

# REPORTER



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

**INSIDE**

*2005–2006 ILA Annual Report*

*2007 IREAD Catalog*



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**Illinois Library Association**  
33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 301  
Chicago, IL 60610-4306  
phone: (312) 644-1896  
fax: (312) 644-1899  
e-mail: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)  
<http://www.ila.org>

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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, 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](mailto:ila@ila.org). Copy may also be submitted on disk or faxed to (312) 644-1899. 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.

# 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.

This issue features four school librarians with a combined one hundred years of experience as teachers and librarians, from elementary through high school. Their diverse talents include guiding a combined school/public library, serving as mayor, storyteller, and state association president. They each face unique challenges with a wide range of economic resources and political realities. *(continued on page 6)*

# of the Illinois Library Community



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## Anne Shimojima

Braeside School, Highland Park

### Tell us about your career path.

After earning a degree in elementary education at the University of Illinois, I taught school for one year before returning to the university for a Master of Science in library

science and then working as an elementary school library media specialist. I have been at Braeside School in Highland Park for the past nineteen years. For the past twenty-three years, I have also been a professional storyteller, performing at schools, libraries, and festivals, and leading workshops on the use of storytelling in the classroom and library media center.

### What do you consider the top two challenges in school libraries today, and what do you see as solutions?

The first challenge is the role of the school library media center in the face of changing technology, the emphasis on testing, budgetary restraints, computerized reading programs, and other factors that threaten our very existence. Luckily, we have a growing body of research, including *Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study*, that helps us to spread the message of the importance of the school library media program. Now it is up to us to articulate that message with our administrators and communities.

The second challenge is one that I feel personally — that there is just not enough time to do all that we want to do. I believe our role has changed and grown more than any other in education, mainly because of the technology. At the same time, that technology has made our job easier in many ways and more interesting. I've learned to accept that I just can't do it all.

### How has working cooperatively helped you in your efforts?

Working collaboratively with staff members is the key to creating a library media program that benefits us all. We know that information literacy skills and the appreciation of literature need to be taught in the context of the curriculum if students are to learn and retain what they've learned. The only way I can offer a program that everyone invests in is to create it with them. This requires constant communication, something that I enjoy because it results in clear expectations and a common purpose.

### Describe a recent favorite project.

June 1 was the occasion of our seventeenth Annual Writing Conference, an event that brings together our fourth- and fifth-graders with adults from the community. Each student writes a creative story. Various people — editors, language arts teachers, authors, and a librarian — are invited to read and critique the stories. On the day of the event, we gather together to eat lunch and hear from a guest speaker, a published children's author. After a short recess for the students, the groups disperse to different rooms and the guest critics offer the students feedback on their stories, telling them what was done well and how to improve their writing. Students appreciate having their work looked at by someone other than a classroom teacher or parent, and the conference strengthens our ties to the community. The entire event is funded by our school's parent-teacher organization.

***“Working collaboratively with staff members is the key to creating a library media program that benefits us all.”***

**If an anonymous donor handed you \$50,000 today for your library, what would you do with it?**

This was the hardest question to answer! In my first year at Braeside the library was completely renovated, so the physical space is very attractive. I've had nineteen years to develop the collection and work with the teachers to integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum. The staff is extremely supportive. We raise extra funds through our book fair, and the PTO is very generous to the library program, enabling me to bring in authors and storytellers and run special programs. Our district foundation has also supported a number of grants that I've written. I've often thought that I'm in professional heaven! I think I would redirect the funds from an anonymous donor to a school library that had more pressing needs.

**Advocacy — how do you participate, and how has it worked for you and your library?**

One important effort has been in my own school district of eleven schools. Our district librarians meet twice a month and have become an important support to each other. We've worked to articulate the research about school libraries, the importance of a district media services director, flexible scheduling, reading programs, copyright, and technology issues, among other things. It's been an important way of communicating with the administration.

I'm also lucky to be involved in the Chicago Area School Library Network, a group of K-8 school library media specialists. We meet monthly during the school year in each other's libraries to network, discuss important issues, and support each other in our advocacy efforts.

**Share one priceless piece of advice with new school librarians.**

As important as books and authors and technology and curriculum are, it's really all about relationships — with the students, staff members, administration, and parents. Be a good listener, be kind, and believe that what you do is important in the lives of the people you work with.



**Rick Dulaney**

*Cissna Park Community Unit  
District #6*

**Tell us about your career path.**

I was bitten by the “library bug” in junior high, when I worked evenings as a shelver at the Mt. Vernon Public Library.

My love of books and libraries

led me to Illinois State University's library science program, which I combined with a history minor. My first job after graduation was in Cissna Park, and I am starting my thirtieth year in this facility.

Small school districts often require teachers to wear many hats, so occasionally I have taught history, computer science, junior high social studies, and driver education, in addition to being the librarian. In 1991, Cissna Park Community Library was created as a combined school/public library and I added public librarian to my job title.

**What do you consider the top two challenges in school libraries today, and what do you see as solutions?**

The top challenge today is the same as it was thirty years ago: a declining share of the schools' financial resources. We all know of districts that have a part-time librarian watching over an aging collection of seldom-used material that is obsolete and irrelevant to the current curriculum, because the funds to purchase materials have dried up. Funding sources, such as the Title V grants, are commonly routed to the district technology budget, and library clerk positions are a rapidly disappearing commodity even in large districts.

The second problem I see is the changing expectation the world has regarding information requirements. There is a belief among students, and even some teachers, that the traditional library will soon be obsolete and that everything worth knowing is, or will be, available on the Internet. A favorite quote of mine concerns a high school student whom I was trying to steer toward books for a term paper. After a fruitless Internet search, I took him to the shelves and gave him some relevant books. Carefully returning the books, he looked at me seriously and said, “If you can't Google it, it doesn't exist.”

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A school board member in a nearby district suggested “zeroing out” the library budget and using the money to buy computers. While I would love to have more computers in my library, I am not ready to sacrifice the print collection to obtain them.

As library professionals we must educate our clients and administrators in the valuable services we provide, not only in acquiring quality materials but also in helping students evaluate the Internet and other sources.

**How has working cooperatively helped you in your efforts?**

Our district is extremely fortunate that we partnered with the community to form a combined school/public library in 1991. The combined library, located in the school, is open fifty-six hours per week, including Saturday and evening hours. The public library district contributes almost 50 percent of the funding for the combined library, including library clerical staff, insuring that we have adequate staffing levels and an up-to-date collection.

The public librarian position involves extra time and effort, including everything from library trustee meetings to keeping the library open in the summer. The benefit to the school and community, however, far outweighs any burden on the librarian.

**Describe a recent favorite project.**

While it is not recent, I never pass up an opportunity to promote the combined school/public library concept. Our library brings in more than fifty preschoolers and their parents each week during the school year for story hour, which serves as a kindergarten readiness program.

During the course of the school day, parents, grandparents, and neighbors visit the library and see the educational process in action; this builds support for the library and the school within a broad community segment.

**If an anonymous donor handed you \$50,000 today for your library, what would you do with it?**

I would be tempted to spend the gift at once on new computers and materials. I would replace three of the library’s oldest computers, as that seems to be our greatest current need. Since we are always behind in technology and large gifts are few and far between, I would place the remainder of the money in a fund to purchase one or two additional computers annually.

**Advocacy — how do you participate, and how has it worked for you and your library?**

Locally, I make an annual presentation to the board of education, represent the library viewpoint on curriculum committees, and make sure the library is regularly featured in the local newspaper. My school board and superintendent have both stated that they view the library as one of the jewels of the school system, and they have supported it wholeheartedly.

On the state level, we have invited our state representative to visit and experience the library in action. In addition, I respond to the e-mail and phone alerts issued by ILA when an issue is up for consideration in the Illinois General Assembly.

**Share one priceless piece of advice with new school librarians.**

My advice is to become an active member of the community. Volunteer for school committees; join a civic club or a church; volunteer with the Scouts or help coach a team. The contacts and friends you make will become the core supporters of your library program.

*“As library professionals we must educate our clients and administrators in the valuable services we provide...”*





## Becky Robinson

*Galesburg High School and  
2006–2007 ISLMA President*

### Tell us about your career path.

I have always loved libraries and began working in one in high school. Although my goal was to be a high school history teacher, that soon changed after a two hour “Intro to Libraries” class at Western Illinois University. My first job hunt for a teaching job was unsuccessful, but I did find a school library position in Danville, Iowa. Since then I have worked in school libraries in five different districts for more than twenty-four years.

After returning to Illinois, I became the school librarian for Western Schools in Buda and Sheffield and then the director of the Annawan-Alba Public Library. This was the beginning of my four-year association with library systems — what a help they were to a small public library!

The next seventeen years were spent in two small schools (Bradford and Wethersfield in Kewanee) as their unit librarian. I pushed for membership in the Alliance Library System for both schools and remain so proud of the multitype library system we have in place in Illinois.

During this time I decided to continue my education and applied to the University of Illinois for its first distance-ed LEEP program for a Master’s in Library and Information Science. For the next two-and-a-half years I juggled a job, family, and classes (from a computer, sitting in my living room); all worth it when I received that degree.

After relocating to Galesburg, I took a job at Lombard Middle School four years ago as the media specialist. I am excited to be moving up to Galesburg High School in the fall and looking forward to the challenges of this new position.

### What do you consider the top two challenges in school libraries today, and what do you see as solutions?

School librarians are experiencing budget and staff cuts due to lack of funding, even after *Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study* showed the correlation between quality school libraries and student achievement. It’s no surprise that students with access to larger and more current collections and certified school librarians to assist them in classroom or one-on-one learning situations have higher test scores. And yet, a very disturbing trend of not replacing certified school librarians, closing school libraries completely, or allowing classes to use the library on the “honor checkout” system is occurring, and our students are the ones losing out!

Following the Illinois Study, produced by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), with additional federal LSTA grant funding from the state library, we have begun to stress to the legislative community the importance of school libraries and the need to change the Illinois School Code to require a school library, staffed with a certified teacher librarian, in every school.

Another significant challenge facing school libraries today is that the dwindling number of available librarians. The number retiring is greater than the number being certified in Illinois. We need more graduate programs for school librarians and we need them now! ISLMA leaders have met with representatives from Illinois colleges and universities in the past to begin needed dialogue. Our goal is to have enough certified staff to fill all of the positions currently available, as well as jobs that will open up in the next few years.

### How has working cooperatively helped you in your efforts?

Cooperation has been essential in every position I’ve had in school libraries. No one library can provide everything for every student. Membership in a library system has been key to providing materials and the professional development needed to run a quality library program. My system has been there for my students and staff by providing a delivery service for interlibrary loans, grants for new programming, and workshops for me on the newest technologies.

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Another aspect of cooperation has allowed me to see a bigger picture of school libraries state- and nationwide. Throughout the years, I have been a member of ISLMA which has offered invaluable networking with my peers, and many avenues of communication, including an online listserv, a quarterly newsletter, a quality Web site, and a truly engaging conference every fall. No other organization has made such an impact on my career. I encourage every school librarian in Illinois to go online and join the state school library organization!

### **Describe a recent favorite project.**

This year was an exciting year for our two middle schools in Galesburg. In November 2005, we hosted two award-winning authors — Christopher Paul Curtis and Harriette Gillem Robinet — as part of a project called “Reading @ The Crossroads.”

Over 2,400 books were purchased, one for each middle school student by each author. Classes were busy reading *The Watson's Go to Birmingham* and *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues* before each visit. The authors both signed a roll of 1,200 bookplates printed with our theme, so the author signed each book! Besides the author presentations, Robinet planned a writing project during her visit and Curtis appeared at the high school auditorium for a community presentation.

Local newspapers and radio stations covered the events with interviews, student reviews, and a student-produced “Mini Page.” Discussions in the schools were inspired by members of the community who spoke about what life was like in Galesburg and surrounding areas during the Depression and civil rights era. The death of Rosa Parks added another “teachable moment” as our students read and discussed these books prior to the authors’ arrival.

The goals of this project centered on promoting reading and writing across the curriculum and throughout the community. The culmination of this project was a student anthology that showcased student work in various media formats, selected by journalism students from Knox College from submitted entries. Each middle school student received a free copy of the anthology.

### **If an anonymous donor handed you \$50,000 today for your library, what would you do with it?**

As the recent ISLMA study proves, a large and current collection is a key factor in higher student achievement and better test scores. Because of this, I would spend a major amount to update the book collection specifically to support the curriculum and add databases to provide more online research tools. The CD and DVD collection would be increased and I would love to start an e-book

collection to offer diverse formats for learning. Finally, purchasing the equipment to do regular Webcasting and podcasting in the library would introduce our students to the twenty-first century with the newest technology.

Besides increasing the collection, I would jump at the chance to change our automation system to a Web-based one that would allow our students and staff access to the collection and databases 24/7.

However, to show users what we have to offer, I would throw a big bash for students, staff, administrators, board, legislators, and the press! This event would allow me to thank our benefactor and show everyone that when you give a gift to the school library, you are reaching the whole school.

### **Advocacy — how do you participate, and how has it worked for you and your library?**

Establishing a working relationship with your local legislators is key to keeping them abreast of the issues for school libraries. I have made it a priority to attend each Illinois Library Day in Springfield. This year the march and rally were very effective and the start of very meaningful trips to communicate personally with our legislators. One of the more fun activities dealing with advocacy has been to collect stories or letters from my students about how important the school library is to them and distribute them to our legislators.

Currently, I am a member of an ISLMA task force whose goal is to create awareness of the need for a change in the Illinois School Code to require certified school librarians in every school in Illinois. Only through active and persistent advocacy can this vision be realized!

### **Share one priceless piece of advice with new school librarians.**

Become involved. Volunteer to be on school and district committees — there is no better way to learn your school’s curriculum than being a part of the curriculum committee. Interact with your fellow teachers. Finally, get involved in regional and statewide organizations. You’ll become a leader in your school and your profession in no time!



## Louis Shaw

*Meridian Community Unit School  
District # 101, Mounds*

### **Tell us about your career path.**

After graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU-C) with secondary teaching certification and school library endorsement, I began teaching at Meridian Community Unit School District #101 in Mounds in 1978. Graduate courses in educational media at SIU-C, led to media certification in 1980, and that same year I became librarian for the Meridian Elementary School. I became district librarian at Meridian in 1982 and have held that position ever since, with occasional forays into teaching high school English and supervising distance-learning classes.

