

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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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

Tad Hills, author of the *Rocket* series and the 2014 iREAD Paws to Read featured illustrator, is front and center on this month's cover, as he was at this year's ILA Annual Conference. More than 1,800 attendees participated in the conference held at Chicago's Navy Pier on October 15–17, and voted Hills "most popular speaker!" See pages 18–21 for conference highlights and photos. Photograph by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.

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.

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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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Robert P. Doyle

Affordable Care and Libraries: Take Two, and Call Back Later

If there's a single topic that's dominated the news this fall — well, after the government shut down came to an end — it's been the Affordable Care Act. Between website glitches, some costs apparently going up instead of down, and libraries having prepped to deal with an expected rash of patron questions, it's become a sore subject for many. As we go to press, it's still not clear if all the things that need to be up and running before the January 1 effective date for individual policies will be in place and whether there might need to be further adjustments or extensions.

This is an issue not just for libraries and their patrons, but for library employees as well. And in 2015, when the employer mandate takes effect, it will become something libraries as employers will have to address. For now, here's a sampling of information, opinions, and responses from a range of voices, and we welcome readers to add their own comments on the ILA Facebook page, as well as seeing what some libraries are doing through the list of links at the end of this section.

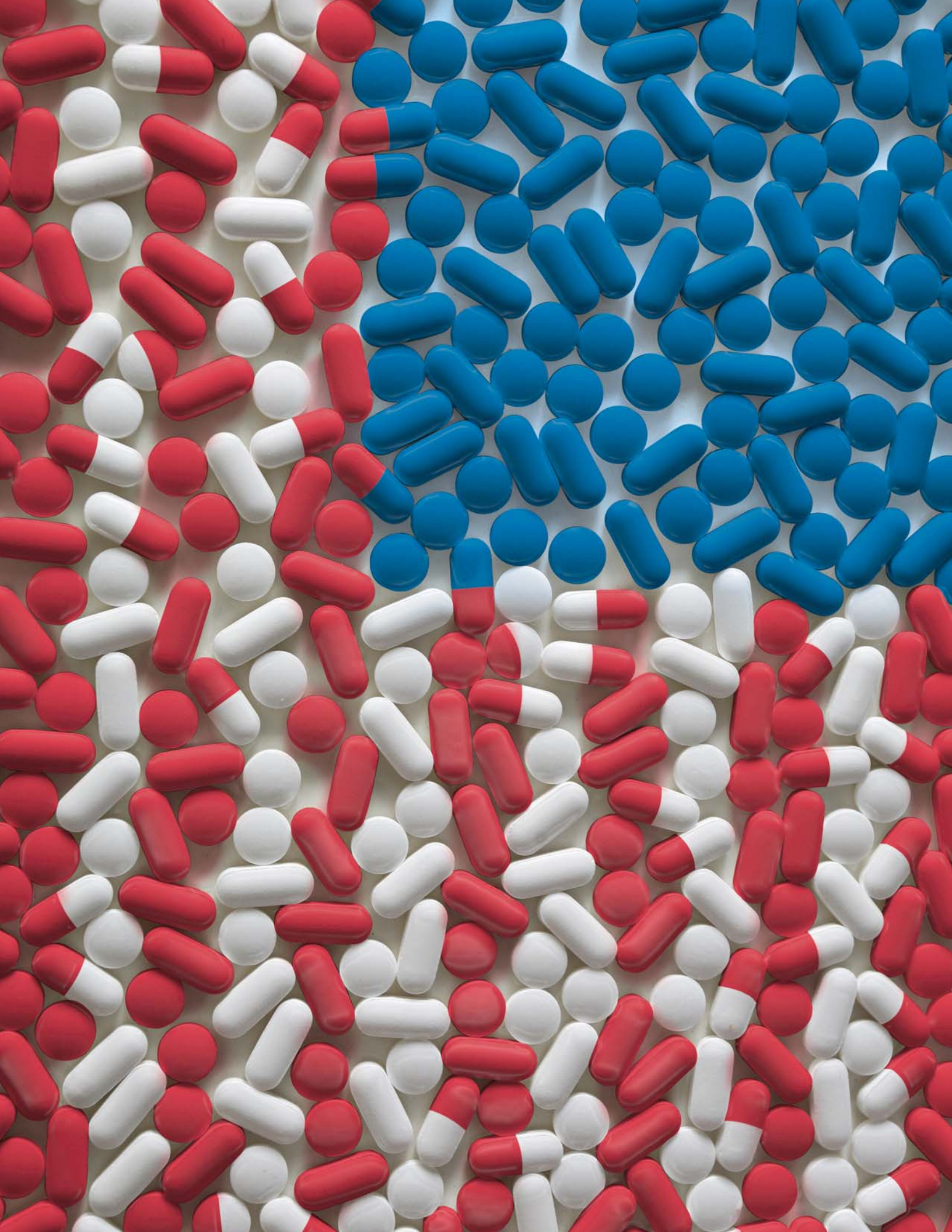
INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS: IMPACT ON ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law in 2010, was intended to expand health care coverage to over 30 million people in the United States, including 1.8 million in Illinois. The goals were to provide consumer protection through insurance reform, ensure better health and wellness outcomes, and control costs through “bend the trend” strategies.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's famous quote — “But we have to pass the [health care] bill so that you can find out what is in it” — has proved more insightful than we knew. Slightly under 3,000 pages when issued, the bill survived a U.S. Supreme Court challenge and at 10,000 pages, stands eight-feet tall with revisions, technical guidance, and rulings. That stack seems destined to grow as implementation begins.

The heart of the bill — funded by numerous tax increases on the healthcare industry, health insurers, employer groups, and individuals — supports enrollment of individuals in public insurance exchanges, now called marketplaces. Individual affordability is supported either by expansion of Medicaid eligibility or subsidies based on income. Enhanced benefits include guaranteed issue for all ages, no pre-existing condition restrictions, and expanded coverage linked to benchmark plans identified in each state. But for some not covered by either federal subsidy or Medicaid, affordability and accessibility may not be improved. And if enrollment glitches don't improve, there's concern that penalties may kick in before individuals can fully understand what they need to do to enroll.

[continued on page 6]



INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

This is the part of the law that takes effect January 1, 2014, and requires every individual to either have 1) Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC), 2) qualify for an exemption, or 3) pay a penalty (shared responsibility). The two websites most commonly recommended for detailed information are www.healthcare.gov and www.kff.org, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation website. While both sites have experienced heavy traffic and the government site in particular has been plagued with difficulty, they remain the primary sources for information.

Each state was originally scheduled to open a health insurance marketplace on October 1, 2013, and offer an open enrollment period through March 31, 2014. In Illinois the landing page is getcoveredillinois.gov, but full enrollment capability is projected to be delayed until late November. In the meantime, the Kaiser site (kff.org) is an option for estimated costs based on zip codes.

