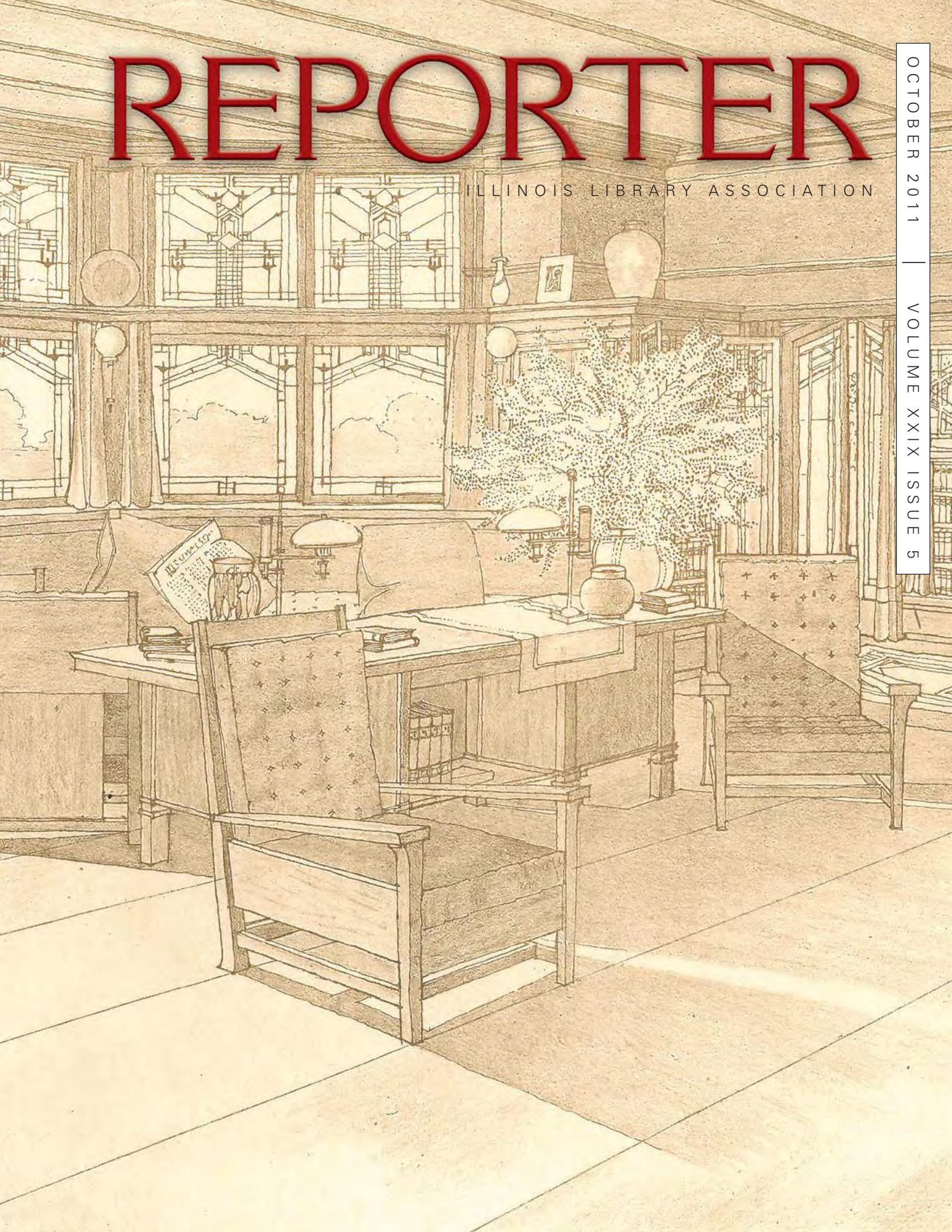


REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2011

VOLUME XXIX ISSUE 5



The Illinois Library Association Reporter

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



ON THE COVER

This drawing of the interior of the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee is among the drawings in Frank Lloyd Wright's Wasmuth Portfolio in the special collections of the Oak Park Public Library. The house was designed in 1900 for Harley and Anna Hickox Bradley, arguably Wright's first acknowledged Prairie-style design. Built along the Kankakee River, it's a perfect example of Wright's idea to design an entire house including the interiors as well. See article beginning on page 8.

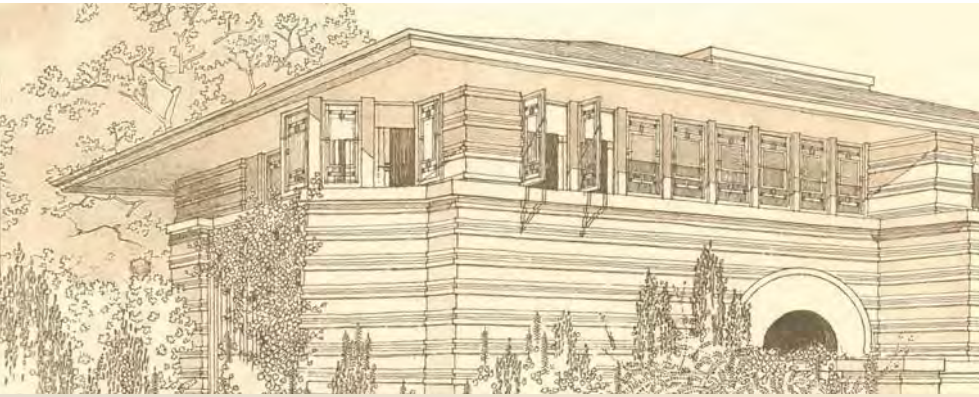
The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,500 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

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

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

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From Nine into Two: The Illinois Library Systems Merger of 2011

Dateline May 11, 2010. Wheeling, IL — Sarah Ann Long, executive director of the North Suburban Library System (NSLS), has sent out an e-mail letter to members, informing them that NSLS will be eliminating or drastically reducing all services except for delivery. Funding had been sporadic at best, and now the reality was setting in. The e-mail was quickly forwarded throughout the state, and systems' members statewide began wondering about the fate of Illinois Library Systems.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS MERGE

During FY2010, budgetary problems facing the state of Illinois began to translate into later and later payments to all of the state's vendors, including library systems. The Illinois General Assembly authorized payments to be made through December 31, 2010, a full six months after the fiscal year had actually ended. This situation left library systems more and more dependent on dwindling financial reserves, already hit by the 16.5 percent reduction in some grant programs seen between FY2009 and FY2010. Compounding the problem, systems were left not knowing when, exactly, payments would arrive, if they would arrive before December 31, or at all. This fiscal crisis forced library systems to examine their core priorities and focus their efforts, cutting services they had long valued.

On February 19, 2010, the presidents and directors of the Illinois Library Systems met to discuss the statewide status of system finances, system restructuring efforts, and sustainable service models. As a result of the meeting, system presidents signed a letter urging Illinois Secretary of State and State

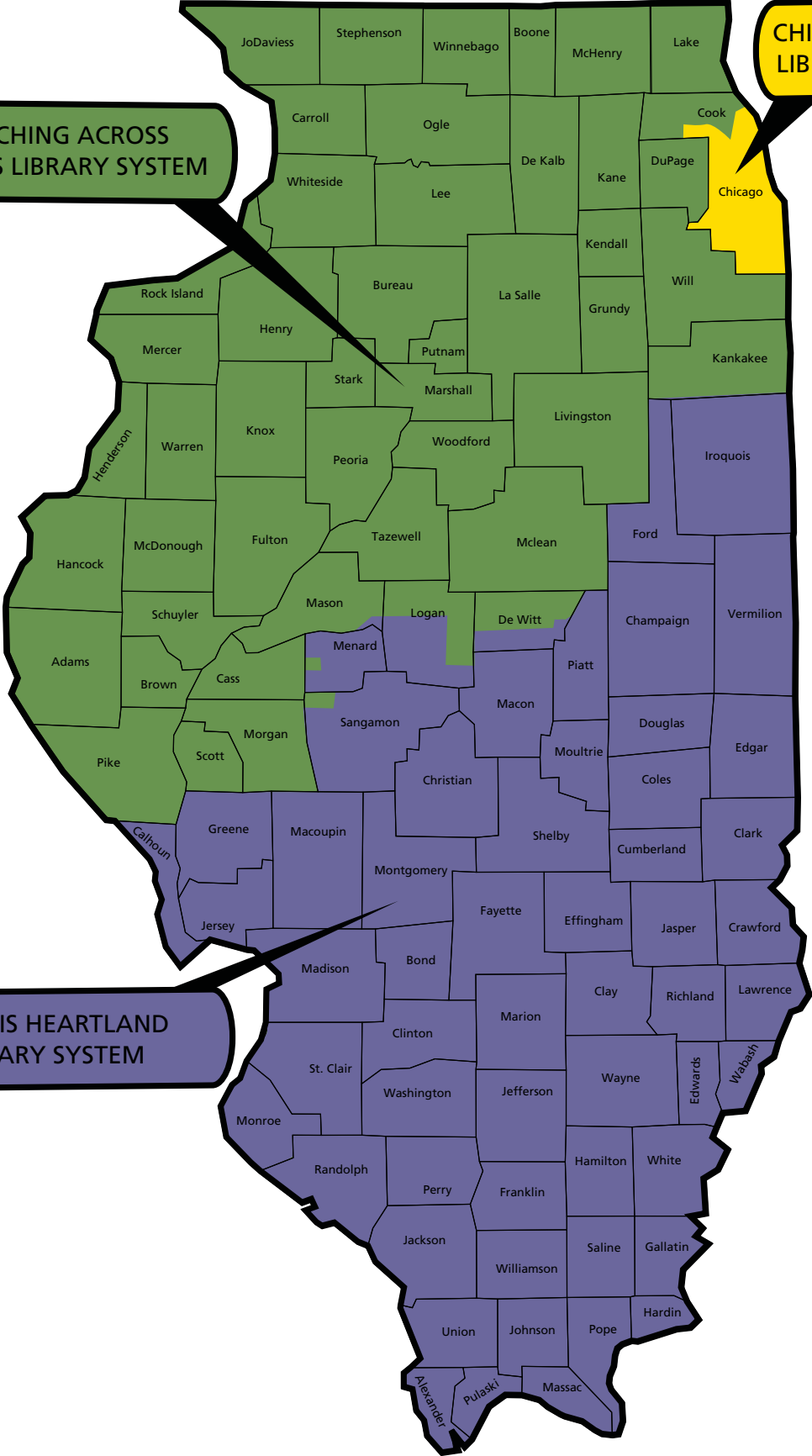
Librarian Jesse White to release "Live and Learn" funds in order to bring payments to the systems current. Not long after this letter was sent, funds earmarked for library systems and additional payments were received.