I originally worked part-time at the Carrier Mills Public Library, beginning in 1972 and continue to do so. In 1999, I was heavily involved in a successful referendum that created the Carrier Mills-Stonefort Public Library District. Since then I received the title of business manager and now do the payroll, all the bookkeeping, and grant applications. I was acting head librarian for about a year in 2005 and 2006 due to the illness of the head librarian.

I received an associate degree in accounting from Southeastern Illinois College in 2003, and completed course work at SIU-C for a Master's degree in school administration in 2005. I am now finishing an internship for certification as a school administrator.

In spring 2005, I made my first (and probably last) foray into politics when I ran successfully for mayor of Carrier Mills. Since then, I have been learning the job while juggling everything else.

### **What do you consider the top two challenges in school libraries today, and what do you see as solutions?**

The top two challenges to school libraries are funding and staying relevant, with the availability of trained staff a close third.

The funding and relevancy issues are closely intertwined. If we can stay relevant and convince both state government and local school administrations that we are relevant, we have a lot better chance of maintaining adequate funding.

The key to staying relevant is to make emerging technologies our own. Certainly the book is here to stay but those school libraries that are doing the best are those which have managed to best incorporate technology into their operations and to be seen as leaders in technology. We need to be seen as leaders in using relevant new technologies for the organization and application of information.

### **How has working cooperatively helped you in your efforts?**

I have always worked closely with teachers and administration to achieve our joint goals of providing the best possible education to our students within the constraints of available resources. I believe that community cooperation is important.

### **Describe a recent favorite project.**

A few years ago, I received an LSTA grant titled the "Meridian History Project." Our schools had almost nothing predating the consolidation that created Meridian in 1966. Now we have files including pictures that allow us to answer questions about the history of the area and provide people with mementos of personal interest. I found the information about the area, particularly about the segregated schools, which continued into the 1960s, to be truly fascinating. There was such a sense of community in those days that we truly need today. I attempted to gather, copy, and organize yearbooks, pictures, and other materials from the schools that had existed in southern Pulaski County.

### **If an anonymous donor handed you \$50,000 today for your library, what would you do with it?**

I would purchase new furniture for both libraries and attempt to make them more twenty-first century in appearance. I believe that if the libraries looked up-to-date, students might see them as more relevant and accessible. My high school library still has furniture from the 1960s and the elementary library is from the 1980s.

### **Advocacy — how do you participate, and how has it worked for you and your library?**

I have never been a political activist. I have always felt that the best advocacy was doing a good job. Recently, though, I have come to realize that we must begin to be more politically active if we are to survive.

### **Share one priceless piece of advice with new school librarians.**

Stay up-to-date and be sure that everyone knows what you do.

**IIA**

## Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian

# Election

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he second-largest state constitutional office — the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian — is the most diverse of its kind in the nation, touching the lives of nearly everyone in Illinois. The office is an important platform for educating Illinoisans about vital issues that affect their lives, including literacy, drunk driving, traffic safety, and organ donation.

The duties of the office are divided among twenty-one departments employing about 3,600 people, whose responsibilities range from issuing driver's licenses and vehicle registrations to maintaining the state capitol complex to overseeing the state's network of libraries to preserving some of the state's most precious historical documents.

The Illinois Secretary of State, who also serves as Illinois State Librarian, awards nearly \$58 million annually in grants to enhance, improve, and supplement local initiatives. These programs include:

- Grants to public and school libraries for general library operations;
- Grants to support library technology initiatives;
- Federal grants in support of federal library programs;
- Grants to regional Illinois library systems for general operations and automation projects;
- Public library construction grants;
- Grants to support local literacy projects;
- Talking Book and Braille service operations for blind or print-disabled patrons; and
- Various other library and literacy-related grant programs.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2006, Illinois will hold elections for the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian position. The Illinois Library Association has invited both candidates — Dan Rutherford, the Republican candidate, and Jesse White, the Democratic candidate — to address the ILA membership at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 5, from 4:45 to 5:30 P.M. at Navy Pier, Lakeview Terrace. In addition, ILA has posed six questions to each candidate and their responses are included in this issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

The Illinois Library Association does not endorse candidates, but the association does urge you to become informed and vote!

The Illinois library community has many areas of concern. Increasingly, those concerns focus on fiscal matters. For example, under the tax cap statute, many libraries find it difficult to maintain adequate budgets and provide basic library services. As Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian, we will look for your leadership to provide greater flexibility in raising library revenue. Another pressing issue is that, by statute, all Illinois citizens are served by public elementary, secondary, and community colleges. Yet, currently, more than one million Illinois citizens do not receive public library services. We would like to make public library service available to all Illinois citizens, in particular assuring equal access to electronic and other resources.



**Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian  
Jesse White**

**The operating budget of the Illinois State Library has been reduced by 22 percent since Fiscal Year 2000. This has had an adverse effect on all Illinois libraries. As state librarian, what will you do to reverse this trend?**

First of all, I sincerely appreciate the hard work and ingenuity of the staff of the state library. They have done extraordinary work in these tight fiscal times. Nearly all state agencies have encountered fiscal problems during the past several years and we are not immune to these issues. However, simply increasing the budget for the state library is not the solution. The state library is now undergoing a strategic planning process to define and determine just what role it has in the future. Input has been sought from the library community of Illinois. Once that process is complete, we will then make a determination as to where to best spend our limited resources to meet the future needs of the libraries of Illinois. We have one of the best state libraries in the nation and we will continue that effort.

**Illinois, through the Secretary of State's Office, provides per capita and equalization grants to Illinois libraries. Funding for these basic grants has remained at the same level for the last three years while inflation has reduced the grants' purchasing power. How would you secure increases in these grant programs?**

Flat funding is basically a budget reduction, given the forces of inflation and other fixed costs libraries face. I am committed to increasing the per capita grants, as I have been in the past. However, we must be concerned about the sources of revenue needed to meet those increases. Fee increases in the past have already limited our options for new increases. A general tax increase appears unlikely given the rising cost of gasoline and other costs that our taxpayers are now facing. I want to work with the library community in finding alternative revenue resources without jeopardizing our current funding structure. Further, once a new funding program is agreed upon, the entire library community must work together with the legislature to assure success.

**What in your campaign platform specifically addresses the needs of Illinois citizens, including school children, for access to libraries and library services? As state librarian, what role would you play to ensure that school children have access to school library services, which research indicates has a direct connection to student achievement?**

Increasing access to libraries is a goal we all share, especially for school children. One of the first programs that I initiated as Secretary of State is "Project Next Generation," a program designed for "at risk" students who gain valuable assistance at the public libraries. We now have twenty-seven libraries participating and we hope to grow that number in the future. We certainly would like to increase the school per capita grant to assist school libraries in meeting their needs. The state library has also been instrumental in providing electronic databases to all libraries in the state, which are invaluable to students. Another program we have just initiated is the "AskAway!" electronic reference service. This opens up libraries to all the people of Illinois to find the information that they need. We also are providing grants to numerous libraries to join automated catalogs that allow their patrons greater access to all the libraries of Illinois. I hope we can continue these types of efforts in the coming years.

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**The Illinois Library Association supports the fundamental right of all citizens to access information of their choice at their local library, as determined by local library boards and local school boards. How will you support local library control, and, specifically, would you oppose state-mandated restrictions on accessing information?**

I have always supported the rights of the local library and school boards to make the determination for access to information. These boards represent the local communities and they know best what access they want for children. Statewide restrictions do not work. What one community believes is right may not work for another. I have always stood shoulder to shoulder with the Illinois Library Association on this issue and I will continue to do so.

**Illinois has a strong library confidentiality law guaranteeing that library patron registration and circulation records will not be publicly disclosed without an appropriate court order. How would you defend the confidentiality of library patron records?**

The Illinois Library Records Confidentiality Act works very well and I strongly support the law as it stands. A court order is required to access patron records. I am aware that the law enforcement community is concerned about immediate access to patron records in times of emergencies. I would hope if there are any changes proposed, both sides work toward a consensus that is mutually agreeable and protects the basic right of the patron's confidentiality. Too much is at stake to risk the intellectual freedom rights of our patrons.

**As state librarian, how would you take a leadership role as an advocate for libraries on issues before the Illinois General Assembly?**

I take the role of state librarian quite seriously. As a teacher and a youth activist, I know the importance libraries play and what a difference they make for young people. I also recognize that libraries are becoming more than free reading rooms and homework centers. Libraries are critical to the economic development of our communities and are great community resources for all aspects of every community. I am proud to be the state librarian and represent the library community before the Illinois General Assembly and the entire state of Illinois. I will continue to work with the library community to the best of my ability.



**Senator Dan Rutherford (R-53, Pontiac)**

**The operating budget of the Illinois State Library has been reduced by 22 percent since Fiscal Year 2000. This has had an adverse effect on all Illinois libraries. As state librarian, what will you do to reverse this trend?**

Unfortunately, the operating budgets for many agencies have been reduced over the last few years. There are a number of ways to try to combat this. First, we need to look within and determine if the resources of the Illinois State Library can be used more efficiently. Next, we need to investigate alternative revenue sources, such as foundations or grants, that might be tapped. Definitely, I would work with the Illinois General Assembly to advocate the needs of the state library and present them with a concrete plan showing maximum benefit to the people for the money requested.

**Illinois, through the Secretary of State's Office, provides per capita and equalization grants to Illinois libraries. Funding for these basic grants has remained at the same level for the last three years while inflation has reduced the grants' purchasing power. How would you secure increases in these grant programs?**

I would address my concerns about the loss of purchasing power and the importance of these grants to members of the Illinois General Assembly. I have voted for enhancements to funding in the past and will look for consensus with the Illinois General Assembly when I am state librarian.

**What in your campaign platform specifically addresses the needs of Illinois citizens, including school children, for access to libraries and library services? As state librarian, what role would you play to ensure that school children have access to school library services, which research indicates has a direct connection to student achievement?**

Not all communities have the resources to build or sustain a public library. What I have seen work in some small rural areas is cooperation between libraries and school districts.

If a student lives in a community without a library, he or she is able to use any public library located within the boundaries of that school district. This is a good example of making the best use of existing resources. Cooperation like this is in the best interest of the students. I am a strong advocate for leveraging the taxpayers' dollars. I was a key facilitator in Pontiac in bringing the public library into a building housing Heartland Community College. I also helped with discussions in Washington, Illinois, in which the library is moving into a facility in cooperation with the school and recreation programs.

**The Illinois Library Association supports the fundamental right of all citizens to access information of their choice at their local library, as determined by local library boards and local school boards. How will you support local library control, and, specifically, would you oppose state-mandated restrictions on accessing information?**

I believe there has to be a balance between protecting children from online predators and inappropriate materials while providing for local control. Having the state mandate a policy for everyone in the state as to the type of filter to use is not the direction to go. Local officials are in a far better position to know how to effectively protect their patrons in their local area than the Illinois General Assembly. I have a voting record to back up my position on this issue.

**Illinois has a strong library confidentiality law guaranteeing that library patron registration and circulation records will not be publicly disclosed without an appropriate court order. How would you defend the confidentiality of library patron records?**

In my opinion, unless law enforcement has good reason to believe that a patron has used library resources for criminal activities, their records should not be publicly disclosed. I would prevail upon the Illinois Attorney General to uphold the library confidentiality law.

**As state librarian, how would you take a leadership role as an advocate for libraries on issues before the Illinois General Assembly?**

Having experience as both a representative and senator in the Illinois General Assembly would serve me well in understanding how to be an effective advocate on behalf of the state library. I would work with the Illinois Library Association to involve them in keeping lawmakers abreast of important issues.

**ILA**



# The Current Legislative Challenge: DOPA and the Participation Gap

*Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association*

**O**n July 26, 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the amended version of a bill requiring schools and libraries receiving E-rate funds to block access to social networking sites, such as MySpace, as well as access to a wide array of other content and technologies, such as instant messaging, online e-mail, wikis, and blogs. The Deleting Online Predators Act, or DOPA, the name given to H.R. 5319, passed 410-15, and heads to the U.S. Senate when the congressional summer recess ends in September.

The act is based on the fear that when young people reveal personal information about themselves to friends and new acquaintances online, such information becomes available to certain adults, dubbed by the act “online predators.” While this is a genuine concern, the act is overbroad and

threatens not only to disrupt the value of these targeted sites, but also to do so disproportionately, seriously disadvantaging young people who rely on public access computers rather than more private access via home computers, WiFi, cell phones, etc.

According to various estimates, MySpace currently has between 80 and 90 million users. It is described as a cultural requirement for today’s teens. One teen has said of the site, “If you’re not on MySpace, you don’t exist.” Before Congress decides that students who use computers at schools and libraries should be placed in the “nonexistent” category, the library community should take steps to educate the public and legislators about the risks of such legislation.



# *“If you’re not on MySpace, you don’t exist.”*

## **Political Gain Leading to Loss of Participation**

Henry Jenkins, co-director of the Comparative Media Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a leading researcher on MySpace, makes the following point:

“The new legislation is being embraced by politicians in both parties eager to woo cultural conservatives and suburban voters as they enter what everyone knows is going to be a hotly contested election. Over time, as these technologies become better integrated into everyday life, as the generation that grew up with these technologies takes on adult responsibilities, things calm down again. People develop a more balanced perspective, which sees both the benefits and risks associated with these activities. Rather than restrict access, we educate our young people in the safe, ethical, and creative use of these technologies. Right now, MySpace is at the most disruptive point in this cycle: people are reacting in ignorance and fear, and in doing so, they increase the risks and discard the benefits of these emerging cultural practices.”