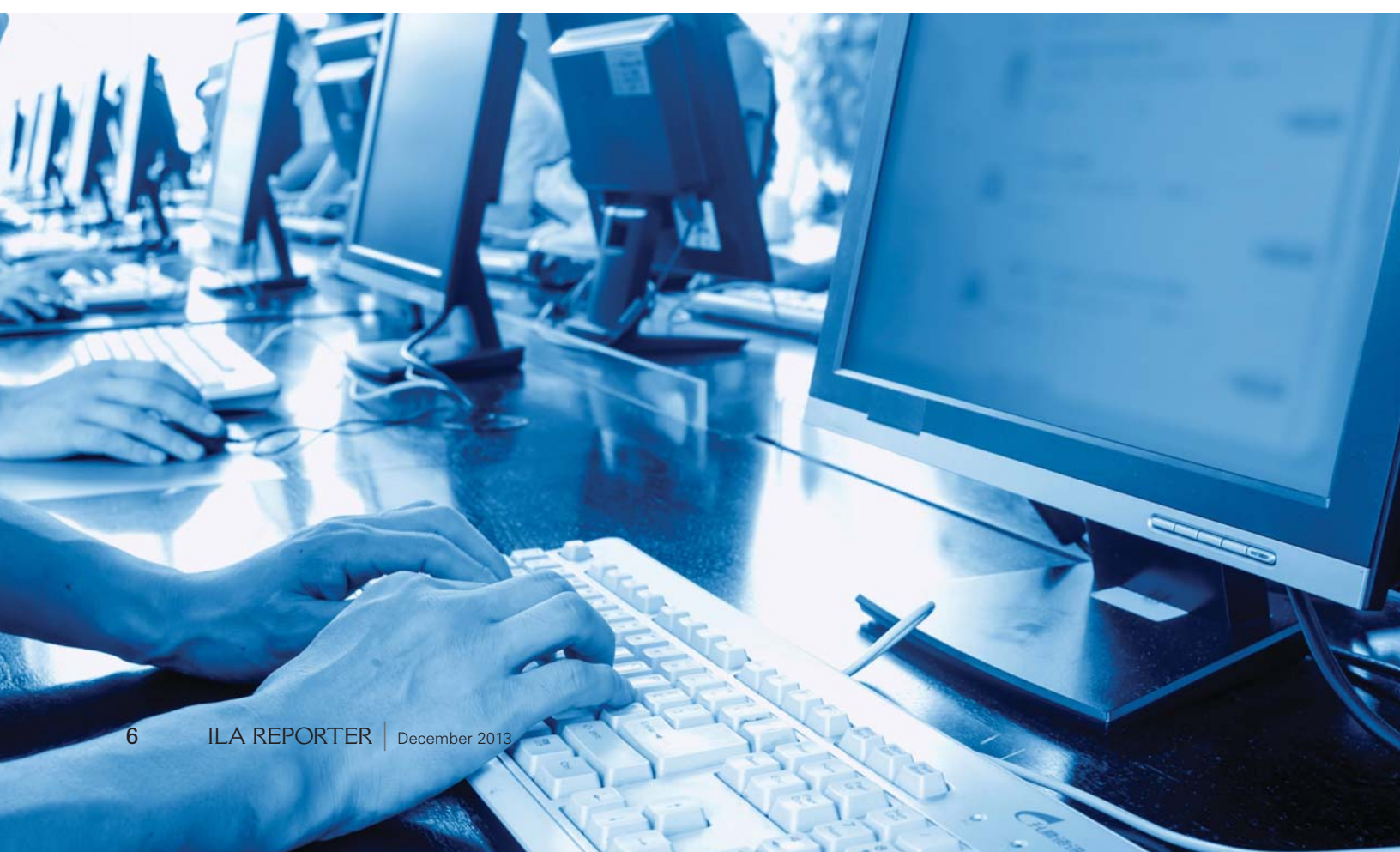
While libraries can assist patrons in locating websites and some libraries have taken advantage of funding to train “navigators,” their role is limited to linking patrons to information that is being provided. And if that information is not available, there’s bound to be frustration, especially as the January 1 deadline approaches with the threat of penalties for the uninsured or cancelled coverage for individuals whose policies don’t meet the standards of the new law.

EMPLOYER MANDATE

Even though this portion of the law has been postponed until 2015 and applies only to employers with fifty or more full-time (FTE) employees, the distinction between full- and part-time may not be as clear-cut as it appears. Organizations such as libraries with large numbers of part-time employees need to take special care to determine where they fall in these categories, which are complex and require detailed calculation.

In spite of the complexity, compliance requirements, and additional taxes, we find most employers still intend to offer health benefit programs to their employees. They will do so while minimizing their tax liabilities and avoiding penalties through best practices used in the industry. Part-time employees will have an opportunity to buy potentially federally subsidized coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace at an affordable cost.

For a deeper dive into the discussion of how these mandates will affect Illinois libraries, the authors have provided a copy of the handouts from their presentation at the 2013 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. Visit ila.org/2013 and click on the “Conference Handouts” link; from there, search for “Affordable Care Act.” ■





Taking Our Pulse: Reactions to ACA from Illinois Libraries

When the federal government decreed that every citizen would be required to have health insurance coverage by March 31, 2014, or be subject to fines, it seemed logical that libraries would be impacted. As a provider of trusted and reliable information, patrons turn to the library for guidance and information, so the expectation that libraries would help the public navigate the Affordable Care Act (ACA) should come as no surprise.

Some libraries throughout Illinois are uncomfortable with the role. If you aren't a health care professional, an insurer, or an attorney (or even if you are!), those three words — Affordable Care Act — can be daunting and dismaying. “Obamacare” is defined as the fear that you'll pay more and lose the high quality of health care you enjoy today, but to those who work in libraryland, it could also refer to the fear of dealing with this in any capacity, especially for frontline staff faced with inquiries from the public.

Health care reform is a contentious issue that can easily spark a heated discussion. Libraries want to tread carefully to ensure that they are not advocating or taking a stand, but simply acting as a conduit to information. Coupled with the technical glitches that have plagued the online system, this role has been a challenging one for libraries.

THE (VERY) QUICK AND DIRTY OF ACA IN ILLINOIS

In the Affordable Care Act (ACA), consumers and small business have access to health insurance marketplaces, also called exchanges, to shop for health insurance coverage. Each state makes its own decision on creating health insurance marketplaces. States that don't create their own marketplace have access through the federal government exchange, <http://www.healthcare.gov>.

In Illinois, we have a State Partnership Marketplace branded “Get Covered Illinois,” which can be found by visiting www.getcoveredillinois.gov. The site is designed to provide information for Illinois residents and small businesses about new coverage options and financial assistance. Consumers can receive help from trained and designated Navigators or In-Person Counselors (IPCs); both answer questions, help prepare applications, determine eligibility, and assist in the enrollment process. As of mid-October, the total number of visitors to the “Get Covered Illinois” site surpassed 350,000, with 231,000 of those being unique visitors. The website garnered well over one million page views, with the two most popular sections being the “Explore Coverage Options” tab and the “Individual and Family Coverage” tab.

[continued on page 10]



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LIBRARIES?

A study from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) revealed that around 37 percent of library computer users (28 million people) use library computers and seek assistance from librarians for health and wellness issues, including learning about medical conditions, finding health care providers, and assessing health insurance options.

In recognition of the anticipated role for libraries in the ACA rollout, American Library Association (ALA) President Barbara Stripling and IMLS Director Susan Hildreth issued the following joint statement: "Providing resources that help librarians answer patron requests for health insurance information furthers the long-standing commitment of both IMLS and ALA to make information more widely available to the public. We are delighted to help connect libraries to these resources so they can provide timely information to their customers. While libraries provide information in a way that best suits their own communities, IMLS and ALA stand ready to help all libraries prepare for the anticipated increased demand for health-related information."

