

# REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME XXXII ISSUE 5

طريق دوله مغرب تا بحال دوله عظيمه

بالقرطبان

قلعه طربونوس مغرب

فلاس

قران

توبان

ملاک

بیکار

قریه تجره



۸۲



# 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 map from the collection of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore is among the many images featured in a joint American Library Association/National Endowment for the Humanities program called Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys. Libraries all over the country, including several in Illinois, participated and some of their stories begin on page 4. Photo credit: Fortress of Tripoli and the Surrounding Area (detail), folio from manuscript W.658, Piri Reis (Turkish, 1465-1555), late 11th century AH/AD 17th century-early 12th century AH/AD 18th century (Ottoman) at <http://art.thewalters.org/detail/79870/map-of-the-fortress-of-tripoli-and-the-surrounding-area/>

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 3,200 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has four 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 EBSCO in *Library & Information Science Source*. 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). 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.

# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 4 FROM EVANSTON TO EASTERN ILLINOIS:  
MUSLIM JOURNEYS  
by Christine Watkins
- 8 GO THERE: HOW HOSTING A  
CONTROVERSIAL PROGRAM IMPACTED  
MY LIBRARY  
by Colleen Leddy
- 12 2014 SYLVIA MURPHY WILLIAMS SCHOLARS
- 14 SCHOOLS, SYSTEMS, AND SCOPING:  
EXPANDING E-BOOK ACCESS IN ILLINOIS  
by Renee Anderson and Veronda Pitchford
- 16 NEW MEMBERS
- 21 2013–2014 ILA ANNUAL REPORT  
by Robert P. Doyle

## OPINION & COMMENTARY

- 18 MY TURN  
by Lesley Williams

## INSERT

2015 IREAD CATALOG



Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401 | Chicago, IL 60654-6799  
phone: 312-644-1896 | fax: 312-644-1899  
e-mail: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org) | [www.ila.org](http://www.ila.org)

## 2014/2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Jeannie Dilger, La Grange Public Library

### VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Su Erickson, Robert Morris University

### TREASURER

Leora Siegel, Chicago Botanic Garden

### DIRECTORS

Veronica DeFazio, Plainfield Public Library District  
Jeremy Dunn, Chicago Public Library  
Keshia Garnett, Chicago Public Library  
Anne M. Hughes, Glen Carbon Centennial Library  
Rick McCarthy, StudioGC  
Rob Morrison, National Louis University  
Carol E. Reid, Heartland Community College Library  
Becky Robinson, Illinois School Library Media Association  
Amanda E. Standerfer, The Lumpkin Family Foundation  
Christina Stoll, Indian Trails Public Library District  
Susan L. Westgate, Carol Stream Public Library

### ALA COUNCILOR

Denise Zielinski, Joliet Public Library

### EX OFFICIO

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

### EDITOR

Robert P. Doyle

# From Evanston to Eastern Illinois: Muslim Journeys

**I**n 2013-2014, the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) co-sponsored programming grants to libraries to host programs in conjunction with NEH's Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys initiative. More than 800 libraries, including 60 in Illinois, received Bookshelf grants—twenty-five books, four DVDs, and free access to an online database in return for hosting one public program. Participating libraries were invited to apply for additional funding to present a reading and discussion series and ten Illinois libraries were selected, including Evanston Public Library and Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

These two communities reflect the variety that best describes Illinois libraries—urban and rural, northern and southern, large and small, public and academic. The fact that they both chose to participate in this program and found the experience rewarding personally, for their institutions, and for their communities suggests we may all have more in common than we think.

## PLAYING BASKETBALL IN HIJAB

Lesley Williams is no stranger to presenting controversial programs. Williams is head of adult services at the Evanston Public Library and has been in charge of their programming for the past several years. Evanston has a Muslim population, though not a large one. And the community is generally open to programs that talk about difficult or controversial subjects, so Williams didn't necessarily anticipate problems. But she believes in being prepared, not just for opposition, but by learning about and understanding the topics the library selects for programs. One of her first steps in getting ready for the Muslim Journeys series was to pay a visit to Evanston's only mosque, built fairly recently.

"The mosque is two blocks from my house, and I walk by it every day, but had never been inside," Williams says. "I made an appointment to go visit and had a debate with myself about whether or not to wear a veil. I was going as a guest and wanted to behave as I'd want guests to respect the traditions and customs of my own house. I finally decided to wrap a scarf around my head, as I saw other women doing, and when the president of the mosque saw me, he broke into this big smile. He told me how much it meant that I'd decided to respect their community in this way, and I was really pleased."

[continued on page 6]







"Rejoice" quilt by textile artist Christina L. Adams, shown at Roots of Racism: Ignorance and Fear, Art in Embassies Quilt Exhibition Islamabad, Pakistan, 2003.



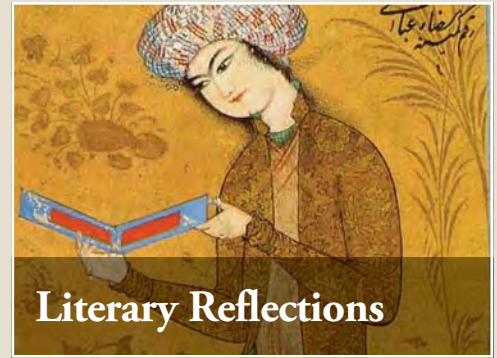
American Stories

Map of the Fortress of Tripoli and the Surrounding Area (detail), folio from manuscript W.658, Piri Reis (Turkish, 1465–1555), late 11th century AH/AD 17th century-early 12th century AH/AD 18th century (Ottoman).



Connected Histories

A seated young page reading a book of poetry, detail from a painting by Riza-yi'Abbasi in gouache and gilded on paper. Inscribed. Isfahan, Iran, ca. 1625-1626 CE, 1920,0917,0.298.3, by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum, London, UK.



Literary Reflections



Pathways of Faith

Circular ornament, Iran, 16th-17th century, Steel overlaid with gold, Purchase F1940.9, by permission of the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, at <http://www.asia.si.edu/collection/singleObject.cfm?ObjectNumber=F1940.9>



Points of View

Street art in Tehran, Iran with the word "Love," (ashq) in calligraphy by Cave2, photographed by the artist at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/cave\\_cave/6061589846/in/pool-683418@N20/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cave_cave/6061589846/in/pool-683418@N20/)



Art Spots

Short sleeved kaftan with a Çintamani design (detail), Late 15th century, 117 cm, Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul, inv. No.13/6.

[continued from page 4]

That experience represented what Williams describes as “little experiences of understanding, of meeting people halfway, that were such a wonderful part of this program.” The first program featured a local celebrity, Harif Choudray, who is an accountant by day and a stand-up comic by night. The program drew such a large audience that it was moved from the library to a community center, and while there was security on hand just in case, they were not needed.

One of the program scholars, supported by the NEH grant, was the Muslim chaplain from Northwestern University. Tahara Ahmad grew up in Morton Grove and graduated from Niles West High School where she played varsity basketball, wearing her *hijab*. Williams says veils were brought up at almost every one of the programs, but out of curiosity, not hostility.