Jenkins doesn’t dismiss the concern that such sites can provide information to unwanted predators, but believes that statistics about the number of unwanted sexual solicitations are misstated and that the problem can be much better addressed by education than by blocking access:

“Now, the problem shifts from concerns about technical access to concerns about participation in the key social and cultural experiences, which are defining the emerging generation’s relationship to these technologies. What a kid can do at home with unlimited access is very different from what a kid can do in a public library with ten or fifteen minutes of access at a time and with no capacity to store and upload information to the Web. We further handicap these children by placing filters on the Internet that restrict their access to information, which is readily available to their more affluent classmates. And now this legislation would restrict their ability to participate in social networks or to belong to online communities. The result will be to further isolate children from poorer economic backgrounds, to cut kids at risk from support systems which exist within their peer culture, and to limit the social and cultural experiences of kids who are already behind in acquiring important networking skills that will shape their professional futures. All of this will compound what we are now calling the participation gap.”

## **Thought Provoking Suggestions**

Michelle Stockwell, director, education and family policy for the Progressive Policy Institute, recently participated in a policy summit sponsored by the New America Foundation that brought together a diverse group of leading players from industry, government, academia, and child and family advocacy groups to discuss and debate the best approach to protecting kids from inappropriate media — and, ideally, facilitating parents’ efforts to identify positive media programming. (The summit was shown on many public broadcast stations and video clips of the presentations are available at <http://www.newamerica.net/>.)

Stockwell takes the position that the current legislation is overbroad and shortsighted. She offers some alternatives, such as electronic IDs, that would distinguish children from adults, as well as a number of as yet unfunded mandates. The following excerpts from her remarks, reprinted with permission, are presented to stimulate discussion:

“We’ve all seen news reports about MySpace.com and read with concern the accounts of teens that have been preyed upon by sexual predators. Such stories have raised questions about the safety of social networking Web sites and the need for stronger protections for minors. Unfortunately, much of the debate going on is shortsighted and fails to fully consider the benefits and dangers of social networking sites for kids, and lacks an understanding of how kids view the online world and the future of technology.

“For today’s kids, who have grown up immersed in the Web, the online world is a way of life. And, social networking sites are ‘virtual community centers,’ places where they can freely express themselves, communicate with friends, and develop their personal identities. Sites like MySpace, Facebook, and others allow kids to create their own personal Web pages with their favorite songs and photographs; instant message (IM) with their friends, and join online groups with shared interests, or blog. They are also places where youth talk about themselves and often share their personal information, including their e-mail address, age, and school, with new people that they meet.

“Unfortunately, this has meant that kids have shared this personal information with adults with ill intentions. It is estimated that one in five youth under eighteen gets sexual solicitations online. Sexual predators are a real concern. But an even greater problem may be the abundance of sexually explicit or pornographic material that kids encounter on these sites.

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“As we look for solutions to protect children from such harmful material, we have to recognize that parents are the first and best line of defense and they must do more. But, as Senators Clinton and Landrieu expressed, parents are overloaded with work and family responsibilities and overwhelmed by technology that they can't keep up with. Parents need help.”

“Some are proposing, for example, on the federal level, the Deleting Online Predators Act, H. R. 5319, to ban access in schools and libraries to sites that allow users to create Web pages or profiles, blog, chat, and IM. We should help keep children away from harmful content but we must be careful. That action could do more harm by cutting kids off from the benefits that these sites and services have to offer and may further exacerbate the divide between the technology haves and have-nots. And, it does little to ease the concern of parents who still need help at home.

“In our wired world, children need to learn how to explore and understand the Web, but we must protect them while they learn. We should use this opportunity to reevaluate existing safety measures geared to aging forms of media and craft a new comprehensive approach to child online safety. And, we must examine not just social networking Web sites, but IM, chat rooms, peer-to-peer file sharing networks, and blogs.

“The Progressive Policy Institute has long advocated for digital certificates and smart identification cards as a means to help combat terrorism, protect against fraud and identity theft, and other uses. It is time to apply this technology to online age verification. We are already moving toward smart cards. Under current law, by 2008, state driver's licenses must be interoperable, bearing common machine-readable technology. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has yet to specify, but all licenses may soon become “smart cards” that may be used for identification purposes. Congress should require states to issue smart IDs and digital certificates to adults who want them; and for online age verification purposes, Congress should investigate the feasibility of and means for extending these measures to youth.

“The U.S. Department of Education should come up with voluntary guidance and curriculum that schools can use to teach Internet safety and cyber-citizenship, including the dangers of sharing personal information and harms of cyberbullying. States should mandate Internet safety education programs in schools. I particularly liked Commissioner Cox's idea of making such education programs K-12.

“Media is converging and music, television, and movies are increasingly moving to online transmission. As media converges and content becomes available on a wider range of technological devices, labeling of content, such as what groups like the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) are calling for, can help facilitate better filtering.

“Finally, we need a new multimedia, multisector voluntary code of conduct and understanding of community standards for the Web. Social networking sites, Internet service providers, the entertainment industry, and others should establish, in partnership with parent and community organizations, an independent monitoring and advisory body to develop voluntary standards regarding content, establish policies to protect minors from inappropriate material, and conduct media literacy and safety education campaigns with parents and children.”

### **Communication and Education as Further Alternatives**

Jenkins also recognizes parental roles in addressing this issue and provides a nuanced view, along with some specific suggestions:

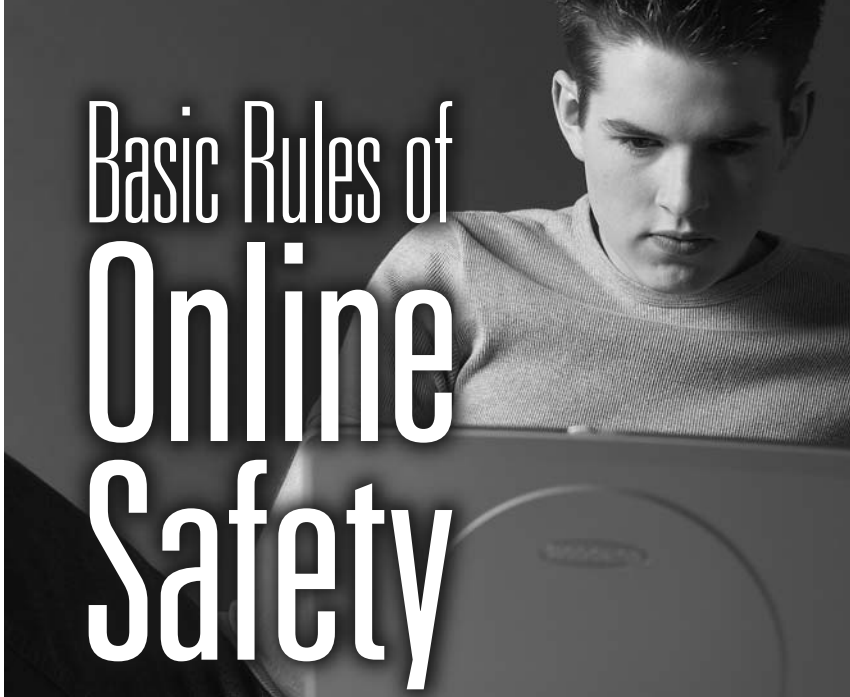
“Parents face serious challenges in helping their children negotiate through these new online environments. They receive very little advice about how to build a constructive relationship with media within their families or how to help their offspring make ethical choices as participants in these online worlds. As a culture, we have deeply conflicted assumptions about adolescence which functions as a period of transition: Most of us recognize that teens need to take on a greater degree of autonomy as they prepare for adult lives, even as they still need some degree of adult supervision to help them make sane and safe decisions. We simply disagree about the relative balance of freedom and autonomy that teens should receive.

“We respect the fact that the decisions families make about media reflect some of their most deeply held values; different families have different concerns and make different decisions. For that reason, we think decisions about youth access to digital technologies should be made in the context of individual families and not form the basis of one-size-fits-all federal legislation. Recognizing that different parents will approach these issues in different ways, we would still offer the following as our governing philosophy for dealing with MySpace and other social software:

- 1) Communication with your daughter or son is key. Build a trusting relationship through dialogue. It is important to talk with them about your concerns; it is even more important to listen to what they have to say about their online experiences and why these sites are such an important part of their interactions with their peers. You need to recognize that some unfamiliar experiences look scarier from the outside than they are. Take time to understand what you are seeing and what it means to participants.
- 2) Create an account to understand how the site works, but not to stalk your kids. They need room to explore, but if you are familiar with the media and technology that they consume, you can provide valuable guidance and suggestions. Surveillance, while possible, damages a trusting parent-child relationship.
- 3) Ask your kids how they choose to represent themselves and why. Use MySpace as a resource to start a conversation about contemporary fashion, ideals, and media images.
- 4) Talk about private/public issues with your kids. Help them to understand the consequences of making certain information publicly accessible. Get them to think through all of the possible audiences who might come into contact with their online information. Teens often imagine MySpace as a youth-only world. It isn't and they need to consider what the consequences would be if their grandparents, their teachers, admissions officers, or a future employer read what they said about themselves. Helping your children learn how to negotiate such public environments is a great educational opportunity.
- 5) Talk through what kids should do if they receive unwanted attention online or if they find themselves the victims of cyberbullying. A growing number of sites provide useful information about how to confront such problems, including:
  - Net Family News
  - NetSmartz
  - SafeTeens

The 'Safety Tips' section of MySpace also provides information for both parents and teens, including MySpace policies."

Jenkins's remarks reprinted with permission from MIT News Office. Full text available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kqg8d>



# Basic Rules of Online Safety

## for Teens

The most important thing to remember is that when you're online in any kind of a public forum, you're out in public and anyone can read whatever you post. You should never post anything on the Internet that you wouldn't want known to the public at large. You should also remember that people you meet in cyberspace might not be whom they seem to be.

### 1. Keep Your Identity Private

If you're in any type of public forum, avoid giving out your full name, your mailing address, your telephone number, the name of your school, or any other information that could help someone determine your actual identity. The same applies to your family and friends. Never reveal anything about other people that could possibly get them into trouble.

### 2. Never Get Together with Someone You "Meet" Online

The biggest danger to your safety is if you get together with someone you "meet" online. Remember, you never know for certain if people you meet online are who they say they are. If you do feel it's appropriate to meet with someone, discuss it with your parents and never go to the meeting by yourself. Arrange to meet in a public

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place like a coffee shop or mall that you, not just the other person, are familiar and comfortable with, and never go alone. The safest procedure is to have your parents talk with the parents of the other person and for both of you to bring your parents along on the first meeting.

### **3. Never Respond to E-Mail, Chat Comments, Instant Messages, or Other Messages That Are Hostile, Belligerent, Inappropriate or in Any Way Make You Feel Uncomfortable**

It isn't your fault if you get a message that is mean or in any way makes you feel uncomfortable. If you get such a message or messages, don't respond. Instead, show it to your parents or a trusted adult to see if there is anything you can do to stop the messages. Sending a response just encourages the person.

### **4. Talk with Your Parents about Their Expectations and Ground Rules for Going Online**

It's important that you and your parents are on the same "channel" when it comes to your online activities. This includes when you can go online, how long you can stay online, and what activities you can do online. Communicating with your parents doesn't mean that you have to give up your privacy. It just means that you come to an agreement based on mutual trust and understanding. While you're at it, perhaps you can help your parents better understand the Internet, what it can be used for, and how it is helpful for teens.

Source: <http://www.safeteens.com/teenrules.htm>



# Talking Points

ILA supports the goal of protecting children from online predators. One of the primary concerns of the library community is the safety of children. We know that the best way to protect children is to teach them to guard their privacy and make wise choices. To this end, libraries across the state offer instruction on safe Internet use.

- 1) Education, not laws blocking access, is the key to safe use of the Internet. Libraries and schools are places where kids learn essential information literacy skills that go far beyond computer instruction and Web searching. Indeed, DOPA would block usage of these sites in the very environments where librarians and teachers can instruct students about how to use all kinds of applications safely and effectively and where kids can learn to report and avoid unsafe sites.
- 2) Limiting access to social networking sites in E-rate schools and libraries will have little impact on the overall problem since young people access these collaborative sites from many locations and over a period of time. If children are going to get into trouble online, chances are it won't be at school. They'll be home, they'll be at a friend's house, or they could even be using their mobile phones completely apart from adult supervision. Schools and libraries are relatively protected environments where adults are never far away and, for the most part, computers are in public locations that make it difficult for users to hide what they're doing.
- 3) While seeking to protect children from predators, H. R. 5319 would impact a wide range of social networking sites that are used daily by millions of Americans. DOPA is much too broad. It proposes to block access to beneficial collaborative Web applications and resources.

*“Our responsibilities as educators should be to bring reason to bear on situations which are wrought with ignorance and fear, not to hide our eyes from troubling aspects of teen culture.”*

- 4) DOPA ignores the value of interactive Web applications. New Internet-based applications for collaboration, business, and learning are becoming increasingly important, and young people must be prepared to thrive in a work environment where meetings take place online, and where online networks are essential communication tools.
- 5) Local decision making — not federal law — is the way to solve the problems addressed by DOPA. Such decisions are already being made locally, in part due to the requirements of the Children’s Online Protection Act (COPA) for E-rate recipients. An additional law is not necessary.
- 6) DOPA would restrict access to technology in the communities that need public access most. H. R. 5319, as presently drafted, would require libraries and schools receiving E-rate discounts through the Universal Service Program to block computer users from accessing interactive Web applications of all kinds, thereby limiting opportunities for those who do not have Internet access at home. This unfairly denies the students and library users in schools and libraries in the poorest communities from accessing appropriate content and from learning how best to safely manage their own Internet access in consultation with librarians and teachers.
- 7) School officials note they are faced with a new problem of monitoring students’ and teachers’ use of the Internet on personal laptops on school grounds.

#### **ILA’s Emerging Action Plan**

ILA will work on a campaign to educate children, parents, and teachers on how to use the Internet safely.

- ILA will inform our elected officials that the library community is very concerned about the safety of children. We believe that the best way to protect children is to teach them to guard their privacy and make wise choices. We know parents are overloaded with work and family responsibilities and overwhelmed by technology. We also know education, not laws blocking access, is the key to safe use of the Internet.
- ILA will sponsor educational programs on this topic and encourage the Illinois library community to be more proactive on this issue.
- ILA will refer and share with the Illinois library community existing tools to help fulfill our educational responsibilities.
- The ILA Best Practices Committee is soliciting suggestions for “Best Educational Practices for Children, Parents, and Teachers on How to Use the Internet Safely,” to be posted on the ILA Web site.
- ILA will produce a pamphlet/brochure for libraries to distribute to the general public and ensure its availability for downloading on the ILA Web site.
- ILA will disseminate information on training programs for librarians to conduct with the general public on this topic and encourage the use of these training programs in their communities.

