REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2011 | VOLUME XXIX ISSUE 3

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

Miss Fury, #3 (January 1944)
Miss Fury was not the first female superhero (*The Woman in Red* predates her by a year), but she was the first superhero created by a female cartoonist (Tarpé Mills). *Miss Fury*, published by the Bell Syndicate, began as a newspaper strip in April 1941. Her alter ego was wealthy socialite Marla Drake, and although she had no superpowers, her skintight cat suit did conceal her identity. It also allowed her to do things most bored society women would never dream of. *Miss Fury* ran for just over ten years, which is considered a respectable run for superheroes of this era. See article beginning on page 8.

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 3,700 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.

The *ILA Reporter* is published six times/year (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.) and is a benefit of ILA membership; the subscription rate for nonmembers is $25. ISSN 0018-9979. Designed by Verso Design Corp., Joliet, Ill. Printed by Aspen Printing Services. Indexed by H.W. Wilson in *Library Literature & Information Science.*
The *ILA Reporter* was first published in 1962.

See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter.* Copy should be submitted by e-mail to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

JUNE 2011 | VOLUME XXIX ISSUE 3

CONTENTS

FEATURES

4 SERVING THE UNEMPLOYED IN TODAY'S ECONOMY: DOING IT TOGETHER!
by Nancy Ashbrook

8 COMIC BOOKS: SUPERHEROES OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
by Jason Nargis and Benn Joseph

13 NEW MEMBERS

14 ILA ELECTION RESULTS

16 2011 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION LIBRARY REFERENDUM RESULTS

18 2011 NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

OPINION & COMMENTARY

20 SALLY IN LIBRARYLAND
by Sally Decker Smith

22 MY TURN
by Diana Brawley Sussman

INSERTS

2011 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PREVIEW AND REGISTRATION FORM

Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 301 | Chicago, IL 60654
phone: (312) 644-1896 | fax: (312) 644-1899
e-mail: ila@ila.org | www.ila.org

2010/2011 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
Gail Bush, National-Louis University

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT
Lynn Elam, Algonquin Area Public Library District

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Carole A. Medal, Gail Borden Public Library District

TREASURER
Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University

DIRECTORS
Betsy Adamowski, Itasca Community Library
Laura Barnes, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Terry Cottrell, University of St. Francis Library
Cynthia L. Fuerst, Vernon Area Public Library District
David Hamilton, CARLI: Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois
Dianne Happ, Peoria Public Library
Sheree Kozel-La Ha, Homer Township Public Library District
Amanda McKay, Helen Matthes Library
Diana Brawley Sussman, Carbondale Public Library
Rebecca Teasdale, Oak Park Public Library
Leslie Warren, Moraine Valley Community College Library

ALA COUNCILOR
Donald L. Roalkvam, Indian Trails Public Library District

EX OFFICIO
Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association
Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library

EDITOR
Robert P. Doyle

MANAGING EDITOR
Kristy M. Mangel

Nancy Ashbrook, Glenview Public Library

Serving the Unemployed in Today's Economy: Doing It Together!

The Illinois Department of Employment Security touts the fact that the unemployment rate for Illinois has consistently dropped since January 2011 from a high of 9.6 percent to a March 2011 high of 9.1 percent. Considering that in January and March of 2010 respectively, the unemployment rate was 12.1 percent and 11.4 percent in Illinois, the decrease certainly points to a partial economic recovery for the state of Illinois. Articles in the news also indicate a recovery of sorts. McDonald's Corporation sponsored a National Hiring Day on April 19, 2011, hiring over 50,000 employees—that's about 1,500 workers in the Chicago area alone. Home Depot plans to hire 60,000 seasonal workers for its "heavy-traffic" spring season.

The statistics don't tell the whole story. Even though things may be better, unemployment rates are still high, which comes as no surprise to frontline library staff. The number of patrons still seeking employment are noticeable at almost every library, while libraries themselves are feeling the consequences of their own reduced budgets and less support from closed or merging library systems. With, in many cases, fewer staff members and more limited programming, what can libraries do to serve those seeking jobs?

The answer is: lots! Some activities are low- or no-cost alternatives, while others require at least a limited investment of time, effort, and money to start up and sustain. Depending on the library's strategies for serving this population, it may choose to work independently or in conjunction with other agencies. Services and programs can range from the simple to the complex, with a wide range of options in between.

Take a look at this list of choices below and consider how many are already in place at your library:

- Brochures/pamphlets of job-seekers' resources
- Computer workshops
- Special programming and cooperative partnerships
- Job boards, both print and online
- Job fairs

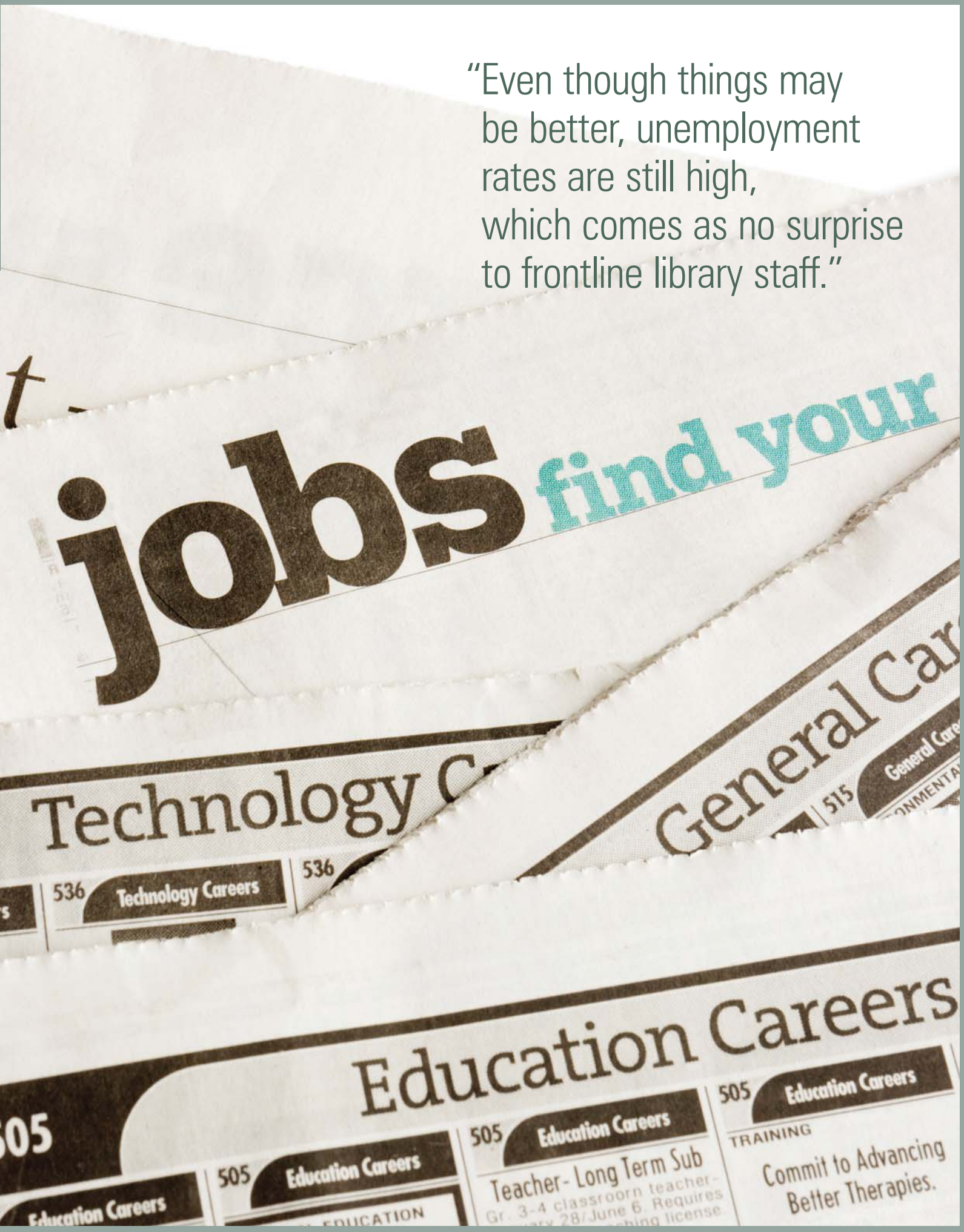
The following sections provide additional information on incorporating any of these strategies into your overall plan to serve job seekers and the unemployed. This is a service that will be of value to your community not only in the current economic climate, but also as young people come into the workforce and others change jobs throughout their careers.