In a recent survey of eighty-two libraries in Illinois, only 5 percent stated that they didn't feel libraries should be playing a part. "Librarians should not be expected to become insurance agents. Our involvement regarding ACA is like any other state or federal program. We can show people how to access the Internet and pass along brochures that are provided. However, it is distressing to see all of the money being allocated to ACA at a time when we struggle to find the money to pay the electric bill," said one respondent. Another went even further: "This is not my library's responsibility."

Most libraries agreed that at a minimum they are providing Internet access for their patrons to sign up, will print out forms for those who don't wish to apply online, and are prepared to refer patrons to where they can get help. Others are also providing

information on their libraries' websites, sending staff to training or webinars, supplying handouts and pamphlets, acting as host sites for Navigators or IPCs, and organizing programs or guest speakers on the topic.

The North Suburban Library District in Loves Park is offering health insurance sign-up help by partnering with Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois and other local organizations to provide assistance with health insurance registration. Along with twenty-six other partner agencies, the Waukegan Public Library collaborated to obtain an \$800,000 state grant to implement outreach for ACA and has a goal to help 236 people per month through the end of health care registration, which is March 31, 2014. Additionally, Waukegan Public Library reference librarians and customer-service staff are providing referrals for ACA outreach.

Libraries report receiving a range of inquiries, including:

- How to register for insurance
- When and where to apply
- Specific questions relating to an individual's situation
- Questions about computer access
- Is the ACA coverage better than my current coverage?
- Health-related questions
- Am I eligible?
- Questions about penalties

Surprisingly, 55 percent of the libraries polled stated they have yet to receive any questions about ACA, causing some of them to wonder if all the preparation and training was for naught. But based on our experience with the demand for tax forms as April 15 nears, we might expect to see an onslaught of inquiries about ACA in late March when people scramble to sign up for health care coverage before the deadline. As with everything else libraries are asked to do, when a patron needs our help, we'll be there. ■



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Sampling of ACA Info on Selected Illinois Library Websites

Ela Area Public Library District
www.eapl.org/research/affordable-care-act

Governors State University
University Library
libguides.govst.edu/content.php?pid=39386&sid=1678620

Highland Park Public Library
hplibrary.org/affordable-care-act

Indian Trails Public Library District
blog.indiantrailslibrary.org/?page_id=1609

Mount Prospect Public Library
mppl.org/research/aca-info-guide/

Morton Grove Public Library
www.mgpl.org/research/affordable-care-act/

Northern Illinois University
University Libraries
libguides.niu.edu/content.php?pid=518792&sid=4269040

Oakton Community College Library
researchguides.oakton.edu/affordablecareact

Perioa Public Library
www.peoriapubliclibrary.org/affordable-healthcare-act-portal

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University Library
uiuc.libguides.com/aca



Best (and Not So Best) Practices in Social Media

With the explosion of social media platforms in recent years, it's no surprise that libraries are jumping on the bandwagon. If your library isn't taking advantage of social media's low-cost, potentially high-impact marketing capabilities, you are neglecting a big opportunity. The world of social media changes rapidly, and it can be confusing to keep up, or even get started. For the last year, the ILA Best Practices Committee has been observing Illinois libraries' use of social media to tease out what works and what doesn't.

In November 2012, the committee conducted an informal survey of Illinois libraries' social media practices. Reaching out through the committee's Facebook page and the ILA's electronic newsletter, the survey generated eighty-nine responses from a variety of libraries. After examining the results, the committee recruited three survey respondents to participate in a panel discussion that was presented at ILA's 2013 Annual Conference in October. Drawing on the survey and the panel discussion, the committee has tracked the following trends about best practices in social media for libraries.

ESTABLISH CLEAR GOALS AND A MEASUREMENT STRATEGY BEFORE YOU BEGIN

As ILA Best Practices Committee Chair Bill Pardue noted, "The survey respondents who expressed the highest satisfaction with their social media efforts knew what their goals were, knew who was responsible, and had a plan going in." [See Figure 1]

When responding libraries established a goal of "getting likes or followers," they also reported attracting more likes and followers than libraries that established different goals. [See Figure 2]

[continued on page 14]

Figure 1: Was Effort Worth It vs. Goals

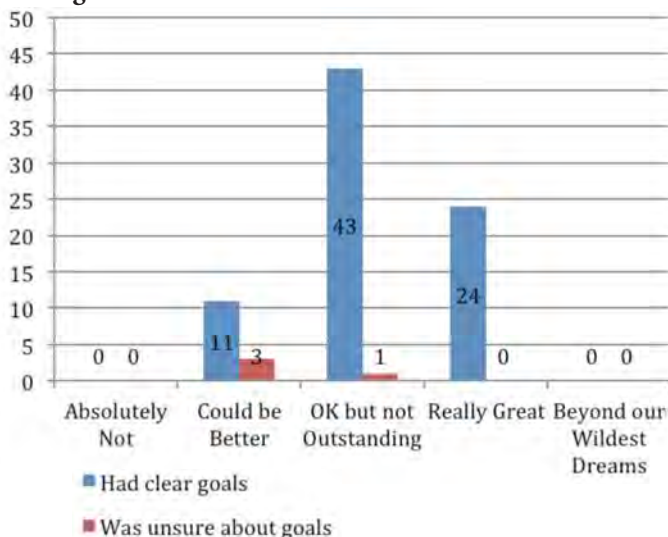
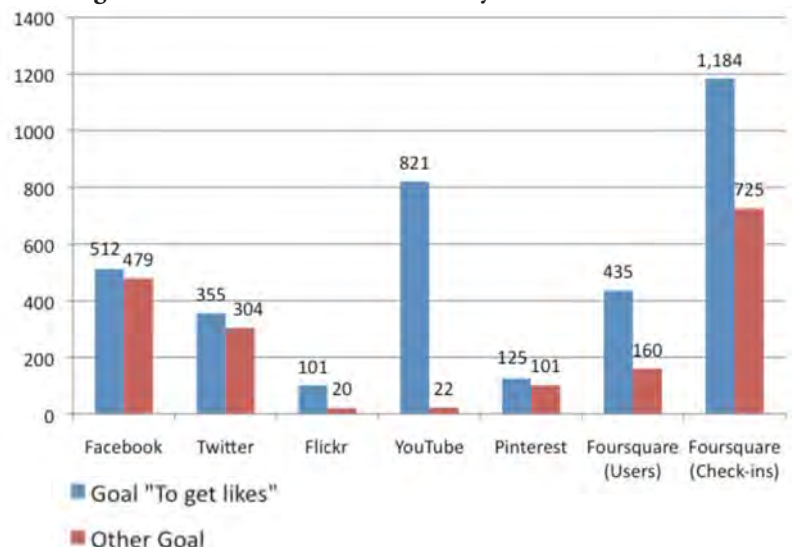


Figure 2: Number of Likes/Followers by Goal





BE WHERE THE PATRONS ARE

Veronica DeFazio, head of Youth Services at Plainfield Public Library and one of the panelists, reported that the teenagers are "...hanging out with the old folks on Facebook, on the library computers, responding to the Facebook posts that Joe (Plainfield's teen librarian) just put up at his desk ten feet away." She knew they were really successful because. "...the teens post back. They give each other kudos on the library [Facebook] page, and start a dialogue with each other through the library page. They also torture Joe."