If you have further suggestions on how ILA can help, please send an e-mail message to [doyle@ila.org](mailto:doyle@ila.org). Thank you!



# Senate Bill 1682

## Tax Cap Rate Referendums

D

uring the 2006 spring legislative session, the Illinois General Assembly unanimously passed Senate Bill 1682 and the governor signed the bill into law as Public Act 94-976. The bill was sponsored by Senator Don Harmon (D-39, Oak Park) and drafted with Chapman and Cutler LLP, a law firm that specializes in public finance and works with many area school districts and libraries. There has been a great deal of confusion about exactly what this new law does and how it affects local government tax cap referendums. Like most legislation, Senate Bill 1682 contains compromise language that was approved following lengthy negotiations.

There are essentially three major components in the law that impact tax-capped taxing districts (the first two of which should be viewed as favorable to local governments; the third could be viewed as unfavorable):

- 1) Better ballot wording. This part of the legislation changes the wording of the question that voters will see when voting on tax rate referendums. The wording would tell voters the actual new limiting tax rate (the sum of the district's tax rates subject to the cap), rather than what the maximum rate could be for a single particular levy. Very importantly, public bodies will now be able to state the purpose for requesting a higher tax rate, and voters will also be told how much their tax bill is likely to change in actual dollar amounts. The expectation is that this new wording will make it easier to explain the referendum to voters and increase the likelihood of its passage;
- 2) Automatic increase of statutory fund rates to maximum rate. The law raises the actual rate on all individual funds (such as the corporate fund) to the statutory maximum. This is designed to permit local governments greater flexibility in levying among funds and utilizing revenues from their various funds. However, the law does not remove the "limiting rate" that comes from tax caps. While the statutory fund rate automatically increases to the maximum rate, tax caps still limit the total aggregate extension to the lesser of 5 percent or increase in the Consumer Price Index above the previous year's aggregate extension. Because Senate Bill 1682 removed the individual caps on each individual fund while retaining the overall tax cap limiting rate, all public taxing bodies should clearly direct the County Tax Extension Office regarding the correct allocation rate among the various funds; and

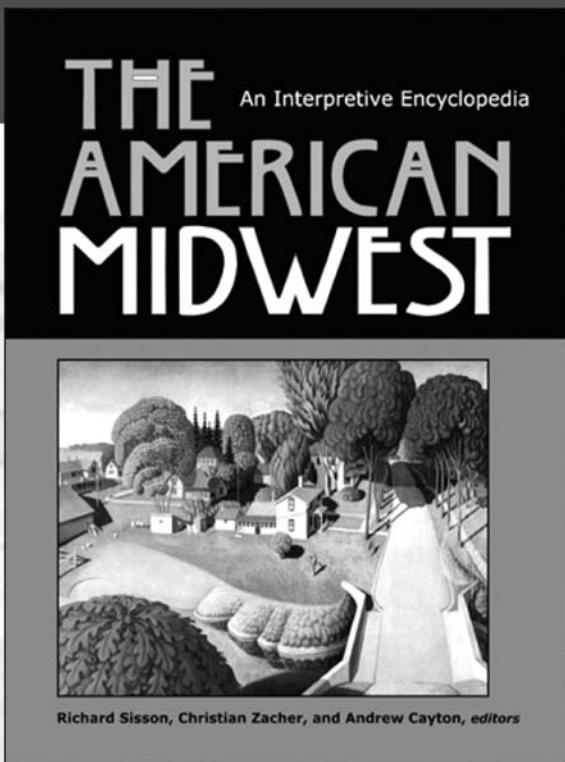
3) A requirement that voter-approved rate increases be implemented immediately and continue for four years, rather than be phased-in over a four-year period of a new voter approved rate. This aspect of the legislation was a result of a two-year effort to address what legislators believed was an unlawful manipulation of the tax cap statute. There were media reports that school districts were using the four-year phase-in of a voter-approved new tax rate on one fund to increase other fund levies, so that at the end of four years the total revenues were in excess of what the voters approved. To stop this practice, legislators demanded that voter-approved new tax rates must be fully implemented in the first year and stay in effect for four years.

Perhaps the most important point is simply that this law does not change the essential nature of tax caps where they apply. In tax-capped jurisdictions, the tax cap law imposes a “limiting rate” that overlays and supersedes all other rates. In the absence of voter approval, the tax cap rate continues to cap the maximum revenues that a local government may collect.

The legislature has not been willing to consider significant changes to lessen the impact of tax caps on local governments and is unlikely to do so in the future. The reality is that the adverse effects of tax caps on local government revenues will continue. Moreover, Senate Bill 1682 will require immediate implementation of new voter-approved rates.

As it has clearly improved the ballot question wording, Senate Bill 1682 may lead to more successful referendums. It will also provide more flexibility in allocating tax revenues among various fund levies. Time will tell if the positive aspects of the new law will outweigh the negative.

**IIA**



**THE AMERICAN MIDWEST**  
An Interpretive Encyclopedia

Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton, editors

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*An Interpretive Encyclopedia*

Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton, editors

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# Dear



## Bob Doyle and the iRead Committee . . .

August 1, 2006

Let me take a moment to comment on the incredible work being done across Illinois as a result of much of your work. This summer, my colleagues and I had the opportunity to visit more than six hundred public and academic libraries throughout the state while gathering data for the LSTA project *Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries*. Although we were there for another purpose, we were so often struck speechless by the mass of youngsters participating in a myriad of activities related to the summer reading program.

The iREAD materials had taken over most libraries. The palm trees were swaying, the fish were flying, and there were prizes on display everywhere. A special treat was getting to the library early to observe the library staff preparing their areas for the onslaught; they were laughing, being creative, getting feisty with the grass skirts... it was great!

A couple of the cute moments included a young girl who had volunteered to blow up the plastic palm tree only to find that it was pure work and dizzying, and the sight of palm tree wallpaper flapping in the breeze of an electric fan... unintentional motion effects. I also liked the sea windows that we encountered in several libraries, with underwater creatures and bright blue waters. Of course, those libraries with actual aquariums were ahead of the game.

I have sent you some photos that you might enjoy. They were quick shots made to gauge the flavor of the library without capturing patron faces.

Thanks so much for assisting Illinois libraries with their summer programs; it is obvious that we are making critical inroads in the education of so many children.

Best wishes,  
Allen Lanham

P.S. I think we could reuse those island kiosks with all the hula skirts for a winter program for adults... you know, colorful drinks with umbrellas, limbo poles with flying fish ornaments, etc.

P.P.S. Watch for the *Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries* exhibit at the ILA Conference on Navy Pier in October and the online resource later this fall.

**ILA**

*Allen Lanham is a past president of ILA and Dean of Library Services at Eastern Illinois University.*





## Fast Facts

451 of the 637 Illinois public libraries or 71% of Illinois public libraries ordered the 2006 iREAD materials. The average customer order was \$266.25.

According to the 2006 iREAD Customer Satisfaction Survey,

- 69% ranked this year's theme, "Voyage to Book Island," as strongly favorable;
- 66% ranked the ease of obtaining the catalog as strongly favorable;
- the highest favorable rankings received (97%) were for customer service — acknowledging, correcting (if necessary), processing, packing, and mailing orders; and
- 91% want iREAD to expand to include young adult themes, materials, and activities in the iREAD program.





# Sally in Libraryland

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

In the course of writing this column, I have talked about staff and patrons and directors and board members. I have never once talked about vendors. Until now. As is often the case, the universe first tapped, and then pounded on my brain until I was inspired to deal with a topic on paper that I have been dealing with in reality.

The vast, vast majority of the vendors we — and I'm sure all of you — deal with are awfully nice people. They are excited about the products and services they have to offer us, they are willing and able to work with us on pricing and training, and their companies often invite us to meals or receptions at conferences that make it possible for us to save a lot of money on food costs. Many spend big bucks for our benefit even if we never buy a single thing from them, sponsoring speakers, scholarship bashes, and giving away great stuff at their booths!

I am certainly not an expert on sales technique — except for Girl Scout cookies; I have no experience in sales at all. But because of this job, I have amassed a great deal of experience in dealing with vendors. Jim Keating was once upon a time my local rep for Recorded Books, and he's now some national muckety muck; I am always happy to see him at conferences. Bruce Burg (West Circle Books) worked at the Museum of Science and Industry as an undergraduate when I did, and we were both surprised and delighted when our paths crossed in Libraryland fifteen years later. All of us who dealt with Brian Molitar

from IAC and Sharon Daniels from ProQuest were happy for them but sad for us when they went on to bigger and better things and stopped being our reps. I have had many delightful conversations with David Merrell from Newsbank, although I've never met him and could only pick him out in a crowd of two if I heard his voice. I am not one of those people who says, "I hate dealing with sales reps." I actively enjoy talking to most of them, whether at conferences, over the phone, or in my library. (Which reminds me, if you are a rep reading this: If you want to talk to me at my library, please call ahead and make an appointment. I don't know why some of you think I am sitting at my desk, twiddling my thumbs, hoping someone will drop by so I have something to do. That never happens, and even if I'm in when you come by, I am almost always up to my elbows in something. Please, make an appointment. And I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels that way.)

So, on to the vendor stories. The beginning of budget season is when I contact vendors to make sure I have accurate numbers to plug into my budget for the next fiscal year. So when it's time, I am in touch with all our database providers (about ten), and the two providers of various sorts of equipment maintenance.

But last year and this year I seem to have hit an odd little subset of vendor weirdnesses. I will tell you the stories, but I will not mention any names, for a couple of reasons:

- 1) The company may be totally uniformly wonderful, except for the week I was dealing with my budget, and next year's experiences could be totally positive and happy, and
- 2) the sales rep with whom I experienced weirdness may no longer be with an otherwise wonderful company.

Weird experience #1 was with a service provider last year. We had used the same one for many, many years. The year there was a larger-than-expected proposed price increase was also the year that a new provider sprang up in the area, so I asked both the new provider (having checked it out thoroughly, and believing there was a reasonable expectation that it could meet our needs) and the old one for their best price, explaining that while I feel obligated to search out the best value for our patron's tax dollars, I did not have the time or inclination to go back and forth and back and forth looking for the lowest price. Two prices came in and I chose the lower, which happened to be the new provider. When I informed the old one that we would be making a change for the coming year, they immediately e-mailed back: "You should have gotten back to us — we could have beaten their price." So I responded, "Next year, when I ask for your best price, please give it to me. As I've said, I just don't have time to go back and forth on this." Imagine my surprise when I received an e-mail almost instantly that said, "We will not be providing pricing for you next year. We are not interested in doing business with you in the future." Except for an occasional ad, I haven't heard from them since. Nor have I read that the person who sent that e-mail was made "Salesperson of the Year." (As a follow-up, in case you're wondering, the new provider is working out just fine, is attentive to our needs, and has held the line on prices ever since the first year.)

Weird experience #2 was with a database provider. After many years with one rep, we had a new one. The quote I was given for next year's subscription was more than double the previous year's. Egad, I thought, this must be a mistake. I e-mailed back, saying exactly that. No, I was told, we were paying far less than all the other libraries in the area, and the enormous increase was to bring us up to where we should be. We e-mailed back and forth several times. I sent along the records of what we had paid annually for the years we had had the product, demonstrating incremental price increases that, while occasionally larger than I might have wished, were never of the order of magnitude that was being put forth for next year. We finally achieved consensus on a reasonable increase for next year, but I was warned that the humongous increase would be in effect for the year after that. I was told that it would not be fair to the other libraries to pay any less. So I explained that fairness to other libraries is a concern well behind concern for our taxpayer dollars for me, although I certainly hoped treating libraries fairly was a concern for them. Further, since we're operating under a tax cap, we would not be able to afford the database at that price, so that the coming year would likely be our last as customers. And then — *mirabile dictu* — the sales rep came back with a new way of calculating our cost. And, demonstrating her willingness to work with us, she sent me a pricing list through 2010, with increases of 3.5 percent each year. By 2010, the price will be about half the price originally quoted for next year. Now, I understand that pricing for databases is not as straightforward as pricing for Girl Scout cookies. And I realize that many of the vendors have licensing agreements with the content providers. But come on—if there ever was an example of why we should band together and negotiate prices and discounts as a large group, I believe this is it!

*(continued on page 28)*

		<p><b>SPEER FINANCIAL, INC.</b>          INDEPENDENT PUBLIC FINANCE CONSULTANTS SERVING LIBRARIES SINCE 1954  <a href="http://WWW.SPEERFINANCIAL.COM">WWW.SPEERFINANCIAL.COM</a></p>	<p>ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET          SUITE 4100          CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602          PHONE (312) 346 - 3700          FAX (312) 346 - 8833          Kevin W. McCanna, CIPFA; CFA          President          David F. Phillips, CIPFA          Senior Vice President/          Director of Marketing  <small>Photo: Oak Park Public Library</small></p>
<p>Speer Financial, Inc. serving libraries with independence, honesty, integrity with distinctive expertise and is on the forefront in the application of technology in municipal debt issuance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illinois' most active financial advisor.</li> <li>• Referendum expertise.</li> <li>• No cost capital project borrowing modeling.</li> <li>• Open competitive sales lead to lowest bidder/lowest cost.</li> </ul>			

(continued from page 27)

Weird experience #3 actually started at my health club. You probably wouldn't know it to look at me, but I work out at 6 A.M. four days a week, and my resting heart rate is an impressive (to me and my doctor, anyway) 45. But, being over 40, I am in many ways invisible there, which is pretty much fine with me. One day as I was stretched out doing foolish things with an exercise ball in an ongoing and only partially successful attempt to keep my back happy, two men claimed some nearby vacant space and chatted as they went through their stretching routines. Since I was invisible, they didn't feel the need to lower their voices, and I had no choice but to overhear their conversation. One, it appeared, was in sales, and he was describing his difficulty in getting some potential customer to become an actual customer. Seems the potential customer kept asking questions about how the product worked, what customer support was available, what pricing trends looked like for the future — the same kinds of questions I always ask when pondering some new expenditure. "He's an idiot," said the salesman. "All my customers are idiots." "Wow," I said to myself. "I don't believe any of our vendors feel that way about librarians." About a week later, they called me from the desk to tell

me that my 11 A.M. appointment had arrived. I went out to the desk to greet the man who said all his customers were idiots. He, of course, didn't know me from Adam. But I certainly knew him. It was a very short appointment, and I'm still looking for another vendor who can sell me the same product. My dilemma now is whether I should tell the first guy why.