BROCHURES/PAMPHLETS

Creating a print brochure or pamphlet is probably one of the easiest and least costly ways to serve those seeking employment. The print brochure would list current resources—books, DVDs, videos, e-books, audiobooks, etc.—in the library collections that provide information for the job seeker. Topics could include resume and cover letter creation, online applications, interviewing techniques, online job searching, and more. The brochure could also have a section devoted to any community resources that are available to the job seeker and a list of free Internet Web sites that could be of help. Going one step further, the brochure could be incorporated into the library's Web site as a research page with links to the listed resources in the library's online catalog, community outreach organizations, and other Web pages that assist patrons in updating their skill sets.

[continued on page 6]

"Even though things may be better, unemployment rates are still high, which comes as no surprise to frontline library staff."



[continued from page 4]

While this requires an initial time commitment, the overall cost is relatively small and provides an on-going resource that requires limited maintenance. It saves staff time in gathering the same information time and again for patron requests, gives the patron an easy-reference take-away to use at home as well as at the library, and brands the library as a helpful, relevant, and constructive resource. Finally, it's a great example to share with library supporters, both private and public, about the role of the library in the economic well-being of the community.

COMPUTER WORKSHOPS

The need for updated computer skills is a valuable commodity on any job applicant's resume, and this is something your library can support whether it has state-of-the-art computing or just a handful of workstations. Most libraries offer some basic skill workshops covering Internet navigation, use of word-processing and other software, e-mail access; some libraries offer orientation classes for social networking sites such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook. These workshops are typically free of charge, but some have modest fees. Consider adapting one of these to a more focused workshop for job seekers—think about a registration fee if necessary, or see if you might be able to find a source of outside funding.

In my experience at Glenview Public Library, job seekers are looking less for job search skills than for finding job lists with employers that will hire them. This led to the development of a research guide and an Online Job Searching computer workshop where participants click on various job search Web sites including government job Web sites, the "biggie" job Web sites (Monster.com, CareerBuilder.com, Indeed.com, etc.), and some local and regional job Web sites. In this workshop, we quickly evaluate the types of positions offered, what to look for, how to apply, and any other information given. Also, information gleaned from magazine and newspaper articles is offered concerning keyword search strategies, jobs for "over-fifty-five" patrons, and other nuggets of information. The Online Job Searching research guide is available at www.glenviewpl.org/onlinejobs.htm.

We also provide access to subscription services such as *Learning Express Library, Lynda.com,* or *Gale/Cengage's Testing & Education Reference Center* where tutorials for computers, as well as test preparation practice exams, are offered 24/7 with library card authentication. If your library doesn't have access to these subscription services, direct job-seeking patrons to free online resources, such as:

- Microsoft Tutorials,
  Web site: http://www.office.microsoft.com
- Baycon Group Microsoft Tutorials,
  Web site: http://www.baycongroup.com/word.htm
- SeniorNet Tutorials, Tips & Demonstrations,
  Web site: http://www.seniornet.org
- Mouserobics, developed by Chris Rippel,
  Web site: http://www.ckls.org/~crippel/computerlab/tutorials/mouse/page1.html

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING & COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Programs on resume and cover letter preparation are well attended the first or second time they are offered, but interest seems to wane if the sessions aren't updated or reformatted. Chicago Ridge Public Library offered a weekly Job Club with a paid facilitator where attendees helped other attendees focus on their job search. After six months of weekly meetings and the facilitator "retiring," the Job Club has moved to a monthly format. The Glenview Public Library works in cooperation with the Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), offering six half-hour appointments per month with a professional job counselor. Depending on the applicant's needs, the counselor will discuss resume or cover letter composition, interview role play, job search strategies, etc. JVS works with a number of libraries in the northern suburbs, but has had to cut back on its outreach services.

Other libraries work in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Small Business Administration, SCORE, and colleges or universities to offer programs pertinent to job seekers such as coping with job loss, entrepreneurship, and maintaining a positive attitude. Arlington Heights Memorial Library applied for and received multiple grants from the Rotary Club of Arlington Heights to offer an extended series of more than forty programs to more than 1,500 job-seeking attendees. Program titles included "LinkedIn Profile Training," "Power Resumes," "Impact Interviewing," and "Finding a Job after Fifty." In addition to the Job Seekers series, the library hosts weekly job support networking groups in its business center.

JOB BOARDS, PRINT & ONLINE

In the past, libraries had bulletin boards where employers could post local want ads. Then in an effort to "clean up" the bulletin boards, the employers' want ads went into a notebook binder usually kept at the reference desk. Because of changing technologies and search methods, few libraries today offer a "job board" either in print or online, but this is an area that presents opportunities to be more creative. Think about going low-tech with a Jobs Listings notebook or high-tech with a page on the library's Web site devoted to local area jobs—it can be a good way to connect the library to employers as well as job seekers.

JOB FAIRS

One of the most rewarding and time-consuming activities a library can undertake is to sponsor a job fair. Elizabeth Neill, reference librarian at Bellwood Public Library, organized not one, not two, but three job fairs within a one-year period. The first in September 2010 was organized in three months and involved extensive telephone networking with many starts and stops. Neill spent hours compiling contact lists from the *Manufacturer's Directory, Reference USA,* and *Hoovers* and making those telephone calls with unsatisfactory results. Taking time to visit other job fairs, including one organized by the College of DuPage, gave her contacts and staffing agencies that would participate in Bellwood's job fair.

She also contacted her local congressman's office, which led to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management participating in the first job fair. The end result was twelve employers participating in the first job fair with over 250 people from the community attending. The second job fair in January 2011 had fourteen employers and over 400 people from the community attending. The third job fair in April 2011 was the most successful with eighteen employers participating and over 450 people from the community attending.