The library presented the programs over several months—three in the fall, two in the spring—and connected them to overall library programming. The grants offered the opportunity to connect with other libraries and share experiences, as well as both financial and programmatic support. “The whole experience of working with the grant program was delightful,” says Williams. “Some grant applications are more trouble than they’re worth, but this one gave me a chance to look at all of our programs and decide how this fit in, enriching both our existing offerings and this one.”

## STUDENTS, SUFIS, AND SLEEP

Eastern Illinois University's (EIU) Booth Library is always interested in culturally diverse programs, both because there is diversity in their audience and because they want to bring greater diversity to the community of Charleston. Three librarians in the library's reference department—Kirstin Duffin, Janice Derr, and Pamela Ortega—collaborated in applying and receiving one of the Muslim Journeys programming grants, as well as in presenting the programs.

“Coming from a place like Madison, Wisconsin, the cultural resources here are more limited in some ways,” says Duffin. “There aren't as many museums, for example, and the library fills more of that role in the community.”

Booth Library has hosted several traveling exhibitions with NEH/ALA, but a reading and discussion series seemed like a bigger challenge. The experience turned out to be overwhelmingly positive. Like Evanston, they were prepared for potential opposition to the programs and found none. Also like Evanston, they felt the preparation for the series provided by the grant and the training and support from ALA was a big part of their success.

Faculty scholars had interest from the beginning and helped select one of the five themes, Pathways of Faith. Even though EIU doesn't have a religion department per se, faculty thought students would be interested in the theme. Jay Shinde, a faculty member in the business school is a practicing Sufi and led the program on the poetry of Rumi. Brian Mann, who teaches about the history of modern Iran, led several of the discussions and keynoted the opening.

Attendance at the opening program was much better than expected, with an audience “packed in like sardines,” according to Ortega. Many who attended that first program stayed with the entire series. As one attendee said on a program evaluation form, “It's nice to finally see a state-run institution do something everyone can relate to,” suggesting that there was in fact a broad audience for the theme.

“People hung around for as much as a half hour after events, students talking with community members, students talking with faculty outside their disciplines, really fostering a sense of community. One of the goals of the program was to demonstrate that people have more in common than their differences,” says Derr. “The theme attracted an interfaith audience, interested in dialogue. One of the things that might have limited opposition or negative reactions was that the series offered an academic context, not just personal points of view; people were comfortable asking questions they might not otherwise have been.”

Students were involved in organizing and presenting programs, as well as just being in the audience. EIU's Muslim student organization suggested a program on Women in Veils, recruiting three panelists, including two faculty wives and a community member in the Army reserve who was called up on the night of the panel. “Another highlight was the Student Research Panel, presented by students in conjunction with one of Professor Mann's classes. To see them treated like experts by the audience, being asked questions that really went beyond their expertise but gaining the experience of being regarded as an authority on a topic they were studying and exploring, was terrific,” says Ortega.

The library ended up presenting ten programs, many more than the number required by the grant. The entire process stretched out over two years, from applying for the grant, going through the training, developing and presenting programs. Photos and comments from the project are archived and available at [thekeep.eiu/muslim\\_journeys](http://thekeep.eiu/muslim_journeys). They enjoyed the full support of the library administration, with the dean of the library attending almost every program. All three librarians said they were glad they'd done it as team and would do it again...but only after catching up on their sleep! **ILA**

“One of the goals of the program was to demonstrate that people have more in common than their differences.”

# Go There: How Hosting a Controversial Program Impacted My Library

“Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.”

Perhaps that proverb best illustrates my experience in applying for the Muslim Journeys grant co-sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). When I first read about the program, my reaction was an immediate, “Wow! That sounds like a great opportunity!”

As director of a very small rural library in the Midwest, I don't like to pass up opportunities for high-quality, inexpensive programs. I weigh the odds—how likely we are to win a grant (or a collection of books and other resources) versus how much time it will take to apply and execute the requirements of the grant. And of course, I consider the content. After all, libraries are places where issues can be freely discussed. Where they ought to be discussed, where civil discourse needs to take place so we can learn from each other, hear each other's point of view.

Our town is tiny; our collective experience with Muslims limited. The only interaction with a Muslim I can recall having in the more than thirty years I've lived in Morenci was through the Living Library (now known as the Human Library) event we hosted five years ago. The Muslim “book” was wildly popular during the program. Over a three-hour period in which patrons “checked out people” who exemplify stereotypes, we couldn't keep Ali on the “shelf.” From teens to older adults, everyone wanted to learn more from Ali—a student we had found at a nearby college.

Our experience with our Muslim “book” told me there was a thirst for knowledge—the Muslim Journeys program seemed like it would fill a need to know. What an excellent way to learn more, to discuss another culture, to broaden our views, elevate our intellect.

Or not.

[continued on page 10]





## REPERCUSSIONS

Where I naively thought “opportunity and possibility,” others thought ... differently.

Almost immediately after the announcement that our tiny rural library won one of the grants, a patron questioned who was behind the funding. She was concerned that a Muslim group might be bankrolling the endeavor to put Islam and Muslims in a positive light ... propaganda in the guise of an intellectually stimulating program.

We’d had such positive experiences with previous ALA and NEH programs, I was confident that the funding would be unbiased. But we take patrons’ concerns seriously; I emailed the NEH to find out. They responded swiftly:

*“The Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys Bookshelf was developed and distributed with major support from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. Funding for the Let’s Talk About It program grants is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its Bridging Cultures initiative.”*

Another patron asked, “Why are you doing this?” almost as if I had an ulterior, nefarious motive. I truly didn’t understand the question. He was a former teacher. Fool that I am, some things are just self-evident to me.

*“The program aims to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world.”*

How can that be objectionable? Why wouldn’t I be “doing this? Are libraries not about informing and helping people understand topics of every nature? Doesn’t literature help us learn best about others’ experiences?

“Come to the discussion; see what it’s all about,” we said after explaining the program to the former teacher. We thought he might attend one of the five discussions, but, much to my chagrin, he never did. I worried that he would write a negative letter to the editor, but he didn’t do that either.

A patron who planned to participate in the discussion series mentioned it to several acquaintances. One of them said to her, “I hope you have a strong foundation in your faith if you’re going to do that.”

And, out of nowhere, the couple we had contracted with for several years to clean our library abruptly submitted their resignation. Through the small town grapevine we learned

they quit because the library was hosting Muslim Journeys and “never does Christian programming,” not, as they had told us, because they were cutting back on their work hours.

## “SPEWING HATE”

The scariest blowback came on the day of our kickoff—an event designed to give guests a greater understanding of the Arab and Islamic world. It included two presentations by educators from Dearborn’s Arab American National Museum, a *dabke* dance demonstration, a dinner with Middle Eastern foods, exhibits, and a display of cultural artifacts, including clothing. An elderly Navy veteran showed up at the newspaper office in town, absolutely enraged.

After reading about the kickoff event in the county newspaper, he had traveled more than half an hour to Morenci. On his way, he had stopped at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, the American Legion post, and several stores trying to incite people to attend and protest. Conveniently David Green is the owner/editor/publisher/reporter/photographer/janitor of the newspaper and a big supporter of the Muslim Journeys program. He is also my husband and was able to address the man’s concerns.

