

RAISING OUR PROFILE



Illinois Library Association  
Annual Report **1999-2000**

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 for all.

**Its primary goals are:**

## Advocacy for the Public Interest

- + Literacy and Lifelong Learning Access to Information
- + Intellectual Freedom
- + Public Policy and Legislation
- + Public Awareness

## Promoting Excellence

- + Continuing Education
- + Publications and Communications
- + Leadership Development
- + Awards
- + Innovative Programs

## Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

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



**Dear ILA members and friends:**

Annual reports are a time for reviewing the past and viewing the future. In looking through the list of accomplishments, challenges, and events of the past year, a single theme began to emerge. This was the year we really started to get out the word: Libraries are vital to life in Illinois. They are major players in providing reliable information across the digital divide, contributing to the economic development of communities and fostering lifelong learning for individuals.

We realized it wasn't enough that we all believed this. We need to raise the profile of libraries in the press, in the business community, on the legislative frontlines, wherever decisions are being made. The time has come to tell our story.

We've worked hard this year to make sure Illinois libraries are highly visible on both the state and national map.

- + We've worked for funds to open new branches, offer innovative programs, and network computers.
- + We've published important and accessible information about Illinois libraries, the Internet and library advocacy for the profession, for the press, and for our patrons.
- + We've helped pass favorable legislation and worked to defeat bills that would be harmful to libraries.

We began this year with a commitment to the past and a welcome to the future. In honoring our past, we remain true to the values and principles of preserving a free flow of information in all its many forms, providing highest quality library service to all, and working with public and private partners to strengthen our communities.

At the same time, we welcome a future filled with promise and change. A prosperous economy, demand for more highly trained workers, advances in electronic information and telecommunications, and an increasingly mobile and diverse population all contribute to the need for expanded and ever-changing library services. We are investing in the future of Illinois libraries with the initiation of projects to develop library leaders and to train staff for service to youth.

The idea that libraries might disappear from view has been replaced by the need for libraries to become more visible, in both the physical and philosophical sense. ILA is the third largest state association and a recognized leader nationally. The recognition ILA receives for its work is important because it calls attention to libraries and gains us new supporters. Through your efforts, ILA has accomplished a lot and has the potential to do far more.

**The time has come to be visible, be active, and help shape the future of libraries in Illinois.**

Sincerely,



Carolyn Anthony  
President, 1999-2000

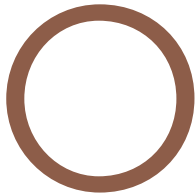
# Advocacy 1999-2000

## In Focus

On Friday, October 8, 1999, the Illinois Press Association (IPA) presented its Legislative Service Award to the Illinois Library Association. The association was chosen to receive the award for “derailing efforts by those who would attempt to regulate free speech and public opinion in Illinois and for its unwavering opposition to defeat Illinois legislation that would have allowed each county in the state the power to set obscenity standards,” said IPA Executive Director Dave Bennett.

