. The increase is hard to believe when you compare it to Consumer Price Index increases that have remained steady at 3 percent annually. As consultants serving Chicago's libraries, SRBL Architects wants to help librarians understand rising costs and how to manage this situation.

Although costs can be surprising, it is important to remember that putting off construction projects won't help your library in the long run. Just like gasoline prices aren't going to return to what they were five years ago, construction costs aren't going to fall dramatically either.

You've probably heard that steel has the most volatile price increases among construction materials. Three years ago structural steel was \$290/ton, today it costs \$540/ton. This doesn't just affect the cost of a building's structure, it affects anything made using the same raw materials, including mechanical equipment, ductwork, conduit, and aluminum windows. While recent cost increases originated from factors like Asia's building boom, the cost of petroleum, Hurricane Katrina, and mass purchasing of re-building materials, there is an additional trickle-down effect. When costs rise in one sector, it provides an opportunity for producers of other materials to increase their prices.

With the recent trend of municipalities adopting the IBC (International Building Code), code requirements are also impacting building prices. The IBC recently added seismic requirements for all critical buildings. This one change means increased cost of materials, design time to address more complex codes, and construction labor. Expect building codes to continually get more stringent; by nature they are conservative and made to address real-life situations.

By looking at historical patterns, recent events will cause codes to get even stricter in the future. The 1911 Triangle Factory Fire resulted in factory safety legislation; in 1958, Our Lady of Angels School fire resulted in health/life/safety codes; September 11, 2001, resulted in more stringent exiting codes from high rise buildings. We can anticipate code revisions that will continue to impact cost.

National weather events impact regional construction costs and global warming has increased the frequency and duration of weather-related disasters. The cost of plywood rose by

19.5 percent in the two months after Hurricane Katrina because of stockpiles in the Gulf Coast. Summer 2005's drought caused barge traffic on the Mississippi River to stall because of the decreased water table. Construction costs increased during that time due to the price of fuel for land transportation of materials.



Tips you can use to manage construction cost escalation

Educate yourself. Talk to neighboring communities, read about construction costs and visit recently completed projects. All of these activities are a big step toward understanding construction costs trends.

Remember, a library that opened up yesterday was budgeted three years ago and bid two years ago. The construction cost is based on those numbers. In these volatile times, one can't use a newly constructed library as a benchmark for future construction. When markets are steady, it is acceptable to base your budget numbers off an architectural program and budget that was completed a year prior. Now that markets are more volatile, it's more prudent to have your budget updated before obtaining funding.

Understand the difference between a total project budget and a construction budget. Work with your design and construction professionals to budget allowances for "soft" costs that add 25–35 percent to a budget.

Hire an architect and a construction professional early. If you hire an architect after you've obtained funding, your budget might be too small for your project dreams. To lessen the need for value engineering later in a project, hire a construction manager after schematic development is complete. Request that the architect and construction manager provide independent cost estimates to allow for multiple perspectives on cost. The cost estimating skills of all design and construction professionals are not the same. Select consultants with proven cost forecasting, estimating, and cost control abilities.

Spend construction dollars where they count. Choose to put your design budget where it will have the most impact, such as in high traffic areas, public areas, and building envelope and mechanical systems. Consider moderate alternatives for finishes, bathrooms, and office spaces.

Some construction delivery alternatives can offer early price guarantees as well as fee savings. Although not yet widely prevalent in the public sector, design/build is a method that gives the owner an early guaranteed maximum price and can be an appropriate method for well-defined, straightforward buildings.

Spend time talking with your consultants about how construction pricing will impact you. You may suffer sticker shock at some point in the design and construction process, but the more educated you are and the more thorough your homework has been, the better you'll be able to address the situation.

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The Nation's First Museum Dedicated to Freedom and the First Amendment Opens in Chicago

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he McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum opened its doors on April 11. Located in the Tribune Tower on Michigan Avenue, the Freedom Museum is the first in the nation to focus exclusively on the importance of our First Amendment freedoms.

The Freedom Museum will also serve as a resource for teachers and students across the country by offering a comprehensive education program that includes curriculum, student activities, field trips and distance-learning opportunities.

"12151791": Named after the ratification date of the Bill of Rights, this two-story sculpture features 800 hanging silver plates inscribed with quotes on freedom from everyday people over a course of 215 years of American history, from ratification to the present.



Freedom for All: A series of six case studies that reveal how select social movements, such as abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and the labor movement, used the First Amendment to secure other freedoms.



Future of Freedom: An interactive learning environment where visitors can learn about issues of freedom throughout the world, access timely news feeds, take quizzes, and create their own Bill of Rights.

ILA will host a reception at the Freedom Museum during the 2006 ILA Annual Conference on Wednesday, October 4. See the preliminary conference program for more information.

For more information on the Freedom Museum, visit <http://www.FreedomMuseum.us>.

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Sally in Libraryland

Sally Decker Smith, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling

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o, have you been waiting, as my dear friend and genius cataloger Tony Siciliano once said, with bait on your breath, to see what follows the very long piece last time about what directors wish staff knew, and vice versa?

The single most resonating (for me) comment that came in? This: "...among the skills that people need to possess... is a sense of humor." Boy howdy, yes indeed, and amen. And it isn't even important, I think, whether a director or a staff member said it. The contributor goes on to specify what she meant: "...the ability to see how things are out of sync, or appreciate word play or irony, or the ability to laugh at one's self."

I cannot count the number of times that being able to laugh (largely at myself!) has saved me from some darker fate.

Just because of what it is, my job entails encounters with patrons who are unhappy about something. I would not have had the job for long if I laughed in their faces, so I'm good at not doing that. But once they are soothed, placated, compromised with, or whatever professional activity the situation demands, I often scamper as quickly as my short legs will take me to the back, where, protected by doors and walls from being overheard by any patrons, I...laugh. The stellar reference team we have here often transacts whatever needs transacting, and then gets to the back area and ... laughs. And we tell each other stories of our own cluelessness, absurdity, and general foolishness, and how close we came to sitting down where there was no chair.



So hearing that directors fear that staff thinks they are in their offices reading movie mags, or eating bonbons, or otherwise goofing off, made me laugh, and I certainly hope they intended that. Because although I respect their very real concern, and understand the point they are making, I think they picked a great way to frame it!

Feedback has been interesting, too. One director pointed out to me that if the director thinks the desk staff are doing nothing, chances are the patrons do, too. Which is certainly true, and a way I hadn't thought of it—but when I mentioned this to a colleague, she said that since patrons are more likely to approach a staff member who doesn't look busy, is that such a bad thing? And I can reassure the several people who specifically asked that none of the comments came from people in this building, although some of the sentiments sound familiar.