“He was just spewing hate,” David said. “He asked me who was behind it, and I told him it was my wife.” The exchange went on for some time. David told him, “I think it’s a great idea,” and the guest was baffled because he thought everyone would be angry at the library. David suggested that the man should attend because he would be just the sort of person who could really benefit from the program by learning more about the Muslim culture. David told him that the leader of the discussion group is a Vietnam veteran and his assistant fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. That’s what really diffused the man’s anger.

## GO THERE

Around the midpoint of our monthly discussion series, I asked a fellow librarian why he hadn’t applied for the Bookshelf grant.

“I didn’t want to go there,” he said.

I didn’t think I was going anywhere in particular when I applied for the Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. I just wanted our community to learn, to discuss issues, to try to understand others. I didn’t know I would be corresponding with the National Endowment for the Humanities on the source of funding or hiring a new cleaning lady or subjecting my husband to the wrath of an angry veteran.



And, no, I didn't want to go there, either.

But the source of those reactions, I believe, was one word: the M-word, "Muslim," and every negative thing it stands for in the minds of those who objected to the program. If a library isn't the place to learn what informs that viewpoint, to learn what it really means to be that word, to quell the spread of misinformation, to engage in discussions of social and cultural issues, then what is?

Libraries are that place.

So, how do we get people with opposing viewpoints through the library doors—peacefully, not enraged—so they can learn from programs like Muslim Journeys? I have found no easy answer. Perhaps if I had spoken to church groups and other community organizations, such as Kiwanis, I could have promoted the program to them and allayed some concerns.

As it was, almost everyone who attended our programs was open-minded and eager to discuss these issues. We all seemed of a like mind. I had hoped those who were opposed—those who questioned why we applied for the grant, the cleaning lady and her husband, the former teacher, the veteran—would participate.

This issue came up at our last Muslim Journeys session. One of the participants made a valid point: all those who did attend were now more educated and had a greater understanding, and they would pass that education on to others. They would be ambassadors. The discussion started in the library would continue in the community.

As one Morenci high school student said when we hosted the Living (Human) Library program, "It's only through talking to each other one on one that we'll learn to understand each other."

Take it from this fool. Go there.

*This originally appeared as a blog post on [www.programminglibrarian.org](http://www.programminglibrarian.org) and is reprinted with permission. *



## Ancel Glink understands the benefits of teamwork.

**Ancel  
Glink** | DIAMOND BUSH  
DI CIANNI  
& KRAFTHEFER  
**Think Ancel Glink**

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

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

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

Serving Illinois with offices in Chicago, Vernon Hills, Naperville, Crystal Lake & Bloomington | 312 782-7606 | [www.ancelglink.com](http://www.ancelglink.com)

# 2014 Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholars

Eight individuals were selected as this year's Sylvia Murphy Williams (SMW) Scholars. All are Illinois recipients of the American Library Association's (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship. Established in 1997, the Spectrum Scholarship Program is ALA's national diversity and recruitment effort designed to address the specific issue of under-representation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession while serving as a model for ways to bring attention to larger diversity issues in the future.

Thanks to a generous donation from Mary Jane Kepner and matching funds contributed by Ruth Faklis, Deanne Holshouser, Kip Kolkmeier, Kathleen Langston, and Debbie Smart, this year's SMW scholars are receiving a stipend of \$300, as well as complimentary registration for the 2014 Illinois Library Association conference. Contributions to the fund are welcome and can be made at [www.ila.org/contribute](http://www.ila.org/contribute) or sent to: Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund, Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654.



**Alonso Avila**

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Undergraduate degree: Coe College, English Literature and Spanish, 2008

Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*I am pursuing a career in LIS because of my work as an educator in Chicago and Jordan. My interests also include the interrelationships among international hip-hop and academic librarianship, special collections, and archives.*



**Lucero Gonzalez**

Hometown: Peotone, Illinois

Undergraduate degree: University of Illinois at Chicago, Sociology, 2014

Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Everyone calls me Lucy. I never saw myself as a traditional educator and throughout my undergrad I fell in love with doing research, which led me to pursue a career as an academic librarian so that I may help make an impact in the educational achievement of underrepresented students by increasing retention and graduation rates.*



**Bradley Jermaine Kuykendall**

Hometown: Memphis, Tennessee

Undergraduate degree: Lincoln University, Business Administration, 2012

Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*I'm involved in several student groups such as the ALA student chapter and Black Graduate Student Association of the University of Illinois. I am interested in the digital divide, corporate, and academic libraries.*





**Jhani Miller**

Hometown: Park Forest, Illinois  
Undergraduate degree: Governors State University,  
Interdisciplinary Studies, 2012  
Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Currently my focus is community informatics, but very recently I rediscovered my passion for oral history and storytelling. I'm a dancer. I'm a former Girl Scout. I'm an "orange personality."*



**Jerrod D. Moore**

Hometown: Panama City, Florida  
Undergraduate degree: Lincoln University, Business  
Administration, 2013  
Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

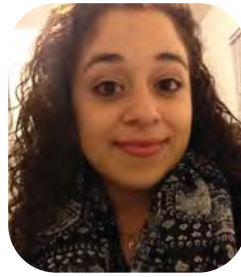
*I have always been interested in diversity from almost every perspective. These interests lead to an internal need for information, understanding, and insight; information that I love to share with friends and family. My love for sharing information has led me to pursuing a Masters of Library and Information Science; which ultimately will allow me to simply "connect people with information."*



**Maria Lourdes R. San Ramon**

Hometown: Zion, Illinois (originally from Manila, Philippines)  
Undergraduate degree: Lyceum of the Philippines University,  
Manila, Business Administration, 1986  
Graduate School: Centro Escolar University, Manila, 1998  
Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*I've always wanted to go back to school for the MLIS, but with the economy I struggled for the chance. This scholarship opens the door for me to achieve this goal. It is my desire to strengthen my skills to best serve my present and future library users.*



**Alejandra Santana**

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois  
Undergraduate degree: University of Illinois at Chicago,  
Classical Civilization, 2013  
Current Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*I can't wait to use my MLIS degree to help my Latino community, especially the young ones, as I have noticed the libraries I work in seriously lack bilingual assistance. I am currently setting up a display for the Belpre and Batchelder awards, which are not displayed as often as the Caldecott or Newbery, so Latino and international authors/illustrators can be celebrated too!*



**Jason Toms**

Hometown: Aurora, Colorado  
Undergraduate degree: George Washington University,  
American Studies, 2010  
Graduate degree: University of Colorado Denver,  
Sociology, 2013

Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*As an African American I always reflect on the fact that books, literacy, and essential knowledge have historically been withheld from blacks as a condition of slavery, segregation, and inequality. I am empowered to pursue a career in academic librarianship because it will allow me to utilize my master's degree in sociology. I want to be a mentor to young African Americans who may not have anyone who believes in them at school or home.*

# Schools, Systems, and Scoping: Expanding E-book Access in Illinois

Multitype collaboration is alive and well in Illinois, as evidenced by a recent joint effort to make products and policies that seem to favor public libraries more usable and accessible to all. Vendors, school librarians, and system personnel all worked together on the case in point involving shared collections and e-books.

As a result, Illinois libraries participating in the eRead Illinois Axis 360 shared collection, developed by Baker & Taylor and available through an Illinois State Library grant program, are the first in the country to use a new scoping feature that allows libraries to have greater control over their digital collections. This functionality is particularly important to school libraries because it allows them to customize the shared collection to restrict students' access to mature adult content.