Facebook is a great place to start, but is just one of a plethora of social media platforms. Survey respondents reported engaging with patrons through Twitter, blogs, Pinterest, and many others. Know your patrons, and reach out to them in the spaces they already frequent. This may require targeting specific groups of patrons on different social media platforms. For example, teenagers may have already moved on from Facebook to another emerging social media platform. [See Figure 3]

"Other" responses included Foursquare, Goodreads, Google+, LinkedIn, Blogger, Tumblr, Instagram, Yelp, and local community forums.

Of course, there are ways to promote your social media presence that don't rely on existing social media platforms. Many patrons found success by advertising in print formats and with posters or decals in the library building. Survey responses described contests that promoted their social media presence, using giveaways, and even wrapping slips of paper around Halloween candies. Get creative and don't forget about some of the more traditional marketing communication methods while pursuing the latest innovations. [See Figure 4]

KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE, BUT DON'T MAKE ONE PERSON HANDLE EVERYTHING

The survey showed that libraries are experimenting with a number of different models for controlling content creation, but the consensus from both the survey and the panel discussion was that the process works best when the work is shared among a limited number of people. Many respondents indicated that posts were generated by members of a social media committee. Heather Beverley, a panelist from Cook Memorial Public Library District, described her library's ten-person committee that meets bimonthly, communicates frequently by e-mail, and delegates primary control of social media platforms to various members.

"One Facebooks, one tweets, one handles Tumblr, etc.," Beverley said. Another panelist, Sarah Sagmoen of the University of Illinois at Springfield, described a committee of two — herself, and the library's communication and outreach specialist. She explained that they needed to keep the number of contributors small because... "We were trying really hard to create a voice, and that voice was really important to us." They tried adding an additional librarian as a contributor, but found he had difficulty maintaining a tone consistent with the rest of the group. "It's so important to us that the voice remain the same and people can count on the types of things we're going to have and how we put ourselves out there." [See Figure 5]

Figure 3: Social Media Used

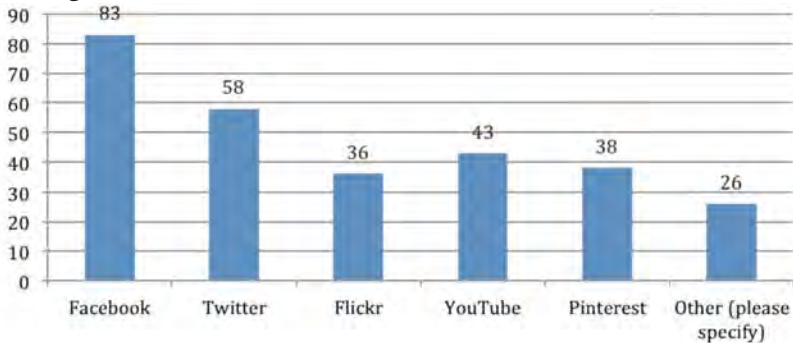


Figure 4: Where Do You Promote Your Social Media Presence?

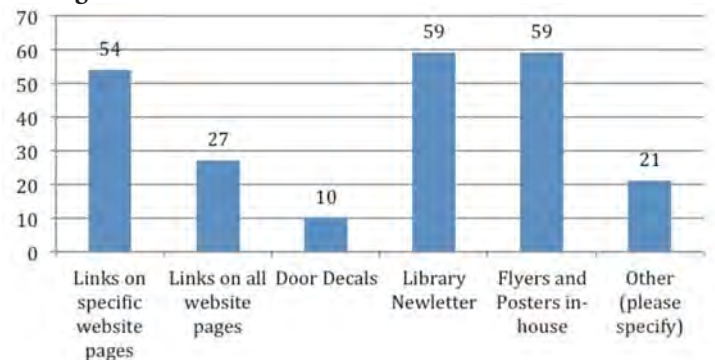
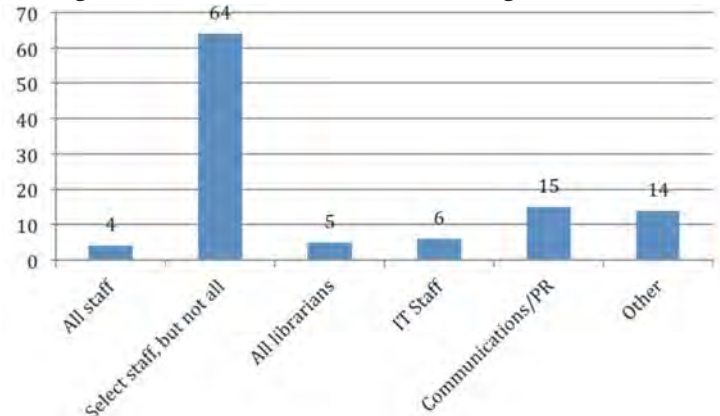


Figure 5: Who Has Access to the Publishing Process?



POST A WIDE VARIETY OF CONTENT, AND DON'T SHY AWAY FROM IMAGES

A theme that emerged from both survey responses and panelists was the power of image posts. Beverley noted in the panel discussion that “when we started advertising programs with photos after the fact, our next program had higher registration numbers.” Sagmoen also reported that they’ve always tried to include a link, video, or picture on every post, and used to focus primarily on topics like important books in history, or highlighting a database a week.

They noticed, however, that the librarians frequently dressed alike, and began snapping pictures of it and posting them to Facebook. “People love it,” Sagmoen says. The “what we’re wearing” series became the most popular posts their Facebook page had ever generated. “If we don’t put one up once a week, people start asking about it.” The feature generated so much attention across campus that the deans and chancellors have started posting their own “what we’re wearing” pictures. “Getting students to understand that we’re just likeable people who can laugh when we’re wearing the same outfit really helps,” she notes. Survey respondents reported similar experiences. [See Figure 6]

CONSTANTLY ASSESS AND ADJUST

As Myspace has taught us, social media platforms rise and fall. Keep abreast of recent trends, keep an eye on your statistics, and be prepared to alter your strategy to suit the changing needs of your library and patrons. Several panelists and survey respondents indicated that their libraries used social media management tools to keep their profiles organized, schedule posts, and track statistics. Most participants indicated that their libraries use Hootsuite (www.hootsuite.com), but there are many similar tools out there such as Buffer (www.bufferapp.com) and SocialOomph (www.socialoomph.com).

IS PARTICIPATING WORTH THE TIME AND EFFORT?

Survey responses showed that most of the participating libraries believed their social media efforts were worth the effort, with 83 percent of responses selecting “OK but not outstanding” or “really great.” No one felt that they’d hit a home run, but neither did anyone feel that their effort was wasted. [See Figure 7]

Ultimately there don’t seem to be any real failures when libraries get involved in social media, only varying degrees of success. It appears that the only real way to lose at the social media game is not to play. **IIA**

Figure 6: Which Type of Posts Receive the Greatest Response?