So what are we doing about our feelings that our jobs aren't understood, whichever part of the org chart we're on? I am happy to share my ideas and opinions, of which I have many. But so does everyone reading this. As my staff will tell you, I always maintain that all of us are smarter than any of us. So please A) do not take what follows as anything but one person's perspective, either from personal experience or from my really smart network, and B) share any of your ideas for solutions with the group—use the addresses at the end to get them to me.

If the major concern of directors is that people don't know what they're doing, I can offer you what Tamiye Meehan, our director and president-elect of ILA, does, because I know it works. Her schedule—as well as everyone else's in the building—is posted on our staff intranet. Not only her ins and outs, but where she is, which could be an ILA obligation, something for Rotary, a conference call, or an appointment. A quick glance at the week shows us that A)

if we need to talk to her, which days and times she'll be in the building, and B) what she's doing when she's here or not. If there's a week we never see her, we know it's because she's all over the state, or the system, or the community, or locked in her office trying to make the budget work, or at the dentist, or (more likely) a combination. The same is true for the department heads, and every other staff member. And two people in every department have the power to make changes, so if someone calls in sick, we can adjust it quickly, and everyone still has accurate information. If I need to know when terribly helpful Shawn in computer services will be here to knock some sense into my computer, I look at his schedule and know. And if my staff can't remember what I said about Thursday, they find out quickly. I can recommend this method (whether the schedule posting is online or on paper) to any beleaguered directors. With a caveat that once people get used to it, you will probably hear about it the week you forget to input your schedule.

For the staff who don't feel appreciated (and you are far from alone): I once heard an engineer quoted as saying, "I told you I loved you when I married you. If anything changes, I'll let you know." I am married to an engineer, and this really truly is the way many of their brains work. I have seen many directors whose brains work like that, too. So while it is small consolation, rest assured that if your boss doesn't like what you're doing, you'll hear about it. Assume that they think as highly of you as they did the day they offered you your job, and get on with your life. And spread appreciation all over anyone who deserves it—what goes around really does come around. This does not assure that you will get what you need from your boss—but maybe you can get enough from other people to enable you to stay in a job you otherwise enjoy.

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(continued from page 15)

And staff whose major concern is feeling a part of the team? I think that if you are involved enough in—and care enough about—your library to have this concern, you can take the next step: volunteer. And ask a lot of questions. Directors are crazy busy people, mostly, and like reference staff at the desk on tax day are usually scrambling to take care of all the balls they have in the air. If they don't have time to go looking for more, it doesn't mean they don't care—it means they're busy. So ask what the goal of the strategic planning process is, if you've heard your library is starting one and you haven't heard anything about it. If you ask, and get blown off, that's a different problem—but if you never ask, you for sure will never get an answer.

Concerns about other people's behavior, or work ethic, or philosophy of service may largely be beyond your control, and for your own mental health you may need to just control the only person you can: yourself. Someone once told me that in every organization there are "protected" people: those who for reasons that are invisible to everyone else are allowed to slack off, make everyone's job harder, sometimes even treat others—staff and patrons—with little respect. Maybe there are reasons, maybe not. Maybe the goofing off staff member reminds the director of someone else to the point that they are not seen clearly, or they used to be good and the only person in a position to yank a chain doesn't see that they aren't any more. Whatever.

Let it go! If it truly
makes you nuts,
you can try
asking

your supervisor for help getting your work done, or, worst case, start looking for a new job. But an informal survey of management at several libraries validated my perception that complaining about someone else is nearly always perceived as whining, and you don't want to be that person.

Does your director intimidate you? Well, possibly that's their intention, but I only ever heard of one director who intended that. I'd chalk any brusqueness up to busyness, and try at least twice (some time apart, and choosing a time when he/she seems most not frantic) to initiate a human conversation. Several non-threatening topics spring to mind: there's the weather, or an upcoming event or holiday, or a great comment from a patron. Remember that the director has no peers in the building, and may be grateful to be treated like a person even when you both know the peer thing isn't what's happening. You have nothing to lose, and a lot to gain!

If you know your director is going to give a complaining patron whatever they want, maybe there's no reason to make yourself crazy and battle with the patron and then resent being overruled. Either you give the patron what they want, if you feel empowered to do so, or if you know you can't, the minute it's clear that the patron isn't buying it, YOU suggest bringing the director into the discussion. That way you can collaboratively say, "Oh dear, I can't do that for you, but I'll be glad to see if the director can." You are magically not being overridden, or unsupported, or any of those things that make our necks ache. You are helping the patron to find closure, and you and the director get to stay on the same side.

So there you have my responses to your input about what you wish the other half knew about your job—and it's clear I only tackled the ones that were reported the most often, and mostly those from non-directors, because, after all, that is who I am. I would love to hear more from directors about what they can do, or their staffs can do, to work together more harmoniously. And at Elisa Topper's suggestion, I would also love to hear from board members about what they wish we knew about their roles in the library, or what directors wish board members knew... it just keeps growing. We have covered a lot of concerns—time to share more solutions! Please?

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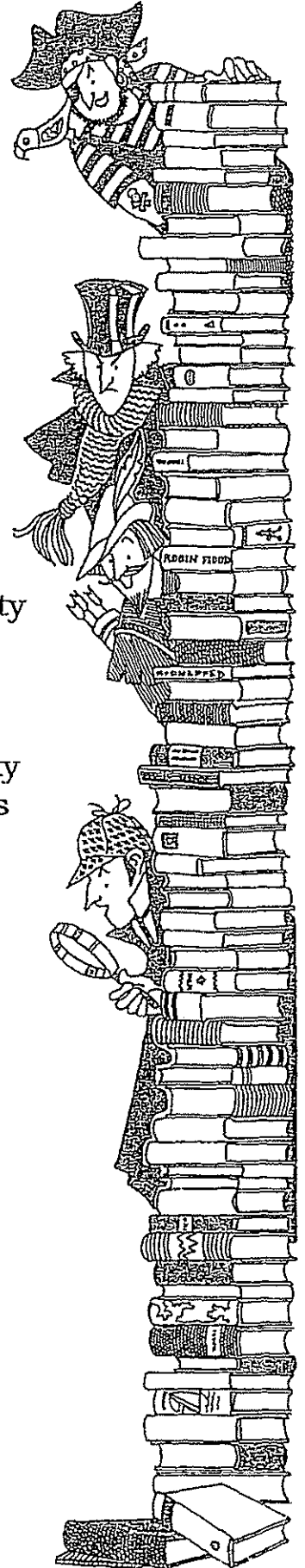
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Library-related stories appearing in local Illinois news media are reflected in this section of the *ILA Reporter*. The intent is to alert and inform other libraries about issues and events that are considered significant by the general media. The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

Milner Gets New Memorial

The April 10 *Bloomington Pantagraph* reported that with great fanfare, Illinois State University (ISU) and state officials gathered at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery before a draped monument, later unveiling a granite headstone, over what had been Angeline Vernon Milner's unmarked grave. The event marked the 150th anniversary of her birth.