In a few short months, the number of libraries participating in the eRead Illinois Axis 360 platform has grown to include two hundred library members. More than ten thousand items have been shared among over two million library users statewide. The eRead Illinois 3M cloud team is working on developing scoping functionality for Illinois 3M Cloud members and could soon reach even more schools, libraries, and e-book readers.

## SCOPE IT OUT

School libraries had expressed concerns about the inclusion of mature adult content in the Axis 360's shared collection when it debuted in December 2013, and Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) immediately brought these concerns to Baker & Taylor, the developer of the platform. Baker & Taylor responded quickly and worked closely with the eRead Illinois team to develop

the scoping feature, which went live in July 2014. Scoping allows content to be excluded by subject, category, or author. The scoping feature is easily accessible to all participants through the Axis 360 administrative site.

"It is critical for schools to be a part of the eRead Illinois statewide shared e-book collection to maintain the strong tradition of multitype library resource sharing for which Illinois libraries are known," said Dee Brennan, executive director of RAILS. "Illinois schools have been locked out of other e-book consortia in the past. Baker & Taylor has been a true partner of eRead Illinois, and we appreciate their swift response in developing the scoping functionality to serve the unique needs of our multitype collection. This development demonstrates the power of partnerships between library consortia and vendors to work together to move the needle on critical issues facing today's libraries and library patrons."

The program's goals are to expand e-book access across Illinois, provide training to increase expertise on e-books, and explore more opportunities to increase access to e-books through collaboration with Illinois authors, libraries, publishers, and other organizations.

"The scoping feature allows school librarians to create student-appropriate collections quickly through eRead Illinois. Having the ability to tailor the collection to suit the individual building and grade level needs is an invaluable part of the collection development process," relates Christy Semande, district librarian at Canton High School (Canton USD #66). "With this tool, I can now provide open access to a collection that meets my district's standards. I sincerely appreciate the eRead Illinois team and Baker & Taylor's diligent work to resolve this issue for students in Illinois school libraries."






While scoping is important to school libraries, it also benefits academic, public, and special libraries by allowing them to customize their content to meet the expectations of their organizations and customers. The eRead Illinois team offers a variety of opportunities to help participating libraries share e-books throughout Illinois, including training on how to use the new scoping functionality. In-person training (including a traveling “petting zoo” of e-reader devices), online documentation, webinars, helpful videos on the eRead Illinois YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/eReadIllinois](http://www.youtube.com/user/eReadIllinois), and other resources are available. Participants also receive ongoing technical support and consulting.

About eRead Illinois: For more information, see [www.ereadillinois.com](http://www.ereadillinois.com). Illinois libraries are invited to join eRead Illinois at any time. To join, see [www.ereadillinois.com/become-member-library](http://www.ereadillinois.com/become-member-library).



*The eRead Illinois team will offer an overview of eRead Illinois at the ILA Annual Conference Kickstarting Connections, Creativity, Community, October 14-16, in Springfield, and the ISLMA conference, Leading Change, November 6-8, 2014, in Tinley Park. Check the conference programs for eRead Illinois program dates and times.*

*Funding for eRead Illinois was provided by the Illinois Secretary of State through the Illinois State Library. *

**BTC**  
Building Technology Consultants, PC

Capital Review Plans  
Forensic Investigations  
Repair Design  
Historic Preservation  
Construction Oversight



Building Facades  
Parking Garages  
Structural Deficiencies  
Roofs  
Plaza Decks

Expert Evaluations | Innovative Solutions | Better Buildings

www.btcpc.com  
(847) 454-6900  
Kamini Parvathy Chandrasekar, Principal  
John Hub & Sumner, Principal

# 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

**Williams Architects**, Itasca

## CO-MEMBERS

**John Moranski**, Auburn High School/Auburn Jr. High School

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

**Chatsworth Township Library**

**LaMoille-Clarion Public Library District**, LaMoille

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

**Rose M. Barnes**, Itasca Community Library

**Joan Bauer**, Illinois Heartland Library System, Champaign

**Rachael Bild**, Oak Park Public Library

**Gayle Blodgett**, Spoon River Public Library District, Cuba

**Stacia Callaway**, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove

**Nicole Cooke**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Ranell A. Dennis**, Rock Island Public Library

**Grace Dwyer**, Carol Stream Public Library

**Kristin L. Green**, Freeburg Area Library District

**Lisa Greene**, Vernon Area Public Library District, Lincolnshire

**Margaret Grundmeier**, Gail Borden Public Library District,  
Elgin

**Anthony W. Hahn**, Des Plaines Public Library

**Anna Hesterberg**, Columbia Public Library

**Liza Hickey**, Peoria Public Library

**Joan Hull**, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin

**Rhonda Johnson**, Hudson Area Public Library District

**Anne Baker Jones**, Vernon Area Public Library District,  
Lincolnshire

**Grace Lehner**, Evanston

**Emily MacNiff**, Vernon Area Public Library District,  
Lincolnshire

**Ann McWilliams-Piraino**, Barrington Area Library

**Angeline Nalepa**, Chicago Ridge Public Library

**Allison Parker**, Northlake Public Library District

**Kathryn Patrick**, Reaching Across Illinois Library System  
(RAILS), Burr Ridge

**Carol Shoenthal**, Bartlett Public Library District

**Grayson Stamm**, Park Forest Public Library

**Amy Teske**, Carol Stream Public Library

**Emily Vinci**, Schaumburg Township District Library

**Joanne E. Zienty**, Forest Elementary School, Des Plaines

## STUDENT MEMBERS

**William J. Condon**, Chicago

**Kim Kanofsky**, Palos Hills

**Linda Kupferschmid**, Champaign

**Katherine Louise Schmoyer**, Seward

**Alice Son**, Niles

## SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

**Shauna Bostian**, Glen Carbon Centennial Library

**Beth Heldebrandt**, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

**Deborah Keegan**, Lincolnwood Public Library District

**Gwen LaCosse**, Des Plaines Public Library

**LaRaie Zimm**, Stickney-Forest View Public Library District,  
Stickney

## TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**Bonita Berryman-Gilliam**, Carol Stream Public Library

**Michelle Geyer-Ross**, Villa Park Public Library

**Dan Hippensteel**, Villa Park Public Library

**Carol Looby**, Worth Public Library District

**Orlando Thomas**, Champaign Public Library



---

# New for 2014

---



---

Everything you need in a single volume to trace the history of book banning,

the emergence of the principle of freedom of expression, and understand how this is woven into the fabric of literature, politics, education, and culture in America. The encyclopedic listing of “incidents” of banning is framed by text that includes Supreme Court cases, famous quotes on censorship, and brief essays to guide students, teachers, scholars, and citizens on a fascinating journey. **To order the new 2014 edition of *Banned Books*, visit [alastore.ala.org/bbw](http://alastore.ala.org/bbw) for more details.**

---



## ◀ MY TURN ▶

| Lesley Williams, Evanston Public Library |

# Library Programming: Don't Just Follow the Crowd

**A**bout seven years ago, my professional life took an abrupt turn. I had been head of reference and information services at the Evanston Public Library (EPL) for over ten years, but we were combining the reference and reader's services departments, and I suddenly found myself head of adult services, which included programming.