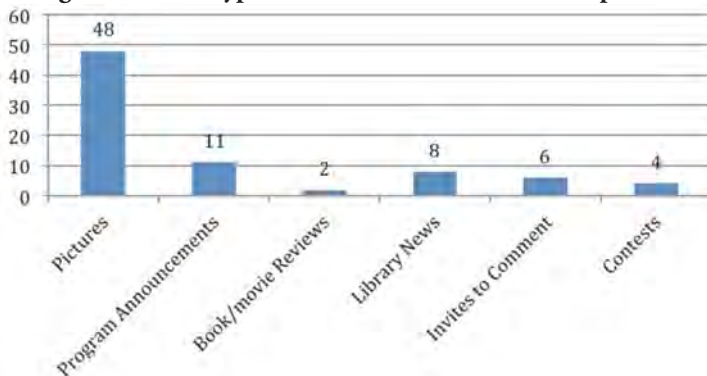
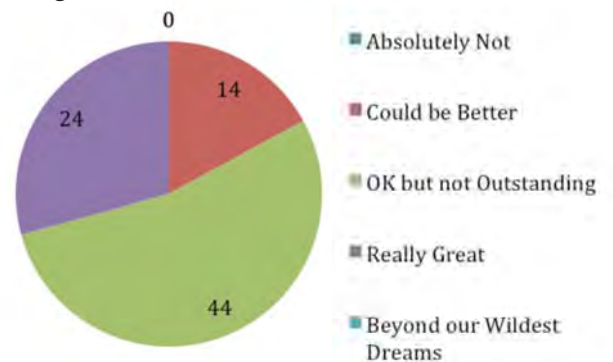


Figure 7: Have Your Efforts Been Worth It?



Dear Elsie,

What's the difference between MARC fields 260 and 264 for publication and copyright data, and does it really matter which I use?

Flustered in Flora

Dear Flustered,

MARC field 264 is a recent addition to the MARC formats created to reflect more accurately some distinctions made in RDA. In AACR2, following the structure of ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description), Area 4 is designated for "publication, distribution, etc." This class of bibliographic information (formerly known as the imprint) is traditional in cataloging, and MARC field 260 parallels it. Essentially, 264 allows for more detailed information; as to which to use when, it depends.

RDA AND AACR2

RDA (Resource Description and Access) makes sharper distinctions than previous cataloging codes. The first clear indication many working catalogers had of this was RDA's treatment of copyright dates. Under AACR2, when an item lacks a date of publication, the cataloger can record the copyright date instead if it is present and seems close to the likely date of publication. RDA does not permit this, because it treats publication date and copyright date as two separate elements, and publication date is a core element.

In early RDA records, we began seeing 260 \$c information such as 260 __ \$a ... : \$b ..., \$c [2012], ©2012, indicating the lack of a publication date and a copyright date of 2012. Under AACR2 this would have been recorded as 260 __ \$a ... : \$b ..., \$c c2012. Under RDA the cataloger had to record a probable date of

publication and add the copyright date (the use of © rather than the lowercase c is a separate requirement in RDA) because it was the actual date present in the item. (Its addition would have been optional, but for the record, Elsie endorses it in a case like this.) But, as we see, the MARC tagging does not reflect the conceptual distinction: both dates are in the same subfield of the same field.

Field 264 is the result of a decision to make the MARC coding more explicitly reflect the distinctions made by RDA. This is done by splitting the four functions of publication, distribution, manufacture, and copyright notice into four different fields 264, with the function denoted by the second indicator: publication 264 _1, distribution 264 _2, manufacture 264 _3, copyright 264 _4. (The first indicator has a different function we will not discuss here; in practice it is almost always blank. There is a second indicator 0 as well, used for unpublished resources.) So the data in our example would now be recorded as:

```
264 _1 $a ... : $b ..., $c [2012]
264 _4 $c ©2012
```

Note, in passing, that 264 _4 has no end punctuation.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Now to your true question: Does it really matter which we use? The PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) Guidelines of the Library of Congress recommend using 264 for new RDA cataloging and leaving existing 260 fields in pre-RDA records; 260 fields in RDA records can be changed to 264 at the cataloger's discretion, if there is enough information to determine the appropriate second indicator values.

The first recommendation speaks for itself, if only because none of us has time to change every 260 field into one or more 264s, and it makes sense on a theoretical level because changing the MARC coding would introduce a level of element distinction that is not actually in AACR2.



As for using field 264 for current and future RDA records, Elsie sees at least two good reasons to do so.

- First, since the Library of Congress now uses 264, following the same practice will keep our records consistent with national standards and in the long run save us time and money.
- Second, using the capacity we now have to separate and code data more specifically — with more granularity, as the expression goes — could enable us or future users to retrieve and use the data in different and more powerful ways than we may now envision. A future researcher might, for example, want to correlate the activities of publishers and distributors over a particular period, to compare gaps between copyright and publication dates in various disciplines, or to find out how many unpublished resources are represented in WorldCat or some other database. In considering this point, we should bear in mind that one of the purposes of RDA — and of various initiatives aimed at either reworking or replacing MARC — is to break down the “silos” of metadata and make the information we catalogers provide more interchangeable and accessible in the larger information universe.

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2013 ILA Annual Conference

Conference Statistics

Total attendees: 1,821

Exhibit booths: 124

Major Speakers: Opening General Session keynote speaker Dawn Mushill; author and illustrator Tad Hills, ILA's Resident Philosopher Al Gini. The Speakers' Series included Pamela Meyer, Saroj Ghoting, and Manny Scott.

Conference Registration

	2013 Chicago	2012 Peoria	2011 Rosemont	2010 Chicago	2009 Peoria	2008 Chicago	2007 Springfield	2006 Chicago	2005 Peoria	2004 Chicago	2003 Springfield	2002 Chicago
Full	620	538	623	673	460	767	580	844	616	736	527	699
Single day Tuesday	224	64	186	190	51	242	68	281	35	151	39	161
Single day Wednesday	330	123	219	191	77	269	109	233	122	282	119	258
Single day Thursday	57	10	238	194	10	77	12	66	24	98	8	83
Preconference only	0	0	0	0	0	16	5	32	6	108	151	151
SUBTOTAL	1,231	735	1,266	1,248	654	1,371	774	1,456	803	1,375	844	1,352
Speakers	81	84	80	147	65	83	74	100	27	105	78	133
Exhibits only	131	102	169	220	91	326	141	206	50	236	100	426
Exhibitor representatives	378	203	430	469	187	407	227	368	207	392	202	503
TOTAL	1,821	1,124	1,945	2,084	997	2,187	1,216	2,130	1,087	2,108	1,224	2,414

Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	491	810	685	685	994	695	795	592	783	575	918	554
Hotel Rooms Used	352	729	432	384	737	611	939	690	945	626	1,169	605
Number of Companies	124	111	125	149	101	157	125	137	113	151	132	165
Number of Booths (including any paid canceled booths)	141	124	145	170	118	178	142	158	129	170	144	173
Total Booth Square Feet	13,300	12,400	14,500	17,000	11,800	17,600	14,200	15,800	12,900	16,700	14,400	18,600

874 early bird registrations accounted for 71 percent (versus 75 percent last year) of final paid registration figures; 167 advance registrations accounted for 14 percent (versus 19 percent last year) of final paid registrations; and 190 late and on-site registrations accounted for 15 percent (versus 6 percent last year) of final paid registrations.

ILA expresses its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and donors of this year's conference:

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Jeff Libman, Author and DiversiTEA Speaker



Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial/Demco Award
IHLS SHARE Staff & SHARE Committees (Illinois Heartland Library System)
 Award presented by Janet Nelson (r), Demco, and ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger (l).