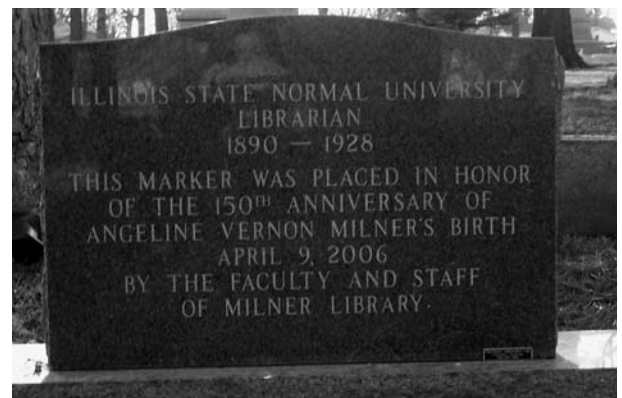
The paper reported that the Illinois State University's first librarian "Ange" Milner is one of the state's most famous librarians. The head of the campus's library from 1890 to 1928 is credited with:

- Becoming the campus's first head librarian, serving nearly forty years;
- Cataloging more than 40,000 books at then Illinois State Normal University;
- Founding member of the Illinois Library Association; and
- Instituting the idea of teaching college students how to use library resources in their studies, a practice she outlined for other teachers' colleges to follow.

Ange Milner had rested in her grave nearly a century in obscurity.

"When we found she had no headstone, we just knew we'd have to change that," said Toni Tucker, a Milner librarian that found the grave and pursued the honor. Along with ISU officials, Normal Mayor Chris Koos, Rep. Dan Brady, and representatives from Sen. Bill Brady's office and the McLean County Museum of History attended. Brady read a proclamation from Gov. Rod Blagojevich declaring "Ange Milner Day in Illinois."

For years, people have claimed to have had encounters with Milner's ghost in the stacks of Williams Hall — the original Milner Library. The ghost was a feature of the Travel Channel's "Haunted Campuses" episode in October 2004.



"Whether or not people believe in campus lore that holds the ghost of Milner haunts Williams Hall, it's the contributions that Ange Milner made in her lifetime that should carry her through history," said Cheryl Elzy, dean of university libraries at ISU. Elzy pointed to Milner's legacy of cataloging thousands of books that became the library's foundation, her efforts writing to ISNU servicemen stationed overseas during World War I, and her work teaching library use methods to students. "What we at Milner try to manifest is her service orientation," said Elzy.

Batavia Public Library Joins Two Other Illinois Libraries in New Coffee Table Book

It has the distinction of being the first library in Kane County, a membership library dating back to 1866, reports the April 16 *Beacon News*. It was a place where Mark Twain came to give a lecture in 1869. And in 1873, it adopted a “free library plan,” waving the \$5 lifetime membership fee, opening its doors to everyone in the township of Batavia.

In 1882, the Batavia Public Library was created officially as the first tax-supported library in the Tri-Cities, and it remains today an important part of the community. So, it is only fitting that Batavia’s library is one of eighty libraries chosen from around the country for a new book, *Heart of the Community: The Libraries We Love*, by the Berkshire Publishing Group. The full-color, coffee table book will be published in October.

Batavia Library joins the Rock Island Public Library — the first public library in Illinois — and the Ida Public Library in Belvidere as the only Illinois libraries to be chosen from hundreds of nominations. The list also includes the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Seattle Public Library, and the Houston Public Library.

Batavia Library Director George Scheetz said the library’s rich history and many “firsts” helped move it ahead on the nomination list for the book. Other factors considered were its distinctive architecture, featuring Batavia limestone, and its benefit to the community.

“The title of the book, *Heart of the Community*, is indicative of Batavia Public Library’s role in the city of Batavia with the people of Batavia,” Scheetz said. “The reason Batavia Public Library was selected, I believe, is not only because it is physically in the heart of the community, but because it plays a significant role in community life.”

Scheetz noted the library’s enormous variety of resources and its ability to serve as a community meeting place for local clubs and organizations. He also cited its educational and entertaining programs for children and adults. Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke said the Batavia Public Library has been a cornerstone of the community from its early days. “There’s always been a literary and intellectual sense that overtook Batavia from the very early settlers,” Schielke said.

Recommend OK on Wireless Internet Rules at Niles Public Library

Individuals viewing pornography has been a continuous problem at the Niles Public Library, according to the April 27 *Niles Journal*. Officials are hoping that they now may have a solution to the dilemma. Board members will soon review the contents of a screen that will appear on patrons’ laptop computers who are attempting to surf the Internet inside the library.

The library has been working for months to install a wireless Internet connection inside the Oakton Street facility. Officials say it will be operational later this spring. In order to access the Internet connection on their personal laptop computers, library patrons will have to agree to a set of conditions including a promise not to view pornography.

Once the computer user clicks on his/her laptop to access the Internet, a screen message will ask them to agree to seven conditions first. One of the conditions says the Web user agrees not to “view sexually graphic or explicit material.” Library Director Cary Czarnecki said that, “Anyone doing this on library computers is told to stop the practice or face being asked to leave the building. The same will apply to personal laptop computers.”

The document also warns Internet users that online information is unsecure. It says that library staff will not provide “technical assistance” to those who have trouble with their laptop Internet connection. “We don’t have the staff for that,” Czarnecki said.

The agreement also says that people using the Internet on their laptops will not be allowed to save any documents or download any programs on the computer’s server. Those using the library wireless connection to access the Internet have to promise not to use the computer unlawfully, violate copyright rules, harass others, or exploit computer security systems. The screen message also asks computer users to waive library liability for anything that happens while they are on the computer. Czarnecki said that the computer department wrote the agreement. He then recommended it for approval to the library board at the April 19 board meeting.

Byron Library Sues City over Site

The latest maneuver in the ongoing war between the Byron City Council and Byron Library District is a lawsuit aimed at the city and city staff this month, reported the April 25 *Rockford Register Star*. Ground zero of the months-long battle between two of the city's major government agencies is the plot just south of the Byron Public Library.

The land, which is zoned a combination of residential and general business, is along the city's highway business district on Illinois 2. The road, which is called Blackhawk Drive as it cuts through the southern edge of this Ogle County town of about 3,000 residents, is home to two grocery stores, a pharmacy, gas stations, restaurants, office-type buildings, and residences.

The library owns the land and says it's perfect for the district's new \$4.5 million library building. But the city says it's prime for commercial and retail development and refused this year to give the library permission to build. On June 8, the parties will be in Ogle County Court before Judge Michael Mallon as the library tries to get the city's decision reversed.