Unfortunately the efforts of the system directors and presidents were not enough to reverse the climate of uncertainty or to stave off drastic service cuts. On May 11, 2010, NSLS announced the above-mentioned cuts, effective May 31. A week later, Tina Hubert then-executive director of Lewis and Clark Library System (LCLS) announced restructuring of LCLS would be effective June 30, 2010. This restructuring eliminated consulting services, general continuing education programs, grant development, and human resources support. Additionally the LCLS workweek was reduced and five full-time staff members were laid off. Hubert announced that these cuts were necessary to enable LCLS to focus on the provision of what were seen as core priorities: delivery, Local Library System Automation Program (LLSAP) support, and technology services. Similar efforts went into effect at systems statewide as each struggled to adapt their services and culture to new fiscal realities.

[continued on page 6]

REACHING ACROSS
ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

CHICAGO PUBLIC
LIBRARY SYSTEM



These measures raised serious concerns about the future of Illinois Library Systems and the impact of decreased system services on local libraries. Through June and July 2010, system directors and boards met, and with the encouragement of the Illinois State Library (ISL), decided to move toward a merger process. Merging library systems, through economies of scale, would allow systems statewide to require fewer funds to perform the same essential tasks, defined by the state library as: delivery, automation, and talking books services.

Though the state library originally encouraged the formation of a single statewide system, there eventually emerged two entities. In the northern half of the state, Alliance Library System (ALS), DuPage Library System (DLS), Metropolitan Library System (MLS), North Suburban Library System, and Prairie Area Library System (PALS) collaborated on what would become the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), while Lewis and Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System (LTLS), Rolling Prairie Library System (RPLS), and Shawnee Library System (ShLS) collaborated on what would become the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS).

Both groups set up Web sites to keep their members and the public informed regarding the merger process, sites that gave the first unified web presence to these new entities. In the north end of the state, <http://www.SystemsMerger.info> would serve as the resource for information on the merger process, led by a Merger Transition Board. For the south, <http://www.CooperationToday.org> chronicled the efforts of the Southern System Planning Panel and, after its formation in March of 2011, the IHLS Transition Board. The task in front of these volunteer panelists and board members, as well as the individual system boards, was monumental: take four or five existing library systems, each with independent identities and cultures, and forge one organization that will equally serve them all.

After countless hours of meetings and negotiations, reams of transition documents and draft versions of bylaws, personnel codes, membership standards, etc., and thousands of miles driven, the transition boards of IHLS and RAILS succeeded in creating organizations able to begin “business as usual” on July 1, 2011. The switch was so seamless that member libraries, and library patrons especially, barely noticed.

LOCAL LIBRARY SYSTEM AUTOMATION PROJECTS (LLSAPs)

Whenever the topic of the merger comes up with patrons and library staff, it seems the first question is “What effect does this

have on delivery?” If delivery is the first question, the second is “Does this mean I can now request books from anywhere in the new system via the OPAC?” The answer to both questions involves the core priorities of delivery and LLSAP support, which are in many ways interconnected.

IHLS

During the planning stages of the IHLS merger, a working group composed of member representatives from each of four LLSAPs (Decatur Area, GateNet, LINC, and SILNET) met to discuss how IHLS should provide LLSAP support as one system. The group suggested that the most cost-effective way to provide automation services for member libraries is to move to a single platform and shared catalog with a fee formula common to all member libraries of IHLS. Currently IHLS is working to unify circulation and cataloging policies and soliciting bids for systemwide automation software as a “first” step in the process of LLSAP integration. Until a time when the four LLSAPs can be merged into a single, system-wide LLSAP, IHLS is working to ensure that the LLSAPs are supported at equitable, and required, levels so that service to local libraries is not interrupted.

RAILS

With the fate of systems undetermined, the northern LLSAPs became concerned about the future viability of their library software consortia. Four LLSAPs existed, each relying on considerable support from their regional library system: Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA), within ALS; Multitype Automation Group in Cooperation (MAGIC), within DLS; System Wide Automation Network (SWAN), within MLS; and PrairieCat, within PALS.

As funding for systems began drying up, SWAN members decided to pursue options to become an independent entity. SWAN’s governing body, the SWAN Council, had already spoken with library law attorney Kathie Henn of Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd., who recommended that SWAN become an intergovernmental entity. All eighty member libraries would need to revoke their agreement with MLS and adopt a new intergovernmental agreement. The process required a great deal of coordination to work with public library boards, as well as academic and special libraries’ governing bodies. By October 2010, all member libraries were now part of the independent SWAN.

Nearby, MAGIC was following the process SWAN was undergoing. MAGIC began working with Henn on their intergovernmental agreement, which became effective August 30, 2010. PrairieCat followed suit, becoming an intergovernmental entity on December 1, 2010. RSA, in consultation with attorney Phil Lenzini, opted to become a not-for-profit entity. This process was completed April 1, 2011.

As part of these processes, it was essential that each LLSAP continue to receive support from their regional library system, at least for FY2010. None were budgeted to support all current staff and services independently, nor were they prepared to move into new facilities and become employers. LLSAP support from the regional library systems varied from provision of facilities to up to 30 percent of the LLSAP's operating budget. This meant that each new independent LLSAP would need to contract with the regional library system for services. Henn drafted a contract that was then modified by each of the four LLSAPs as well as the regional library systems' attorneys. Contracts were set to end June 30, 2011, the end of the regional library systems' fiscal year. Contracting worked so well for the LLSAPs that the four worked together to create a standard contract with RAILS for fiscal year 2012. The new RAILS board signed the contracts on July 1, 2011.

MATERIALS DELIVERY

In the south, the delivery question cannot be fairly addressed until the LLSAPs themselves are integrated. Currently the four LLSAPs and their respective delivery systems carry on much as they have in the past, with local libraries seeing few changes. Once LLSAPs begin to merge, as it is likely they will do in stages, delivery patterns will need to be assessed to determine the most effective method of serving such a large area and delivery volume. As delivery is a core priority of the library systems, member libraries can expect this to be a continued service.

In the north, delivery is a controversial topic. Within Metropolitan Library System (MLS), an already-existing delivery team had begun to study ways to save money on delivery services. As their work progressed through summer and fall of 2010, an RFP came back with surprising results: outsourcing delivery could likely save nearly half of the costs to run the MLS in-house delivery. In early 2011 the delivery team recommended the MLS Board of Trustees sign a contract for outsourced delivery. The issue was debated for some time before being sent as a recommendation to the RAILS Transition Board, which opted to wait until the merger was completed before making a decision. It's likely that the new RAILS board will have to address the option of outsourcing delivery, as they look at combining the five separate delivery systems that currently exist.

MOVING FORWARD

The boards and directors of IHLS and RAILS have been invited to Springfield for a daylong, in-person meeting of the two organizations and the state library to take place September 23, 2011. This meeting will seek to answer how ISL and the systems can work together to best serve the needs of member libraries statewide.

Even as the two new systems struggle through the necessary pains associated with the mergers, we cannot accede to the success of merging nine regional library systems into two, however great that is. There is still a monumental amount of work to be done in the north and in the south as well as real questions regarding statewide services requiring an answer. It is clear, however, that under the leadership of both IHLS and RAILS, library cooperation in Illinois will continue to move forward with the best interest of Illinois libraries in mind.

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Wright, Wasmuth, and Works of Art

A *usgeführte Bauten und Entwürfe von Frank Lloyd Wright* — informally known as the Wasmuth Portfolio — was published in 1910 in Berlin by Ernst Wasmuth and is the centerpiece of Oak Park Public Library's Frank Lloyd Wright holdings. The portfolio was the first major publication of Wright's work, solidifying his entry into the international architectural community. A collection of one hundred stunning drawings dating from 1893 to 1909, beautifully colored with gold leaf, the special "presentation" copy of the portfolio is one of only eleven or twelve copies known to exist. During the month of October, the Wasmuth portfolio will make a rare public appearance in the library art gallery as a part of a weekend of special events celebrating Wright, his architecture, the 100th anniversary of the portfolio, and the 500th anniversary of the publication of the first architectural book.

Collecting and preserving Oak Park's unique local history has been part of the library's mission since its founding as the Scoville Institute in 1888. The hometown of notables such as Ernest Hemingway, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Oak Park's library has been dedicated to collecting rare and noteworthy items representing these three great figures. The special collections and local history archive hold over two thousand items including books, videos, prints, and manuscripts. Some of the most prized possessions are several Ernest Hemingway first editions and drawings from Frank Lloyd Wright. The library works to provide access to these materials to authors, researchers, and the public, along with organizing and hosting interesting and thought-provoking programs and exhibitions that feature and draw attention to the collections.