Crosman Memorial Award
Katie LaMantia (c), Schaumburg Township District Library
 Award presented by Michael Quirk (l), Mortenson Construction and Donna Schaal (r), Membership Committee.



Davis Cup Award
Linda Ward-Callaghan (l), Joliet Public Library
 Award presented by Jen Abler (r), Youth Services Forum.



Demco Library Innovative Award
Cook Memorial Public Library District
 Award presented by Janet Nelson (r), Demco, to Jan Hastings (l), representing Cook Memorial Public Library District.



Robert P. Doyle ILA Conference Grant for Support Staff Award
Pat Barch (r), Schaumburg Township District Library
 Award was presented at the 2013 Reaching Forward Conference in Rosemont, Ill. on May 3, 2013. Also pictured: ILA President Su Erickson (l).



Golden Ticket Award
Lindsay Huth (l), Arlington Heights Memorial Library
 Award presented by Lynn Priest, Youth Services Forum (r).



Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award
Carla B. Tracy (l), Thomas Tredway Library, Augustana College
 Award presented by Susan Swords Steffen (r), IACRL Forum.



Intellectual Freedom Award
451 Degrees Club and the Students of Lane Tech College Prep High School, Protest Organizer Alexa Repp (cl), Club Vice President Grace Barry (c), Club President Levi Todd (cr)
 Award presented by Suzanne Arist (l), Intellectual Freedom Committee, ILA President Su Erickson (bl), and ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger (br).



Librarian of the Year Award
Carole A. Medal (l), Gail Borden Public Library District
 Award presented by Patrick Ferguson (r), Sikich LLP.

Awards



Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award

Denise Zielinski (l), Joliet Public Library
Award presented by ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger (r). Also pictured: Ben (bl) and Jay (br) Zielinski.



Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant for Support Staff

Cynthia Rauscher (l), Round Lake Area Public Library District
Award was presented at the 2013 Reaching Forward Conference in Rosemont, Ill. on May 3, 2013. Also pictured: ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger (r).



Deborah Dowley Preiser Marketing Award

Trisha Noack (l), Peoria Public Library
Award presented by David Seleb (r), Oak Park Public Library.



Reference Services Award

Kara Kohn (c), Plainfield Public Library District
Award presented by Britt Isaly (l), Ancel Glink, and Bruce Brigell (r), Reference Services Forum.



Alexander J. Skrzypek Award

Karen Odean (l)
Award presented by Anne B. Craig (r), Illinois State Library.



TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Lynette Fields (c), Lovejoy Library, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
Award presented by Joy Anhalt (l), Resources and Technical Services Forum, and Nathan Handlon (r), Today's Business Solutions, Inc.



Trustee of the Year Award

Kim D. Johnson (c), Maywood Public Library District
Award presented by ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger (l) and Peggy Danhof (r), Library Trustee Forum.



Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award

Amy Alesio (l), Schaumburg Township District Library
Award presented by Jean Johnson (r), Sourcebooks.



Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund Winners (l to r)

Katherine Rojas, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, William K. Langston, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fanny Camargo, Dominican University, Jessica Bastian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
presented by ILA Vice President/President-Elect Jeanne Dilger.

2014 ILA Public Policy Initiatives

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

The ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) works with the Illinois State Library and the broader library community to maintain open communications with state officials. The Illinois State Library provides guidance and grants to all libraries. It negotiates contracts and serves as a resource for all libraries in the state.

Public and school libraries receive per capita grants from the state that provide critical services. For smaller, less affluent libraries, these grants can be the only funding for materials or technology. These grants are even more important during difficult economic times when other revenue sources have been eliminated.

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

Libraries are often the access point to the Internet for many Illinois residents. Again, skilled staff is needed to provide basic training to the public in new and emerging forms of communication, and to maintain the equipment. The three-five-year replacement span for maintaining updated hardware, and the ever-increasing need for added bandwidth, impose a significant cost upon libraries.

Throughout the year, PPC meets regularly to review all legislation with potential beneficial or harmful consequences for the library community. Working with legislative counsel, the committee will pay attention to issues ranging from library funding to intellectual freedom to pension reform for public employees. Its work will be shared with members through ILA's communication channels and all members are encouraged to be active participants in keeping libraries on the agenda in their local communities and in Springfield. **ILA**

2014 ILA Action Agenda

The Illinois Library Association is committed to serving as an advocate for libraries by developing legislative initiatives that: improve funding for libraries; protect intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality; expand access to information and library resources to all Illinois residents; and increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries through cooperation, collaboration, and resource sharing.

LIBRARY FUNDING

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

- Work to restore legislated funding levels such as the school library per capita grants, and to continue to be vigilant to ensure public library per capita grants remain fully funded, and to explore alternative sources of library funding.
- Support legislative proposals to mitigate the harmful effects of the tax cap limitation act.
- Work with the legislature to increase the Secretary of State's budget in order to increase the funding for the Illinois State Library.
- Work with the legislature to ensure responsible pension systems.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND PRIVACY

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

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


ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICES

The Illinois Library Association believes access to library services should be a right and responsibility of every Illinois resident. The association will:

- Oppose legislation that would erode public library service areas.
- Work to extend tax-supported public library service to the 9 percent of Illinois residents currently unserved.
- Work to ensure libraries are established in good faith with intentions to operate as a library.
- Work to ensure that school library legislation is expanded to equip all school libraries with certified media personnel.
- Support initiatives that increase connectivity by ensuring libraries are critical partners in cost-effective broadband planning and build-out.

INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

The Illinois Library Association is committed to promoting legislation that will increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries. The association will:

- Work to develop library legislation that is comparable to legislation benefiting other entities of government.
- Work to develop initiatives that improve the ability of Illinois libraries to provide library services to the citizens of Illinois.
- Provide measured, thoughtful direction for legislation that could provide administrative cooperation and public service enhancement that result in economies of scale to public libraries. 

Trustees

Academics

2014 Spring Continuing Education Opportunities

Support Staff

Library Advocates



Efforts go statewide this year with four legislative events intended to give you an opportunity to meet with your legislators and speak with them firsthand about issues affecting you and your library. Library trustees, directors, and staff from public, school, and academic libraries are encouraged to attend and participate. Use this opportunity for photo ops with your elected officials to post on your Facebook page!

Find out which event will host your legislators and register at www.ila.org/advocacy/24th-annual-library-legislative-events.

If your library isn't covered by one of these events, contact ila@ila.org for talking points to create your own legislative meet-up!

Friday, February 14, 2014

Valentine's Day Library Legislative Breakfast
Public Landing Restaurant
200 W. 8th St.
Lockport, IL 60441
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$25 for ILA members

Friday, February 14, 2014

Valentine's Day Library Legislative Lunch
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
401 W. 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
11:30 A.M. check in
12:00 NOON doors open and buffet lunch is served
1:00 P.M. program begins
2:30 P.M. program concludes
Price: \$40 for ILA members

Monday, February 17, 2014

Presidents' Day Library Legislative Breakfast
Arboretum Club
401 Half Day Rd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$25 for ILA members

Friday, February 21, 2014

ILA Library Legislative Breakfast
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 Illinois 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$20 for ILA members

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment Information:

Registration Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for registration is February 1, 2014.