The lawsuit, filed April 6, is an unusual move for a government entity, particularly in a small town, said Clayton Lindsey, the city's attorney. He called the library's decision to sue "unfortunate." "We intend to defend our ordinances vigorously," Lindsey said Monday before the City Council meeting. "We understand what their position is. We have a difference of opinion. ...It's unfortunate they want to take this into a legal battle."

The city's position, Lindsey said, is that the library should not build on the land in question because it goes against the city's comprehensive plan, adopted in 2003. The plan designates the land for future commercial or retail development, not public use. "It's inappropriate with how the city plans to build," Lindsey said. "It's one of the most significant pieces of commercial property on Route 2. To the city, it's a very important piece of property."

In their lawsuit, the trustees of the Byron Public Library District contend that the city's decision to deny the library the right to build on its land is "arbitrary and capricious and unlawful." The lawsuit argues that the city's comprehensive plan should not override the city's zoning regulations, which do not exclude construction of a new library at the proposed site. According to the lawsuit, filed by attorney Bruce Roberts of Inverness on behalf of Library Director Penny O'Rourke, the library district purchased the properties across the street from the library for library purposes in February and March of 2001, September 2004, and March 2005.

The city aldermen voted 5-0 to pass a resolution supporting the vigorous defense of the city's land-use ordinances. The lawsuit names the city of Byron and City Planning and Zoning Officer Larry Hewitt as defendants. The city is required to file a written response by May 10.

SIUC's Morris Library Receives \$450,000 Carus Estate Gift

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) continues to benefit from a longstanding relationship with the Carus family, founders of Open Court Publishing of Chicago, reported the May 12 *Suntimes News*.

Morris Library will receive up to \$450,000 from the estate of Alwin C. Carus, the youngest son of Paul and Mary Carus, the publishing empire's founders. Alwin died in 2004 at the age of 102. According to Edward Carus, trustee for the Alwin C. Carus Estate and Trust, Morris Library will receive about \$18,000 per year for the next twenty years from income from a mineral trust. The sale of property in Canada should bring an additional \$70,000 to the library.

The relationship between the library and the Carus family and Open Court Publishing, one of the first academic presses in the country without a university affiliation, dates to the 1960s. The collection of manuscripts, books, and materials is one of the largest in the library's Special Collections Research Center. The library will use the donated funds specifically for the processing of Open Court and Carus family material for patrons' use.

Berwyn Council Sides with Library Board to Keep Director

Bill Hensley will stay as director of the Berwyn Public Library after the City Council went against the mayor's wishes to fire him, reported the April 30 *Berwyn Life*.

During a meeting April 25, the council unanimously agreed to reappoint Hensley as library director. Mayor Michael O'Connor said he told Hensley about two weeks ago he was not going to reappoint him as director. "This is not personal. I don't dislike the man. It is my opinion that we can do better; that is the reason why I've changed a lot of people. I think we can do better. Status quo in some cases is just not good enough," O'Connor told the *Life*.

The Berwyn Library Board recommended to the council that Hensley be reappointed. Alderman Nona Chapman, said the appointment should be made by the library board, not the mayor. The city's laws conflict. State law dictates that the board appoints the director, while a local ordinance says the mayor handles all appointments.

Chapman said the vote April 25 was merely a formality, as the library board's appointment should be what stands. The council was merely sending a message to O'Connor that he cannot fire Hensley, she said. O'Connor said he wants to have a closed personnel meeting with Hensley and the library board to further discuss the issues. No meeting has been set yet.

Hensley said he knows there have been some disagreements with city leadership. Hensley said the library should remain a part of the city, but he said the mayor thinks the library should become a separate, self-sufficient entity.

"He told me when we met that I was 'out of sync' with his mission. I'm not sure what that means. I know that he wants us to be a district library, which would be funded through a tax increase, and I disagree. We are dependent on city funding. We would never be able to get a tax increase passed in Berwyn to pay for our operation," Hensley said.

The mayor wanted to reduce the library budget by having all supplies purchased from the same company as the rest of the city departments. However, Hensley said at the time that many of the supplies are not exactly what the library needs and he can get them cheaper through a different company. "He also wanted me to reduce my budget, but to use this vendor that would have cost us more. I didn't agree with that," he said.

Chapman, who served as a library board member from 1999 to 2001, said Hensley has improved the library during his tenure. "Under his direction, the library has increased circulation and received grants over \$140,000," Chapman said. "He has reviewed the interior of the building and has organized it to be friendlier for its patrons. He has added more computers for public use, increased community programs and community awareness. He has developed community involvement with book sales, fundraisers, and the beautification and care of the library grounds."

Margaret Otto, a former library board president, spoke highly of Hensley during open forum of the council meeting. "Mr. Hensley knows his job, he does his job and he truly cares about the people he serves. He has shown the foresight to persistently update the library so it will continue to serve, with excellence, the people of Berwyn. Bill even gives his time unselfishly to support many volunteer programs that certainly help in these times of financial constraints," she said.

Otto presented the council with a petition with nearly three hundred signatures from residents who supported the reappointment of Hensley. Lucile Evans, a former library board member, said she served on the search committee when Hensley was hired. "We chose Bill because we felt his qualifications best met the job requirements. In the last five years, Bill has done a marvelous job as director," she said.

District 214 Board Member Wants to Ban Seven Books

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 school board member Leslie Pinney is leading a push to get seven books bumped from required reading lists next year, saying they are littered with lewd language and graphic sexual references inappropriate for teens, reported May 18 *Daily Herald*.

Among those she says should go: the Vietnam war piece *The Things They Carried*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kate Chopin's 1899 *The Awakening*, about a woman exploring her sexuality, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Pinney also is targeting Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, the best-seller *Freakonomics* and *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*, a non-fiction work that examines the relationship between humans and plants — using marijuana as one example.

Pinney has not read any of the books, and "I don't know if I would want to," she says. Working off a list of texts recommended for purchase in District 214 next year, she browsed the Internet for details — and uncovered, she says, a number of explicit excerpts she says make her question the books' validity as literature and their place in the curriculum. Some of the passages, she argues, are barely cleaner than magazine pornography.

"As I saw what I reading there, it's like, 'Wow,'" says Pinney, who was elected to the school board in 2005. "Why would these be books you'd want the students to study? I just really thought better of our system." Excerpts she highlights feature extensive swearing, violence, and references to sexual acts including masturbation, bestiality, and homosexuality. One part of *Freakonomics* that raised her ire hypothesizes that legalized abortion could lower the homicide rate.

Pinney sent excerpts to her fellow board members, but no one on the board has yet indicated they share her opinion. Meanwhile, District 214 educators say she is taking some of the clips out of context. As well, district policy allows parents who find material objectionable to call the teacher and request an alternative.