So, dear vendors, please:

1. Treat us with respect — to our faces and behind our backs. This Libraryland is an extremely small place, and news — good and bad — travels fast.
2. Do not play pricing games with us. See 1.
3. We want to have congenial relationships with you, and value your expertise. Value ours. See 1.

What else would we like our vendors to know?

E-mail ([sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com)) or fax (847-459-4760) or write (355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling 60090) your tale to me, and then watch this space!

**IIA**

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**EXTENDING  
OUR REACH**





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

Its primary goals are: Advocating for the Public Interest | Promoting Professional Excellence | Preparing for the Future



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

Being president of this organization is an opportunity to combine my ideas and strengths with those of other members, and collectively become a much more powerful force than any of us could be individually. It's been a wonderful year, and we made progress on many fronts, both close to home and further afield. The theme of this year's annual report, *Extending Our Reach*, describes what we've done and suggests just how much we can accomplish when we work together.

One of our proudest moments came at this year's American Library Association Annual Conference Opening Session in New Orleans. On your behalf, I presented checks for \$7,500 each to the Louisiana and Mississippi Library Associations. Immediately after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, ILA established a disaster relief fund to coordinate support from Illinois and raised \$15,000 in donations. Librarians and others wanted to help and we all needed a vehicle that would make our donations as useful as possible. The gratitude of our colleagues on the Gulf Coast was immeasurable.

Our track record with public policy initiatives continued to be impressive, and we were able to influence legislation in a positive way. The highlight was ILA's strategic actions on behalf of the Cherry Valley Public Library District issue that threatened to set a dangerous precedent, undoing the manner in which libraries have traditionally and responsibly annexed service areas. Despite being on the losing side through the appellate court system, ILA was instrumental in the passage of House Bill (HB) 4217, helping legislators see the "slippery slope" that was being created. ILA members worked hard to enlist support from their legislators, and getting Minority Leader Tom Cross on board was a major coup.

This was a tough year for the economy, and ILA was no exception. Still, we ended the year in the plus column, which was no small achievement. We also established a new forum for Young Adults, in response to the needs and wishes of our members. And all of our regular activities seemed just a little better and brighter to me—the conference in Peoria, all of the committee work, ongoing conversations on increasing revenue streams, our great turnout for Illinois Library Day, and the many fine conferences and workshops throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Dianne Harmon  
ILA President, 2005–2006

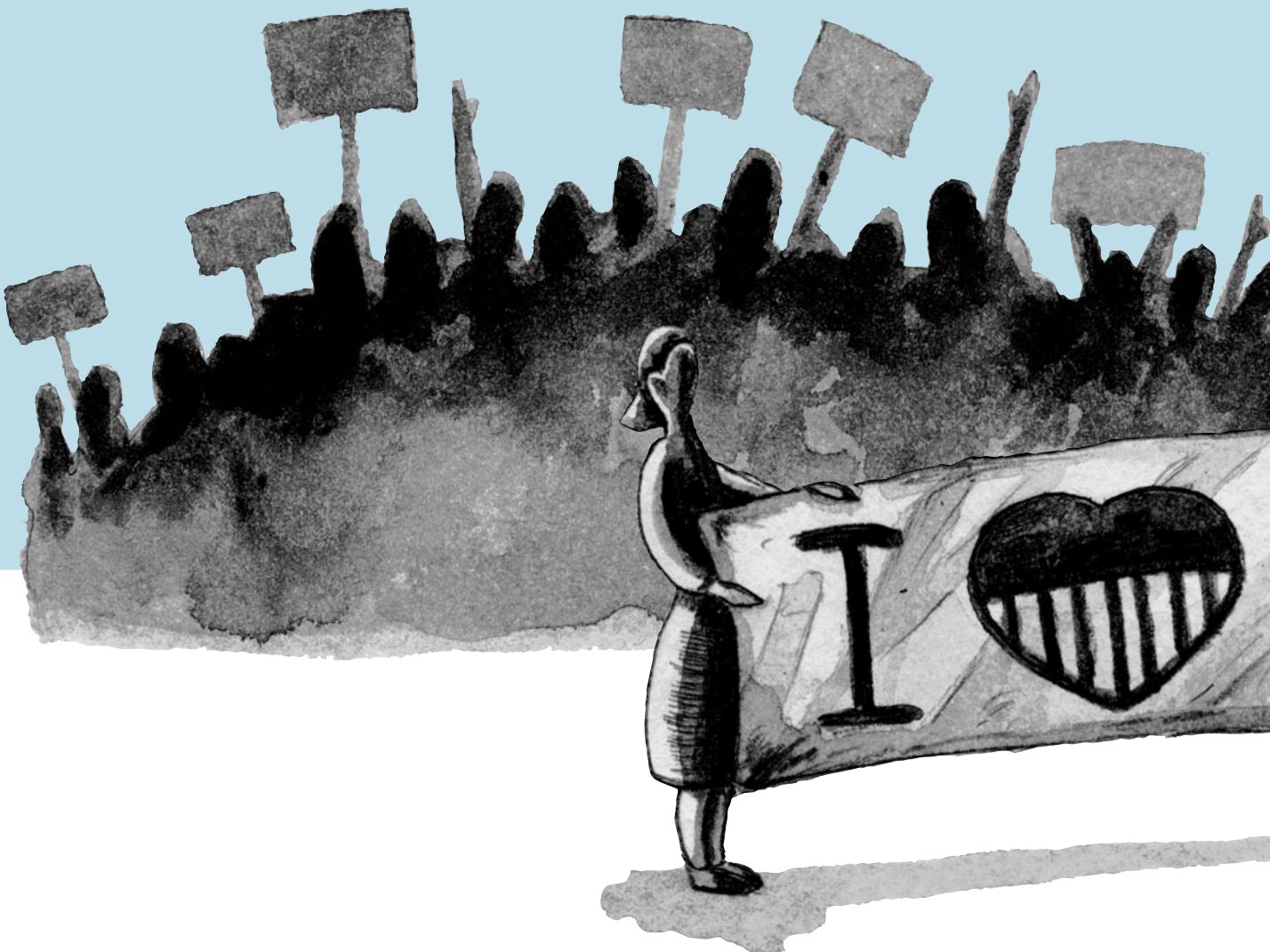
## ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST: 2005–2006

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned the 2006 spring session on May 4, 2006. While this was one of the earliest adjournments in memory, it was a full month after the scheduled adjournment date. Little was accomplished in this abbreviated session that was once again dominated by state budget issues. During the regular and extended session, Illinois libraries won several key battles and set the stage for what we hope will be even greater success in the future.

Legislators filed more than 3,000 bills, and passed 353. The Illinois Library Association tracked several hundred bills affecting funding for libraries, intellectual freedom issues, local government operations, and other issues of importance to the library community.

The association began this year, as always, with an agenda developed by the Public Policy Committee and approved by the membership. Key areas of activity and concern included library funding, intellectual freedom, privacy, and universal library service. The agenda was implemented through a combination of strategies:

- Strong membership communication through the ILA Web site.
- Association presence in Springfield through professional staff and member visits.
- Coalition building with key organizations and partners.





## OUR LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Significant victories were scored on many issues. The major initiative for the association this year was passage of House Bill (HB) 4217; the legislation clarifying public library district annexation. This legislation was necessary as a result of the Cherry Valley court decision invalidating several library district annexations. (*The People of the State of Illinois vs. Cherry Valley Public Library District*, Boone County, Case No. 03-MR-6). After several years of litigation and work by scores of people in the library community, this clarifying language is now contained in Public Act 94-899.

Another important victory was reversal of a proposed \$510,500 cut to library system funding. We are pleased that Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White agreed to restore the entire proposed budget cut, ensuring that library system funding would be maintained.

On intellectual freedom issues, we once again successfully opposed efforts to require mandatory installation of Internet filters on school and public library computers. This session's proposal was contained in House Bill (HB) 5564. In addition, legislation affecting confidentiality of library records, Senate Bill (SB) 2833, was also held and no changes were permitted.

Successfully amending House Bill (HB) 4399 was another victory. This legislation would have required school districts to spend at least 65 percent of their total operating expenditures on "direct classroom expenditures." This legislation has been proposed in states throughout the country. As introduced, libraries were **not** considered part of classroom expenditures, even though spending on sports and band activities were. ILA successfully amended this legislation to specifically include spending on library personnel and resources as classroom expenditures. While still flawed and ultimately held in committee, the amended legislation acknowledged the importance of school libraries.

The association also supported Senate Bill (SB) 1682 that allows taxing districts to ask voters to increase their actual tax rate — the one that shows up on tax bills. Currently, officials can only ask for an adjustment in their maximum tax rate — the one set by law. The proposal also requires officials to add additional information on ballots, intended to clarify how much a tax-rate increase would cost voters.

Finally, after the legislative session concluded, the governor proposed a \$4 billion education reform package that would be financed by selling the state lottery to a private operator. This reform package called for increases in both school library spending and the hiring of additional school library personnel. While not commenting on the appropriateness of the funding source, ILA strongly supports the proposed increases in school library funding and is working with the proponents to further this program.



## PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: 2005–2006

The 2005 ILA Annual Conference was held October 11–14 in Peoria. Stephen Abram presented the keynote, “Service at Google Speed — How Libraries Must Compete,” which engaged and challenged conference attendees. Other highlights included author/illustrator Kevin Luthardt speaking at the Youth Services Breakfast, a river boat cruise on the Star of Peoria, and the Illinois Authors’ Luncheon featuring speaker Anne Durkin Keating, co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. ILA members attended over seventy sessions addressing topics from electronic intellectual freedom to serving ethnic populations, from passing your referendum to library professional education. Conference attendance was 1,087, including 207 exhibitor representatives. A special thanks to the many sponsors and donors who made the conference possible, along with the members and visitors from around the world who made it memorable.

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

In February, the Illinois Library Trustee Forum Spring Workshop featured a series of speakers addressing issues of concern to library governing bodies. Issues addressed included “Why Do Libraries Need Insurance,” “Developing Good Communication Between the Director and the Board,” and “Trustees, Libraries and the Law.”

In March, the 2006 Illinois Library Day in Springfield was attended by 581 library supporters. The event was sponsored by the Illinois Library Association, Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and Illinois State Library. In the same month, the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) held a spring conference, “Libraries in the Digital Future,” in Bloomington. Michael Jon Jensen, director of Web Communications for the National Academies and director of Publishing Technologies at the National Academies Press delivered the keynote address.

In May, Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. with sixty-eight attendees, or 13 percent of the total attendance for the event. And, the sixteenth annual Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants was held on Friday, May 19, drawing over 1,000 attendees. Mikki Williams presented the keynote address, “Balancing Act: Walking the Tightrope of Life.”

In addition to these workshops and conferences, the *ILA Reporter* offers members a bimonthly window to the wider world of librarianship around the state and the nation. This year’s series on “One State, Many Faces: The Mosaic of the Illinois Library Community” explores the excellence and diversity of librarians and library advocates in Illinois. Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2005–2006 included:

- *Books Challenged or Banned, 2004–2005* (August 2005)
- *2004–2005 ILA Annual Report: Remembering, Reflecting, and Reinventing* (October 2005)
- *2006 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2006).

Finally, the 2006 IREAD theme, *Voyage to Book Island*, brought Illinois libraries the colorful and imaginative graphics of illustrator Kevin Luthardt.



## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: 2005–2006

The association ended the fiscal year 2005–2006 with a surplus for the tenth year in a row. ILA's auditors, Selden Fox, Ltd., "commended the executive board and management for obtaining an increase in net assets of \$33,289 during 2006. This is nearly six times the prior year increase and an accomplishment to be proud of." In addition to sound fiscal management, the executive board believes ILA must continue to diversify income streams in order to maintain the financial health of the organization.

The health of the 2005–2006 financial statement is due to the association's long-term investments. Since 1998, the association has maintained an investment portfolio; some years the portfolio yields little or no gain, depending on our ability to make additional contributions and the valuation of the market. At the end of the fiscal year, the portfolio showed a gain of \$19,037 for a total value of \$249,172 and an increase of 8.71 percent. As we do not budget for a gain, the association's long-term investments made the association's bottom line in 2005–2006 positive.