Some of the obstacles encountered included employers not set up to participate in a job fair and/or not having the desire to participate; employers having their own human resources process and/or not having an HR person available to participate; manufacturers not hiring at this time and when they do, preferring to hire through a temporary agency; employers not accustomed to considering a library as a place to find employees; and finally employers not wanting to hire personnel that might come from beyond their immediate geographic radius.

When asked if she would do it again, Neill laughs and explains, "It's hard to do a job fair well. Others are in the business and have developed a large following. You have to be quite organized, devote an incredible amount of time to telephone networking, and … three of these may be enough for now."

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

For the Bellwood Public Library, the publicity and value that resulted from the job fairs made it a real community "place." For my library and others that are working hard to find ways to help get our communities "back to work," these efforts are rewarding in ways that go beyond what you might imagine. Libraries and librarians have always been willing to share their resources and ideas with each other, and this article is just a start on how we can improve and strengthen our work in this area.

Draw on some of the resources here, and better yet, think about mixing and matching with ideas of your own and resources in your community. For instance, maybe reaching out to a couple of area employers to list jobs on the library Web site could lead to an informal hiring fair at the library. Or, linking to the job seeker resources at another library could build a partnership for additional programming. Send your own ideas and strategies to doyle@ila.org, and we'll find a way to disseminate through the ILA Web site and future issues of the *ILA e-Newsletter.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Darnton, Robert. "5 Myths about the Information Age," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (2011). Accessed online 20 April 2011.

Durrance, Joan C. *Serving Job Seekers and Career Changers: A Planning Manual for Public Libraries.* Chicago: Public Library Association, American Library Association, 1993.

E-mail Survey to Metropolitan Library System & North Suburban Library System. 20 April 2011.

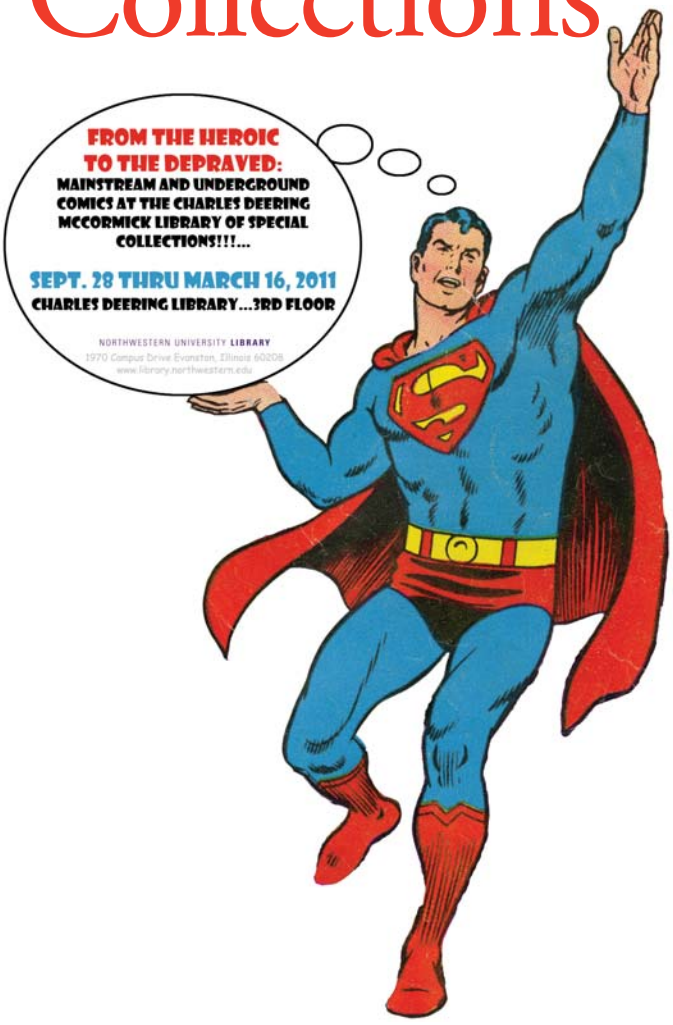
Jerrard, Jane. *Crisis in Employment: A Librarian's Guide to Helping Job Seekers.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2009.

Neill, Elizabeth. "Organizing a Job Fair." Telephone interview. 21 April 2011.

Nelson, Sandra S. *Strategic Planning for Results.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2008.

Jason Nargis and Benn Joseph, Northwestern University

Comic Books: Superheroes of Special Collections



The comic book collection at Northwestern University's Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections has a unique status as being the only archive initiated by a donation from an undergraduate. When religion major Juan Cole offered his 1,100 comic books to Special Collections curator Russell Maylone in 1972, he could not have known what a snowball effect his gift would have. Within a year four other donors had come forward, the collection had grown to 3,600 issues, and superstar comics creator and publisher Stan Lee was speaking at the dedication ceremony on February 7, 1973. While many students browse the collection on Saturday mornings as a break from their studies, the library sees the comics as a legitimate research source. The entertainment works of popular culture contain a wealth of information about the society that created them. A scholar using the books might focus on characterization of women, minorities, or communism over time, or more.

In a recent exhibit, *From the Heroic to the Depraved,* Northwestern University Manuscript Librarians Benn Joseph and Jason Nargis presented an overview of the history and scope of the comic book archive in the McCormick Library. From a sixteenth century BC illustrated *Egyptian Book of the Dead* to contemporary minimalist Web-based comic *xkcd,* the interweaving of text and image (and sometimes just image) has formed a powerful and unique form of communication and storytelling spanning thousands of years. Comics, or sequential visual stories, create a shared space of creation and comprehension: it is the combination of the imagination of the artist with the imagination of the viewer that permits the realization of the narrative.

[continued on page 10]

Amazing Adult Fantasy, #14 (July 1962))
Amazing Adult Fantasy was changed to *Amazing Fantasy* for the subsequent issue, which introduced Spider-Man, but was then slated for cancellation. Spider-Man was given his own series, beginning in March 1963. (see page 11).

IND.

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

12¢

Amazing ADULT Fantasy

MC

14 JULY

YOU WILL READ ONE OF THE MOST UNEXPECTED SURPRISE ENDINGS OF ALL TIME, IN...

BEWARE THE GIANTS!