Board member Miriam "Mimi" Cooper said classrooms are a good, controlled setting for teenagers to read about and discuss adult situations they will encounter later in life. "These are high school students who I think have the maturity," Cooper said. "A book with adult language or adult situations — those are teaching moments for kids." Before the books get to the school board, they've been selected by teachers who have read the works and, often, chosen them with help from national curriculum guides. Teachers' choices are reviewed by division heads as well.

The texts flagged by Pinney have for the most part been used in District 214 before, said Hersey High English division head Chuck Venegoni. He adds the books are common in high-performing high schools across the nation. "To think that this is some willy nilly selection of some sexed-out teacher who wound up in some high school is just absolutely ludicrous," he said.

"People think what's being shoved down their throat is some type of gutter trash," he added, "and in reality, if they want their kids to have an education that is competitive, these kids will be exposed to these works." He scoffs at the notion that any of the texts are pornographic or, for that matter, too graphic. Rather, he says, they let teens grasp tough issues through literature.

Pinney said she is continuing to scour the reading lists for other objectionable titles. The debate has caught the attention of the Culture Campaign, a conservative Christian group. The group's Web site attacks books on District 214's reading list and urges people to contact Pinney or attend next week's board meeting to protest.

The school board will listen to concerns, board President Bill Dussling said, but adds it's unlikely to change where the district stands. "This is not an attempt on the part of the staff of this district to try to warp the minds of students," Dussling said. "You have to have faith that what they're doing is the best that can be done for the students."

On May 25, ILA President Dianne Harmon wrote to Dussling "to retain the books on the reading lists. While we respect the right of individuals to express their concerns about the books in question, simply skimming a book for offensive content is not an effective means of judging the entire work or the impact of the work. Many of the books in question are award-winners; all are well-reviewed and respected. They address important issues that are relevant to the current lives of young adults and their futures as adult citizens."

"The students of District 214 will be asked to cast their first votes within the next few years. Many of them may be serving our nation in the armed forces, others will go on to college where they will continue to discuss and develop opinions on the pressing issues of our times. We have faith in your students and their ability to see beyond individual excerpts from these books. We also believe they will understand the humanity of the characters involved and make their own decisions about the value of the books. Education should open doors to our students, not close them."

On May 26, the school district board voted six to one to retain the books.

2006 Election Results

Vice-President/President-Elect

337 Bradley F. Baker, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago

287 Charlotte Johnson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Bradley F. Baker will begin his three-year term on July 1, 2006, running through June 30, 2009.

Board of Directors (a three-year term beginning July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009). One candidate from each pairing was elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference.

Director-at-Large

297 Vandella Brown, Illinois State Library, Springfield

322 Emily Guss, University of Illinois at Chicago

Director-at-Large

252 Arlis Dittmer, Blessing Health Professions Library, Quincy

348 Jocelyn Tipton, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Director-at-Large

240 Regina McBride, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

369 Christine Stupegia, Sparta Public Library

Director-at-Large

288 Bleue Benton, Oak Park Public Library

335 Jamie Bukovac, Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien

ALA Councilor:

152 Richard A. Chartrand, East Alton Public Library District

477 Tina Hubert, Lewis & Clark Library System, Edwardsville (term 2006-2009)

This was the second year that ILA experimented with E-Voting.

Year	Ballots Returned	Total Personal Members	Percent of Membership
2006	648	2,453	26 percent
2005	472	2,462	19 percent
2004	727	2,330	31 percent
2003	742	2,403	31 percent
2002	787	2,481	32 percent
2001	817	2,456	33 percent
2000	914	2,532	36 percent
1999	982	2,471	40 percent
1998	1,110	2,489	45 percent
1997	886	2,262	39 percent

National Library Legislative Day

Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day on May 2 in Washington, D.C. (see sidebar for previous registration figures). Library advocates met with members of Congress and their staff to support:

- Fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the President's request of \$220.855 million.
- Fund the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program at \$100 million: The President's FY 2007 budget freezes funding for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program at the FY 2005 level of \$19.486 million.
- Restore funding for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Libraries: EPA libraries help to promote research and development in science, a key national priority and voting to restore the \$2.5 million needed for the EPA libraries will ensure they can operate at the same level in FY 2007 as they do now.
- E-rate: Thank you for preserving the E-rate. It is working to serve library patrons and students of all ages by making telecommunications services affordable to public libraries and K-12 public and private schools. Pass S. 241 and H.R. 2533 to exempt USF programs from Anti-Deficiency Act requirements.
- Preserve Fair Use and Balanced Copyright Law: Preserve fair use and educational use of TV news and public affairs programming — no "broadcast flag" (copy protection mechanism for digital televisions and personal computers to prevent Internet distribution of broadcast content).
- Support "Orphan Works" legislation to facilitate the use of copyrighted works whose owners are difficult or even impossible to find.
- Co-sponsor H.R. 1201, the Digital Media Consumers Rights Act of 2005 — to amend Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) to allow bypassing a technological lock that controls access to and use of a copyrighted work — if the circumvention does not result in infringement of the work.
- Support Government Openness and Accountability: Support the bi-partisan "Executive Branch Reform Act of 2006," H.R. 5112 — to limit the use of "pseudo-classification" markings such as "sensitive but unclassified" and "for official use only" unless they are authorized by statute or regulation; end secret meetings between lobbyists and most executive branch officials; ban covertly sponsored government propaganda; and enhance protections for national security whistleblowers.
- Urge Senate leadership to schedule a vote on S. 494, the "Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act," which would enhance protections for national security whistleblowers.

Registration Numbers for National Library Legislative Day

2006	68
2005	62
2004	58
2003	49
2002	68
2001	81
2000	76
1999	90
1998	78
1997	73
1996	62
1995	58
1994	60
1993	59
1992	46
1991	50
1990	50

Attendance by the ten most populous states: California 22; Texas 12; New York 8; Florida 17; Illinois 68; Pennsylvania 20; Ohio 4; Michigan 13; New Jersey 16; and Georgia 3. Total attendance was 525. Two states—Hawaii and Montana—had no one attending the event. The Illinois delegation represented 13 percent of the total attendance.

Dianne Harmon Volunteers to Head the 2007 Illinois Library Day Committee

After a successful visit to legislators this spring, ILA President Dianne Harmon hopes that all members of this year's committee and other participants will work with her to make next year even better. So, start making plans to attend and deliver the message that Strong Libraries = A Strong State.

This year's 581 registered participants carried this message to most members of the Illinois General Assembly on March 1, 2006. (For photos, the speeches, and more information on this year's event, please visit the Web site www.illinoislibraryday.info.)

"We want to continue the tradition of school, public, special, and academic libraries united and vocal in their support for adequate library funding," Harmon notes. The date for next year's event will be set once the Illinois General Assembly determines their schedule. The exact date won't be announced until December, but the committee will be getting to work immediately under Harmon's leadership.