Cancellations must be received in writing before February 1. Cancellations received before February 1 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 1. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the events. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: 312-644-1896, fax: 312-644-1899.



Illinois Library Trustees: Charting a New Course in Times of Change

ILA Library Trustee Forum 2014 Workshops

Saturday, February 15
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook

Saturday, February 22
Crowne Plaza Springfield

AGENDA

7:30 – 8:45 A.M.	Continental Breakfast and Networking	12:15 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
8:45 – 9:00 A.M.	Welcome and Introductions	1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Legislative Update Kip Kolkmeier, ILA Legislative Consultant
9:00 – 10:30 A.M.	Kathleen Henn and James Fessler, Klein Thorp & Jenkins, Ltd.	2:30 – 2:45 P.M.	Break
10:30–10:45 A.M.	Break	2:45 – 3:45 P.M.	Legal Q&A Phil Lenzini, Library Attorney
10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.	Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Deputy Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association	3:45 – 4:00 P.M.	Wrap-up

HOTEL INFORMATION

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, 1401 West 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523
The single/double rate is \$89, plus tax, per night. Please call 800-228-9290 or 630-573-8555 to make your reservation. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 24.

Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703
The single/double rate is \$109, plus tax, per night. Please call 877-834-3613 or 217-529-7777 to make your reservation. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 31.

Registration Form

ILA Member Registration: \$135*
Non-Member Registration: \$160*

Registration includes the workshop, continental breakfast, lunch, and two snack breaks.

** Register multiple trustees and save! Register one trustee at the full price and each additional trustee from your institution will receive a \$10 registration discount. Please send a separate form to register each trustee.*

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please select your session:

Oak Brook, February 15: _____

Springfield, March 22: _____

Payment Information:

Registration Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for registration is February 1, 2014.

Cancellations must be received in writing before February 1, and will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 1. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the workshops. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: 312-644-1896, fax: 312-644-1899.



Telling Our Story:

Impact and Assessment

IACRL 2014 Conference • March 21, 2014 • Chicago Marriott Oak Brook

Join IACRL, a forum of the Illinois Library Association and a chapter of Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), for a statewide conference for academic librarians in Illinois. The conference will offer inspiration as well as practical tips for academic librarians in all types of institutions.

Keynote: Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director of Culture, City of Markham, Ontario, Canada

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 20

5:00 P.M. Registration Opens
6:00 – 7:00 P.M. Pre-Conference Reception
7:00 P.M. Dinner with Colleagues

For more information on the conference and to register online, visit <http://www.ila.org/iacrl2014>

Friday, March 21

8:00 – 9:00 A.M. Breakfast
9:15 – 10:15 A.M. Breakout Sessions
10:15 – 10:30 A.M. Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:30 A.M. Breakout Sessions
11:45 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Luncheon Keynote
1:45 – 2:45 P.M. Breakout Sessions
2:45 – 3:00 P.M. Afternoon Break
3:00 – 4:00 P.M. Breakout Sessions
4:00 – 4:30 P.M. Wrap-up

CONFERENCE HOTEL

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation: Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel, 1401 West 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523
Reservations: <http://bit.ly/17PZRxa> or (800) 228-9290 • Single/Double Rate: \$129 • Reservations must be made by February 27, 2014

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird Registration (by February 28)

IACRL/ILA Member: \$125 • Non-Member: \$150

Advance Registration (between February 29 and March 14)

IACRL/ILA Member: \$150 • Non-Member: \$175

Student Registration: \$60 • Sponsor-a-Student: \$15

Your contribution will help underwrite the cost of attendance for a library school student.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment Information:

Registration Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for registration is March 14, 2014.

Cancellations must be received in writing before March 14. Cancellations received before March 14 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after March 14. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the workshops. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: 312-644-1896, fax: 312-644-1899.

National Library Legislative Day

May 6, 2014 Mark your calendar for National Library Legislative Day, Tuesday, May 6, 2014. With state cuts and more federal dollars being used for per capita grants, this is a very critical and exciting time for us to get our message out to Congress. A variety of activities have been designed to prepare National Library Legislative Day participants for an informed and effective day of congressional visits.

Accommodations: ILA has reserved a block of rooms at the Capitol Hill Hotel, 200 C St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: 202-543-6000; fax: 202-547-2608; \$274 junior suite, 14.5 percent sales taxes are not included. Room rates include continental breakfast. High-speed wired and wireless Internet access are available complimentary within guest suites. When making reservations, please mention Illinois Library Association 050414. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is April 4, 2014. At that time any unsold rooms will be released to the hotel for general sale. Reservations received after the cutoff date will be on a space-and-rate available basis only.

MONDAY, MAY 5

9:00 A.M. Participants may want to attend the ALA briefing day to be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill, an Affinia Hotel, 415 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001. This full day (9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.) of issue briefings is designed to prepare participants for congressional visits.

5:00 – 7:00 P.M. The National Library Legislative Day Committee has scheduled a Congressional Reception (location to be announced). All representatives and senators will be sent invitations to attend the reception. Congressional staff is also being invited.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. A kickoff with a brief summary of key issues has been scheduled at a location to be announced on Capitol Hill.

9:45 A.M. The delegation will “Hit the Hill,” with scheduled congressional appointments.

3:00 P.M. Currently, the tentative scheduled meeting with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Your registration fee includes legislative materials, coffee breaks at the briefing sessions, and the Congressional Reception on Monday evening, organized by the National Library Legislative Day Committee. \$30 of your registration fee goes to the American Library Association for coffee breaks, room rental, and speakers; \$15 goes to ILA for registration, organizing the packets and congressional appointments.

\$45 for ILA Members \$55 for Non-Members

Method of Payment:

Check or money order for \$ _____ made payable to ILA or

MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____



Deadline for registration is April 1, 2014.

Cancellations must be received in writing before April 1. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after April 1. Confirmations and additional information will be sent after the registration deadline. Send payment to the ILA Office, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799, fax: 312-644-1899, <http://www.ila.org/events>.

Please register online this year at ReachingForward.net or fax this filled out form to 312-644-1899.

REACHING FORWARD

25th ANNIVERSARY

Reaching Forward 2014 Annual Conference

May 9, 2014 • 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON



Join us for the 25th Annual Reaching Forward Conference. This year's conference features 44 programs, a continental breakfast, and delicious luncheon. We continue to welcome our exhibitors, who will showcase a variety of goods and services. Don't miss this opportunity for continued personal and professional development – and a few special surprises!

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast and Exhibits
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Awards
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Breakout Session 1
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session 2
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Luncheon
12:45 – 1:15 PM	Author Book Signing and Exhibits
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Breakout Session 3
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Breakout Session 4

Registration:

Early Bird (By April 25): \$125
Advance (April 26 or later): \$150
(includes continental breakfast and lunch)

A full listing of programs and detailed conference information is available at ReachingForward.net

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

LIBRARY NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

Payment Information

_____ \$125 (By April 25)
_____ \$150 (April 26 or later)

- A check is enclosed *or* Credit Card:
- AM EX Discover MasterCard VISA

No refunds will be given after April 25, 2014.

Return registration to:

Reaching Forward Conference
Illinois Library Association
33 W. Grand, Suite 401
Chicago, IL 60654
Fax: (312) 644-1899

_____ CARD NUMBER

_____ EXPIRATION DATE

_____ SIGNATURE

If special accommodations are needed, please contact the ILA office by April 11 at ila@ila.org or (312) 644-1896.