THE MAGAZINE THAT RESPECTS YOUR INTELLIGENCE

[continued from page 8]

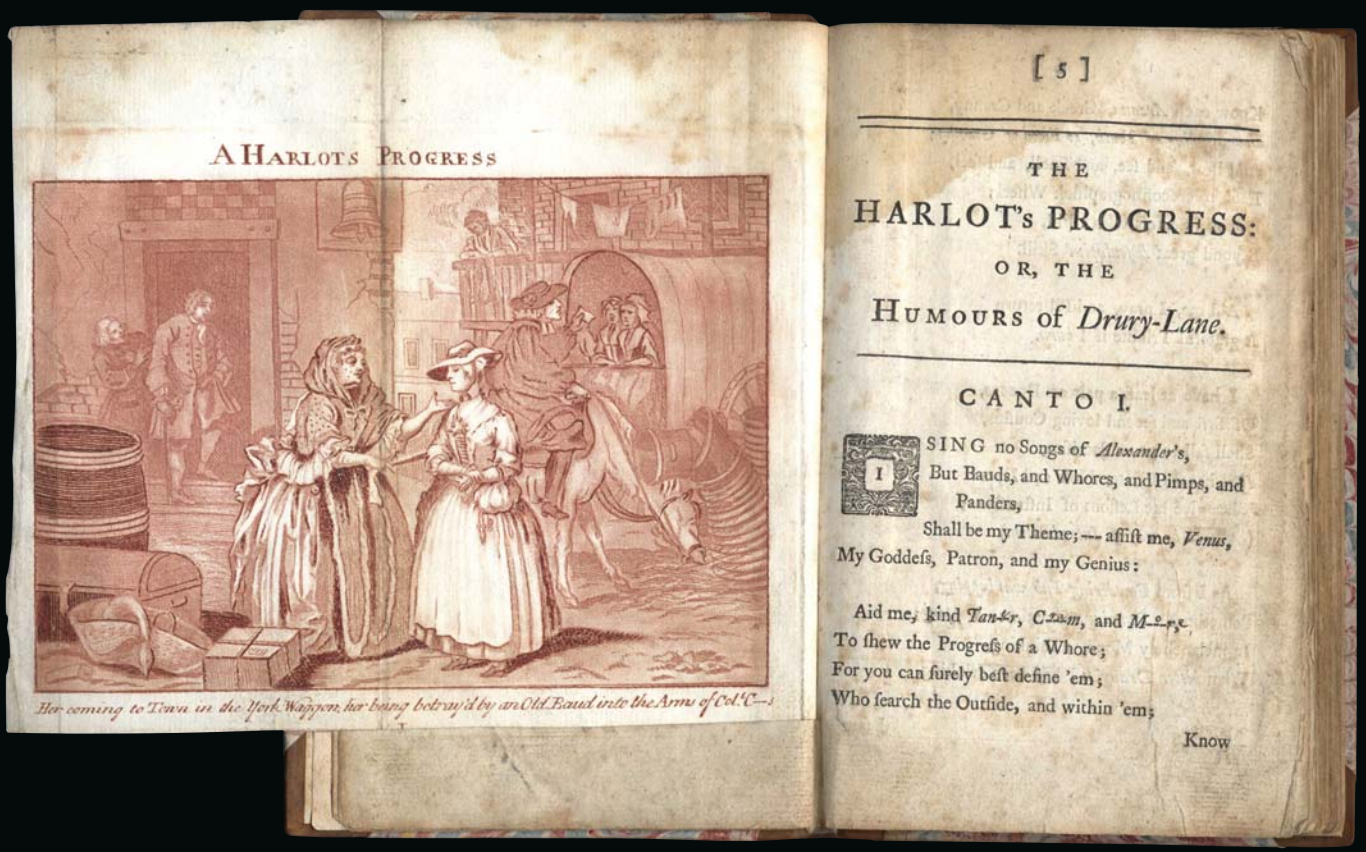
Comic books are one of the most effective and popular mass media of the twentieth century, but the story of sequential graphic art begins long before the first "funny pages" appeared in American newspapers in the late nineteenth century. The exhibit focuses predominantly on traditional comic books, but contextualizes the origins of the art form through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with early examples of satirical broadsides, the "modern moral subjects" of William Hogarth, Blake prints, wordless woodcut novels, and more. As an easily reproducible, affordable, and accessible format, these works had significant social impact. With this show, the curators showcase the quality and depth of the library's holdings, but also show the progression of the art form and evolution of visual storytelling over time. On the other hand, the art can simply stand and speak for itself; comics are just fun to look at and present visually arresting and dynamic scenes that serve as a gateway into other parts of special collections and primary source materials.

The exhibit represents just a portion of the comic book holdings of the McCormick library, which is a "use" collection, meaning the library is not hoarding these items for their material value. Many of the comics in our collection, including *Amazing Spider-Man* #1, have been read many times. We encourage anyone who is interested in comic books to come to the library and see what we have.

SEARCHING FOR HEROES

With around 25,000 comics available, many of them uncataloged, it was difficult to choose what to include in the exhibit. We began by reviewing the card catalog (paper version) that existed for a good portion of the collection, and created lists of items to consider based on their age and genre. These catalog cards also included holdings, but not necessarily all of them, so a good portion of our time was spent thumbing through the boxes, which fortunately had been arranged in roughly alphabetical order. The underground titles had originally been a separate archive, so the several hundred issues making up this highly complete collection were easier to peruse.

The majority of the collection consists of mainstream comics from the Silver Age, roughly 1956 to 1970, and focuses primarily on the superhero and science-fiction genres. The superhero genre



A Harlot's Progress, by William Hogarth (1740)
Hogarth was an English artist often cited as the father of sequential art in western culture. *A Harlot's Progress,* six paintings published as engravings, shows the downfall of a country lass who comes to the city and falls into prostitution, leading to disease and death.

is what is most commonly associated with mainstream comics, and this genre is generally considered to have begun in 1938 with the release of *Action Comics* #1 featuring the character Superman, created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Numerous other superheroes with similar superpowers followed: Captain Marvel in *Whiz Comics,* The Flash, Spider-Man, Batman, The Human Torch, and others. For mainstream comics, there's very little in our collection that is pre-1938, or "platinum era" (essentially the beginning of the superhero genre).

In choosing the mainstream material for the exhibit, an attempt was made to select as broad a cross-section of comics as possible, while also hitting any major events in comics history that might be represented in our collection. There were countless memorable (and often amusing) covers for *Detective Comics, Adventure Comics,* and so on, but we felt it was important to showcase the more substantive issues as well. We may not have had things like *Woman in Red* (first female superhero) or either of the two issues of Lobo (the first African-American character to headline his own comic, published by Dell in 1965), but we do have an issue of *Miss Fury* (the first superhero created by a female cartoonist) and the January 1972 issue of *Green Lantern* where DC Comics debuts their first African-American superhero in a mainstream headlining role (i.e., the word "black" wasn't in the publication's title or the character's name). In a similar vein, we may not have had *Detective Comics* #27, which featured the first appearance of Batman, but we did have *Amazing Spider-Man* #1, which of course had to be part of the exhibit.

Our goal was to strike a balance between items with a general "wow" factor and more substantive issues, but some of our work was just seeing what was there. Without doing the research, we wouldn't have been aware that many of the items chosen even existed. But then again, that's what made it fun.

GOING UNDERGROUND

The satirical, self-published underground comix (the "x" denoting the adult nature of the genre) movement developed amidst the counterculture turmoil of the late 1960s. Liberalized attitudes toward sex, drugs, music, government, and other norms inform the stories and characters of these narratives, and are often presented with a prevailing sense of satire, sarcasm, or even paranoia. As it did for many elements of this new

[continued on page 12]

Green Lantern/Green Arrow, #87 (January 1972)
Created by Bill Finger and Martin Nodell and published by DC Comics, this issue of Green Lantern introduces one of the first black superheroes without a code name that began conspicuously with the word "black."