2006 Primary Election Library Referenda Results

According to the Illinois State Board of Elections Web site (www.elections.il.gov), from 1995 to 2005, there have been 200 library referenda — 91 passed; 88 failed; and 21 no results. In 1995, there were 10 library referenda — 9 passed, and 1 failed for a 90 percent success rate. In the 2004 General Election, there were 23 library referenda — 10 passed, 13 failed for a 43 percent success rate. In the 2005 Consolidated Election, there were 29 library referenda — 11 passed, 18 failed for a 38 percent success rate.

In this latest election, there were 24 library referenda — 16 passed, 8 failed for a 67 percent success rate.

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Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
Bensenville	Cook, DuPage	Passed	Tax	Should Bensenville increase the retail sales tax by 1 percent to help fund the fight against O'Hare International Airport expansion and help the Bensenville Community Library?
Cherry Valley Public Library District	Boone, Winnebago	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Cherry Valley Public Library District, Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois, be established at 0.212% of full, fair cash value instead of at 0.15%?
Cortland Community Library	DeKalb	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax for the Cortland Community Library, DeKalb County, Illinois, be established at .30% instead of .15%?
Crete Public Library District	Will	Passed	Tax	A proposition to increase the maximum annual public library tax rate.
Elkhart Public Library District	Logan	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for Elkhart Public Library District of Logan County be established at .20% of full, fair cash value instead of at .15%, the maximum rate?
Farm Ridge Township	LaSalle	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall a public library be established and maintained in Farm Ridge Township?
Freedom Township Public Library	LaSalle	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall a public library be established and maintained in Freedom Township?
Kewanee Public Library District	Henry, Stark	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Kewanee Public Library District, Henry and Stark Counties, Illinois, be established at .60% instead of at .49%, the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
Maryville Community Library District	Madison	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall a Maryville Community Library District be established in part of Madison County?
McCook Library District	Cook	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the McCook Public Library District be established at 0.30% of the full, fair cash value instead of at 0.20%, the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
North Suburban Public Library	Boone, Winnebago	Passed	Miscellaneous	A proposition to annex certain territory situated in the County of Boone, state of Illinois, to the North Suburban Public Library District.
Oswego Public Library District	Kane, Kendall, Will	Passed	Bond	Shall the bonds of the Oswego Public Library District, in the amount of \$8,900,000 be issued for the purpose of erecting a new library?

Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
Robert W. Rowe Public Library District	LaSalle	Failed	Miscellaneous	Shall a person of school districts in Miller, Serena, Dayton, and Rutland Townships be annexed to the Robert W. Rowe Public Library District (passed in Miller precinct only)?
St. Elmo Public Library District/ Brownstown CUDS 201	Effingham, Fayette, Shelby	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall the unserved territory of the Brownstown Community Unit School District 201, in Fayette County, (excepting that portion in Evans Public Library District in Fayette County) be annexed to the St. Elmo Public Library District?
Sugar Grove Public Library	Kane	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate be established at .25% instead of at .15%?
Sugar Grove Public Library	Kane	Failed	Tax	Increase the extension limitation law from 3.3% to 200%?
Town and Country Library	Kane	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate be established at .21% instead of .15%?
Village of Bellwood	Cook	Failed	Bond	Should bonds be issued on behalf of the Bellwood Board of Library Trustees in the amount of approximately \$14,000,000 for the construction of a new library building and site improvements?
Village of Hinsdale	Cook, DuPage	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual library tax for maintenance and operation in the Village of Hinsdale, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois be increased from 0.25% to 0.2638% of all taxable property in the Village as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue?
Village of Westmont	DuPage	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual library tax for maintenance and operation in the Village of Westmond, DuPage County, Illinois be increased from 0.11% to 0.19%?
Village of Winfield	DuPage	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual library tax for maintenance and operation in the Village of Winfield, DuPage County, Illinois be increased from 0.15% to .41%?
Viola Public Library District	Mercer	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for Viola Public Library District, Viola, Illinois, be established at .18% of the full, fair cash value instead of at .15% the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
Wallace Township Public Library	LaSalle	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall a public library be established and maintained in Wallace Township?
Warren-Newport Public Library District	Lake	Failed	Miscellaneous	Shall certain territory in Newport Township be annexed to the Warren-Newport Public Library District, Lake County, Illinois?

Digital Art Images through CARLI

The Board of Directors of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) has announced that more than 180 consortium members now have access to a major collection of digital art images through CARLI Digital Collections, CARLI's new digital library.

CARLI has purchased the Saskia digital image archive from Scholars Resource. The collection contains 30,000 digital images of paintings, sculpture, and architecture, including images from many important collections: the Prado, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Uffizi, and the Louvre as well as archaeological sites in Greece, Italy, Turkey, and Egypt. The images are displayed in both high resolution and thumbnail format. Additionally, the descriptive data about the images includes references to the occurrences of these images in nineteen major art history texts, including *Gardner's Art Through the Ages, 12th edition*; *Understanding Art, 7th edition*; *Art and Ideas, 10th edition*; *Discovering Art History, 4th edition*.

This archive is available to CARLI member libraries at no direct cost to the library. The Saskia archive is the first digital resource to be powered by the CONTENTdm-based CARLI Digital Collections.

Information about the Saskia collection may be found at <http://www.saskia.com/>.

Information about the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois may be found at: <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/>.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Partners with National Endowment for the Arts to Create Largest Book Club Ever

Anne-Imelda M. Radice, the recently appointed director of the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, recently announced that the agency will partner with the National Endowment for the Arts on the Big Read. The Big Read is a new national reading program designed to revitalize the role of reading in America.

"Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America," a 2004 National Arts Endowment report, documented a dramatic decline in literary reading — among all age groups, ethnic groups, and education levels — and galvanized a national discussion. The Big Read was developed to help reverse this trend by giving

citizens in more than one hundred communities in all fifty states an inviting opportunity to read and discuss great books. Each city or town that participates will host a community-wide read that involves collaborations with libraries, schools, local government, and the private sector.

The Institute will contribute \$1 million in the first year of the national program and cast America's libraries and librarians in a central role to encourage community participation. The Big Read will be administered by Arts Midwest, a regional arts agency based in Minneapolis, Minn. The partners invite cities and communities nationwide to participate in 2007. The Big Read will award grants generally ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to more than one hundred communities to conduct programs that encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. To find out how your organization can submit a proposal to join the Big Read, please visit: www.neabigread.org.

Homer Library Adds Personal Picture Feature to its Web Site

The Homer Township Public Library is trying to show the personal side of what it does. Library Director Sheree Kozel-La Ha initiated a Flickr account in which the library now posts pictures of its many programs, building, and staff. "The Flickr account is a creative way to encourage the community to know what we are about," Sheree notes. "Pictures are placed into sets and show customers enjoying programs, collections, and more." The library was recently awarded a Target Family Art grant and pictures on the Web site now show one of the programs it funded, a family quilting class. "We see more than six hundred library visitors each day and have so much going on. We like that the photo page is a quick way to showcase all that we do," she notes. The Flickr library page is at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/homerlibrary/>.