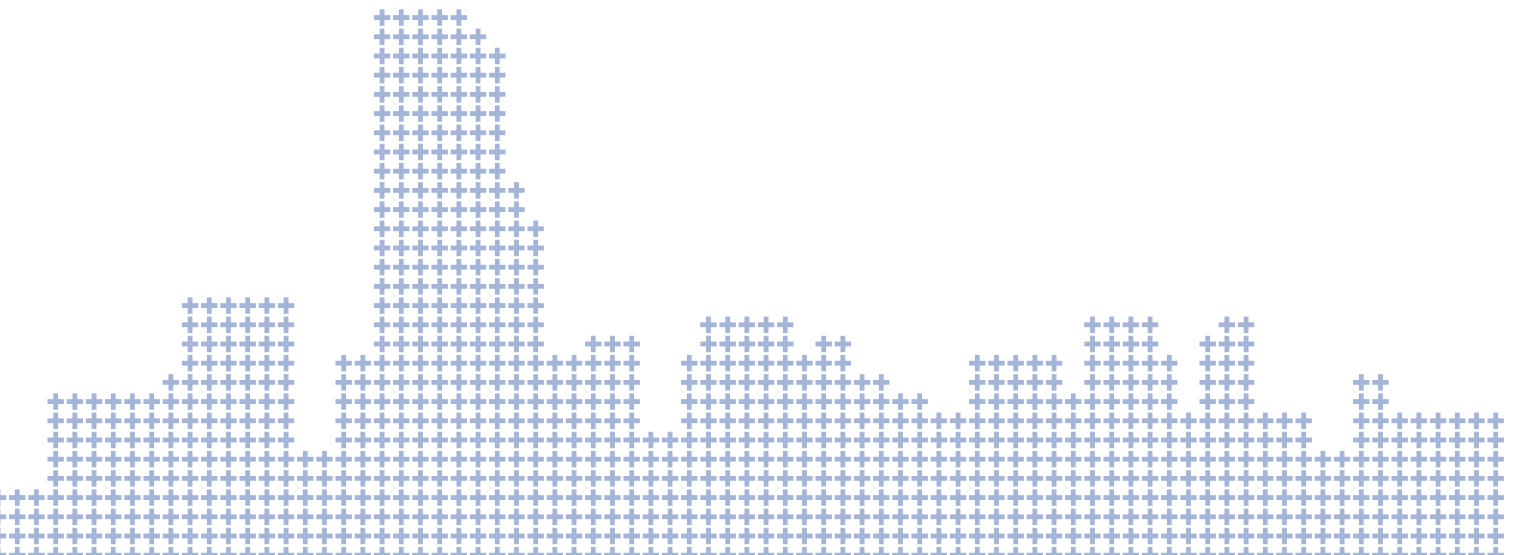
The award is presented only when there has been an “extraordinary demonstration to protect the future ability of newspapers to produce their products and/or for outstanding commitment to the protection of free speech and free press issues.”

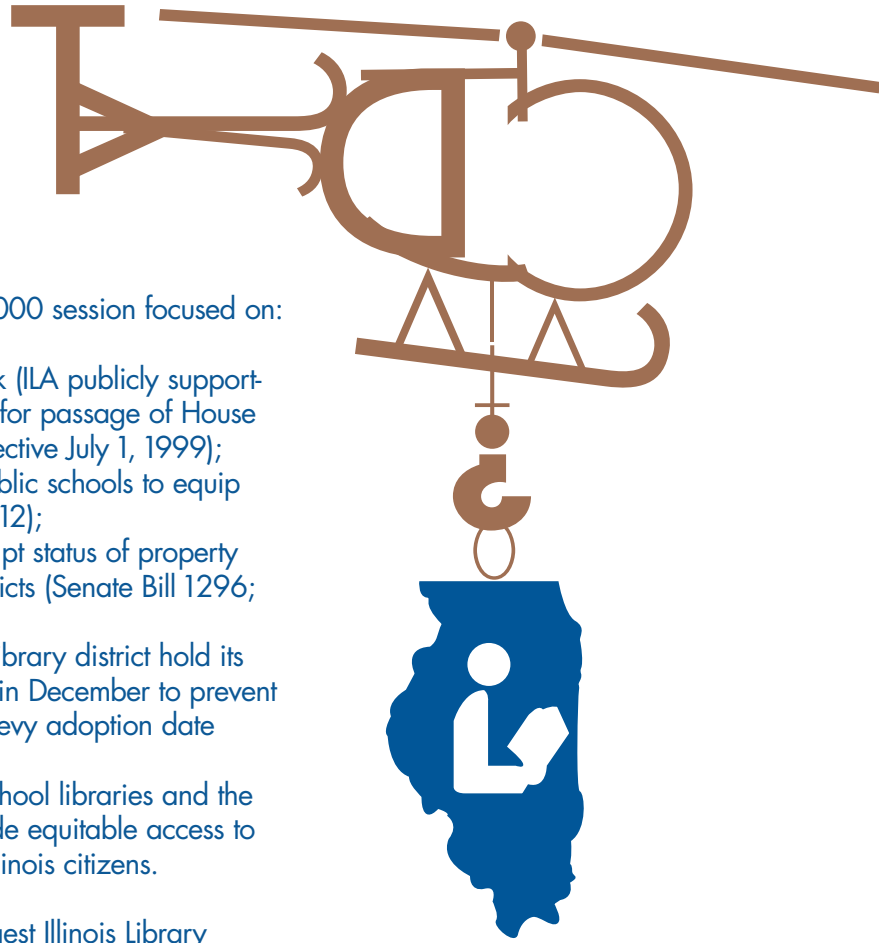
In presenting the award, Bennett said, “ILA could have walked away, but they hung in there and doggedly pounded away at this legislation; stressing the potential devastating effects it could have on education, free speech, free thought, and free choice.” Bennett praised ILA for taking the lead in forming a broad-based coalition that included the IPA. “ILA and librarians throughout the state made the difference,” he said. “In so doing, they made a loud statement for First Amendment freedoms that all citizens enjoy, including every reporter and editor in this room today.”