Amazing Spider-Man, #1 (March 1963)
This is the first appearance of Spider-Man in his own series, but his second appearance ever (Amazing Fantasy #15 came first). This issue and Amazing Adult Fantasy #14 (on page 9), both by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, are unique in that they bookend the first-ever appearance of Spider Man.

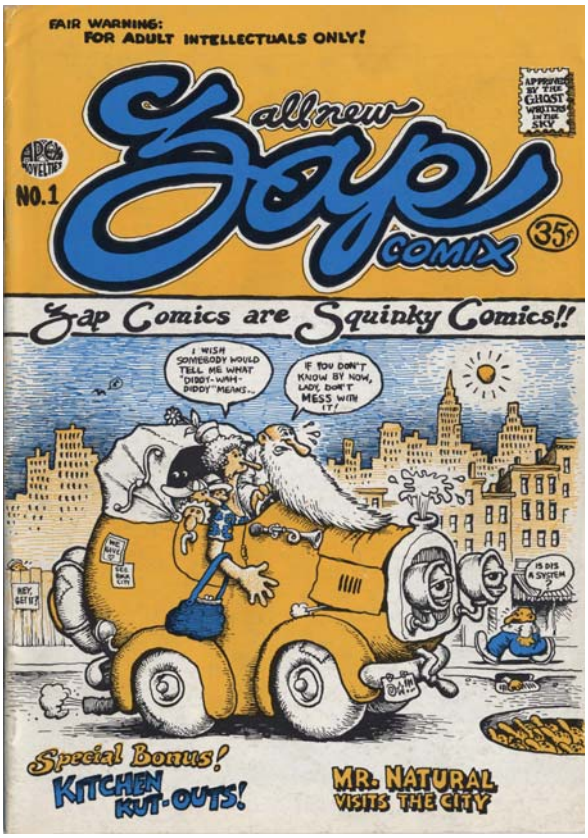
[continued from page 11]

culture, the San Francisco Bay Area served as the cradle for the comix movement. There, leftist politics met private printing know-how (an effect of the music poster printing industry), allowing artists to professionally print small runs of their work. While they were absolutely a form of protest against the status quo and censorship, comix were also a brutally honest form of self-expression in an age when many young people were searching for a voice of their own.

Comix creators found inspiration in many places, including in the unauthorized, hand-drawn, pornographic renditions of popular comic book characters and celebrities known as "Tijuana Bibles." In the 1920s through the 1940s, these short, paneled, adolescent stories circulated widely and influenced many future comix stars. Horror and true crime titles, mostly from EC (Entertaining Comics) in post-World War II America, were also central to the development of comix. The graphic violence, gore, and unflinching presentations of drug use and other crimes prompted the U.S. Senate to hold hearings in 1954 investigating comics, after which the industry conservatively regulated itself through the Comics Code Authority. This code effectively banned all the "perverse" elements that would arise again in the late 1960s in works by comix artists such as R. Crumb, Gilbert Shelton, S. Clay Wilson, and Spain Rodriguez.

In representing the underground comix in the exhibit, we also strove for a balance between displaying the "classics," while also highlighting the breadth and diversity of the genre and our holdings. Early and genre-defining titles such as *Zap Comix, Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, Bijou Funnies,* and *Feds 'N' Heads* had to be present, but we also devoted a section to comix and women's liberation with *It Ain't Me Babe, Wimmin's Comix, Girl Fight Comics,* and others. Other issues with more comedic satire and autobiographical stories are also included. The "perversity" of some of the material created a challenging curatorial situation in which we were cognizant of the centrality of sex, violence, and gore to the art form, and felt obligated to display that, but also did not want to have an unnecessarily grotesque exhibit. We showed representative examples of censorship challenging art, but did not belabor the points, selecting less inappropriate pages and covers when possible.

The exhibit also briefly follows the changing landscape of comix after a 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowed local governments to determine what they considered obscene. With retail outlets disappearing and revenue drying up, many titles and publishing houses folded. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was a trend toward collaborative underground anthologies and more graphic design-oriented work. The magazine *RAW* was a comic anthology with an art and design focus, and included the serial publication of Art Spiegelman's *Maus* story before it was combined into the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel.



Zap Comix #1, 1968
R. Crumb's *Zap* #1 opened the underground comix floodgates. Minds were blown, sensibilities were offended, artists were inspired: it was the start of a movement. Crumb presented a fully-realized vision, completed in high-quality drawing and professionally printed. It was this cover that popularized the spelling of "comix" with an "x".

THE BIG PICTURE

Comic books are central in many ways to the manner in which our culture makes sense of the contemporary world. We have become a highly image-oriented society, with ads, videos, and screens constantly bombarding our senses, with words and images inextricably intertwined. We are fluent in a vast language of iconography and visual allusion, often without realizing it, and our contemporary sensibility embraces fragmented narrative, moral ambiguity, visual tropes, and the disjointed passage of time. The art form of sequential graphic art was responsible for teaching us much of this skill set, and it is still a great tool for teaching inference and visual foreshadowing. How we fill the space between the word and the image illuminates how we perceive the world and teaches us a lot about ourselves. Comics are not just stories in which we participate as readers and viewers, but effectively form a world that we inhabit as participants. From the heroic to the depraved, from Superman to the Holocaust, comics are an integral part of today's cultural imagination.

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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

R.W. Baird, Naperville

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Jamie Conklin, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Megan Murray Cusick, Chicago Public Schools
Kassandra Doty, Elmhurst Public Library
Jolene Franciskovich, Coal City Public Library District
Alex Gregoire, Oak Park Public Library
Carolyn Healy, Wilmington Public Library District
Keisha Hester, Calumet City Public Library
Irene Hoffman, OCLC, Inc., Highland Park
Juliet Kerico, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Mary Krekelberg, Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien
Erica Liptack, Prairie Trails Public Library District, Burbank
James McMillan, Springfield
Lynette Miller, Carbondale Public Library
Teodora Nestorowski, Vernon Area Public Library District, Lincolnshire
Michele Piver, Helen M. Plum Memorial Library, Lombard
Jennifer Schwartz, DePaul University Library, Chicago
Zena Smith, Midlothian Public Library
Janis Stehlik-Barry, Brookfield Public Library
Michelle Swiat, Orland Park

STUDENT MEMBERS

Lori Larratt, Dominican University, River Forest
Renee Neumeier, Mount Prospect Public Library
Rebecca Smith, Chicago
Eden Tallon, Springfield
Lois Wilkins, Gary, Ind.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Jonathan Chestang, Richton Park Public Library District
Gerald Dujsik, Alsip-Merrionette Park Library District
Brian Gilligan, Mount Prospect Public Library
Michelle Ogletree, Richton Park Public Library District
Andrew V. Wolkiewicz, Morrison-Talbott Library, Waterloo

2011 ELECTION RESULTS

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

424 Pam Van Kirk,
Galesburg Public Library

380 Charm Ruhnke,
Peru Public Library

Pam will begin her three-year term on July 1, 2011, running through June 30, 2014.