THE WRIGHT STUFF

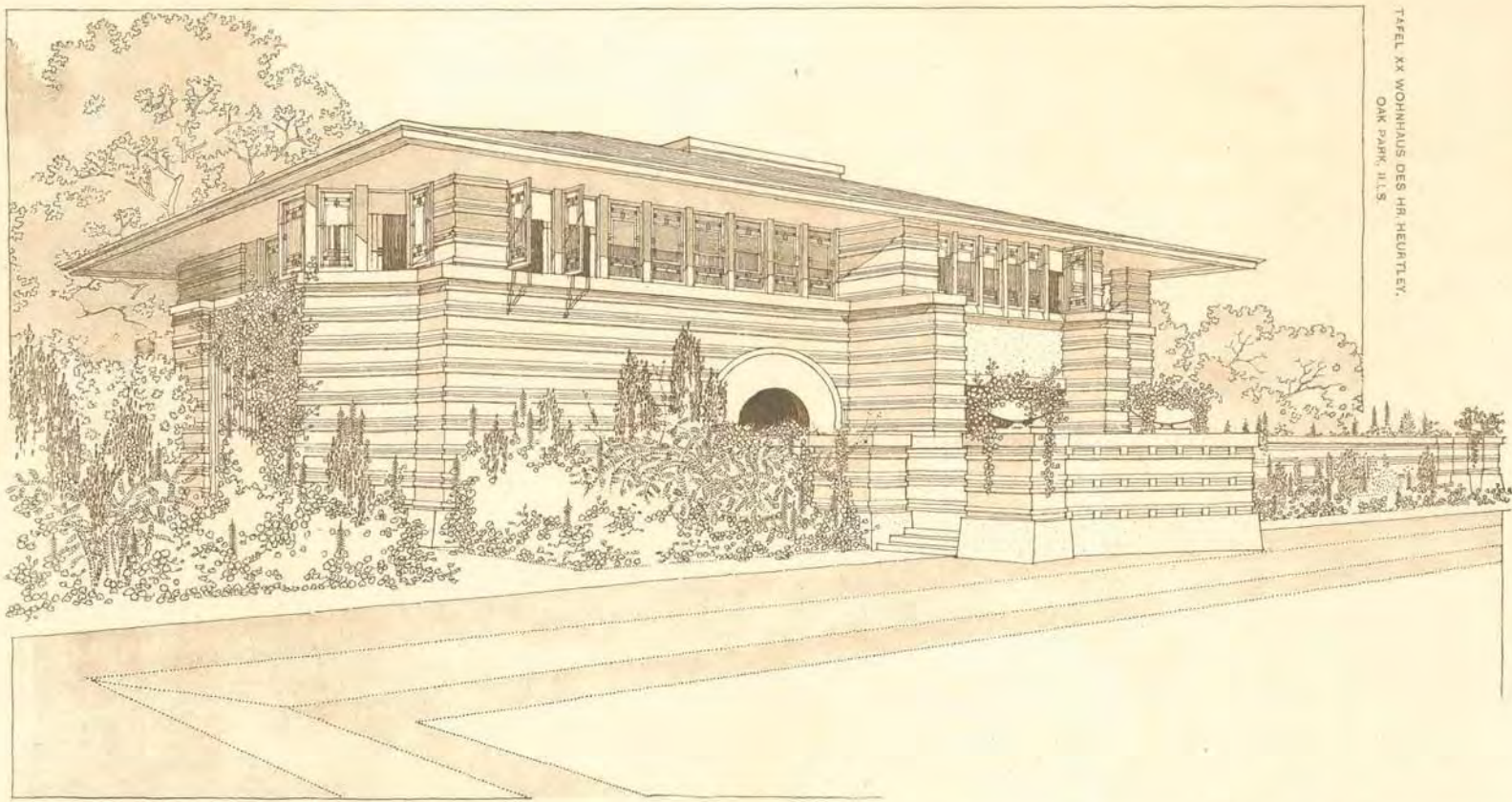
Frank Lloyd Wright came to Oak Park in 1889 to build his first home with his then-wife, Catherine Tobin. What is now the Frank Lloyd Wright home and studio was a testing ground for Wright's architectural ideas. Wright added the studio from which he would begin his own architectural firm, breaking from the firm owned by Louis Sullivan in 1893, and entered a prolific period of designing buildings with his unique style. Wright went on a tour of Europe in 1909, in part to escape local scandal and notoriety over the breakup of his marriage and his subsequent affair with Mamah Cheney.

On his tour of Europe, Wright went to Berlin to meet with the German publisher Ernst Wasmuth, who was interested in publishing a portfolio of Wright's works. The portfolio helped Wright gain influence on the international stage, especially with the emerging European modernist architects, and also cemented his reputation at home. Publication of the portfolio brought recognition for his Prairie-style architecture for the first time, despite the nearly twenty years of work he had invested.

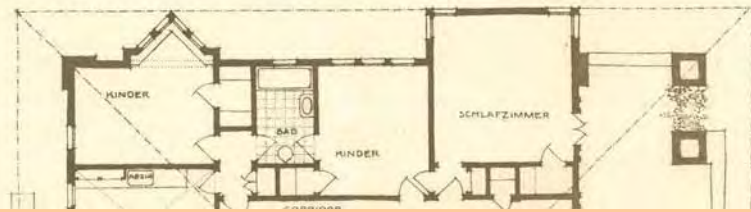
At the time of his death in 1959, many of Wright's drawings and renderings were inherited by his children, while the rest were collected by enthusiastic architectural historians and other collectors. The Oak Park Public Library has steadily worked to build a collection highlighting Wright's work in Oak Park and internationally. Along with the Wasmuth portfolio, the library has two other influential Wright collections.

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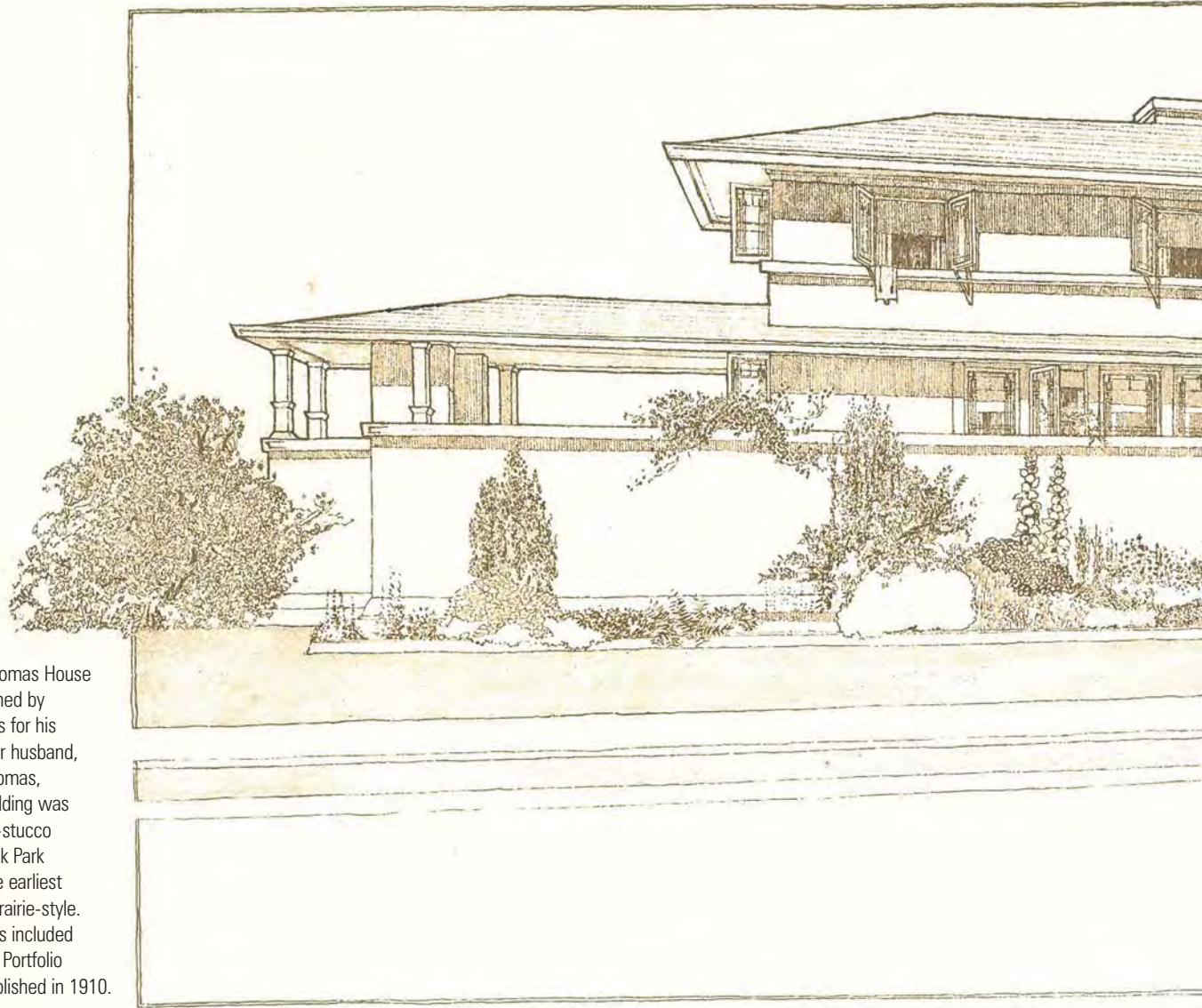
Designed and built for banker Arthur Heurtley in 1902, this house displays Wright's full Prairie-style design. Some of the patterns seen in the structure can be seen in Wright's later designs. The Heurtley House is just one of the many Oak Park buildings included in the Wasmuth Portfolio.



TAFEL XX WOHNHaus DES HR. HEURTLLEY.
OAK PARK, ILLS.



“The Oak Park Public Library has steadily worked to build a collection highlighting Wright’s work in Oak Park and internationally.”