# ILA FISCAL REPORT YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

## INCOME

General Operations	\$51,503
Membership	\$313,235
Directory/Reporter	\$19,544
Conference	\$237,190
Publications	\$42,364
iREAD	\$185,415
Public Policy	\$6,000
Awards	\$3,196
Workshops/Projects	\$34,971
Restricted Contributions	\$12,122
Reaching Forward	\$105,886
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,011,426</b>

## EXPENSES

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

General Operations	\$374,313
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$74,473
Conference	\$139,045
Board/Committee	\$5,818
Publications	\$20,082
iREAD	\$163,502
Public Policy	\$60,085
Awards	\$3,477
Workshops/Projects	\$33,672
Professional Development	\$632
Forums	\$537
Reaching Forward	\$102,501
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$978,137</b>

Income/Expenses	\$33,289
Net Assets at end of FY2005	\$296,208
Net Assets at end of FY2006	\$329,497

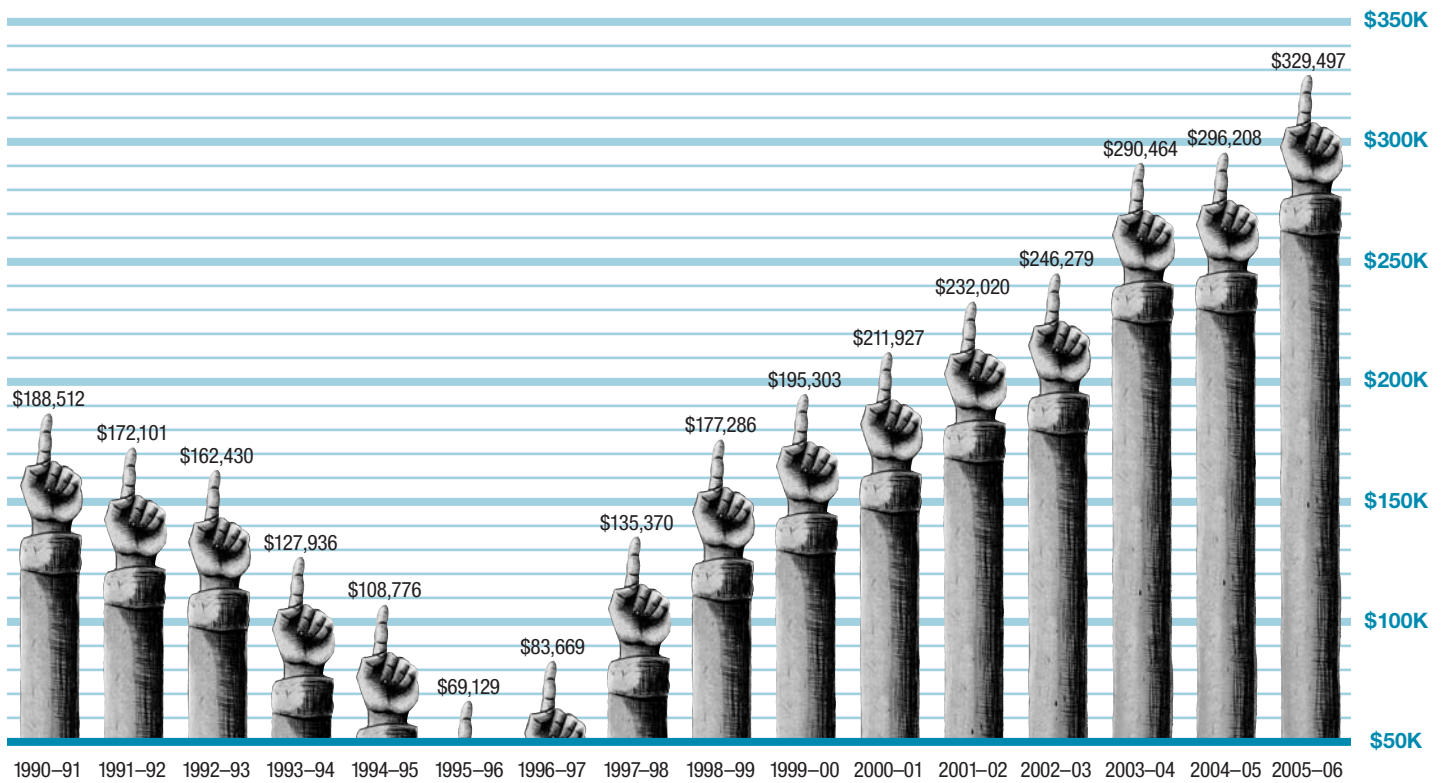
### Net Assets are Comprised of:

Unrestricted Assets	\$278,728
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$36,565
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$14,204
<b>Total Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$329,497</b>



- Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,631)
- Student Librarian Scholarship (\$8,979)
- deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283)
- Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$1,278)
- Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$11,052)
- Legal Defense Fund (\$555)
- Preiser Award (\$2,500)
- Illinois Library Day (\$4,287)

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NET ASSETS



## CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

After ten years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last tenth fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$260,368.

2005-2006	\$33,289
2004-2005	\$5,744
2003-2004	\$44,185
2002-2003	\$14,259
2001-2002	\$20,093
2000-2001	\$16,624
1999-2000	\$18,017
1998-1999	\$41,916
1997-1998	\$51,701
1996-1997	\$14,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$260,368</b>

## MEMBERSHIP

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its 2,900 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

## ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

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

## FORUMS

Government Documents Forum

Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum

Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum

Library Trustees Forum

Public Library Forum

Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff

Reference Services Forum

Resources and Technical Services Forum

Young Adult Services Forum

Youth Services Forum

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

Best Practices Committee

Conference Program Committee

Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee

Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee

Intellectual Freedom Committee

*ILA Reporter* Advisory Committee

iREAD Committee

Marketing Committee

Membership Committee

Nominating Committee

Public Policy Committee

## 2005/2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Dianne C. Harmon, Joliet Public Library
Vice-President/President-Elect	Tamiye Meehan, Indian Trails Public Library District
Immediate Past President	Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University
Treasurer	Charm N. Ruhnke, Lewis & Clark Library System
Directors	Laura L. Barnes, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center Dean Bryan, Metropolitan Library System Kathleen Conley, Illinois State University Sally M. Duchow, retired, St. Joseph, Ill. Annie Marie Ford, University of Illinois at Chicago Margaret Ming Heraty, Arlington Heights Memorial Library Nancy Huntley, Lincoln Library Richard C. McCarthy, Gail Borden Public Library District Julie M. Milavec, Plainfield Public Library District Nestor Osorio, Northern Illinois University Ellen C. Popit, Shawnee Library System
ALA Councilor	Lynn Stainbrook, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Ex Officio	Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library



Robert P. Doyle  
Illinois Library Association  
33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 301  
Chicago, IL 60610-4306  
phone: (312) 644-1896  
fax: (312) 644-1899  
e-mail: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)  
<http://www.ila.org>

**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.**

## Sharing Keeps Rare Books Public

Like a medieval alchemist, a good librarian can make magic by bringing together the right book and the right reader. That is what happened the day Paul Saenger put a book of religious music not performed in centuries into the hands of Calvin Bower, reported the July 8 *Chicago Tribune*.

Portuguese monks had hand-inscribed the processional music they sang as they filed into chapel for prayers around the year 1300. The music on the pages went silent more than 500 years ago after the archaic notation system went out of use. Bower, a professor of medieval studies at the University of Notre Dame, opened the book and stared at the old musical notations — small, oddly spaced squares that the monks had inked across the thick animal-skin parchment pages, still pliable. Then Bower did something remarkable. “He started to hum,” Saenger said. Spontaneously, the long-dormant processional came to life; a rich, stately piece that opened with just four notes and gradually swelled to ten. “Calvin is one of a handful of scholars in the world who can read that notation,” Saenger said. “It probably was the first time it had been performed in 500 years.”

Finding such a book intact today is rare, because as other musical notation systems came into use, the books with the old system got cut up, their pages used for bindings of newer books. “Things like this book have really become popular as collectibles,” said Saenger. “Prices on rare books and manuscripts have increased dramatically in the last couple of decades. It has really hurt university libraries that have their own rare book collections.”

With money so tight on campuses, it is increasingly difficult for university libraries to persuade administrators to spend money to enlarge rare book collections when a single volume can cost thousands or tens of thousands of dollars. That is where the Newberry, an independent research library, steps in. Under the partnership run by Saenger, when a desirable rare book comes up for sale, the library puts up two-thirds of the money and the school one-third. The Newberry keeps the book eight months a year; the school can have it for four.

The partnership plan started with Notre Dame in 1995, Saenger said, when a professor there saw a rare book in a catalog and called the Newberry, thinking the volume was too valuable to scholars to let it be sold to a private collection and wondering if the library might buy it. “I asked him if Notre Dame could come up with a third of the cost,” Saenger said. “The book would reside here, but it could go to Notre Dame part of the year for study by scholars there. It was an idea I had been kicking around on my own for years, because the Newberry certainly doesn’t have funds to buy everything we want, either.”

Kent Emery, a professor of medieval studies at Notre Dame, was fascinated by the novel suggestion. “It is an inspired idea,” said Emery. “It means colleges have a way to acquire books for hands-on research they never could afford before. It makes sense that the books are kept at the Newberry, coming to our campus when our scholars need them for research or teaching.”

Over twelve years the partnership has acquired twenty-three books and manuscripts at a cost of more than half a million dollars. The program has expanded and now includes Western Michigan University, Spertus College, DePaul University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Minnesota, which in December helped buy a 550-year-old Czech book. The volume lists customs and laws of the city of Brno, covering everything from penalties for selling rotten meat to special codes for occupants of its Jewish ghetto.

Prices have averaged from \$20,000 to \$50,000, Saenger said. The lowest price paid so far is \$4,000 and the highest \$58,000 — for a thirteenth century Vulgate concordance to the Bible, purchased with the University of Illinois in 2001. A sort of elaborate index and subject guide, the book steered readers through a Latin translation of the Old Testament before page numbering was invented.

“The experience of seeing the way information was transmitted then is just as important to scholars and students as it is to understand the content of these old books and manuscripts,” said Saenger. At this point, each participating school can bring to its campus only those books it helped purchase, but Saenger said plans are afoot to make all documents bought in the partnership program available for travel to all member schools.



## New Sales Tax Revenue Means Positive Changes for Bensenville Library

Just six months ago, the Bensenville Community Public Library board was two years into a financial crisis and at wit's end deciding what programs or staff would be next to get axed, reported the July 12 *Daily Herald*. A new budget year brings a new bankbook and several improvements aimed at bringing the library back up to snuff.

Thanks to an intergovernmental agreement with the village, the library district expects to receive about \$500,000 annually through a 1 percentage-point sales tax increase approved by voters in the spring.

"We're so thankful to the community, and we can't wait for them to see how they've helped us," library Director Jill Rodriguez said. "We haven't reached the peak yet, but we're thrilled with the level of services we're able to offer again."

She announced that, for the first time since the onset of the crisis in early 2004, the library is back to normal business hours, all Internet fees have been eliminated, and the materials budget has been doubled after two years of cuts. Rodriguez also said the district is poised to hire a youth services director — an administrative position cut in 2004 — to help increase the services available to children and students in the community.

"The area our patrons will see the most improvements will be in the increased programs for kids," she said. "There will be more in-library programming, more activities, and author visits to draw kids into the library." The next priority, she said, is to get more copies of current bestsellers on the shelves to eliminate the long hold time experienced by patrons since the budget cuts took place.

An aggressive building and maintenance plan has also been scheduled to begin in the fall when the board hopes to upgrade the thirty-year-old heating and air-conditioning system and improve sidewalks and landscaping around the library. Next summer, they plan to replace the roof.

Attempts to sway voters to increase the tax rate by 9 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation failed three times since 2004.

## Judge Rules for Byron Library Plan

An Ogle County judge said the city of Byron was wrong when it denied a building permit for a new Byron library, reported the July 18 *Rockford Register Star*. (See June 2006 *ILA Reporter*, p. 20.)

Judge Mike Mallon said the city's comprehensive plan could not prevent library leaders from building the \$5.5 million, 27,000-square-foot library on U.S. 2 across the road from its current location in downtown Byron. The city maintains the land is in the middle of a prime commercial- and retail-development zone, as outlined in its comprehensive plan, and is not an appropriate site for the library.

Lawyers for the library are expected to file a motion asking the judge to order the city to issue a building permit. City attorney Clayton Lindsey told the judge he was not sure what the city's next step will be, but that an appeal is possible.

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## Glenview Library to Get Less Than It Hoped

The Glenview Village Board voted to finance a new \$26.3 million public library despite concerns from library officials that the proposed building wouldn't be big enough to meet future needs, according to the July 19 *Chicago Tribune*.

Projected as an 87,000-square-foot facility, nearly twice as large as the current fifty-one-year-old library it would replace, the offer may be refused by the library board, which wants a building at least 6,000 square feet larger. The village board voted 5-1 in favor of the proposal, with trustee Deborah Karton dissenting. She said she approved of the concept but felt it should go to a referendum. The village plans to raise the money through a \$25.1 million bond issue plus accumulated interest.

A 2004 study showed that the current library needed more than \$5.3 million in repairs. It also estimated that construction of a new facility of 92,000 to 100,000 square feet would cost about \$35 million.

## Illinois Deficit Largest in U.S.

While most other states enjoyed a little extra cash, Illinois suffered a \$3 billion deficit in fiscal 2005, the largest shortfall in the nation. Illinois also brought up the rear in another category. Its total debt — such as pension obligations and unpaid medical bills — outweighed total assets by a staggering \$17.5 billion, the July 24 *Rockford Register Star* reported.

But Governor Rod Blagojevich's budget director said the state's financial condition isn't as bad as those numbers suggest. John Filan said Illinois is taking in more than enough money each year to pay its annual expenses. If you look at cash coming in the door versus cash going out, the state budget is balanced, he said.

The deficit comes up when looking at obligations that have built up over years or, in the case of pensions, decades. The state is running far behind in paying the hospitals, nursing homes, and pharmacies that care for the poor. It had a Medicaid backlog of \$1.4 billion when the budget year ended June 30.

Decades of shorting government pension systems have left the state promising more to retirees than is available. Its five pension systems had a \$38.6 billion gap between assets and future obligations as of late last year. Comptroller Dan Hynes calls Medicaid and pensions "two major obstacles to getting entirely on sound fiscal footing."

Medical providers wait months to be paid for their services, hurting their bottom line and in some cases forcing them to turn away Medicaid patients. Meanwhile, the state lacks money to spend on other important services. The deficit also can hurt the state's credit rating, which means Illinois must pay more to borrow money.

The *Register Star's* analysis is based on annual reports each state must file. The reports for fiscal 2005 are the latest available. Two states hadn't filed yet for 2005 reports, so the newspaper looked at their earlier reports. Illinois had a deficit of more than \$3 billion. Wisconsin and North Carolina were the only other states in the red, with deficits of \$2.2 billion and \$78.9 million, respectively. Florida showed the healthiest balance sheet, with a \$6.9 billion surplus.

The financial reports also looked at states' net assets — essentially, the government's value after comparing debt with cash on hand, property, and other assets. Illinois was \$17.5 billion in the red, while New Jersey had a negative worth of \$7.8 billion. Texas was in the best shape by that measure, with a positive balance of \$81.7 billion.

Analysts with credit-rating agencies were pragmatic about the Illinois figures, saying they tend to focus on a state's cash balance and whether it can pay its bills. Still, they said Illinois's annual report does suggest long-term challenges. "You can't explain all of it away," said John Kenward, an analyst with Standard & Poor's. "It's still not an ideal situation. It does signal things to look out for."