Board of Directors (a three-year term beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014). One candidate from each pairing was elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

474 Kate Hall,
New Lenox Public Library District

327 Jennifer E. Bueche,
Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

469 Jeanne Hamilton,
Charleston Cargnegie Public Library

333 John E. Sayers,
Kewanee Public Library District

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

413 David H. Carlson,
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

392 Ellen Sutton,
College of DuPage Library, Glen Ellyn

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

406 Scott E. Pointon,
Des Plaines Valley Public Library District,
Lockport

392 Alissa Williams,
Pekin Public Library

This was the seventh year that ILA experimented with electronic voting. In 2011, with 3,054 personal members eligible to vote, 851 voted (**28 percent**). This breaks down as: 769 electronic (2,508 electronic voters or 31 percent) and 82 paper (546 eligible paper voters or 15 percent).

In 2010, with 3,059 personal members eligible to vote, 840 voted (**27 percent**). This breaks down as: 776 electronic (2,639 electronic voters or 29 percent) and 64 paper (420 eligible paper voters or 15 percent).

In 2009, with 2,477 personal members eligible to vote, 834 voted (**34 percent**). This breaks down as: 762 electronic (2,004 eligible electronic voters or 38 percent) and 74 paper (473 eligible paper voters or 16 percent).

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ELECTION STATISTICS

As a point of comparison, in the 2011 American Library Association (ALA) election, with 52,901 eligible to vote: 9,613 voted (18 percent).

In the 2010 ALA election, with 55,330 eligible to vote: 11,069 voted (20 percent).

In the 2009 ALA election, with 56,069 eligible to vote: 13,125 voted (23.41 percent), breaking down to: 12,610 electronic (26 percent) and 500 paper (6.62 percent).

In the 2008 ALA election, with 59,141 eligible to vote: 17,089 voted (28.90 percent), breaking down to: 15,655 electronic (32.52 percent) and 1,434 paper (13.04 percent).

Year	Ballots returned	Total personal members	Percent of membership
2011	851	3,054 personal members	28 percent
2010	840	3,059 personal members	27 percent
2009	834	2,477 personal members	34 percent
2008	839	2,459 personal members	34 percent
2007	613	2,457 personal members	25 percent
2006	648	2,453 personal members	26 percent
2005	472	2,462 personal members	19 percent
2004	727	2,330 personal members	31 percent
2003	742	2,403 personal members	31 percent
2002	787	2,481 personal members	32 percent
2001	817	2,456 personal members	33 percent
2000	914	2,532 personal members	36 percent
1999	982	2,471 personal members	40 percent
1998	1,110	2,489 personal members	45 percent
1997	886	2,262 personal members	39 percent

2011 Consolidated Election Library Referendum Results

In the latest election, there were eight library referenda — four passed, four failed, for a 50 percent success rate.

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Referenda Type	Result	Description
Farmington Area Public Library District	Fulton, Peoria	Bond	**Failed**	Shall the bonds of the Farmington Area Public Library District, Peoria and Fulton Counties, Illinois, in the amount of $3,690,000 be issued for the purpose of building a new library building, furnishing necessary equipment, and acquiring library materials and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?
Harvey Public Library District	Cook	Bond	**Passed**	Shall the bonds of the Harvey Public Library District, Cook County, Illinois, in the amount of $16,225,000 be issued for the purpose of erecting a building to be used as a library, purchasing a site, and furnishing necessary equipment therefore and acquiring library materials (such as books, periodicals, films, and recordings) and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?
Indian Trails Public Library District	Cook, Lake	Tax	**Passed**	Shall the extension limitation under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Indian Trails Public Library District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois, be increased from the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index over the prior levy year to 9.80% for 2011? For the 2011 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of $100,000 is estimated to be $2.77 in Cook County and is estimated to be $9.25 in Lake County.
Mahomet Public Library District	Champaign	Tax	**Failed**	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Mahomet Public Library District, Champaign County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to .05% above the limiting rate for levy year 2009 and be equal to .2461% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2011?
Mercer Carnegie Public Library District	Mercer	Bond	**Failed**	Shall the bonds of the Mercer Carnegie Public Library District, Mercer County, Illinois, in the amount of $2,800,000 be issued for the purpose of repairing, remodeling, improving, and building an addition to the existing library building, constructing site improvements, furnishing necessary equipment, and acquiring library materials and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Referenda Type	Result	Description
North Pike District Library	Pike	Miscellaneous	**Passed**	Shall a North Pike District Library be established in part of Pike County?
Pecatonia Community Unit School District No. 321	Stephenson, Winnebago	Miscellaneous	**Passed**	Shall the unserved territory in the Pecatonica Community Unit School District No. 321 in Winnebago County be annexed to the Pecatonica Public Library District, Winnebago, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois?
Prairie Heritage District Library	Menard	Miscellaneous	**Failed**	Shall a Prairie Heritage District Library be established in part of Menard County and under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, may an aggregate extension, not to exceed $125,000, be made for the Prairie Heritage District Library 2011 levy year?

2011 National Library Legislative Day

Registration Numbers for National Library Legislative Day

Year	Illinois Attendance	Total Attendance
2011	25	361
2010*	81	2,000
2009	53	410
2008	52	405
2007	76	422
2006	68	525
2005	62	480
2004	58	500
2003	49	450
2002	68	450
2001	81	444
2000	76	500
1999	90	600
1998	78	450
1997	73	500
1996	62	500
1995	58	450
1994	60	500
1993	59	No Data
1992	46	550
1991	50	550
1990	50	550

*Held in conjunction with the 2010 ALA Annual Conference

Attendance by the ten most populous states: California 15; Texas 7; New York 11; Florida 1; Illinois 25; Pennsylvania 9; Ohio 13; Michigan 13; New Jersey 14; and Georgia 2. Total attendance 361.

The Illinois delegation requested our elected officials to support the following issues:

APPROPRIATIONS FY2012

- Funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $232 million, the level last authorized in December 2010;
- Preserving the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program with its own budget line and appropriating the program at its FY 2010 level of $19.1 million;
- Maintaining funding for the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Compendia Branch at $2.9 million in order to preserve publication of "Statistical Abstracts" and other publications;
- Funding the Salaries and Expenses work of the Government Printing Office (GPO) at $42,173,000 to preserve public access through the FDLP and FedSYS.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Sunset Extension Act of 2011 and the JUSTICE Act (USA Patriot Act):

- ALA supports the USA PATRIOT Act Sunset Extension Act (S. 193). It provides improved legal review for use of Section 215 business records orders to obtain library and bookseller records as well as a meaningful review of the gag orders, imposes a sunset on the National Security Letter (NSL) statutes, and brings the NSL statutes in line with the First Amendment.
- Cosponsor bills with language consistent with the previous JUSTICE Act, expected to be reintroduced in the Senate soon.

Libraries & Workforce Investment:

- ALA supports the Workforce Investment through Local Libraries (WILL) Act (H.R. 1616), which amends the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to include public libraries as "One-Stop" partners, eligible for resources to help the public with resume development, job bank web searches, literacy services, and workshops on career information. Co-sponsor this bill.

Network (Net) Neutrality (Broadband & Telecommunications):

- The ALA opposes S.J. Res. 6, the resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the FCC regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices. The ALA strongly opposes any legislation to overturn or undermine the recent net neutrality decision by the FCC.