The Frank W. Thomas House was commissioned by James C. Rogers for his daughter and her husband, Frank Wright Thomas, in 1901. The building was Wright's first all-stucco home built in Oak Park and is one of the earliest versions of his Prairie-style. The drawing was included in the Wasmuth Portfolio when it was published in 1910.

[continued from page 8]

The Grant Manson Collection contains photographs of over three hundred interior and exterior photographs of Wright buildings, along with notes and correspondence. The contents are based on research done by Grant Manson, an architectural historian, for his doctoral dissertation, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Work Before 1910*. The second is the Gilman Lane Collection, consisting of over seven hundred photographs of Wright buildings around the world taken by amateur photographer Gilman Lane, an industrial arts teacher at the Oak Park-River Forest High School.

Along with these two extensive photographic collections, the library has several individual items such as copies of *The House Beautiful*, a book designed by Wright and hand-printed by William Herman Winslow in 1897, and a rare promotional pamphlet called *Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect*, promoting his offices in the Rookery Building in Chicago and his Oak Park studio.

AN AMAZING ACQUISITION

In 1969 Wright's son, John Lloyd Wright, made the decision to sell some architectural drawings and folios that had been given to him by his father, including the rare Wasmuth Portfolio. Barbara Ballinger, director of the Oak Park Public Library at that time, sent a letter to John Lloyd Wright to inquire about the materials he was interested in selling. The Wasmuth Portfolio copy that he had in his collection was one of the original twenty-five presentation copies that Wright had created for clients and friends. The majority of these special portfolios had been at Taliesin, Wright's home in Spring Green, Wisconsin, when it was destroyed by fire in 1914, leaving this copy inscribed to John from his father as one of only a handful left worldwide.

To celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1970, the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club gave the library a donation to purchase the portfolio for \$1,250, with Mr. Wright donating half of the cost.



TAFEL XVIII WOHNHAUS IM VORORT FÜR HERRN TOMAS OAK PARK ILL.S.

In 1995 the library's preservation specialist, Michael Godot, applied for a grant for the conservation of the Wasmuth portfolio. The Graham Foundation, a private foundation that supports architectural education, awarded a \$6,000 challenge grant for the restoration of the work, the first conservation grant in the foundation's history. In honor of the restoration of the Wasmuth, the library gave a special gallery showing of the portfolio in November 1996, accompanied by a presentation at Wright's Unity Temple on "Wright and Wasmuth: The Heritage in Print and Drawing."

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

The portfolio will again be on view at the Oak Park Public Library from October 1–31, 2011, a rare opportunity to see this landmark work. The exhibition, "The Advent of Modern

American Architecture: The Wasmuth Portfolio of Frank Lloyd Wright" is cosponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and part of the Festival of the Architecture Book: 1511–2011. Supported by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Caxton Club and many of its members, and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, this seven-month celebration will conclude at the end of October. For more information on the project, visit <http://1511-2011.org/>

The gallery exhibit will also include framed prints and a reception on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. Sidney Robinson, a Wright scholar, will give a presentation called "Frank Lloyd Wright and Victor Hugo: Architecture and the Book" at Unity Temple in Oak Park. Robinson's talk will address how Wright's reading of Victor Hugo's book, *Notre Dame de Paris*, made a strong impression and influenced Wright and his architecture. ■

Municipalities and Their Libraries: Mutual Benefit, But Sometimes an Uneasy Relationship

There are many types of libraries in Illinois. Even among local public libraries, the way they are created, operated, funded, and governed can differ. Sometimes there is confusion about the independence or separation of a local library from the municipality, village, or township in which it is located. Increasingly we have seen tension arise between the governing bodies of some municipalities and the libraries that serve their residents. (See “When City Hall Comes to Call: Looking to Library Budgets for Deficit Relief,” *ILA Reporter*, April 2010, pp. 14–15.)

In a few recent instances, municipalities and villages sought greater control over library finances, including attempts to divert funding to non-library municipal or village purposes. These cases are few, and generally a result of local political conflict, but a few municipalities have asked state legislators to change library laws in ways harmful to their local libraries.

A CASE IN POINT

During the spring 2011 Illinois General Assembly’s legislative session, an amendment was filed to House Bill 2823 that would have dramatically impacted municipal, village, and township library boards. The provisions of the bill were striking in several ways that departed from established practice and even the state constitution. The bill proposed several major changes in the ways local libraries can be established, governed, financed, and even dissolved.

First, the amendment would have made it more difficult to establish a local library by increasing the voting requirement to a three-fourths vote of the municipal board rather than a simple majority.

This unusually high vote threshold was designed to make it practically impossible to create a new library. Even more surprising was that the proposed legislation would take away the existing right of the voters to petition for creation of a local library. It is almost unheard of to take away voter input, but to do so while making the municipal vote less democratic would be unprecedented.

Incredibly the proposed legislation would allow the municipality to remove elected library trustees from office without any voter participation. Allowing the corporate authorities of one governmental body to remove the elected officials of another governmental body is unheard of in Illinois, and raises serious constitutional questions. The amendment also proposed removing the power of the library board to levy taxes for its revenues. It transferred to the municipality the power to restrict, lower, and potentially eliminate the tax revenues that the library would be entitled to under the current law.

Yet the most disturbing aspect of the legislation was the provision that allowed the municipal board to simply dissolve the library. Under the current law, only the voters can dissolve a library. In the proposed legislation, that power was taken from the voters and given solely to the municipal board.

RESPONDING TO THE THREAT

ILA quickly expressed opposition to this proposed amendment. Even though the amendment would have affected libraries all over Illinois, a single village suggested the amendment. Once it became clear which village was behind the legislative effort, the local library, neighboring libraries, and the library system were specifically notified and they actively joined in opposition.



This local response was particularly effective in stopping the legislation by making it clear that organized and vocal opposition could make this politically unpopular. The legislator who sponsored the amendment agreed to not call for a vote in committee. However, the local government asked for the legislation has indicated that it will continue to pursue these changes in future legislative sessions.

It is unlikely we will see such a draconian bill in the future, but there are some lessons that should be taken from this experience. When a local issue, however parochial, results in legislation being filed in Springfield that could affect libraries all over the state, it is ILA's responsibility to mobilize our advocacy network. Responding immediately and effectively to such proposals takes planning and preparation.

Typically, the proponents of a bill will have already gotten their side of the story out, and the other side must be quickly told in the media and face-to-face. Even in good economic times, the relationship between a local library and local government can be difficult. As fewer resources are being contested, we will likely see more attempts by cities to exercise control over their independent local library.

One of the things we can do well in advance to meet these attempts head-on is to make it clear that the overwhelming number of local elected officials support their local libraries, and are not seeking to confiscate their revenues or dismantle their boards. This message can go a long way not only in fending off these threats when they occur, but in creating a positive and proactive atmosphere to grow and build library support. **ILA**



Libraries Are Local Assets!

One of the things that makes one community a better place to live than another is a healthy, well-run, actively used public library. Studies have been done showing the benefits of public library use, and more informal and anecdotal evidence is abundant in towns and cities all over Illinois. Most elected officials in Illinois know this, and we believe we need to reach out to all of them to ask them to help us spread the word.

ILA's Public Policy Committee is launching a campaign to enlist local governments in our effort to make sure state legislative support for libraries continues. Watch the ILA Web site and the *ILA E-Newsletter* for announcements on how to get your local officials on record in support of the good work that independent library boards do for their communities. This will benefit our libraries, our municipalities, and the overall climate in our state, making it a better place to live and work, both now and in the future.

Sally in Libraryland

My first full year of what has turned out to be a retirement that is in many ways only a technicality (that IMRF deposit lands the first of every month!) has flown by. I've met so many of you at your staff days, and more are on my schedule. It was more fun than I can tell you to ride to East Peoria with Cyndi Robinson (who drove fearlessly, as she does most things, through some really crummy weather) as well as Anne Bustamante, Christina Stoll, Amber Creger, and Fran Roehm, for the 2011 ILA Orientation Session, and to meet for the first time with some of this year's ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, of which I am privileged to be a member. There's always time at that meeting for networking and catching up, and I was particularly pleased to see that, while there were many people I know, there were also many I hadn't met before that day, and I'm excited that we have a constant flow of new energy into the organization.

Experienced energy counts, too. At last year's meeting, at a very casual breakfast, Betsy Adamowski suddenly was inspired to suggest that ILA find a way to harness the energy and knowledge of its retirees. Lynn Elam, who was ILA's president-elect at the time and also at the table, thought it was a great idea. Many people have had many conversations since then. How to do it? Why do it? What does ILA need, what do retirees want? Are other states doing anything like this? (Short answer to that last question: not that we've found so far.)

I've made no secret of the fact that my retirement was from a library, not from the profession, and I am pleased that I have been able to stay as involved as I have. Probably the prime example of an involved retiree is Pam Van Kirk, currently ILA's president-elect. Pam and I talked about a lot of this and her story is similar to — and also different from — mine. (Which I'm pretty sure sums up all the retirees in the state:

similar and different). For her, too, it was just time. She didn't have to wait for Medicare to kick in, because her husband's retiree health insurance covers her, and we all know health insurance is a major obstacle for anyone wanting to retire. (Take note, young librarians: if you want the Baby Boomers to get out of your way, as you were promised we would when you decided to go to library school, do everything you can to work for affordable health insurance, and if you succeed, then step back so you don't get trampled in the rush for the door).

We are both loving retirement, have reordered our priorities to spend more time with family, particularly grandchildren out-of-state, and are enjoying continuing to contribute to ILA and the library world in general. As chair of the 2012 annual conference, Pam carefully chose many new committee members for whom she has served as a mentor. I love hearing from newly minted librarians, and have been as helpful as I can to as many as I can. I'm delighted beyond measure that many of the people I hired for their first librarian positions are making their way into management, and making a difference.