Parking is available in the parking garage across the street from the convention center. Parking is \$13.00 per car and payment is made by cash or credit card at pay stations in the garage. Pre-pay before entering the conference to avoid lines at the end of day.

You may also register online at ReachingForward.net

Cancellations must be received in writing before April 25 and will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after April 25. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee.

Please let us know if you require a special meal:

- vegan gluten-free
 Other: _____

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

Trane, Willowbrook

CO-MEMBERS

Susan M. Doherty, St. Edward CCHS, Elgin
Julie Kassen, Meadow Glens Elementary, Naperville
Helen King, Jane A. Neil School, Chicago
Richard King, Jane A. Neil School, Chicago
Carolyn Kinsella, Minooka Community High School - South
Alice Troyer, Seth Paine Elementary School, Palatine

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Stephanie Driscoll, Deerfield Public Library
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Brandon Buckley, St. Charles Public Library District
Norma L. Copes, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
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Nancy Weichert, Springfield
Melvin Whitehead, Joliet Junior College

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Jan Hastings, Cook Memorial Public Library District, Libertyville
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Patricia Johnson, Carol Stream Public Library
Jonathan Passman, Vernon Area Public Library District,
Lincolnshire
Roseanne Zubik, Palos Heights Public Library



◀ MY TURN ▶

| Cathy Grafton, Odell Public Library |

ACA: Libraries Can Help

As someone who has been without health insurance for over two years myself, I have been anxiously awaiting the rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In addition, as the director of a small rural library, I knew that access to the program would be an important service to offer our patrons. I decided to answer the call for libraries to assist with enrollment for this important new benefit.

At the Odell Public Library District, we have done what we can to help get the word out about the ACA. I have taken several webinar training sessions and signed the library up to be a “Champion for Coverage,” meaning we will help get the word out to our community about this new program. We have added links on our patron computers and will have our local health department present a program later this fall. We have written out some steps for patrons, along with a handout of FAQs. I have trained my two front desk clerks to be able to give out applications and information on where the links are on our computers. We have also publicized our efforts in the local papers, on our website, and Facebook page.

Odell residents currently have lost local access to many benefits, due to consolidation of offices for state and federal social service programs. Our patrons need to drive about ninety-six miles round-trip to apply for Social Security, SNAP benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, DCFS, or unemployment. They must drive at least twenty to twenty-five miles for health care, doctors, medications, and senior services, so our patron computers are an important alternative resource for them to know about and use. Though there have been serious issues with the rollout so far, I feel confident that once those are smoothed out, patrons will be in to apply for health insurance here at the library.

For myself, I have been on the site several times, but am waiting for it to be working better before I sign up. I have a very minor pre-existing condition that, along with very high costs for individual plans, has kept me uninsured since I left my full-time job several years ago to go into semi-retirement. Our small library does not offer health insurance as a benefit, and though I am approaching the time to receive Medicare, I’m not there yet. I have been using my Health Savings Account funds to meet many of my medical needs, however I know that they would not cover my medical costs were I to have a serious illness or hospital stay.

My twenty-five years working in social services have made me keenly aware of how many people are living without health insurance, mostly for the same reasons I have been: very high costs and unavailability through their job. We are the people who can now benefit from a wider availability of health insurance options. In spite of the troubles with the launch of the program, I think it is essential for us as a country to be sure that health care is available to all.

So if your library can participate in this in any way, I encourage you to do so. It is easy to set up links to the federal and Illinois sites; you can let people in your community know where to apply. Help those who need health insurance to make that connection; it is yet another way for libraries to stay connected to the public and to stay relevant. ■



◀ MY TURN ▶

| Laura Santowski, Warren-Newport Public Library District |

ACA: Why It's Not for Me

For most of my twenty-year career in public libraries, I've worked two jobs at the same time, sometimes even three while attending college and serving my internship. Working two jobs in this industry seems to be the norm. I have worked at eight public libraries and am currently employed at the Warren-Newport Public Library District in Gurnee in Adult Services. It's a great library with wonderful colleagues, and I feel honored to finally work in a position that I love and worked so hard to achieve.

I was hired last year to work twelve hours per week and now work twenty-four. I'm fortunate because, with the resignation of a couple librarians, it provided an opportunity for me to pick up the additional hours. I receive some benefits (IMRF, sick and vacation time), for which I'm grateful, but unfortunately health insurance is not offered for part-time employees. I asked human resources about premiums and was told that an employee working thirty hours per week could buy health care and would pay on average of \$600 per month, more than the \$480 I currently pay for my individual policy.

As challenging as it has been for me, I don't believe that government health care is the answer. I see detrimental ramifications of how Obamacare is not only affecting me, but also my fellow colleagues, and patrons that I help every day. Employers are not hiring and certainly not full-time. My most recent example was an eleven-hour per week position posted in my department; I requested the additional hours to my schedule since it was the same position that I'm currently working, making my position full-time. As much as I believe my co-managers were supportive and wanted to assist me with my request, I was told it wasn't an option. This is the climate; this is reality, not just for me but for others in this industry. The first most fundamental question is, "How do you pay for health care, when you cannot find a full-time job?" Unemployment statistics show that Illinois is one of the highest

unemployment states at 9.2 percent. These statistics do not include underemployed individuals, so this figure doesn't include individuals like myself — looking, needing, and wanting full-time work but only being able to find part-time positions.

With the additional Obamacare mandates, people who have been told they can keep their insurance and their health care provider are now getting cancellation notices or being told they are being put into another plan. If you can keep your current plan, premiums are going up. My premium went up 30 percent. I received a letter this week with only seven days to respond, indicating they were dropping my policy from my current plan unless I registered on the website immediately.

At the American Library Association conference in June 2013, I found it ironic that they were recruiting librarians to assist people in signing up for Obamacare. In a climate of cutbacks, consolidation, and shrinking budgets, libraries do not have the additional staff or expertise in health care to take on this obligation. I am committed and truly believe a library should provide the resources to direct the public, show patrons where to find the websites, assist an individual logging onto the computers, but when it comes to answering questions on what is the best health care for an individual or their family or answering questions about the differences between plans, this should be administered by an experienced insurance professional along with an individual's doctor.

The public library, the institution whose foundational principles are the preservation of intellectual freedom and the unbiased promotion of learning, should not become politicized. I'm afraid "all points of view" about the Affordable Care Act will not be represented and for me, the prescribed materials at www.healthcare.gov will not provide true health-care literacy. ■

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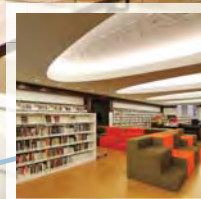
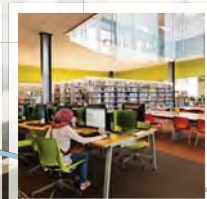
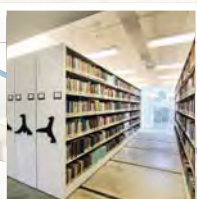
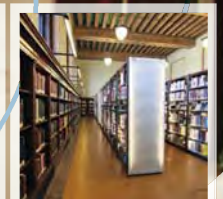
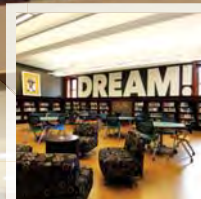
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