Orphan Works (Copyright):

- The ALA would consider a legislative proposal related to orphan works that would not be unduly burdensome (requiring beyond what libraries already do in their attempts to identify copyright holders) and would reduce statutory damages sought if a copyright holder were to come forward.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (School Libraries):

- Support student performance by including an effective school library program as part of ESEA through the LEARN Act to include:
  1. A school library staffed by a state-certified school librarian;
  2. A school library with up-to-date books, materials, equipment, and technology, including broadband connectivity; and
  3. Instruction by librarians for students and staff on digital and computer literacy skills, including collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians to develop and implement the curriculum and other school reforms.

Increase Public Access to Federally Funded Research (Open Access):

- The ALA asks for legislation such as that introduced in the 111th Congress, the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) of 2009 (S. 1373/H.R. 5037) to be reintroduced and passed. Such legislation would contribute significantly to a more transparent government that provides public access to taxpayer-supported research results.

Library Jobline of Illinois

http://www.ila.org/jobline

Positions for Librarians and Support Staff

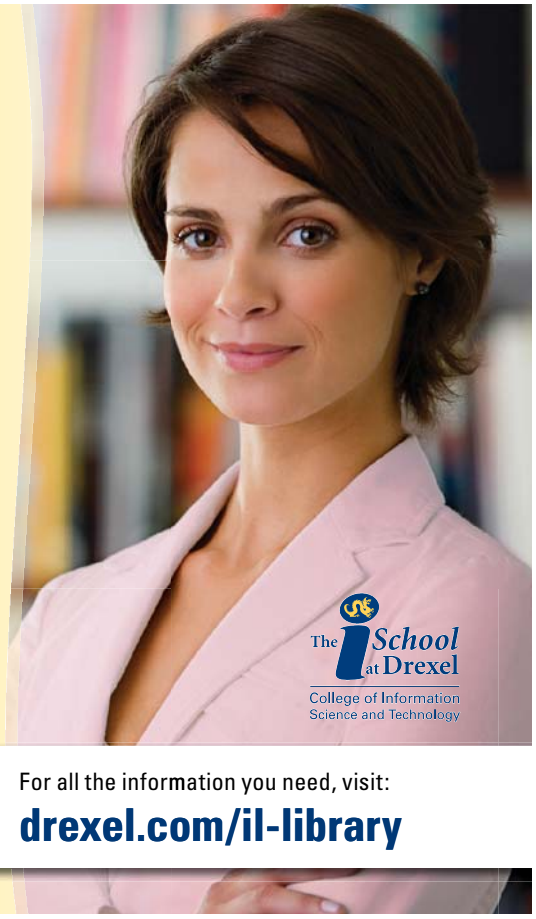
All employer job openings are listed on the ILA Web site (www.ila.org/jobline) for 30 days and the cost is $100.

EXPAND YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
with Drexel Online

Drexel University Online offers top-ranked library science programs in a **convenient, 24/7 online format**. Programs offered through The *iSchool* at Drexel keep you ahead of the curve with the latest technology and industry trends. Advance your information career with Drexel Online.

Academic Excellence, Online Convenience

- ILA members receive a 20% tuition reduction for *iSchool* programs
- ALA-accredited library science program
- Library & Information Studies ranked #9 among "America's BEST Graduate Schools" by *U.S.News & World Report*



Drexel University Online
Your Classroom. Anywhere™

866-803-0053 | partners@drexel.edu

For all the information you need, visit:
drexel.com/il-library

Sally Decker Smith, Independent Library Consultant

Sally in Libraryland

When ALA meets in New Orleans in June, it will be the end of my three-year term as a councilor at large, and wow, have I ever learned a lot from the experience. I actually didn't realize that ILA is a chapter of ALA, for example, and I've been a member of both all my library life. That's why every state has a chapter councilor, who is an active member of council and a liaison between council and their state association. In some places, the president of the state association is also the chapter councilor. Sometimes they're appointed. ILA's are elected — currently, our chapter councilor is Don Roalkvam. He has a lot of council experience!

ALA's governing system is different from ILA's. Better or worse? Impossible to say — just different. ILA's sixteen-person member-elected executive board meets regularly and essentially accomplishes for the state membership what council does for ALA's national membership.

At every ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting, approximately 190 people serving on council gather in a large room for hours and hours. The president, president-elect, executive director, and parliamentarian are at a raised head table. Considering that working with 190 library personalities to achieve consensus on anything is like herding cats, it goes remarkably smoothly when the president (who, obviously, presides) has the people who can answer questions right there. Enormous kudos are due to Keith Fiels (ALA Executive Director) and Eli Mena (Parliamentarian) — they both walk the tightrope of wanting an efficient and effective meeting but as they are not voting members of council, they tread carefully.

Council Secretariat Lois Ann Wood is the person without whom council would not function. Invariably, the need for some particular piece of paper brings the proceedings to a sudden halt. Seconds later, Lois Ann hands whatever it is up to the head table. Councilors have to be recognized by the president to speak (as in, "microphone five," not, "hey, there's Rob"), and the microphones scattered throughout the room are turned on one at a time as each speaker is acknowledged. A colored light system lets the speakers know when their three minutes are up. And the microphone shuts off, just in case they were inclined to keep talking.

Tamiye Meehan, former ILA president and my former boss at Indian Trails Public Library District, is the one who urged me to run for a councilor-at-large seat. (If you've interacted with Tamiye on any level, you know that once she decides you should do something, you might as well just do it, because no matter how long you fight it, you'll most likely end up doing what she wants in the end.) The election results were coincidentally announced the day of our annual staff institute, and Tamiye made the announcement to a roomful of my co-workers that did not include me, because no one realized I had ducked out briefly. So people kept congratulating me on my way back into the meeting room, and I had no idea why!

I was truly fortunate that Tamiye said Indian Trails Public Library District would fully support my participation — they committed to sending me to Midwinter and Annual for three years. Not all councilors are so lucky, and I can't imagine how many good people never run because they can't take on that sort of financial burden.

In the new "virtual" world, ALA is exploring all sorts of ways of getting more done electronically so that more people can participate. As it happened, things changed at Indian Trails, and the second half of my term has been self-funded. But I felt an obligation to the people who voted for me, and have been able to make it work, thanks in no small part to congenial cost-sharing roommates!

When people heard that I was running, a comment I often heard was, "Why would you want to do that?" Depending on the day, I had various answers: It was about time I gave something back to this profession; I either agreed or disagreed with things ALA had done, and wanted to be part of the decision making; it would be nice to be assured of attending ALA Annual Conferences. "They're mean," I heard. "If you sit in a seat someone considers theirs, they yell at you." I never once saw this happen. As you would expect, people gravitated to places where they felt comfortable with the sight lines, proximity to coffee or restrooms, or a microphone, if they planned to talk. And since there are three council sessions, after Council I, people tended to return to the same seats — or the same general area — for Council II and III.