She mentioned sometimes feeling like an elder, as community members seek out her advice. I am not ready to embrace the word "elder" just yet, and told her this story: When I turned fifty, my younger daughter was heavily into Celtic mythology, which is loaded with triads. I had gone through two of the three stages of a woman's life, she told me: maiden and mother. Now, she said, I was in stage three: crone. I, as any reasonable woman would, balked. After some thought, she allowed as how some sources used the term "wise woman" instead. THAT I could live with. So Pam and I laughingly agreed to be Wise Women together, and may even have business cards to that effect someday.

Other retirees are making themselves available to be interim directors when a library is in transition, or consulting on every sort of library-related issue you can imagine, from staffing to buildings and everything in between. Some of us volunteer for whatever needs doing at conferences, so the still-practicing people don't have to, and can attend to more of what they go to conferences for.

ILA offers retirees several perks already: discounted conference registration is a bargain and a full retiree membership is only \$50, which gets you all the same benefits a regular membership did in your working years.

If you're a retiree and you're reading this while it's fresh, you probably already are an ILA member, and I'm preaching to the choir here. But if we're going to harness the energy and experience of retirees all over the state, we need to reach the non-members too, and bring them into the fold. Do you know any? Share this with them!

What will ILA retirees do? ILA wants to know what WE want to do. Want to hop a bus to Springfield whenever library-related legislation needs a lot of voices? Want to see legislative alerts so you can make well-placed phone calls as needed? Want to be a mentor, or a sounding board, for a new librarian or a new

director? Or do you want to be a general purpose Wise Woman (or Man, though that sounds vaguely Christmas-pagantish)? Maybe you just want to start out by meeting your colleagues regularly for lunch. We need to talk about all of these possibilities, and more.

For the first time ever, there will be a Retiree's Reception at the ILA Annual Conference this year. It will be held in Lynn Elam's Presidential Suite at the Intercontinental Hotel in Rosemont (and aren't you dying to see what THAT looks like??) from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 19. Even people who aren't attending the conference (although you're welcome — I am) can make a day of it: stop at registration and get a free pass to the exhibits, then afterward take the shuttle to the Intercontinental and find out what comes next. There will be wine and snacks. Names and e-mails will be collected. And we'll be on our way to something potentially wonderful!

Please let Cyndi Robinson know (at robinson@ila.org) if you'll be attending the reception — she needs to be sure there is enough wine and snacks to go around! And if you have any thoughts to share with me, you can reach me at sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com, even when I'm on the road! **ILA**

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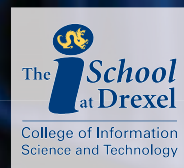
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ILA Welcomes New Members

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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Morris Wade Associates, Inc., Hinsdale
PMA Financial Network, Inc., Naperville
RuckPate Architecture, Barrington

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Rebecca Bartlett, La Grange Public Library
Cindy Boehlke, Jacksonville Public Library
Kathleen Burns, Palatine Public Library District
Pamela Cardenas, Huntley Area Public Library District
Ms. Cecilia Rose Cygnar, Niles Public Library District
Sharon R. Denney, Poplar Creek Public Library District, Streamwood
Rosalind Gray, Midlothian Public Library
Paolo P. Gujilde, Robert Morris University, Chicago
Bradley Jones, Mount Prospect Public Library
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Mary Lidd, River Forest
Leslie Lovato, Shorewood-Troy Public Library District, Shorewood
Barbara Mack, Mount Prospect Public library
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Jennie Cisna Mills, Shorewood-Troy Public Library District,
Shorewood
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Linda-Rose Stahl, Evanston
Danielle Taylor, Shorewood-Troy Public Library District,
Shorewood
Lisa M. Ybarra, Calumet City Public Library
Randall Yelverton, Washington District Library

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Eureka College
Frankfort Public Library District
Midlothian Public Library
Nippersink Public Library District, Richmond
Poetry Foundation Library, Chicago
South Holland Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Nancy Baumann, St. Louis, Mo.
Karen Gallacci, Lovejoy Library, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Lola Gilbert, McKendree University
Cassandra Harlan, Chicago
Theresa Kirwan, Crestwood Public Library District
Sarah Mudra, Wheaton College
Geraldine O'Connor, Chicago
Jill Stern, Decatur

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Maria C. Bagshaw, Dundee Township Public Library District
Mary T. Christel, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling
Richard Corbett, Dundee Township Public Library District
Kisha Houston, Richton Park Public Library District
Michelle Jordan, Nippersink Public Library District, Richmond
Jessica Keddy, Zion-Benton Public Library District, Zion
Alfredo Lechuga, Jr., Dundee Township Public Library District
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Tom Straley, Nippersink Public Library District, Richmond
Penny Wegman, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
Sam Wilcock, Morris Area Public Library District
Henry G. Wisniewski, Barrington Area Library

2011 Recipients of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund

Eight individuals were selected as this year's recipients of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund. All are Illinois recipients of the American Library Association's (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship.



Barbara Ann Alvarez

Hometown: Geneva, Illinois
Undergraduate: University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign, History, 2010
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As a Spectrum Scholar, I would continue my studies on underrepresented groups, including minorities and women's studies, by contributing to the proper presentation of minorities in information systems. My strong desire to analyze minority history through research and preservation in archives and libraries would allow me to learn from others' projects and research at the Spectrum Leadership Institute. It would also give me the opportunity to build a community with other scholars interested in increasing diversity within information systems through cross-cultural leadership.

Perhaps the experience that enhanced my passion for information systems most profoundly was my SROP/McNair Summer Fellowship at the University of Iowa; I utilized the *Mujeres Latinas* project at the Iowa Women's Archive by studying the political and activist contributions of Latina immigrants of the Midwest. Consequently, my research, presentation, and communication skills were strengthened in applying primary sources to personal histories and speaking at conferences at the University of Iowa and Ohio State University. Above all, my devotion to pursuing a career in library and information science was heightened, for without proper preservation and accurate representation, these stories of courage, strength, and identity would be forever lost. Becoming a Spectrum Scholar would assist me greatly in my understanding of minorities with library systems. After all, it is these systems that are essentially the guardians of democracy and equality.



Robina Button

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Undergraduate: Loyola University Chicago, Biology, 2002
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

My present job as a part-time Youth Services Information Assistant at the Morton Grove Public Library has given me the opportunity to coordinate and supervise many successful programs that drew over one hundred children and adults in attendance. These experiences deepened my conviction that this is one particular field I want to pursue. I was fortunate enough to serve as the interim Teen Librarian on four separate occasions, and organized and coordinated the library's teen volunteers in the summer. I realized what a great rapport I had with the teens and recognized that if I decided to pursue getting an MLS, I could really make a difference. The patrons that are sometimes hardest to get to the library are teens and young adults, and I truly believe my personality and knowledge will help attract more teens to whatever library I eventually work in.

Over the years I've been working at the Morton Grove Public Library, I've been exposed to library users both in Morton Grove and people from all over the Chicagoland area. Activities and programs led me into contact with people of different ethnic backgrounds and culture. Given the opportunity to earn my MLS and join the staff of a library or school media center, I would be able to contribute my knowledge of programs and activities and creativity to the various users of the library from different areas.



Marissa Garcia

Hometown: Berwyn, Illinois
Undergraduate: Columbia College Chicago, Fiction Writing, 2009
Current institution: Dominican University

I'm looking at a trio of nine-year-old patrons across the room as they gleefully play with the new Nintendo Wii video game console we were finally able to purchase at the public library where I work. Each child is laughing so hard they can hardly breathe, each is leaping two feet in the air, and each is a different race. The community I work and live in is not only extremely diverse, but it is continually challenging me to provide both new and relevant information for the kids I serve. How can I do that for each one of these different children here in front of me?

I am proud of what I am doing to foster inclusiveness. There will always be the need to keep educating myself in this aspect, however, as the spectrum of what these children may have a background in is wide. I want to ignite a fire in the cores of the children I serve, have them think the library is a sanctuary and a wonderland and somewhere eternally safe and at once hallowed. It was that way for me all of my life, but I know this is not something that will come naturally to all children. These are the patrons I especially hope to reach. Through every means possible, I want to show them the reasons why books and literacy are so often feared and snuffed out in certain times, the remarkable power that books possess, and that this power can be theirs too, if they seek it out.

The remarkable chance to become a Spectrum Scholar and participate in the Spectrum Leadership Institute would improve my contributions to my diverse community of library users because it would help me more easily attain the means to complete my MLIS degree, a program which has already begun opening corners of my mind and ways of service I hadn't considered before. These classes would expand on what I am already doing to be inclusive in my services, and challenge me in ways I hope to challenge the minds of those I meet in the library and in life.



Lily Grant

Hometown: Petersburg, Alaska
Undergraduate: Smith College, English Language and Literature, 2004
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

One of the things I love most about libraries is their egalitarian nature. In a library, everyone matters. Regardless of who you are or what your background is, when you are in a library you are a reader and a learner, just like everyone else. This is the philosophy that informs the way that I approach my job at the Smith College library. We serve a very diverse patron population, and I strive to make everyone feel welcome and valued. I work hard at providing excellent service because I want people to enjoy libraries as much as I do. I want libraries to be the first place that people turn to for information, not only because of the quantity and quality of information that can be found there, but because they feel at home in the library. I want people to feel like libraries truly belong to them, and that they themselves belong in them.

My love of libraries goes back a long way. I do not come from a privileged background, so the educational opportunities that libraries have provided to me over the years have meant a lot to me. When I began my degree at Smith, I originally thought that I would like to teach, but over time I came to realize that I would enjoy being a librarian more. I realized that, as a librarian, I would still be a partner in learning, but I would have the opportunity to work with a wider variety of people, on a wider variety of subjects. I love the fact that each day at the library brings a new mix of questions to answer and problems to solve.