## Glenview's Library Expands Access to Unfiltered Internet

The August 3 *Chicago Tribune* reported that the Glenview Public Library has decided to lower the age of teenagers who will be allowed access to unfiltered computers from eighteen to sixteen. Vickie Novak, the library's executive director, said the policy came in response to a drumbeat of complaints from parents who questioned the wisdom of the policy, especially as it related to college-bound students.

In Glenview, many of the parents told library officials that if their children were old enough to drive themselves to the library they should be able to browse the Internet unsupervised. Some parents also complained that the filters made it difficult for their children to research some classroom assignments, especially at the senior level.

"Our sixteen-year-old is becoming a responsible adult, and I trust he can make decisions in his best interest," said Glenview resident Leslie Corles, a mother of four. "We no longer monitor him at home. We have rules and expectations. I think if parents don't have rules at this point, it's probably too late."

Since some in the community didn't agree with the policy change, the library board didn't make the decision lightly, officials said. "We suffered over this a long time," said Arlene Anthony, board president.

## Libraries Recall Prizes Given to Children

Some children who were awarded prizes by area libraries this summer for exceptional reading have a new text to master: a recall notice, reported the August 11 *Chicago Tribune*.

The Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District announced a prize recall, saying that it gave out—as part of its summer reading program—dog and cat bendable toys that contain unacceptable levels of lead. Other Illinois libraries that bought the toys include Coal City Public Library District, Clarendon Hills Public Library, La Grange Park Public Library District, Lisle Library District, North Riverside Public Library, and Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien.

Libraries in as many as forty-one states bought them as part of the prepackaged "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tails" summer reading program created by library-equipment supplier Highsmith, company spokesperson Matt Mulder told the *Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun*. Wisconsin-based Highsmith Co. sold the approximately four-inch-long, Chinese-manufactured toys this summer nationwide to libraries, which used them as prizes and incentives to encourage reading. Recalls have been issued across the United States.

The Indiana Department of Health, which found the toys' accent paint to be between 0.4 and 0.24 percent lead, announced the toxicity last week. A test by Highsmith then found that levels were at least 0.277 percent, said Matt Mulder. The maximum safety limit is 0.06 percent, according to several state health agencies. Exposure to lead, especially in children, can cause nervous system damage, hearing loss, delayed development, and kidney damage.

"The shape and size of these toys may tempt children to put them in their mouths and suck or chew on the toys," Loren Robertson, assistant commissioner of the Indiana Health Department, said in a release. "If children have these toys, it's important that parents return them to their local library for safe disposal. Also, consider consulting with your healthcare provider for lead screening."

Mulder said anyone who received the toys should take them back to the library where they received them.

## Illinois Ordered to Pay in Game Ban Case

The federal judge who ruled that Illinois unconstitutionally banned the sale of violent or sexual video games to minors has another message for the state: pay up, reported the August 11 *Chicago Tribune*.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly ordered the state to pay more than \$510,000 in legal fees to three business groups that sued over the Safe Games Illinois Act: the Entertainment Software Association, the Video Software Dealers Association, and the Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

Governor Rod Blagojevich and others who pushed for the measure argued that children are harmed by exposure to games in which characters use violence or engage in sexual acts. But shortly before January, when the law would have gone into effect, the judge barred the state from enforcing it.

Kennelly ruled in December that the law would violate the First Amendment and that there was not a compelling enough reason, such as preventing imminent violence, to allow it to stand. He added that state officials came “nowhere near” demonstrating that the new law was constitutional.

The state has appealed the judge’s December ruling but will pay the companies’ legal fees, spokesman Gerardo Cardenas said.

Blagojevich also complained that the video game companies are being represented by Jenner & Block, a law firm that works for the state on other matters. He objected to a firm simultaneously working for the state and suing the state and said he wants to study prohibiting such situations in the future. Trying to ban violent or sexual games is still the right thing to do, despite the cost, he asserted.

Douglas Lowenstein, president of the Entertainment Software Association, issued a news release saying the judge’s rulings “send two irrefutable messages — not only are efforts to ban the sale of violent video games clearly unconstitutional, they are a waste of taxpayer dollars.”

## Cook Library Gets Surprise \$500,000 Gift

Two Lake County legislators surprised Cook Memorial Public Library District officials by pledging \$500,000 toward the construction of a new library in Vernon Hills, reported the August 18 *Daily Herald*. The money can be used for engineering studies, actual construction, or other purposes — as long as the efforts benefit a site in Vernon Hills, state Senator Terry Link and state Representative Kathy Ryg told the library board during a special meeting.

Library board members called the pledge generous and thanked the lawmakers for their commitment to the district. “This is really important,” board president Aaron Lawlor said. “I appreciate that you guys are willing to work together with us.”

The source of the \$500,000 hasn’t been determined, but the grant has been pre-approved by legislative leaders, Link said. More money could come from the state in the future, he said. Board member Karen Broms called the pledge a “wonderful start.”

Link, of Waukegan, and Ryg, of Vernon Hills, both are Democrats whose districts include Cook Memorial. They’re also longtime proponents of a new library in Vernon Hills. Cook Memorial has a decades-old main library in Libertyville and a smaller three-year-old branch in Vernon Hills.

Seeking to address a political divide between residents in Vernon Hills and Libertyville - the two largest villages in the district - the lawmakers in 2005 successfully championed legislation that would allow communities to secede from library districts. Library officials, however, did not support the legislation and promised to improve library service in both communities.

In June, the board agreed to investigate the potential costs of three expansion options. The scenarios involve leasing a southern facility, buying and outfitting an existing building in that area, or constructing a new building. Regardless of which option the board eventually pursues, the main library will be improved, officials have said.

In response to this news, the chairman of Lake County’s Republican organization blasted the pledge of \$500,000 in state funds as an election-season stunt, reported the August 19 *Daily Herald*. “It’s obviously election pork,” GOP leader Daniel Venturi said of the promise state Senator Terry Link made to Cook Memorial Public Library District leaders. “It’s a transparent purchase of votes.”

Link, chairman of the county's Democratic Party, flatly rejected that accusation. "If that was the case, you'd see me running around my whole district passing out checks," said Link, of Waukegan. The source of the money they promised hasn't been determined, but the grant has been pre-approved by legislative leaders, Link said.

Venturi was particularly steamed about the library offer because Cook Memorial officials didn't ask for the money and have not yet developed plans for a Vernon Hills facility. "You've got half a million dollars going to an organization that doesn't have a plan," Venturi said.

## Relabeling Library Expenditures Helps University of Chicago Jump to Ninth in College Rankings

Size counts, money counts, and maybe most important, how you count counts, the University of Chicago discovered as it engineered a dramatic jump in a national college ranking, reported the August 18 *Chicago Tribune*.

When the highly publicized *U.S. News & World Report* rankings are released, the University of Chicago will come in ninth place after finishing last year at number fifteen. It's rare for a college to move more than a spot or two on the list, so U. of C.'s jump six places may raise some eyebrows. Princeton University in New Jersey is ranked number 1 among national universities. Northwestern University is number 14, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is number 41.

Concerned that a continued slide in rankings might affect the University of Chicago's reputation, Michael Behnke, the vice president for university relations and dean of college enrollment, went to Washington, D.C., with other top officials to meet with magazine researchers and editors. The magazine evaluates about twenty factors when ranking the universities, including class sizes, student retention, graduation rate, alumni giving rate, and SAT scores.

"They concluded that we were misinterpreting some of their definitions," Behnke said. In calculating the number of classes with fewer than twenty students, for example, university officials did not count the freshmen writing courses that have an average of eight students. By including the writing classes, the percentage of classes under twenty increased to about 67 percent, from 60 percent, Behnke said. "That was a 'duh' moment. Why aren't we including these all along?" Behnke said.

Officials also found a way to improve the alumni giving rank—the percentage of alumni who donate to the university—by excluding graduates who couldn't be located.

The university also improved its per-student spending calculation by relabeling \$15 million in annual library expenditures that had been incorrectly filed under a category other than educational expenditures—information that also is submitted to the federal government. The additional per-student spending improved the university's position in the "financial resources" category.

Bob Morse, director of data research at *U.S. News & World Report*, said he was surprised that university officials had done such a poor job checking their data in the past. "It is rare that a school like the University of Chicago admitted that they were not doing their federal financial data correctly," he said. "They came across as an institution . . . that in some cases wasn't doing as serious a job reporting some of their data as they could have."

## Library Jubilant Over Renovation

Evergreen Park Public Library officials rejoiced, after the village board unanimously approved a \$3.5 million bond issue to renovate the library, reported the August 23 *Chicago Tribune*. "When you work on something this long, it's hard to believe it's actually going to happen," said library director Nicki Seidl. "I've got to pinch myself."

Expanding the 19,000-square-foot building by 3,500 square feet would allow for a reading room, three group study rooms, and space for young adults. In addition, existing space will be renovated to expand the children's area and triple the number of computers in the facility to twelve. Staff offices, a computer networking room, and book processing would be moved into the basement, where meeting and conference rooms would be added.

"It's updating the library so we can accommodate the needs of the community we're serving now," said Seidl, referring to young families who have been moving to the area in recent years. John Sawyers, village treasurer, said the general obligation bond issue would be repaid through sales-tax revenue, with no impact on residents.

Library renovations, which will be done by architectural firm PSA-Dewberry, could be finished in about a year. The library will remain open during construction. Seidl said the library still needs to raise about \$250,000 for furniture and new equipment. The library is holding a silent auction Oct. 14 at the Beverly Country Club.

## Art and Architecture Exhibit Debuts at ILA Annual Conference

*Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries* celebrates the rich architectural and artistic heritage of Illinois libraries. Using photographic images collected in public, academic, research, and special libraries throughout the state, this exhibit documents the work of artists and architects who have played a major role in the history of Illinois libraries. Funded by a 2006 LSTA grant from the Illinois State Library and by Eastern Illinois University, the exhibit consists of a variety of formats designed to appeal to varied audiences. Following ILA, the exhibit will travel to sixty-eight Illinois libraries. From apses to zocles, as well as paintings, quilts, sculptures, photographs, and stained glass — there is something for everyone. Stop by and enjoy an aesthetic tour of Illinois libraries!

### Exhibit Passes Are Free

At the 2006 ILA Annual Conference, more than 160 vendors will be on-site to demonstrate and display a wide range of products and services. The exhibits are free and open to all interested. To obtain a free exhibit pass, just go to the ILA registration desk at Navy Pier. In addition to the exhibits, the exhibit hall will also house the talk tables, poster sessions, and the *Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries* exhibit.

#### Exhibit Hours:

Wednesday, October 4, from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 5, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EXHIBITS WILL NOT BE OPEN ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6.

## Nominees Sought

The ILA 2007 Nominating Committee is soliciting nominees to run on the 2007 spring ballot for the Executive Board, including the office of ILA Vice President/President-elect.

The Nominating Committee will select two candidates to run for each of the four Director-at-Large and the Vice Presidential seats.

The President-elect will serve a three-year term as: President-elect in 2007-2008, President in 2008-2009, and Immediate Past President in 2009-2010. Director-at-Large seats are also three-year terms.

The Illinois Library Association Executive Board is the governing body of the association and is comprised of fifteen directors serving a three-year term. The board adopts and oversees implementation and evaluates all plans, policies, programs, and budget for the association. Together, board members constitute leadership of the association and assume responsibility for its success.

Members who wish to make nominations should submit the following information: nominee name; present position; institution; address; telephone; fax; and e-mail address. Self-nominations are encouraged. All potential nominees will be asked to complete a Potential Candidate Biographical Form that will be e-mailed to them.

Nominations may be sent to any member of the 2007 Nominating Committee or the Chair; Dianne Harmon, Joliet Public Library; dharmon@joliet.lib.il.us.

#### Members:

Tina Hubert, Lewis & Clark Library System; tinah@lcls.org

Kendi Kelley, retired; kendik@shawls.lib.il.us

Mary Munroe, Northern Illinois University; C60MHM1@wpo.cso.niu.edu

Tobi Oberman, Skokie Public Library; toberman@skokieilibrary.info

Lynn Stainbrook, Arlington Heights Memorial Library; lstainbrook@ahml.info

Denise Zielinski, DuPage Library System; dzieilins@dupagels.lib.il.us

## 2006 Charlotte Kim Scholars in Residence Program

Join the Chicago Public Library staff for the eighth annual academic program of the Charlotte Kim Scholars in Residence Program, featuring Maureen Sullivan, organizational consultant, author, and educator on November 8, 2006. Sullivan's keynote address is "Appreciative Inquiry: A Powerful Approach to Positive Change." Three colleagues who have used appreciative inquiry as their methodology to promote change within their respective libraries will join her. They are Karen Brown, associate professor at Dominican University; Sandra Norlin, director of the Des Plaines Public Library; and Jan Hayes, assistant director of the North Suburban Library System.

### The program events are:

Registration and coffee from 8:30 to 9:00 A.M.

Keynote speech from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Panel discussion from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Luncheon in the Winter Garden from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M.

Facilitated breakout sessions from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

The Chicago Public Library is naming the Scholars in Residence program after the late Charlotte Kim, to honor her commitment to continual learning and her many years of outstanding public service.

If you would like to attend this year's program, please contact Joan Levey at (312) 747-4963 or at [jlevey@chipublib.org](mailto:jlevey@chipublib.org) by October 27.