I did not have the faintest idea of how to do library programming, or even what "programming" meant. Evanston library staff had only recently started providing adult programs; previously our Friends group had organized all the lectures and author talks for the public, and we had little in the way of music, classes, or even book discussions. There was (and is) a regular Lyric Opera lecture, and a handful of local music groups who would come in for concerts, but that was about it.

I learned about sources like the Best of the Best lists, and I joined the local library programmers listserv. Still I felt very much at sea. I had reams of brochures from folk singers, theater groups, poets, biographical re-enactors, and lifestyle consultants, all of whom would be delighted to offer their services to the Evanston Public library.

How to determine what to offer?

## SET YOUR OWN COURSE

Looking through the "best of lists" and reading the listserv chat, I soon realized that there were quite a few "regulars" on the library circuit, people who appeared over and over at libraries around our area, and some that had spoken or performed at EPL on an annual basis, and fully expected to keep doing so in perpetuity. I also realized that it would be easy to spend an unlimited amount of money on library programs. Most of the performers on offer charged between \$300 and \$500 an hour, some far more. Given that I had no real program budget, this was daunting, and frankly many of the high-priced programs did not seem especially fresh or interesting.

So I developed the following principles for Evanston Public Library programming:

- Limit the number of fee-based programs.
- Focus on community resources: local arts and nonprofits, the university community, the business community.
- Provide original programs targeted to Evanston, not duplicating neighbors.

I announced our willingness to partner with any community nonprofit for up to six programs per year, setting the limit to avoid having one group or voice dominate the library's programming. I explored resources at Northwestern University, the chamber of commerce, the Evanston History Center, and local theaters and religious communities.



And now? The library hosts between 85 and 120 public programs a year, with an average attendance of 33; programs range from local theater, dance, and author presentations to documentaries on school choice, Israel/Palestine, Guantanamo, school lunches, and urban violence. We host about ten local author readings a year, have a Local Arts@EPL gallery, five themed book discussion groups, (including a bilingual English/Spanish one) and a “NextChapter” entrepreneurship series.

So how do I do it? Here are my suggestions...

**Be bold, not boring.** Libraries can be a bit timid and overly reliant on trends: if the next library over is doing a MakerSpace, do you have to do it, too? If your neighbor is offering an *Eat, Pray, Love* program, must you do it, too? Nonsense. Before booking a speaker with glowing recommendations from “all your neighbor libraries,” ask yourself, is this something that is really needed at my library? And if the program has already been seen at five nearby locations, how much of an audience is left? Won't most people interested in that topic already have seen it?

Rather than slavishly copying what everyone else is doing, look for needs or interests that are NOT being responded to in your community. In Evanston for example, we created an in-house science-fiction conference, a yearlong series of African-American themed programs (including a Spike Lee retrospective), and organized a community Day of the Dead observance with our Latino community organizations. None of these were “name” programs, or part of the typical library circuit, but they responded to Evanston’s specific interests and demographics, and they were highly successful.

**Programs should not replicate something better available elsewhere.** Why offer mediocre jazz or travelogues, if the local community college or music scene offers superior versions? I almost always turn down health-related programs, not because this isn't a concern, but because we have several local organizations—city health department, YMCA and YWCA, and two area hospitals—that do a better job.

**Programs should not merely be advertisements for local companies.** This gets tricky, especially if you are offering business or financial planning topics. There are hordes of lawyers, travel agents, and financial planners who would love to offer their services in exchange for free publicity and a chance to collect names of possible clients. That is not to say that libraries should not make use of local business expertise, but your expectations need to be clear. One suggestion is to offer such programs as panels where no one company dominates. You should also refuse to give out the names of program registrants, and it's a good idea to get an outline of the presentation to ensure it isn't merely a thinly disguised pitch for the company's services.



**Programs should appeal to residents of all ages, genders, and background.** This sounds obvious, and yet I've found that a startling number of library program brochures tout their appeal to seniors. But the library is not a retirement home: it serves twenty-somethings, single parents, blue-collar workers, GED students, science-fiction aficionados, community organizers, and graphic novel enthusiasts. Programs should reflect that, not just in content and speakers, but in the times and locations they are offered, and the formats. If all your programs take place on weekday afternoons, then clearly you are not going to reach a broad demographic. Ask yourself: are my programs conflicting with important community events: sports, church services, school activities? On the other hand, are there times when people might be looking for interesting free activities? One of our most popular events is a Friday movie night, which begins after the library officially closes. This has become a highly popular series for students and young adults, who don't tend to come for weekday or Saturday afternoon events.

[continued on page 20]

**Quantity does not equal quality.** Certain types of programs will always draw large crowds: well-known authors, popular movies, anything with cooking. There's nothing wrong with that, but you have to ask: are these the programs that make the biggest difference to people's lives? Some of my most successful programs, the ones that resulted in glowing letters to my director, were intense book discussions involving only seven to ten people, or a film series drawing a core group of fifteen people every month who bond over the film as well as the discussions.

**You get what you don't pay for.** Spending tons of money does not guarantee great programming. I've paid hundred of dollars for highly recommended performers who were total flops, and I've had huge turnouts and meaningful audience interactions from local writers, musicians, activists, teachers, and actors. Want to brighten spirits on Sunday afternoons? Get some local music students to perform string trios in the lobby. Can't afford big-name authors? Promote local first-time or self-published writers, or host a showing of local artists. Do you have a hometown college or university? Many professors (especially untenured ones), are required or encouraged to contribute to community outreach: see if any of them would lead discussions after a documentary screening, or of a book in their field. If you don't have a nearby college, tap the local high school or historical society.

**Controversy should never be avoided.** If a program is controversial, that means it's interesting, it's timely, and it deals with an important issue. What better place than a library for people to get informed and to argue about the Affordable Care Act, school choice, Israel-Palestine, or immigration reform? Not only can and should the library provide speakers and documentaries on hot topics, it can enhance these programs with book lists, pathfinders...in short, all the research and reader's advisory skills we hone on a daily basis.

**Programs don't have to be balanced and objective, but the library should be.** Go ahead and book that polemical speaker (as long as she's credible and knows what she's talking about), and don't feel compelled to "balance" her with a speaker from the "other" side—for one thing, most controversial topics are so complicated there is no single "other side." However, you should make sure that all views have a chance to be heard, that you publicize to, and invite folks who are likely to disagree, and that you provide supportive materials representing a range of views. For example, a few years ago the local Republican club sponsored a screening at the library of *Waiting for Superman*, which is highly critical of teachers and teachers unions. We didn't plan an opposing program for "balance," but we sent out notices to the local schools and teachers, and many union members showed up to engage the audience in discussion, resulting in one of the best and most meaningful programs we've ever offered.

**Experiment with formats and locations.** EPL staff were discussing our interest in developing a reading "support group" to tackle challenging, lengthy classics, something that would go beyond the limits of a monthly Great Books discussion. So we created Mission Impossible, in which we take a full year to read and discuss such works as *Ulysses*, *War and Peace*, or *Remembrance of Things Past*. The year-long format enables people to participate who wouldn't have the time to read a full book each month.