While I look forward to my graduate education providing me with the knowledge I will need to become an effective librarian, I know that more than just a degree is needed to ensure success in this profession. I will also need the job search skills and networking opportunities that the Spectrum Leadership Institute provides. The opportunity to attend this conference is a very exciting benefit of the Spectrum Scholar program. I would not only appreciate gaining practical career advice at the conference, but I would very much enjoy simply "talking shop" with librarians and students with so many different backgrounds and areas of expertise.



Marika Jeffery

Hometown: Norwalk, Connecticut
Undergraduate: Middlebury College (Middlebury, Vermont), English, 1999
Master's degree: Simmons College (Boston, Massachusetts), Children's Literature, 2008
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As a third generation Asian-American, I have a rich familial history cultivated within the United States — a fact that seems to surprise many people who assume based on my appearance that I'm from elsewhere. I was raised loving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, turkey on Thanksgiving, ozoni (a Japanese soup) on New Year's Day, and dim sum at Chinatown's Mandarin Court. My ethnic background accounts for part of who I am, but no more so than my upbringing on the East Coast with generations of my American family scattered throughout Connecticut, New York, Hawaii, California, and Arizona.

Growing up, my everyday heroes were Ramona Quimby and Winnie Foster; today, Katniss Everdeen and Joey Pigza. After graduating from college with a degree in English and creative writing, I thought it only natural to launch into publishing and spent nearly two years at *The Horn Book*. Later at Houghton Mifflin, I evaluated trade books for possible inclusion in school reading textbooks and developed lesson plans for students and teachers. Simultaneously, I received my master's degree in children's literature from Simmons College.

I plan to work in youth services, focusing on literacy, programming, and outreach initiatives. As a Spectrum Scholar, I hope that my participation in the Leadership Institute will help me to brainstorm and facilitate new methods for reaching more diverse youth, teacher, and parent populations. I believe libraries need to be savvier about marketing themselves to reach potential patrons — perhaps by partnering more with schools, educational programs, and local businesses and authors. By attending the Leadership Institute, I believe I'll encounter a wealth of perspectives (from both novice and established colleagues alike) to help me build community and find ways of keeping the library current and accessible.



Rebecca M. King

Hometown: Lansing, Illinois
Undergraduate: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Early Childhood Development, 1986
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I never knew that I could grow up to be a librarian. As a little girl who occasionally visited a public library in Chicago, Illinois, I usually encountered severe looking women who scowled at me as I wandered the rows of books, certain that my touch wasn't welcomed. As the years passed I came to learn that the books belonged to me, in one sense, so I spent more and more time at libraries. I am currently employed by two different public libraries and work in the Youth and Teen Services Department at both locations, which allows me to reach a much larger and diverse audience of children.

I recently visited a first-grade classroom and read the book *Testing the Ice* by Sharon Robinson. A blond haired, blue-eyed student commented that Jackie Robinson reminded her of her own father. I knew she wasn't referring to physical similarities. The little girl saw beyond color and noticed kindness, generosity, and selflessness, and innocently accepted that both men portrayed these traits. I left that classroom knowing that I contributed to that child's, and her classmates' ongoing education of cultural awareness.

I would be deeply honored to become a Spectrum Scholar, to know that your organization believes in me and my contributions. I plan to continue my career in public librarianship or as a school media specialist in the Chicago south suburbs where I can serve as a model of diversity in the library profession. I also eagerly anticipate mentoring fellow graduate school students, serving as a panelist or speaker when requested, and continuing my involvement with job fairs, as well as my membership with the American Library Association.



Daniel J. Lee

Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Undergraduate: University of California, Berkeley, English, Religious Studies, 2005
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Having worked at a public defender’s office, and represented numerous indigent defendants, I’ve become accustomed to marginalized clients. Homeless, substance-addicted, mentally ill, disabled, cranky, argumentative — pick an adjective, and I’ve worked with a client that fits. At a public law library, many patrons shared the same qualities, and it was almost a relief to work with them, because I knew that I could treat them with respect, answer their questions without aggravation, and ultimately provide them with a positive experience.

While there’s certainly something to be said for advocating for my clients as a lawyer, it was almost impossible to take the time to explain the situation, to reassure them about what was happening — to share any of the knowledge I’d spent so much time and energy learning in law school. Now I’m able to research alongside them, to help them focus and articulate their inquiries, and I truly enjoy it. There’s an aspect of instant gratification to it, but beyond that is a mutual search for answers, and I’ve always enjoyed that search.

It’s one of the reasons I chose an urban public library as a starting place. I wanted to get involved in patrons’ lives and self-education, to see what issues were driving their questions. I’d like to do more of the same, with the added benefit of influencing the students and attorneys that I encounter. Some of my strongest influences as a young lawyer were the other attorneys who never flinched at any client’s differences, and I hope to be the same kind of influence on others. With some help along the way, I believe I will be.



Margita Lidaka

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Undergraduate: University of Illinois at Chicago, Psychology, 2008
Current institution: Dominican University

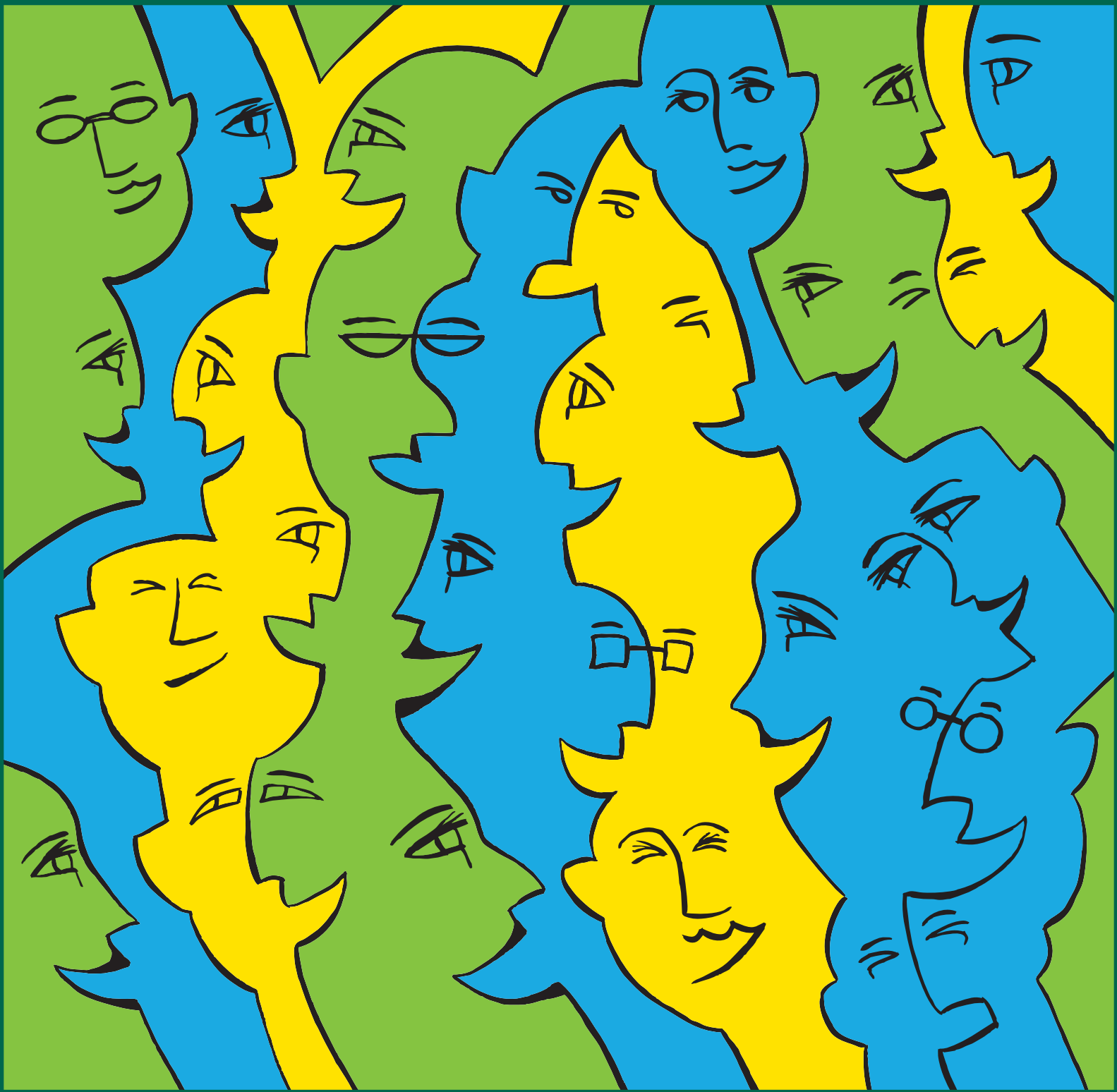
Libraries and books have been a constant companion on my life’s journey. I have enjoyed the knowledge and joy that books have provided me throughout my life. They have helped me in key moments of my life, such as when I lived in Denmark during middle school and junior high. They also helped me when my father passed away in 2007.

In 2006, I applied to work at the Oak Park Public Library, as it seemed like a dream workplace. I learned how much more there is to libraries than books. I was introduced to the many amazing programs that libraries offer to their community and saw how reference information was provided for a research paper, as well as to help solve a crossword puzzle. I rediscovered that the library is welcoming and open to all, no matter their stature or appearance. I saw how important providing information and knowledge was, even more than the books that surround you.

I am a biracial female born to an African-American mother and an Eastern European father. Every person is unique and interesting, a principle I practice in the workplace. If chosen as a Spectrum Scholar, I could continue to work toward open-mindedness and inclusiveness in my workplace as well in my community.