The re-designed Web site is what is known as a blog, where pertinent information is constantly being added and patrons can choose to have this information sent directly to them via an RSS feed or e-mail mailing list. New features also include a daily coming event area, the library photo area, and how to instant message to the library. An added feature will be a director's note on the library blog to the community. "It is an opportunity to ask for opinions and create a new community dialogue," the director notes.

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.

Institutional Members

Marshall Area Public Library District

Personal Members

Jessie Affelder, Elmhurst Public Library

Amy Affelt, Lexecon

Thomas Bell, Northbrook Public Library

Brent Etzel, Augustana College, Rock Island

Laura Evans, Sherrard Public Library District

Martinique M. Haller, The Cooking and Hospitality
Institute of Chicago

Victoria A. Hart, Tri-Township Public Library District, Troy

Kathi Kresol, Rockford Public Library

Jillian Lentz, Geneva Public Library

Carol Little, Auburn

Karen A. Pfeifer, Plainfield Public Library District

Donna G. Reynertson, Itasca Community Library

Rebecca Schreiner, Morton College Library, Cicero

Lisa Marie Smith, Vernon Area Public Library District,
Lincolnshire

Mary Stoner, Carbondale Public Library

Ann Stovall, Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien

Lori Sutherland, Algonquin Area Public Library District

Ellen Sutton, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn

Lori Torbeck, Carbondale Public Library

Gabrielle M. Toth, Chicago State University

Stacy Ann Wittmann, Eisenhower Public Library District,
Harwood Hts.

Michele Wyss, Forman Valley Public Library

Wendy Xie, Seneca Public Library District

Student Members

Colleen Lareau, Bloomingdale

Mark R. Lindner, University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

John Scott Thomson, Children's Memorial Hospital,
Chicago

Trustee Members

Angela Dixon, Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library,
Glenwood

Crystal Megaridis, Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien

Twila Quine, Lewistown Carnegie Public Library District

Pamela M. Renaker, Fox Lake District Library

John O. Thomas, New Lenox Public Library District

Illinois Reading and Enrichment Development (IREAD) Committee

Jane Kauzlaric, Joliet Public Library

Last call for theme suggestions for the 2008 Summer Reading Program! Until June 30, you may submit your ideas to 2008 Chair Lori Craft online:

<http://ila.org/pub/iread.htm>.

2008 will be the only summer reading program without a live brainstorming session. This is necessary so that *Resource Guides* of all future programs will be available each fall at the ILA Annual Conference, bringing you the resources you will need to begin planning for the following summer.

Keep the creative juices flowing! From July 2006 to September 2006, use <http://www.ila.org/pub/iread.htm> to send Vince Sovanski, 2009 Chair, suggestions for the 2009 theme. Then join everyone at the ILA Annual Conference, October 5-6, 2006 at Navy Pier in Chicago, for a live brainstorming session immediately following the Youth Services Forum Breakfast at 8:30 A.M.

The *2007 Resource Guide* is still in production and your help is needed. You have until August 23, 2006 to submit ideas or suggestions for Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond to Coordinator Kristi Miller-Pease via <http://ila.org/pub/iread.htm>.

New at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference in Chicago will be the live showcase of the 2007 summer reading program at the ILA booth in the exhibit hall, eliminating the need for V-TEL broadcasts.

The showcase will be available for everyone to view after the conference via the ILA Web site.

Be part of this exciting time as IREAD gears up for the future! Contribute to IREAD!

Please note that some 2006 summer reading program products are still available for sale at <http://www.ila.org/pub/iread.htm>. The order form indicates those items that are out-of-stock.

Ancel Glink answers labor law questions for small governments.

1 **FREE download at AncelGlink.com:**

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Reaching Forward Forum for Support Staff

*Candace Biancalana, Reaching Forward
Committee Member*

It is hard to believe that the sixteenth annual Reaching Forward Conference is over and the groundwork for conference 2007 is already being laid.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the award winners and personally thank ILA, the volunteers, and all who took part in this dynamic day. Conference 2006 was another overwhelming success.

Contributors

Quality programs and speakers are the key to a successful conference day. Through the years Reaching Forward has been underwritten in part by the generous support of many contributors and this year was no exception. The committee extends a warm thank you to the sponsors of the 2006 Reaching Forward Conference: Barnes & Noble; Deloitte & Touche; DuPage Library System; Metropolitan Library System; North Suburban Library System; Public Library Association; Today's Business Solutions; Illinois Office of the Treasurer; Dominican University; and Joliet Junior College. Hats off to all of you!

ILA 2006 Annual Conference — Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois

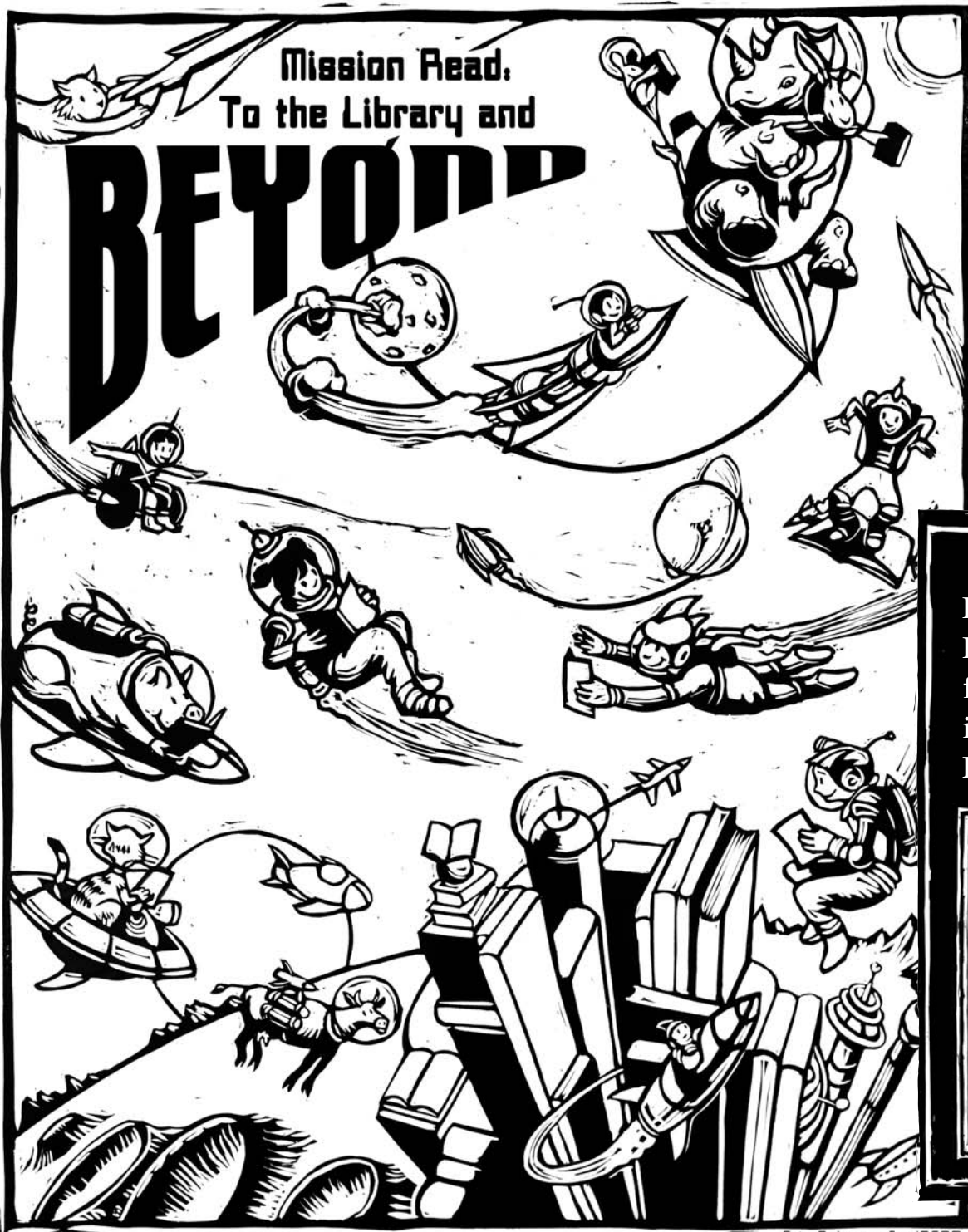
Reaching Forward is excited to be sponsoring a program at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference. Debra Wilcox Johnson will be doing a program titled "Change, Change is Everywhere." This work-life balance program will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 9:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M. See the preliminary conference program for details.

The Reaching Forward committee is always looking for ideas for future workshops or seminars and would welcome your comments and suggestions.

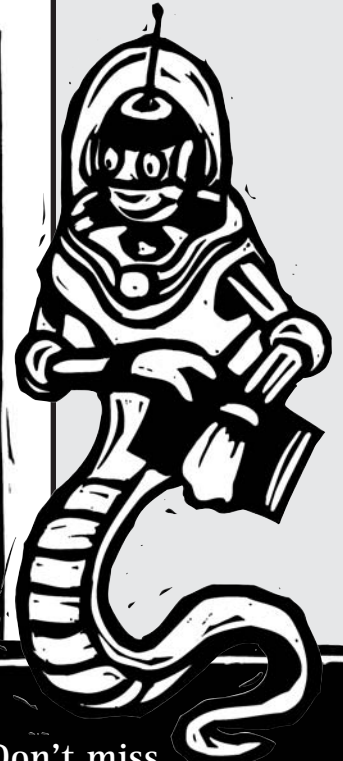
The support we have garnered over the years has been overwhelming, and the feedback has been positive. The committee, with the support of ILA, continues to work hard to offer programs and sessions that will enable support staff to enhance the present and reach to the future.

Success is a journey, filled with unique opportunities, lots of surprises and wonderful rewards. It is safe to assume that if laughter and smiles are an indicator of joy, then this year's Reaching Forward Conference was once again a joyful success.

We look forward to seeing you next year, Friday, 18 May 2007 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont!



Mission Read.
To the Library and
BEYOND



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IREAD 2007
featuring
illustrations by
Eric Rohmann!



Eric Rohmann for IREAD

IREAD 2007
Summer reading at its best!



IREAD THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM THAT SUCCEEDS!

IREAD 2007 illustrations by Illinois-based illustrator & author, Caldecott winner Eric Rohmann, author of *My Friend Rabbit*, *Clara and Asha*, *Pumpkinhead*, *The Cinder-Eyed Cats*, and *Time Flies*.



June 2006

- 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/>.

July 2006

- 7 **IREAD meeting**, 11:00 A.M., Fossil Ridge Public Library District, Braidwood, IL 60408-1903; phone: (815) 458-2187; fax: (815) 458-2042.
- 27 **ILA Orientation Session for New Leadership**, Alliance Library System, 600 High Point Ln., East Peoria, IL 61611; phone: (309) 353-4110 or 800-700-4857; fax: (309) 353-8281.
- 28 **ILA Executive Board meeting**, Alliance Library System, 600 High Point Ln., East Peoria, IL 61611; phone: (309) 353-4110 or 800-700-4857; fax: (309) 353-8281.

August 2006

- 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*.**
- 25 **Youth Services Forum meeting**, 11:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M., Vespasian Warner Public Library District, 310 N. Quincy, Clinton, Ill. 61727; phone: (217) 935-5174; fax: (217) 935-4425.

September 2006

- 8 **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.
- 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. 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 or contact Rick Mason, Kishwaukee College Library, phone: (815) 825-2086 x368 or contact@reachingforwardsouth.org.

October 2006

- 3–6 **ILA Annual Conference**, Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill.
- 15–21 **Teen Read Week**. The theme is Get Active @ your library, which encourages teens to use the resources at their library to lead an active life. For further information see www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenreading.htm.
- 16 **16th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture**, Alex Byrne, President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, “Can International Organizations Deliver the Information Society?” 4:00 P.M., Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Room 126, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. More information at: <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson/>.
- 20 **Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

November 2006

3 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.

10–12 Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Chicago Sheraton Northwest, Arlington Heights. For further information, see www.islma.org.

16–18 Illinois Authors Book Fair, Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1796; phone: (217) 782-2994; fax: (217) 785-4326.

December 2006

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

January 2007

10 2007 ILA Annual Conference program proposals due in the ILA Office.

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

February 2007

2 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.

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

March 2007

1–3 PLA Spring Symposium, San Jose, California; phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: pla@ala.org.

April 2007

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.cbcbbooks.org>.

20 Deadline for June issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

May 2007

1–2 National Library Legislative Day. The registration form will appear in the February 2007 *ILA Reporter*. The ALA briefing day will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

18 Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Ill. <http://www.reachingforward.org>.

June 2007

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

20–26 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>.

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

September 2007

22–29 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. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>.

October 2007

9–12 ILA Annual Conference, Springfield, Ill.

14–20 Teen Read Week. For further information see www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenreading.htm.

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

November 2007

4–6 Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see www.islma.org.

December 2007

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

January 2008

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

February 2008

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

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>.

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June 2008

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

26–2 ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

August 2008

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

September 2008

23–26 ILA Annual Conference, 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. For further information, see www.islma.org.

December 2008

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



Library Jobline of Illinois

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