Plenty of libraries have been experimenting with taking programs outside the library. But even within the building, don't feel constrained by the limits of your "program room." We've offered roaming after-hours theater productions that took place in rooms throughout the library, dance performances on the ramp outside, and a full-length staging of *Romeo and Juliet* in our reference reading room.

**Be diverse all year long, not just during designated "months."** Are all your gay-themed programs in June, your African-American programs in February, and your Hispanic programs in September and October? Ours aren't. Given our large African-American and Hispanic populations, and the cultural richness available, we realized it was silly to cram those programs into a single month. So we offered an "11 Months of African-American History" year, with at least two African-American themed events every month...except February. This year we are doing the same with Latino heritage. And, we are launching our first LGTB book discussion group, which will meet every month...except June.

Our programming philosophy is to offer unique educational and artistic community experiences that appeal to our culturally diverse population. Rather than present the "library circuit" of Oprah picks, generic musical "standards," and home ec programs, we look for outstanding opportunities to engage Evanstonians with filmmakers, performers, and artists they are not likely to otherwise encounter, and to provide a community forum for discussion of challenging concepts and creative works. And you can do it, too. **■**







# Heating Up!

Illinois Library Association  
Annual Report 2013–2014

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

From ILA's 2013 Annual Conference—Ignite!—through the bitterly cold winter of 2014, our first round-the-state Legislative Meet-Ups in February, and into the heart of summer as I write this, ILA has been turning up the heat on issues that are important to libraries around the state.

It was a big year for defending the freedom to read at schools and libraries in Glen Ellyn, Chicago, Orland Park, and elsewhere, as well as kicking off the Soon to Be Famous Illinois author project. Our ongoing legislative efforts in Springfield secured level funding for state grant programs to libraries and defeated filtering legislation for the 18th (or is that umpteenth?) time.

We expanded our iREAD efforts to combat summer reading loss with new statewide partners in Minnesota and Virginia, in addition to our previous partners, the California Library Association and the U.S. Department of Defense. We presented a program on iREAD at the Texas Library Association conference in March, the largest state library association conference in the country, and saw a surge in orders from Texas and some other states.

We also launched a group insurance pool as a benefit for ILA institutional members that offers the opportunity for libraries to exercise greater control over their costs for property, casualty and workers compensation insurance, often resulting in significant savings. It has already grown from twenty-four founding members to thirty-two with five more libraries and their boards considering membership.

As we welcome our new board and officers for 2014-2015, let's all work to make our libraries the hottest thing going!

Sincerely,



Su Erickson, Robert Morris University  
ILA President, 2013—2014



## Meeting Up: Legislative Advocacy

The coldest winter on record saw ILA hosting legislative “Meet-Ups” in four different parts of the state in February—our save-the-date announcement read, “Don’t get left out in the cold!” Building on a strong history of an annual Presidents’ Day Breakfast held in the northwest suburbs, events were added this year in Oak Brook, Lockport, and Edwardsville. Turnout was excellent, important contacts made and messages delivered, with members working hard to get their trustees, legislators, and legislative staff members together with library directors and staff. Members of the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives were invited, along with members of Illinois’ national congressional delegations.

Advocacy remains one of the key functions of ILA, and we are very pleased to report that we achieved our major objectives in the recently completed 2014 Illinois General Assembly Spring Session, both in terms of policy and funding. All three ILA legislative initiatives were approved by the legislature, with two signed by Governor Quinn and the third falling victim to the governor’s veto. And despite another very difficult budget year, ILA secured funding for Illinois State Library grants at our requested levels.

In defeating the latest attempt to impose public library mandatory Internet filter requirements, we were able to realize the benefits of educating legislators on the value of local control. The combined efforts of the Public Policy Committee, the ILA Executive Board, and our ability to mobilize and act quickly resulted in success on budget issues, protection of intellectual freedom, and member-requested improvements to the laws governing library operations.

## Bill by Bill

The Illinois General Assembly approved House Bill 6095, which includes library grant appropriations at the Illinois Secretary of State’s requested amount. This will provide level funding to our grant programs in fiscal 2015. We owe thanks to our many legislative supporters for preventing cuts to library grants, as many other agencies and statewide programs did not do as well. House Bill 3793 was also approved, which included appropriations for some specific local library capital projects.

The three ILA 2014 legislative initiatives that were approved included Senate Bill 1941, which implements the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and puts Illinois in line with the national legislation. Senate Bill 3071 clarifies and adds procurement authority to the Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act. House Bill 3796

addressed provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, including ILA’s proposal regarding posting of information on the Internet—while vetoed by Governor Quinn, the bill as passed could be enacted by the Illinois General Assembly if they override his veto in the Fall Veto Session. If a move to override is not pursued or fails, we expect the issue to be revived in a future session. The Illinois General Assembly also passed several other bills supported by ILA, including Senate Bill 3222, creating the Illinois Joining Forces Foundation and Senate Bill 3288, the Secretary of State’s initiative allowing greater publication by electronic means.

The 2014 session saw the eighteenth attempt to require public libraries to impose mandatory filters on all public library computers. As with previous proposals, ILA objected to the mandate included in Senate Bill 3784 as an infringement on local control and an unconstitutional limit on First Amendment rights. Library opposition resulted in the bill being held in a Senate subcommittee. Despite our continued success in limiting filtering on a statewide basis, the legislature will likely continue to raise intellectual freedom issues, and ILA is a respected voice in this important area of legislative activity.

## The Outlook

Illinois has an “activist” legislature, with a constant barrage of bills being proposed. Some are initiatives of single members and have little chance of attracting broad support, but there’s always a chance that a wrong-headed or ill-conceived notion will be appealing at first glance. That’s why we continue to monitor all such bills and provide education and context when possible. One such recent example was passage of a cyber-bullying bill with provisions that were over-broad despite ILA’s opposition. By registering our objections and the reasons for them, we laid the groundwork for future revisions.

The Illinois General Assembly approved a \$35.7 billion state operating budget for FY 2015, but did not extend the current temporary income tax increase, set to roll back from 5 percent to 3.75 percent on January 1, 2015. This may change after the November 2014 general election, but if the lower tax rates take effect, the approved budget will not be fully funded. Stay tuned—this could definitely turn up the heat!

Illinois library supporters also gathered in Washington, DC, for National Library Legislative Day in early May. As in past years, we made the rounds of the Illinois congressional delegation, reminding them of the importance of their support for the Institute for Museum and Library Services, which directly supports several grant programs of the Illinois State Library, among other national programs.

## Catching Up: Conferences, Awards, and Continuing Education

The 2013 ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier drew more than 1,800 attendees and featured 141 exhibit booths, both sizable increases over the 2012 conference in Peoria. Among the many awards recognizing excellence that were presented at the conference, students from Lane Tech High School's 451 Degrees Club received the Intellectual Freedom Award. Their protests aimed at the removal of the book *Persepolis* from the Chicago Public Schools resulted in a flurry of press coverage and reinstatement of the book. Events for trustees, youth services librarians, and academic librarians rounded out the year's calendar.

Specialized programs and workshops for trustees, youth services librarians, and library support staff were held throughout the year and around the state. Our annual orientation for ILA leadership, including committee members and forum managers, was held for the first time in Bloomington at Heartland Community College. Despite the increasing role of online and social media in all of our lives, we find these face-to-face events are both valued and a welcome change.