Libraries...and Their Users...
OUT LOUD!



Illinois Library Association Annual Report 2010-2011



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

What a year this has been for the Illinois library community. We came together in October at Navy Pier and listened, learned, laughed, and got loud. We dodged cuts in Springfield and traveled to Washington to advocate for libraries. We tracked more than 160 diverse legislative initiatives that might impact our community while, once again, blocking a filtering bill from gaining momentum. We met statewide for various professional development workshops and made new partnerships with other Illinois literacy associations while sadly missing many of our dear library systems friends. We planned for the future of Illinois library cooperation while northern and southern systems merged into RAILS and Heartland. We took snapshots, went green, scared up a good book, and basked in the glow of new luminaries. During these unsettling times, libraries around the state remained steadfast to missions of service, of the best library service, to their communities and all the while here we were at ILA providing a collective and reasoned voice to the best of our abilities.

It has been my great pleasure and humble privilege to serve the Illinois library community as the president of the Illinois Library Association. To our leadership including board members, committee chairs and members, and forum managers and members, I am grateful for your sweet patience and generous support and for the challenges and the growth that this opportunity has afforded me. Thank you for letting me live out loud with you for this very special year in the life of Illinois libraries.

Appreciatively yours,

Gail Bush.

Gail Bush
ILA President, 2010–2011



What better way to tell the story of the year gone by than in the **OUT LOUD** voices of the librarians of Illinois and the people they serve? Patrons, authors, students, elected officials, newspapers and magazines, blogs and tweets, all told library stories this year. Some of the stories were sad, some triumphant. Here are a few of our favorites, in case you missed them, capturing the year that was.

“To be an advocate is to raise your voice on behalf of an issue and join in common cause with people who share your same passions.”

Nancy A. Ashbrooke, Glenview Public Library, *ILA Reporter*, December 2010

ILA worked hard in Springfield and Washington, DC, this past year, and supported local communities through our advocacy efforts. Our members turned out in force for meetings with their legislators in their home districts and welcomed them to the second annual Snapshot Day on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

The big story of the year was the merging of the state’s nine regional library systems into northern and southern tiers, and both new systems — Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) and Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) — officially came into being on July 1, 2011. Delays in state funding resulted in disrupted lives and services, but by the end of the year, a new era was beginning.

The Illinois General Assembly cut over \$2 billion from the governor's proposed budget, but House Bill 123 essentially provided level funding for library grant programs. Other successful legislation favorable to libraries included:

- House Bill 177, an initiative of the Chicago Public Library, amended the local records act to allow disposal of all paper registration records once the information is digitally entered and verified.
- House Bill 179 allows public libraries to file IPLAR reports sixty days after the end of the fiscal year and makes other accounting changes.
- Senate Bill 1686 will reduce the cost of public notices required by law and was a difficult and long negotiation with the Illinois Press Association; the final bill prohibits newspapers from charging anything more than the lowest cost charged to any customer for any required newspaper notice.
- House Bill 1956 addresses pension eligibility for part-time workers, but no other pension changes were enacted.

Opposing bills that adversely affect our members is an equally important part of our overall advocacy strategy:

- House Bill 148 allowed carrying of concealed firearms throughout the state; as a result of library opposition, the sponsor added an amendment to exempt libraries from the bill. The legislation ultimately failed.
- House Bill 2889 was the seventeenth time a bill was filed imposing mandatory Internet filters and was aggressively opposed by ILA, negotiating a dramatic reduction in its scope. The bill failed to come to a vote in the House.
- House Bill 2823 limited the taxing and budget power of elected library boards, and was an unprecedented attempt by one unit of local government to take over the authority of another. The library community reacted swiftly and effectively in persuading the sponsor to hold this legislation for the time being.

In all, ILA tracked and worked on 161 bills that covered an incredible range of issues, and we are very pleased that no bill opposed by the association ultimately passed the general assembly this session.

Promoting Professional Excellence OUT LOUD!

“Think for Yourself, and Let Others Do the Same!”

Banned Books Week theme, September 2010

Illinois librarians and ILA members excel at thinking for themselves, and they thought up all kind of ways to improve their libraries and their skills in the past year.



“Libraries are just the place for green literacy!”

Elizabeth Stearns, Waukegan Public Library, *ILA Reporter*, December 2010

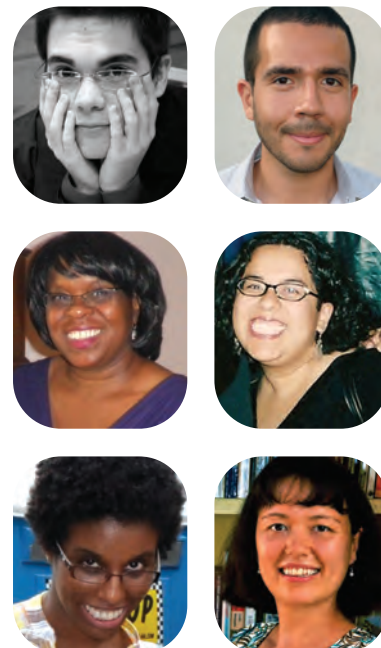
One of the year’s outstanding efforts was Go Green at Your Illinois Library — a partnership between ILA, the Field Museum, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. An all-day workshop at the Field Museum and a follow-up webinar brought ideas and information to libraries that want to awaken their communities with a message of sustainable and renewable practices. Kudos to the ILA Marketing Committee for securing funding for this terrific project!



“Everyone has a right to see the world and themselves through intellectual freedom, knowledge, and art.”

Joseph Bellanca, Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship recipient, *ILA Reporter*, October 2010

Ten recipients of ALA’s Spectrum Scholarships received additional support toward their pursuit of master’s degrees in library and information science: four students at Dominican University and six at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.





“I remembered the room as such a warm, friendly place — and have loved libraries ever since.”

Anne West Lindsey, 1914–2005, *ILA Reporter*, February 2011

Carterville, Illinois, got a brand new library building, thanks to a \$1.5 million bequest from Anne West Lindsay, a lifelong believer in the value of libraries. West grew up in Carterville and remembered the days when the library was no more than a room in the local bank.

“Libraries today are action-packed with puffy creatures from literature wandering amid the stacks and mysterious technologies.”

David Catrow, 2011 iREAD artist, *ILA Reporter*, August 2010

This year’s iREAD artist for *A Midsummer Knight’s Read* talks about how he felt when he finished reading *The Story of Lou Gehrig* as a kid, the first book he ever read all the way through that didn’t have pictures. Finishing that first one made him feel as if every book was his for the taking. His first “editor” was a kindergarten teacher that criticized his drawing because it wasn’t like all the other kids — he never looked back.



Preparing for the Future OUT LOUD!

Luminary: (1) a person of prominence or brilliant achievement.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

This honor roll of Illinois Library Luminaries reached the milestone of twenty such individuals, with seven new members joining the list: Debby Miller, Robert P. Doyle, Ernest J. Martin, Vandella Brown, Sylvia Murphy Williams, Alphonse Trezza, and John W. Berry. Each of these honorees brings at least \$1,000 in donations in their name to the ILA Endowment Fund. Their contributions, financial and otherwise, are significant to our ability to prepare for a strong future for Illinois libraries.



“Students enrolled in the public library summer reading program reported that they like to read books, like to go to the library, and picked their own books to read.”

Dominican University study, *ILA Reporter*, August 2010

Once again, the Australian Library and Information Association, and libraries across the globe chose iREAD as the summer reading program for libraries worldwide. This is the thirtieth year that Illinois librarians have chosen a theme and an illustrator, developed activities, and planned for incentives to make reading part of summer vacation and improved learning outcomes for both children and adults in Illinois and internationally.

“By far the most economical way to ensure a wider range of resources for library patrons is by physically moving books from one community to another.”

Future of Illinois Library Cooperation (FILC) Plan, *ILA Reporter*, October 2010

One of the year's major initiatives has been working with the library community to plan for the new environment being created by the system mergers and restructuring. ILA received support from the Illinois State Library using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to develop a plan for new models of delivery and other shared services. The project will continue in 2011–2012.

“...the support that walking sticks provide echoes the support the library provides to the community.”

Artist David Philpot, *ILA Reporter*, April 2011

A series of articles in the *ILA Reporter* continued to feature the “treasures” in the collections in libraries statewide, from the Chicago Botanic Garden to an innovative project connecting teens, art, and civic engagement developed by the American Library Association Public Programs Office. Other features zoomed in on the comic book collection at Northwestern University libraries, special collections at Augustana College in Paxton, Illinois, and the city of Chicago's public art program that has placed work by well-known artists in dozens of public libraries.



Financials

The association ended FY 2010–2011 with a \$116,171 surplus and a \$77,097 gain in ILA’s long-term investments for a total gain of \$193,268, making significant progress toward the goal set by the ILA Executive Board of creating a reserve equal to 50 percent of the annual budget.

Auditors Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., said, “The association continues to manage its resources responsibly and association members are well served by the balanced fiscal policies, especially in these times of economic uncertainty. We are pleased to see increasing revenues, a healthy balance sheet and growing reserves, and urge continued cost containment, especially in those areas that do not show net gains. This is the time to invest in strategies that show potential for revenue growth.”