*“Communicating the library message to decision-makers and stakeholders is one of our primary responsibilities. It is too important to be delegated to a few individuals. We must all learn to be effective library advocates.”*

*–1999-2000 ILA President Carolyn Anthony*





## Review

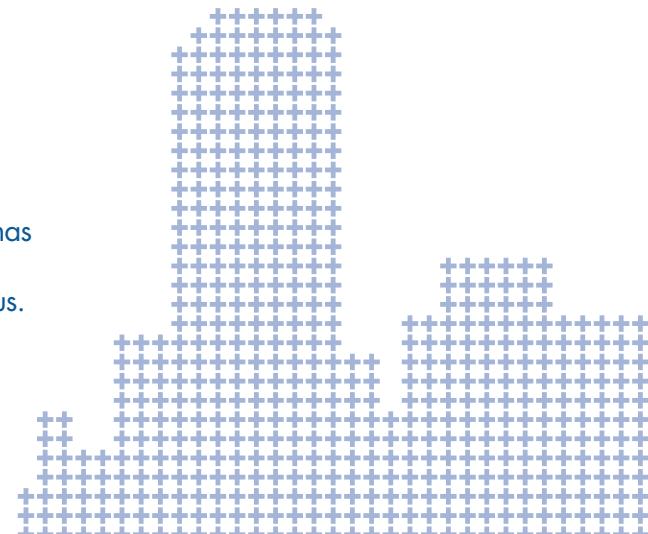
Legislative efforts in the Illinois General Assembly's 2000 session focused on:

- + continued support for the Illinois Century Network (ILA publicly supported the Illinois Century Network in 1998; worked for passage of House Bill 2008; bill approved as Public Act 91-27, effective July 1, 1999);
  - + opposition to an unfunded mandate requiring public schools to equip public access computers with filters (House Bill 1812);
  - + revising Illinois statutes to strengthen the tax exempt status of property owned by library systems and public library districts (Senate Bill 1296; Public Act 91-897);
  - + eliminating the requirement that a Cook County library district hold its Truth in Taxation hearing by the first Wednesday in December to prevent a conflict between the hearing date and the tax levy adoption date (Senate Bill 1296; Public Act 91-897); and
  - + seeking increased state funding for public and school libraries and the Illinois Information Advantage, intended to provide equitable access to digital information and training in its use for all Illinois citizens.
- 
- + The first year of the new century marked the biggest Illinois Library Advocacy Day in recent history with 358 registrants. Library advocates from across the state came to Springfield on April 6, bringing information on library issues and inviting legislators to visit libraries in their home districts in return. The event was sponsored jointly by the Illinois Library Association, Illinois Library System Directors Organization, Illinois School Library Media Association, and the Illinois State Library.
  - + On a national level, ILA again assembled the largest state delegation for National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., with approximately 76 Illinois attendees out of a national total of 500 library representatives.
  - + *Library Advocacy: Influencing Decision Makers* was one of three major publications produced by ILA in 1999-2000. The publication was made available in packets of 25 to help libraries prepare trustees, employees, and friends prepare to be informed and able library advocates.