And mean? Tina Hubert, then finishing her term as chapter councilor, showed me how to organize the piles of paper distributed at every meeting, gave me a handy-dandy loose-leaf sort of ring I could use to keep them organized, and clued me in that on the last day, they brought in rolls with the coffee. Someone else told me where the laptop section was (in the old days, when outlets were hard to come by — now there are outlets available no matter where you sit). When you least expect it, the councilor sitting next to you hands you a bag of snacks, and you can take one and pass it on.

I noticed at my first meeting that there was much knitting and crocheting going on among the councilors. It's genius, really. I even spoke to a librarian from New York who said in her school they teach every third grader how to knit, boys and girls, and then knitting goes on all over the place, including at faculty meetings. They found it actually helps concentration, and although that's counterintuitive, I found it to be true. People have turned out socks, scarves, and vests, and the Massachusetts chapter councilor cranks out Irish fisherman knit sweaters without a pattern! Although my previous knitting experience was limited to rectangles, my Massachusetts friend taught me how to knit baby hats. I've turned out at least one baby hat per conference, never once fell asleep, and never once lost the thread of a discussion.

Everyone is respectful, no matter how much they disagree with a colleague's position. Some people do feel they need to contribute to every single discussion — sometimes only to say, "I agree with the seven previous speakers," taking their allotted three minutes to do it. Parliamentary procedure allows for a motion to conclude discussion, and although such a motion is not made as often as you might think, when made, it nearly always passes. Council is also blessed with grammar wonks, who are able to parse every sentence and fine-tune every word so that when a council resolution passes, it means what we intended it to mean, and will not embarrass us with grammar or spelling errors when it makes its way out into the wider world.

Membership meetings at the ALA Annual Conference, I am sorry to tell you, are poorly attended. A quorum is seventy-five, and they often have to count heads to see if a quorum is present. How full was the room the last time you attended an ILA membership meeting? In my experience, ILA conference attendees are far more likely to show up than ALA attendees, and that's a shame. If you're paying dues, you have a right and an obligation to participate, and I wish you would. "Where do these crazy resolutions come from?" I've been asked. A lot of them come from members, at the membership meeting. And then there's a vote on whether it should be sent to council for action, and if the only people voting think it's not a crazy resolution, that's what we'll spend hours discussing at the next council session.

There are indeed councilors who have been there forever, and kind of feel they own the place, but there are even more relative newcomers who cordially disagree, and may or may not vote with them. New people run all the time, and many win — if people are being elected for their twelfth term, it's because people vote for them. If you are an ALA member, I suggest that instead of voting for people who work in the same type of library you do, or people whose names you like, or any other random qualification, you vote for people you know, or at least know of. Although you can vote for several councilors at large, you don't have to, and if you only know seven of the names and think five of them would be great, you can just vote for those five. Really.

I also suggest that — if you find yourself at an ALA conference — you spend sometime watching council operate. You can wander in and out at will, so even just a half hour will be enlightening. There are uncrowded places to sit, coffee at the back of the room, and it's always nicely climate controlled, considering the size of the room. And certainly attend the membership meetings. Although there's usually not coffee, there is the opportunity to see what's up with your association, or potentially vote against a resolution you think is too goofy.

You've read this far — you have an interest in the workings of your professional associations, and that's commendable. If you are a member of ALA as well as ILA, invest a half hour of your conference attendance in seeing for yourself what goes on. If Tamiye Meehan — or anyone with equal determination — says you should run for council, you'll have a much better idea of what you're getting into.

If you have any questions about council, whether you're thinking of running or just curious, please ask. No matter what else I'm doing in the world, my very favorite thing is finding answers for people! Just e-mail me at Sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com. ILA

MY TURN

Diana Brawley Sussman, Carbondale Public Library

No Matter How Statewide or Global, It's Personal

I keep thinking of that May 8, 2009 storm that hit southern Illinois. It was a mad cluster of tornadoes tangling over several states, colloquially called an "inland hurricane," but officially called a "derecho." A derecho sounds like some mythological trickster character kicking up a storm of chaos and change. Yes, that sounds about right. It was a derecho. It took parts of the roof off the Shawnee Library System, where I was working at the time (although I happened to be in Springfield that day). I'd worked at the system for eight years, and I suppose I was starting to feel an eight-year itch, a change coming on, although it was so comfortable and such a good job, I might have stayed forever. A month after that storm, a sudden flood of rain seeped into the system's damaged roof and collapsed most of the ceiling. My colleague Steve Johnson came by that night on a hunch. He ran along with rolls of plastic, tossing them over shelves and desks just in time to catch the wet tiles as they bulged, then splashed. He saved the system. He was later laid off — and then, at least for now, brought back.

Afterward I would spin around in my office chair and look up into the ceiling from which yellowed insulation dripped for weeks. It was such a blatant symbol for the budget crisis, the missing state funds, the inevitable but still completely uncertain restructuring. Things were literally collapsing around me.

What I did not know was that during that storm, the Carbondale Public Library staff were headed home from their staff day visit to the public library in Paducah, Kentucky. Children's librarian Pat Luebke later told me she sat behind the wheel of a moving vehicle and watched as a bolt of lightning split a tree in half and it burst into flames. We were all going through our own kind of storm that day, and still are.

This is scary stuff, and no matter how statewide or global, it's personal. Almost a year later, taking the hint from the gaping, dripping hole in the system's ceiling, I ended up in the director's chair at the Carbondale Public Library. A month after that I got an e-mail saying that most of the systems had essentially closed their doors. More than fifty system positions had been lost to this budget crisis, and most of them were layoffs that happened that week to people I knew, my friends.

I didn't want to take administration in library school. I didn't see the point. Fourteen years ago I was a shelver, proudly declaring I'd never be a Director. Then I washed up on this shore and found myself trying to fix yet another ailing budget, this time in a public library. I brainstormed with a staff I had just met, deciding that three of us would take a voluntary month of furlough, the whole staff would take a day, we would cut our hours, engineer fundraisers, and work like crazy. These amazing people and I — together — succeeded!

It's hard to make light of a great depression. Thousands upon thousands of people are unemployed, uninsured, and even homeless. It's scary stuff. It's personal. I could cry up a storm, and I have. But for myself, I am grateful for this: I never would have landed here, never would have taken on a challenge like this, if that storm hadn't washed me away.

"We were all going through
our own kind of storm that day,
and still are."

Illinois Library Association

33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 301
Chicago, Illinois 60654

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #126
Elgin, IL

Ancel Glink understands the benefits of teamwork.

Ancel Glink | Diamond Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer

Think Ancel Glink

Ancel Glink. No law firm knows library law like we do—we wrote the book. Progressive in our thinking, zealous in our client advocacy, and relentless in our commitment to Illinois libraries, only a firm like Ancel Glink could know this much about library law.

So whatever your needs are, **think Ancel Glink!**

Visit **www.ancelglink.com** to download pamphlets on labor law, tort immunity and other subjects from the Ancel Glink Library. Please contact Keri-Lyn Krafthefer or Britt Isaly at 312-782-7606 to find out how Ancel Glink may be of service to you.

Serving Illinois with offices in Chicago, Vernon Hills, Naperville, Crystal Lake and Bloomington | 312 782-7606 | **www.ancelglink.com**