Of particular note, IACRL, an ILA forum and a chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), held its biennial conference on March 21, 2014. The conference theme, *Telling Our Story: Impact and Assessment*, drew academic librarians from around the state and featured a keynote address by Moe Hosseini-Ara, the director of culture for the City of Markham in Ontario, Canada.

Reaching Forward, ILA's professional development conference for library staff, marked its 25th anniversary with a May 9 conference that featured forty-four programs for library support staff and others—big congratulations to the Reaching Forward Forum for building this brand and event for the past quarter of a century!

## Reading Up: Soon to Be Famous™ and Summer Reading

In an exciting joint project with Illinois' library systems, ILA launched the first year of the Soon to Be Famous Illinois author project. Organized by ILA members who were inspired by a talk given at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference on the power of libraries to assert their importance in the e-publishing world, the project surpassed expectations. Nearly a hundred self-published authors entered the contest that was judged by a committee of Illinois librarians, resulting in the selection of three finalists: Mary Hutchings Reed, Rick Polad, and Joanne Zienty, with Zienty winning for her literary novel, *The Things We Save*.

ILA's successful summer reading program, iREAD, expanded with new statewide partnerships in Virginia and Minnesota in addition to the California Library Association using the program for the second year in a row. The U.S. Department of Defense libraries on military bases worldwide continue to use the program, as do libraries in almost all fifty states. 2014's theme, Paws to Read, was one of the most popular ever and featured Rocket, the irresistible white dog who learns to read and write, created by author and featured iREAD illustrator Tad Hills.

Our flagship publication, the *ILA Reporter*, continues to draw readers with articles on innovations in library architecture, censorship battles lost and won, community-building through Little Free Libraries and more. Thirty-four issues of the *ILA E-Newsletter* arrived in member mailboxes through the year, keeping them current not only on association activities and events, but on library news throughout the state and around the country.

*Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Public Libraries* was published in early 2014, thanks to a dedicated ILA Standing Committee led by ILA Past-President Pam Van Kirk. Hundreds of copies of this updated edition flew out the door to libraries statewide in time for grant applications due to the Illinois State Library.

## Adding Up: Fundraising and Financials

Four new Illinois Library Luminaries—A. Denise Farrugia, Sally Decker Smith, Valerie Wilford, and Pat Norris—were added last year. This effort that combines recognition for outstanding contributions to Illinois libraries with a fundraising campaign has raised \$54,009 for the association since it began in 2009.

The Fund for Illinois Libraries continues to make it possible for institutional members of ILA to apply for and receive funds through ILA's 501(c)(3) status. Another important milestone for ILA's institutional membership category was the establishment of the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA), a group insurance plan resulting in significant savings in property/casualty and worker's compensation premiums. Group purchasing had been identified as a priority in the Future of Illinois Library Cooperation project in 2012, and the ILA Executive Board carefully explored options, developed policies, and eventually launched this exciting project. To date, thirty-two ILA institutional member libraries have joined LIRA, saving an average of 19 percent on their annual premiums with additional savings likely to result from the pooled loss fund at the end of the year.

## August 2013–July 2014



**9,956**

Number of Bills Introduced in the 98th Illinois General Assembly (226 of them were "library bills," monitored by the Illinois Library Association)



**73,471**

Number of iREAD T-shirts Sold



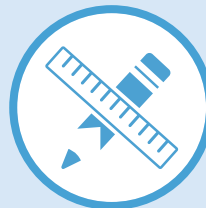
**820**

Number of Students Currently Enrolled in MLS Programs in Illinois



**103**

Number of Books Entered in the Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project



**182,799**

Number of Square Feet in New Library Buildings in Illinois (Based on libraries featured in the February 2014 *ILA Reporter*)



**332**

Number of Attendees at 2014 Illinois Legislative Meet-Ups



**14.6 million**

Number of Words Read by iREAD participants at DoD Military Libraries



## ILA Fiscal Report Year Ended June 30, 2014

### Revenue

General Operations	\$ 45,266
Membership	\$ 317,889
Conference	\$ 418,253
Publications	\$ 2,310,460
Public Policy	\$ 4,025
Awards	\$ 12,472
Endowment	\$ 6,775
Workshops/Projects	\$ 49,456
Reaching Forward	\$ 106,433
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,271,029</b>

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

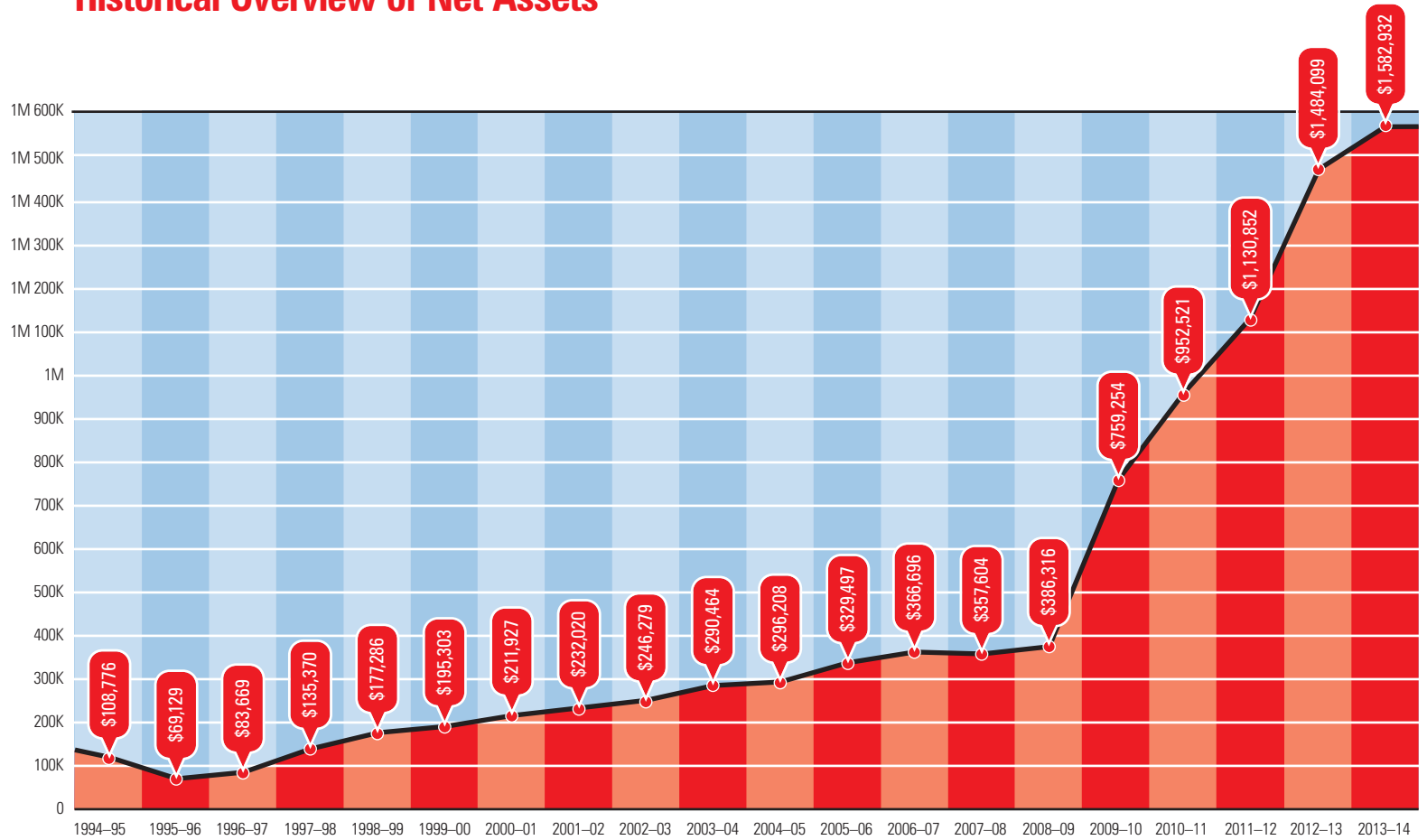
General Operations	\$ 639,386
Membership/Directary/Reporter	\$ 92,183
Conference	\$ 418,146
Board/Committee	\$ 15,260
Publications	\$ 1,827,508
Public Policy	\$ 69,077
Awards	\$ 8,442
Workshops/Projects	\$ 63,436
Forums	\$ 2,008
Reaching Forward	\$ 129,386
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,264,832</b>