## Be a library advocate

Sign on to the Legisnet-IL listserv. To subscribe, send a message to: [majordomo@darkstar.rsa.lib.il.us](mailto:majordomo@darkstar.rsa.lib.il.us). Leave the subject line blank. In the message text, type subscribe Legisnet-IL followed by your e-mail address.

You will receive a welcome message to the listserv when the subscription has been accepted. You can also post information or pose a question to the recipients of the list by sending a message to [legisnet-il@darkstar.rsa.lib.il.us](mailto:legisnet-il@darkstar.rsa.lib.il.us). Any message that is posted will go to all listserv subscribers.



# Libraries & the Internet 1999-2000

## In Focus

*The Internet & Our Children: A Community Partnership* was the third in a series of ILA publications produced in 1999-2000 to enhance public education on key library issues. In addition to offering guidelines for developing public policy on Internet access issues, the publication is a valuable resource for parents, librarians, public officials, and the media.

It was distributed to legislators as part of ILA's opposition to an amendment introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives requiring Illinois public schools to equip public access computers with "software that seeks to prevent minors from gaining access to explicit sexual materials or [to] obtain Internet connectivity from an Internet service provider that provides filter services to limit access to explicit sexual materials."

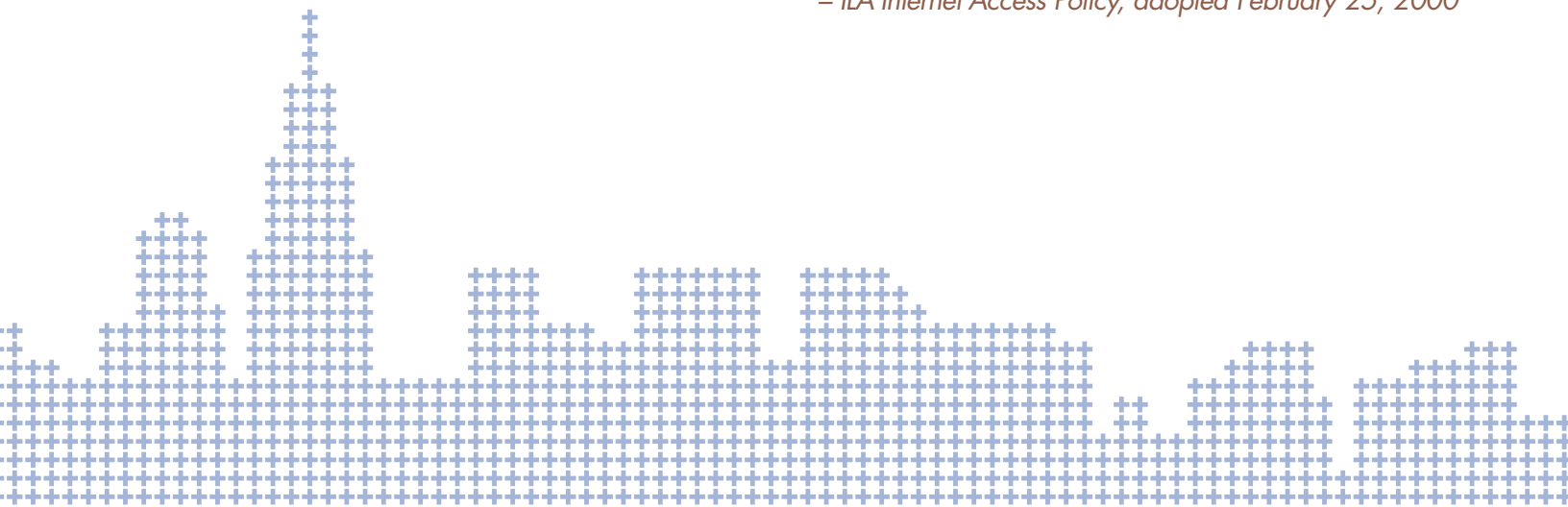
Demonstrating the value of partnerships, the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, the Illinois School Library Media Association, the Illinois Education Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union joined ILA in successfully opposing the proposed legislation. These valuable partners are likely to be put to use again in the future, as it is anticipated that similar legislation will be introduced next year.