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# ILA Welcomes New Members

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

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**Annette Marie Davis**, Rantoul Public Library  
**Karen Dini**, Addison Public Library  
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**R. Christine Gibson**, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling  
**Colleen Gnat**, Cicero Public Library  
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**Lindsey Kraft**, Forest Park Public Library  
**Barbara Kruser**, Niles Public Library District  
**Jill Lauerman**, Poplar Creek Public Library District, Streamwood  
**Hilary R. Lombardo**, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District  
**Mary Mallow**, Rockford Public Library

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**Kate Niehoff**, Forest Park Public Library  
**Miriam Pappas**, Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Lockport  
**Penny Regan**, Mount Prospect Public Library  
**Bryan Rejkowski**, Fountaindale Public Library District, Bolingbrook  
**Susan Riegler**, Crystal Lake Public Library  
**Julie Anne Robbins**, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin  
**Christie Robinson**, Skokie Public Library  
**Marie Saeli**, Franklin Park Public Library District  
**Jeffrey Sand**, Villa Park Public Library  
**Tuki Sathaye**, Itasca Community Library  
**Ellen Schmid**, Geneva Public Library  
**Phyllis C. Self**, Western Illinois University, Macomb  
**Heidi Richter Smith**, Waukegan Public Library  
**Kristen Newton Smith**, Algonquin Area Public Library District  
**Sarah Sperry**, Franklin Park Public Library District  
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**Lucia D. Testin**, University of Saint Francis Library, Joliet  
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**Mary A. Tuytschaevers**, Acorn Public Library District, Oak Forest  
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**Laura Yanchick**, Melrose Park Public Library  
**Ruth Zabel**, Lincolnwood Public Library District



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**Linda Dausch**, Chicago Public Library  
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**Michelle Torrise**, University of Illinois  
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## Government Documents Forum (GODORT)

Michaëlle Stewart, Poplar Creek Public Library District

The GODORT Forum will meet twice during the 2006 ILA Annual Conference. First, we will gather on Wednesday, October 4, at 5:30 P.M. for networking and socializing. Join us at Charlie's Ale House on Navy Pier and meet your colleagues in government documents. Be sure to mark your calendar to join us!

Second, this year's business meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, at 8:00 A.M. The agenda promises to be very interesting. We will hear about the happenings and projects at depositories around the state, particularly the new EDI list from the Illinois State Library. Come and hear from the state library about what will be required of the depository libraries in handling these electronic documents. Discuss ideas for programs for 2007 ILA Annual Conference, and more. Anyone interested in government documents is welcome to join us!

The GODORT Forum congratulates Earl Schumaker, the Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year! GODORT has always known that Earl is a great librarian!

## Reaching Forward Forum for Support Staff

Tom Rich

The fall always brings to mind a renewing, a fresh start — it must be from all the years of going back to school. This fall, we begin anew with Reaching Forward. Planning sessions have begun, and the sleeves are rolled up to begin the work of creating next year's conference, scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2007.

Those of us at Reaching Forward would like to encourage you to take charge of your careers, and to consider enrolling in one of the Library Technical Assistants (LTA) programs offered throughout the state. The College of Lake County in Grayslake; the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn; Illinois Central College in East Peoria; and Joliet Junior College all are waiting for you to take advantage of their programs.

If you enjoyed last year's conference with Mikki Williams, spread the word among your colleagues in your libraries. We are currently in discussion with several possible keynote speakers and as soon as we have a firm contract we will be letting you know in the pages of this magazine.

Please watch the next issue of the *Reporter*, as Reaching Forward responds to some of your questions and concerns we received at conference.

## Illinois Reading and Enrichment Development (iREAD) Committee

Jane Kauzlaric, Joliet Public Library

iREAD will be at the ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier in Chicago October 3-6, 2006. Visit us in the exhibit hall on Wednesday, October 4 and Thursday, October 5, where the *2007 Summer Reading Program Showcase* will bring to life the 2007 Resource Guide and display *Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond* products. If you are not able to attend, look for a slide show of the showcase to be posted on the ILA Web site (<http://www.ila.org>) at a later date.



Eric Rohmann, Caldecott Medal winner and illustrator of the 2007 iREAD *Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond* Summer Reading Program, will speak at the Youth Services Forum Breakfast on Thursday, October 5. He will sign his books, which will be available for purchase.

Vince Sovanski, the 2009 iREAD Chair, will lead brainstorming for the 2009 theme immediately following. The brainstorming session is free and open to all, so join us even if you are not able to attend the breakfast. Remember that you can also send Vince ideas for the theme online at <http://www.ila.org/pub/ireadideas.htm>.

You can become a part of the iREAD team! For more than twenty-five years, iREAD has been motivating children to read by coordinating the ideas and resources of librarians across Illinois. Volunteer at <http://www.ila.org/pub/ireadvolunteer.htm>.

## Library Trustee Forum (LTF)

Carol Kissane, Brookfield Public Library Trustee

The trustee forum met at the Maywood Public Library District on Saturday, July 8, 2006. It made the following changes of the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES, VACANCIES SECTION 3: Officers of the forum shall be elected to a one-year term. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms, except by vote of the majority of the board.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS TERM OF OFFICE: The terms of office shall be two years, with eligibility of reappointment when a director is unable to serve, the president shall appoint a replacement to serve to the end of the term.

The 2006 ILA Annual Conference will feature an entire track of programming for trustees. At the Library Trustee Forum luncheon on Wednesday, October 4, at 12:30 P.M., Gail Johnson will present “Dysfunction Junction” — a humorous look at libraries that includes skits patterned after today’s most popular television shows, including scenes from *CSI Library* and *Chicago Legal*. Johnson draws on her years as a library management consultant to poke fun at our behaviors while offering inspiration and insight for the future of our libraries.

The ILA Library Trustee Forum Spring Workshop will be at Hickory Ridge Convention Center on Saturday, February 24, 2007, in Lisle. Further details will be in the December 2006 *ILA Reporter*.

If you have any suggestions for programs or interest in becoming a member, please contact Kim Johnson, Maywood Public Library District Trustee, at (708) 344-3601 or Carol Kissane, Brookfield Public Library Trustee, at (708) 387-0670.

## Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum (LSRF)

Bleue J. Benton, Oak Park Public Library

Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum is delighted to announce a traveling exhibit of photographs by Milton Rogovin that will be loaned free of charge to Illinois libraries, beginning in January.

Rogovin, a social documentary photographer whose work includes remarkable images of storefront churches, native communities, and the poor, has been exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and includes collaborations with Studs Terkel, Pablo Neruda, and W.E.B. Du Bois. At ninety-six, he is the first living photographer since the 1970s to be invited to have his work archived at the Library of Congress.

Rogovin’s work is being given serious attention now. A documentary film, *Milton Rogovin: The Rich Have Their Own Photographers*, premieres this fall at Lincoln Center in New York City. At the same time, the University of Washington Press is releasing the book *Milton Rogovin: The Making of a Social Documentary Photographer*, featuring photographs, documents, and autobiographical notes.

Librarians for Social Responsibility has sponsored and produced a traveling exhibit that will allow libraries in Illinois to share in this excitement. The compact tabletop exhibit includes reproductions of Mr. Rogovin’s *Lower West Side Quartets* photographs, as well as materials for library programming and book discussions. For a reservation or more information on this traveling exhibit, contact Bleue Benton (bbenton@oppl.org) at Oak Park Public Library.

## Public Policy Committee

*Carole Dickerson, Freeport Public Library*

The Public Policy Committee will be presenting the following draft 2007 Public Policy Initiatives to the ILA Executive Board on Friday, September 15; and then at the ILA Membership Meeting, Thursday, October 5, from 4:45 to 5:30 P.M. at Navy Pier, Lakeview Terrace for membership's discussion and action.

### Introduction

Illinois libraries offer a great return on investment to the taxpayers they serve. They link people to information, act as a focal point of the communities they represent — city, school, university, or corporation — and level the playing field by making resources equally available to all members of their constituency. As Illinois residents have become more diverse, libraries have developed collections and services to meet the unique and varying needs of these distinct populations.

Public and school libraries receive per capita grants from the state. In the case of school libraries and some public libraries, this is an important source of funding for materials. The per capita amount was maintained in FY06.

One way libraries can provide a healthy return on investment is by having skilled and knowledgeable librarians to answer questions, organize information, and guide customers through the maze of available data. In order to keep and attract highly skilled staff, libraries need to offer compensation packages that compete favorably with private industry and government.

Technology, in general, and the Internet, in particular, are not replacing libraries. In fact, libraries are often the access point to the World Wide Web for many Illinois residents. As with commercial enterprises, technology requires skilled staff to maintain the equipment. The three-to-five year replacement span for maintaining updated hardware likewise imposes a significant cost upon libraries.

Regional library systems provide services to help individual libraries serve the citizens of Illinois. They keep member library staff informed of new developments and society-wide shifts affecting their communities. Library systems keep member staff skills current and deliver materials now shared around the state in a timely manner. Library systems are solely funded by area and per capita grants, which were cut by 12 percent in FY04 after not being increased since 1992.

The Illinois State Library (ISL) provides guidance and grants to libraries in academic, school, public, and other settings. It negotiates contracts that provide electronic databases to all Illinois residents and serves as a resource for all libraries in the state. Since FY2000, the ISL budget has experienced a 22 percent reduction, a loss of \$18,189,900.

### 2007 ILA Action Agenda

#### Library Funding

The Illinois Library Association will work with a broad coalition of library advocates to maintain, restore and improve funding for libraries. The association will:

- Work to maintain existing funding levels while exploring alternative revenue streams for additional library funding.
- Endeavor to maintain the funding level for public and school library per capita grants.
- Support current level of funding for regional library systems.
- Develop legislative proposals to mitigate the harmful effects of the tax cap limitation act.
- Work with the legislature to increase the Secretary of State's budget in order to increase the funding for the Illinois State Library.
- Work to restore purchasing power and streamline management of collections and resources at state-funded libraries.
- Work with the Illinois School Library Media Association to introduce legislation to require a school library media specialist at every school.

#### Intellectual Freedom

The Illinois Library Association is committed to protecting intellectual freedom and providing open access to information for all Illinois residents. The association will:

- Continue to educate the public on the safe use of the Internet, including interactive Web applications, by children.
- Continue to oppose legislation mandating the use of Internet filters in libraries.
- Encourage governing boards of schools and libraries to develop an Acceptable Internet Use Policy with input from their community.

## Privacy

The Illinois Library Association is committed to protecting patron confidentiality while providing open access to information for all Illinois residents. The association will continue to oppose legislation which erodes the privacy of library users.

## Statewide Library Service

The Illinois Library Association believes public library service should be a right and a responsibility of every Illinois resident. The association will:

- Oppose legislation that would erode public library service areas.
- Work to extend tax-supported public library service to the 9 percent of Illinois residents currently unserved.

## A Possible 2007 Spring Legislative Session Library Funding Initiative

At the August 2006 Public Policy Committee meeting, the committee started to explore ideas for specific bills to address one of our 2007 Public Policy Initiatives — to improve library funding. Annette Armstrong (Green Hills Public Library District) and Ruth Faklis (Prairie Trails Public Library District) advanced a letter from Janet N. Petsche, an attorney with Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd., who has compared the statutory provisions allowing school districts and park districts to maintain a working cash fund with similar provisions in the Illinois Public Library District Act (75 ILCS 16/1-1 et seq.). The comparison was done to suggest legislation to the Illinois General Assembly that would update and revise the act's working cash fund provisions and perhaps give libraries some of the same advantages that the general assembly has granted to schools and park districts.

## Legislation to Be Sought

After reviewing Petsche's analysis, the Metropolitan Library System's Zone 5 libraries and the ILA Public Policy Committee recommend the following changes in the Illinois Public Library District Act to assist library districts in maintaining a more reasonable level in their working cash funds:

- Add a provision allowing the transfer of accumulated interest in the fund to the general fund at any time for any use without repayment; and
- Permit the reestablishment of a working cash subject only to a backdoor referendum consistently with how a working cash fund is originally created.

## Next Steps

The success of these possible initiatives is dependent on the efforts of the entire Illinois library community. The next steps are outline in the *ILA Handbook of Organization*, 2006–2007, pp. 36–37 (pp. 44–45 in the 2005–2006 ed.). Due to the fine work of the Metropolitan Library System's Zone 5 libraries, steps 1–3 are done, and the next steps are: get approval from the ILA membership at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference, draft legislation, get sponsors, mobilize membership, and advocate to the governor.

## October 2006

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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 <http://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

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2–3 **Health Science Librarians of Illinois Annual Conference**, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Schaumburg, Ill. For further information, see <http://hsli.org/Conference/index.html>.

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.

8 **Charlotte Kim Scholars in Residence Program**, Chicago Public Library presents Maureen Sullivan, “Appreciative Inquiry: A Powerful Approach to Positive Change,” Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60605. Contact: Joan Levey, phone: (312) 747-4963 or e-mail: [jlevey@chipublib.org](mailto:jlevey@chipublib.org).

10–12 **Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference**, Chicago Sheraton Northwest, Arlington Heights. For further information, see <http://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

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

## January 2007

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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

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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*.**

24 **Trustee Forum Workshop**, Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, 1195 Summerhill Drive, Lisle, IL 60532. Individual attendees will make reservations for the event directly with Marriott Reservations at 1-800-334-0344. If the individual attendee does not check in, there will be a charge of one night's room rate. Registration form will appear in the December 2006 *ILA Reporter*.

## March 2007

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

## April 2007

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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](mailto:pio@ala.org); <http://www.ala.org/>.

16–22 **Young People's Poetry Week**, sponsored by the Children's Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children's Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>.

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

## May 2007

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- 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, DC 20001. ILA has reserved a room block at the Capitol Hill Suites,

200 C St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: 888-627-7811; \$219 single/double rate, 14.5% sales taxes are not included. When making reservations, please mention the Illinois Library Association. The hotel has created a personalized ILA Web site that guests can access to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation from June 23, 2006 to May 8, 2007. Access to the site is organized by guest type and can be obtained by going to the following link: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0606230035&key=95B7D/>.

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

## June 2007

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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](mailto:oif@ala.org). Or visit the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm>.

## October 2007

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- 9–12 **ILA Annual Conference,** Springfield, Ill.
- 14–20 **Teen Read Week.** For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenreading.htm>.
- 20 **Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**
- 25–26 **Health Science Librarians of Illinois Annual Conference,** Champaign, Ill. For further information, please contact: Stacey Knight-Davis; phone: (217) 581-7549; e-mail: [slknight@eiu.edu](mailto:slknight@eiu.edu).

## November 2007

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- 4–6 **Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference,** Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org>.

## December 2007

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

## January 2008

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

## February 2008

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

## April 2008

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- 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](mailto:pio@ala.org); <http://www.ala.org/>.
- 14–20 **Young People's Poetry Week,** sponsored by the Children's Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children's Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>.
- 20 **Deadline for June issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**



## Library Jobline of Illinois

**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](http://www.ila.org/jobline)) for 30 days and the cost is \$80.

Illinois Library Association  
33 West Grand Avenue  
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