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 41,172
Membership	\$ 263,978
Conference	\$ 379,172
Publications	\$ 1,931,013
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 10,950
Endowment	\$ 13,858
Workshops/Projects	\$ 83,267
Reaching Forward	\$ 93,310
Total Revenue	\$ 2,820,720

Expenses

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

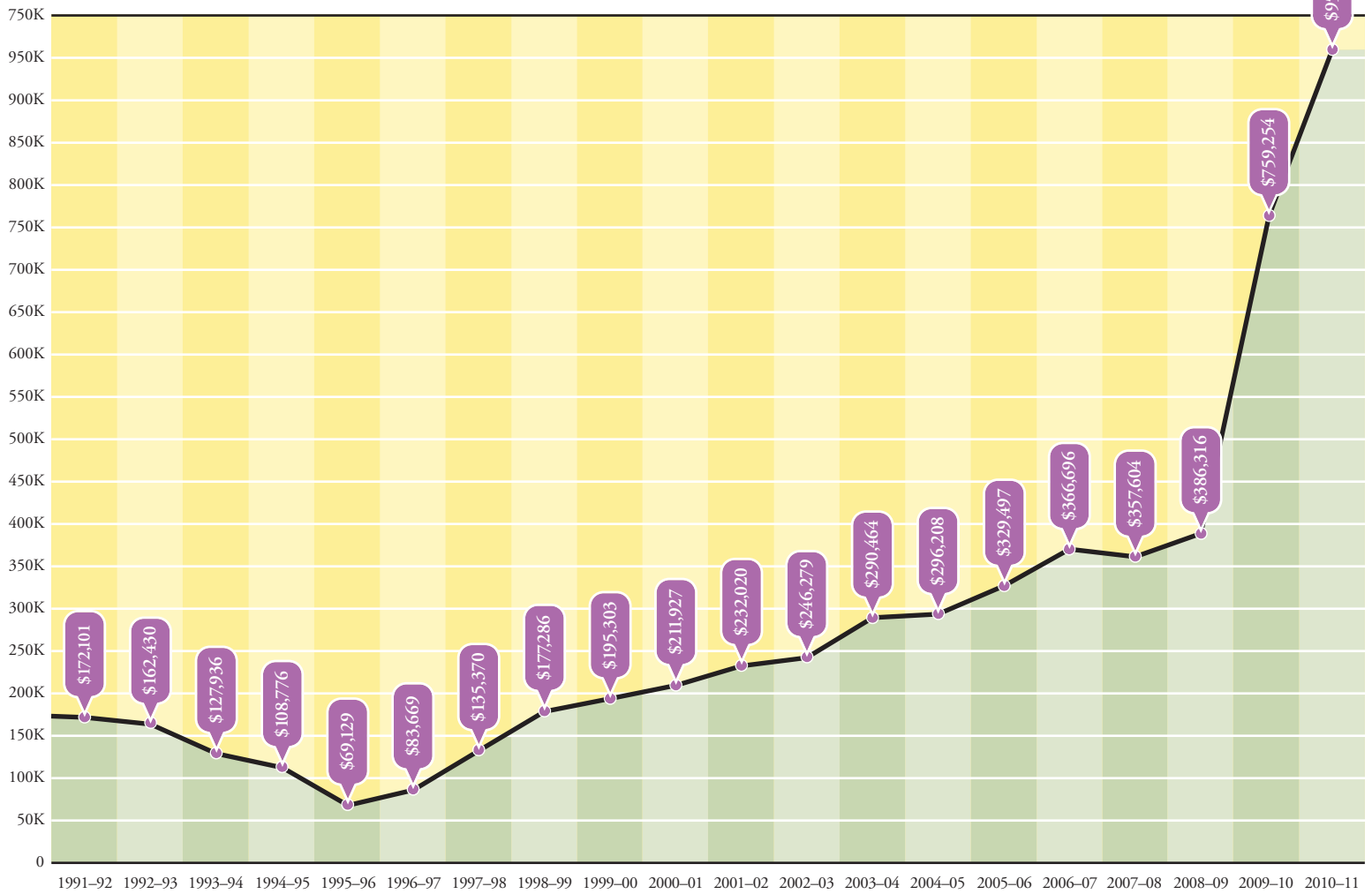
General Operations	\$ 497,632
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 96,906
Conference	\$ 367,542
Board/Committee	\$ 11,114
Publications	\$ 1,430,860
Public Policy	\$ 66,518
Awards	\$ 7,995
Workshops/Projects	\$ 98,763
Professional Development	\$ 1,692
Forums	\$ 35,183
Reaching Forward	\$ 90,344
Total Expenses	\$ 2,704,549

Net Income before Gain on Long-Term Investments	\$ 116,171
Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ 77,097
Net Income	\$ 193,268
Net Assets at end of FY 2010	\$ 759,254
Net Assets at end of FY 2011	\$ 952,522

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 851,415
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 24,904
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,508) • deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283) • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$656) • Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$631) • Legal Defense Fund (\$555) • Preiser Award (\$1,410) • Illinois Library Day (\$4,747) • Go Green Initiative (\$9,114) 	
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$ 76,203
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2011	\$ 952,522

Historical Overview of Net Assets



Cumulative Surplus

After fifteen years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last fifteen fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$883,393.

2010-2011	\$ 193,268
2009-2010	\$ 372,938
2008-2009	\$ 28,712
2007-2008	\$ -9,092
2006-2007	\$ 37,199
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
Total	\$ 883,393

Mission Statement

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. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

- develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

Promoting Excellence and Innovation

- provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
- support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
- produce high quality publications and communications; and
- celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.

Vision Statement

The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.

Organizational Information

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 3,500 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
Leadership Forum
Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum
Library Trustee Forum
Public Library Forum
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
Reference Services Forum
Resources & Technical Services Forum
Young Adult Services Forum
Youth Services Forum

Standing Committees

Advocacy Committee
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

2010-2011 Executive Board

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◀ MY TURN ▶

| Sarah Ann Long, Dominican University |

Context is everything, follow the money, and change is the natural order

Back in the 1920s and 1930s there was a lot of interest in regional services, especially in reaching out to rural areas. At the same time the federal government began to exercise a stronger role in shaping our society. By the mid-1960s these approaches were ripe for the library community, and regional library systems were established in about half of the fifty states. Here in Illinois where many were living in suburban and rural areas not served by libraries, the mandate was both to promote the creation of new public libraries and to foster resource sharing among all public libraries.

It's no accident then, that in 1962 the U.S. Congress provided federal monies to libraries for improving or implementing library services and building new library buildings. This new legislation, called the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), funneled federal dollars into the states for implementing LSCA goals. This was the funding that enabled creation of regional library systems and fueled their work.

In 1967 presidents of colleges and universities in Ohio founded the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). Ten years later OCLC went national, changed its name to Online Computer Library Center, Inc., and established semi-independent networks in states and regions of the country to recruit participation and train library workers in the intricacies of the new approach to cataloging.

In the 1960s the context was to reach out, extend, and improve library service around the country. Best of all, there were federal and OCLC monies to make it happen. Remember this was when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps and we sang along with the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love."

Here in 2011 the context is oh-so different. Cheap access to electronic information on devices as small as mobile phones; the advent and pervasive nature of Google, Facebook, and Twitter; the possibilities in cloud computing, globalization, and easy access e-books, etc., have caused revolutions in some countries and in virtually every human endeavor. In the library world today, the need for libraries, and indeed the need for regional library systems, is no longer self-evident.

In the late 1970s President Jimmy Carter introduced zero-based budgeting, in which the existence of government programs had to be justified each fiscal year, as opposed to simply basing budgeting decisions on a previous year's funding level. While this approach to budgeting has its pros and cons and is not used at every level, the concept of justification for expenditures today has become the context for all government spending.

Another context change has been the growing trend over the last twenty years to outsource or contract out services that were formerly managed by the parent organization. Such a move may be taken to tap into the expertise of a contract company or as a way to cut personnel costs associated with hiring and benefits. Contracting out or outsourcing gives the parent organization leverage to bid out the work and to change contractors if not pleased with the service. OCLC has taken this route in supporting OCLC members around the world.



Finally there is this problem with money. We are in the midst of a stubborn and unprecedented worldwide recession. There is growing tax resistance and growing anger at government spending at all levels. In this new 2011 context, there is simply no money and no self-evident reason to fund regional library systems as we have known them in Illinois.

Is there still a need for libraries and library cooperation? Yes, I believe there is, but it is not as obvious as it was in 1967 when the Systems Act was signed into law here in Illinois. Did the regional library systems do good work? Yes, they did excellent work, and Illinois can be justifiably proud of its libraries, which often lead the nation in innovation and service excellence.

What is going to be the new shape of cooperation? I believe it will be fueled by librarians who see a need they cannot fill on their own. They will partner and fund the enterprise themselves. No partner will continue within the cooperative structure if needs change. In other words, the enterprise will have to justify itself every year.

Has the library community in Illinois or anywhere been singled out for these changes? No, these changes are part of larger societal trends affecting government spending at all levels.

Is this a bleak picture? Well, there is sadness at the ending of an era and many of us reminisce about the “glory days” when systems in Illinois were shiny and new and full of promise. The two new merged library systems, Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) and the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) have taken on some of the services formerly provided by the old system configuration. Dominican University’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science is now offering continuing education courses. The University of Illinois’ Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the American Library Association, the Illinois State Library through WebJunction, and others offer a wealth of online courses for library workers at all levels.

For the future, the Illinois Library Association (ILA) has long been a player in creating excellence in Illinois. With an additional staff position and various committees charged and enthusiastic about exploring new ways ILA can provide service, a good result is bound to emerge. Finally, we are fortunate to have some 300 “Synergists” in our state, chosen and honed over the last decade and with a deep commitment to leadership and excellence. Their visions will be key to developing the future of library services in Illinois.

Technology is enabling many new strategies that would have been science fiction yesterday. The potential of collaborations and partnerships beckon us to a richer, more expansive, community-based, and global view of librarianship. These are exciting times, and we are on the threshold of many possibilities. It will be up to a new generation of librarians to envision and make real library services for the twenty-first century.

The song that comes to mind is another 1960s chestnut, this time by Bob Dylan, “The Times They Are a-Changin’.”

*The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin’.
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin’.*



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