## Review

- + A revised and updated edition of the *Cyberguide for Kids and Parents* was produced in response to popular demand. This third edition was distributed to the entire ILA membership through an insert in the *ILA Reporter* and distributed to other key audiences, such as legislators, resulting in sales of 70,000 additional copies. In a related effort, a "Cybersign" was distributed to all attendees at the annual conference to affix to library computer terminals directing kids to those good sites.

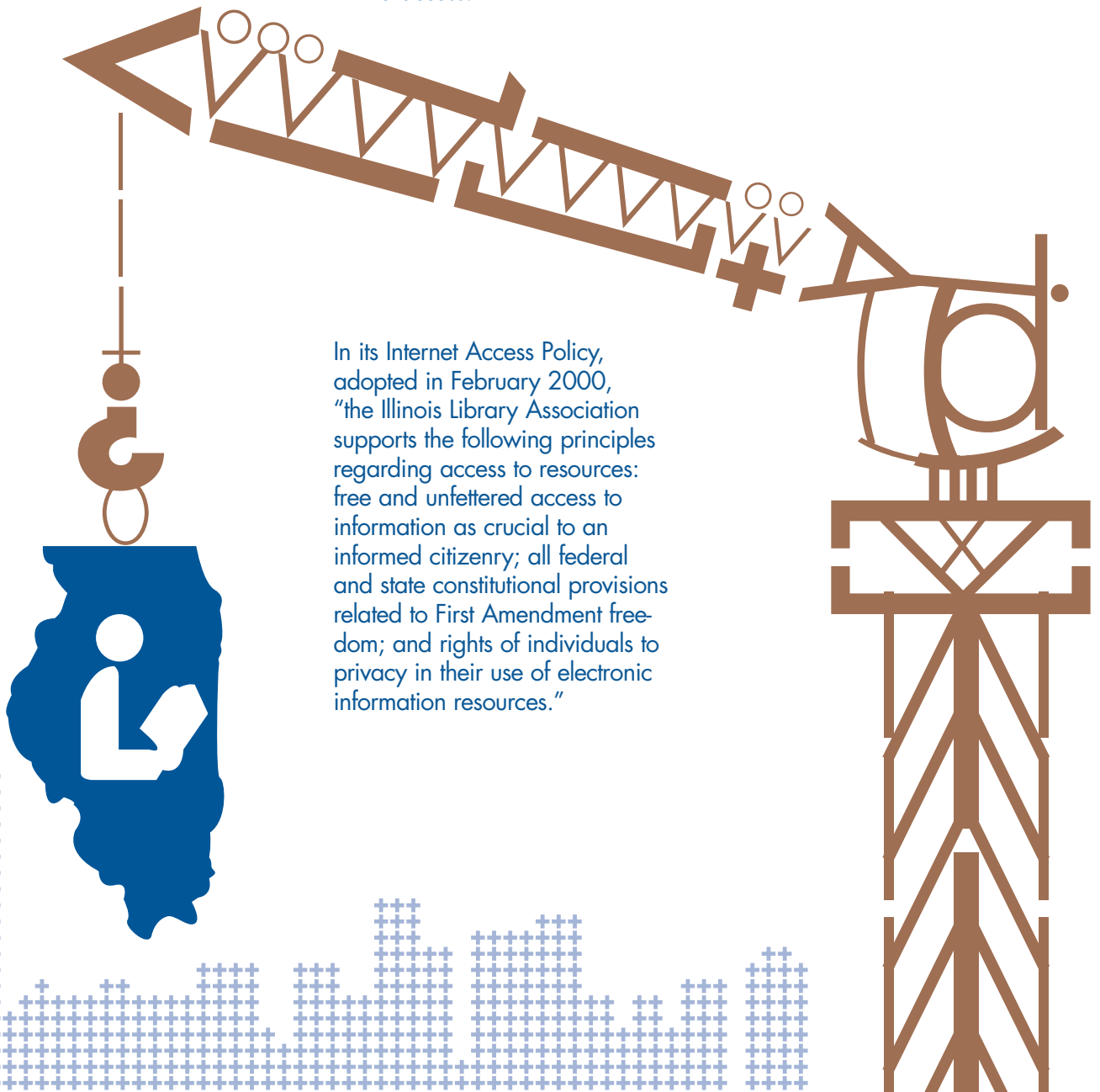
*"Together, information and access to that information constitute the twin pillars of democratic government and an informed citizenry."*