Net Income before Gain (Loss) on Long-term Investments	\$ 6,197
Loss on Long-term Investments	\$ 92,636
Net Income	\$ 98,833
Net Assets at end of FY 2013	\$ 1,484,099
Net Assets at end of FY 2014	\$ 1,582,932

### Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,471,242
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 14,334
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,156)</li><li>• deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283)</li><li>• Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$585)</li><li>• Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$5,257)</li><li>• Legal Defense Fund (\$620)</li><li>• Preiser Award (\$433)</li></ul>	
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 97,356
<b>Total Net Assets at end of FY 2014</b>	<b>\$ 1,582,932</b>

## Historical Overview of Net Assets



## Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA's net assets has been a conscious strategy over the past eighteen years, with the goal of producing an annual budget surplus. FY 2013–14 marked a milestone with net assets reaching 50 percent of the annual budget, and maintaining that reserve remains a priority.

The strategies that have contributed to realizing these goals include a focus on earned income projects, such as summer reading and a new group insurance program, and also on operating with a small staff and holding overhead and other costs down.

Professional associations have typically faced declines in their traditional sources of revenue—membership, conference, and publications—over this same period, and the need for innovation and entrepreneurial efforts is as strong as ever.

2013–2014	\$ 98,833
2012–2013	\$ 353,247
2011–2012	\$ 178,331
2010–2011	\$ 193,267
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,513,803</b>

## **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 almost 3,200 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

### Administration and Governance

The Illinois Library Association has four 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  
*ILA Reporter* Advisory Committee  
Intellectual Freedom Committee  
iREAD® Committee  
Marketing Committee  
Nominating Committee  
Public Policy Committee

## 2013–2014 Executive Board

### President

Su Erickson, Robert Morris University

### Vice President/President-Elect

Jeannie Dilger, La Grange Public Library

### Immediate Past President

Pam Van Kirk

### Treasurer

Leora Siegel, Chicago Botanic Garden

### Directors

Keshia Garnett, Chicago Public Library  
Kate Hall, New Lenox Public Library District  
Jeanne Hamilton, Charleston Carnegie Public Library  
Rick McCarthy, Gail Borden Public Library District  
Scott E. Pointon, White Oak Library District  
Carol E. Reid, Heartland Community College Library  
Becky Robinson, Illinois School Library Media Association  
Amanda E. Standerfer, The Lumpkin Family Foundation  
Christina Stoll, Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
Ellen Sutton, College of DuPage Library  
Susan L. Westgate, Carol Stream Public Library

### ALA Councilor

Denise Zielinski, Joliet Public Library

### Ex Officio

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

### 2013–2014 ILA Staff

Robert P. Doyle, Executive Director  
Cynthia M. Robinson, Conference and Continuing Education Manager  
Anne Bustamante, Member Services Manager  
Theora Kvitka, Administrative Coordinator  
Jon Daniels, Controller



Robert P. Doyle  
Illinois Library Association  
33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401  
Chicago, IL 60654-6799

phone: 312-644-1896  
fax: 312-644-1899  
e-mail: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)  
<http://www.ila.org>



Illinois Library Association

# soon to be famous™

## Illinois Author Project

Which Illinois library will nominate the  
Soon to be Famous Illinois Author in 2015?



From left to right, finalist Rick Polad, finalist Mary Hutchings Reed and Soon to be Famous Illinois Author 2014, Joanne Zienty.

- **Accepting submissions from October 15 - December 15, 2014**
- **Even simpler submission guidelines for libraries**
- **Winner announced National Library Week 2015**

**Interested in judging?** Please email [StamJ@EisenhowerPLD.org](mailto:StamJ@EisenhowerPLD.org) by November 15.



[www.soontobefamous.info](http://www.soontobefamous.info)



# Pairing people, technology, and design.



Barrington Area Library  
Barrington, IL

Technology integration is a pivotal necessity in libraries today. The Metronome™ benching system and table collection by Nienkämper was chosen to provide a seamless bridge between patrons and their tech needs. See what LFI can do for your library!



[libraryfurnitureinternational.com](http://libraryfurnitureinternational.com) | 847 564 9497

Scan with  
mobile device  
to see slideshow!







Illinois Library Association

33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 401  
Chicago, IL 60654-6799

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

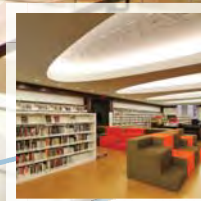
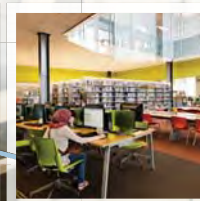
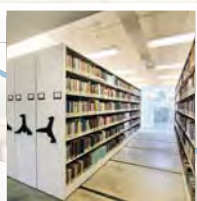
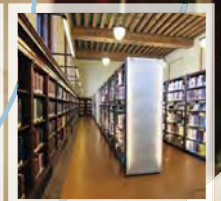
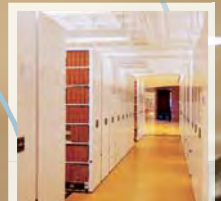
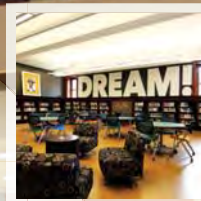
# RE-PURPOSE

**space is premium.**

You're hearing it everywhere, you're hearing it often — our libraries are knowledge spaces, and accessing knowledge has changed.

Space can be made if you employ the right resources and solutions to optimize it. From high-density storage systems to modular casework and shelving systems, after over 40 years we can solve the design challenges you face, while also respecting the dignity of our library's historical and necessary role in public service.

Contact Dave Bradford - [dave@bradfordsystems.com](mailto:dave@bradfordsystems.com)  
or call 800-696-3453.



## Smart. Storage. Solutions.

**BRADFORD**  
SYSTEMS

Bradford Systems Corporation

[www.BRADFORDSYSTEMS.com](http://www.BRADFORDSYSTEMS.com)

800.696.3453