*– ILA Internet Access Policy, adopted February 25, 2000*



**The association's position on Internet policy was developed to include the following key points:**

- + Internet policy is appropriately developed at the local library level rather than at a state or federal level.
- + Filters provide a false sense of security and can block access to constitutionally-protected speech.
- + Libraries are partners with parents to help children identify quality Web sites, to learn how to use the Internet, and to become savvy users of information.
- + Parents and only parents (not the government) have the right and responsibility to determine their own children's access – and only their own children's access – to library resources, including the Internet.
- + People of all ages must be able to distinguish between information that is useful and valuable and that which is not – to assess, as well as to access.



In its Internet Access Policy, adopted in February 2000, "the Illinois Library Association supports the following principles regarding access to resources: free and unfettered access to information as crucial to an informed citizenry; all federal and state constitutional provisions related to First Amendment freedom; and rights of individuals to privacy in their use of electronic information resources."



# Promoting Excellence

## In Focus

*"Libraries are a billion dollar industry in Illinois. Governed by local boards of trustees, they provide open access to information and carry on a preeminent, national tradition of cooperation. They also face many challenges."*

– From *Illinois Libraries Today: Libraries Build Community*

ILA's Annual Conference, held in October 1999 in Chicago with the theme "Bridging the Millennia: Libraries for a New Era," was the association's major professional development opportunity of the year. Featuring over 60 programs and pre-conferences, the event drew 2000 librarians, vendors, and guests from across the state and around the world. In fact, over 13 countries, from Armenia to Uzbekistan, were represented at the conference in Chicago.

Top drawing conference programs included Judith Michael, Gentry Lee, and Ira Glass. "Computerized tutorials and workshops via satellite have become important vehicles for learning. But they will never replace coming

together in a common place for the serendipity of learning through direct encounters with others," said ILA President Carolyn Anthony.

Next year's conference is scheduled for October 14-17, 2000, in Peoria and carries the theme "FAR: Illinois Libraries—Friendly, Accessible, Responsive."

## Review

- + *Illinois Libraries Today: Libraries Build Community* is the last of the three publications produced in 1999-2000 to communicate the capabilities and needs of libraries. In addition to offering a statistical portrait of library services and use statewide, the publication identifies major concerns for continued, high-quality libraries in the state.
- + Continuing education programs were held at a wide variety of locations throughout the state all year long to broaden statewide access to association services. Programs addressing topics from advocacy to technical services to children's literature were held for trustees, support staff, youth services specialists, academic and public librarians.
- + This marked the third year of dual conferences for library support staff, with two separate events in Rosemont and Decatur, drawing combined registrations of over 1,500. The Reaching Forward conference remains the largest conference of its type in the country.
- + The ILA 2000 IREAD program, READ for the fun of it, celebrated and promoted reading statewide with campaign materials featuring the artwork of Nancy Carlson. The program generated more than \$206,000 in sales, the highest in ILA's history.
- + The *ILA Reporter*, the association's bi-monthly newsletter, continued to improve in both design and content. Contributors throughout the year range from nationally known authors to leaders in library services. Each issue addresses a major theme—such as library architecture, diversity in the profession, communications, or legislation—as well as including news of local, statewide, and national events and issues. Beginning with the June 2000 issue, the H. W. Wilson Company has accepted the *ILA Reporter* for indexing in *Library Literature & Information Science*.



# Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to address ILA's priorities of advocacy and promoting excellence, ILA is using its resources wisely and maintaining a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members and units. The ILA Executive Board has adopted the following key action areas to be the focus of ILA's programmatic and financial efforts for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

## **Advocacy for the Public Interest**

- + Pursue legislation supportive of library funding and development; continue to work for the Illinois Information Advantage. Primary responsibility: Public Policy Committee
- + Promote information literacy and the cooperative development of tools to assist librarians in teaching information literacy skills. Primary responsibility: Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) and Reference Services Forum (RSF)
- + Implement a marketing plan regarding the role of libraries in the information age and the role of the librarian as information navigator. Primary responsibility: Marketing Committee
- + Develop a network to address intellectual freedom issues pertaining to Illinois libraries. Primary responsibility: Intellectual Freedom Committee

## **Promoting Excellence**

- + Develop a plan for recruitment to the profession, including persons representing the diversity of our communities. Primary responsibility: Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee
- + Plan and schedule the first Illinois Leadership Institute in conjunction with the Illinois State Library. Primary responsibility: Leadership Institute Task Force
- + Consider the implementation of regional training programs to prepare pre-professional staff to work with youth. Primary responsibility: Task Force on the Preparation of Pre-Professional Staff to Work with Youth

## **Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future**

- + Increase the use of video conferencing technology to encourage participation in ILA. Primary responsibility: Various committees and ILA Executive Board
- + Investigate ways to increase the staffing levels in the ILA Office. Primary responsibility: Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the ILA Executive Board
- + Develop and implement a marketing plan to increase membership. Primary responsibility: Membership Committee

# Voices of ILA

*I continue to be proud and amazed at the dedication of Illinois' librarians not only to their own libraries, but to the ideals of library service for every citizen in every community.*

– Pamela Gaitskill, ILA past-president

*We do such good work and we are so modest in telling our story. We also need to be more proactive in building our coalitions and partnerships. We need to bring our gifts to the table and work for the benefit of the wider community. The potential is there to accomplish so much and to ensure the future of the library as the heart of the community.*

– Sarah Ann Long, North Suburban Library System, ALA past-president

*We can begin to recruit a workforce more representative of the changing cultural and racial demographics of the U.S. by effectively utilizing librarians from emerging cultural and racial groups to promote awareness and generate interest in this field. We can also move toward this goal by mentoring, supporting, encouraging, and providing the means by which library support staff from emerging cultural and racial groups can obtain advanced degrees in library science. Finally, we must be prepared and willing to take our profession outside of the library building and into the homes and communities of these cultural and racial groups.*

– Anthony J. Cook, Moline Public Library

*For me, one of the year's highlights was selecting over 100 children's books by Illinois authors to create a collection of children's materials in the governor's mansion. As former Secretary of State and State Librarian, Governor George Ryan was a great friend to libraries and 80 institutional members of ILA contributed to the collection.*

– Barbara Lintner, Urbana Free Library

*We have reason to be especially celebratory this year. Due to the commitment of parents, students, librarians, teachers, and other concerned citizens, more and more of the challenges are unsuccessful and the reading material remains available.*

– Robert P. Doyle, Books Challenged or Banned 1999-2000

*Without the ability to compete with the higher salaries offered by other industries, the library profession must remain vigilant in maintaining its vital place within a non-commercialized cultural sphere. It is critical that the notion of “public service for the common good” be readily espoused as a rewarding experience for those who wish to work within cultural institutions. Libraries must establish themselves and their missions as positive alternatives to the produce of profit, and library workers must understand the social responsibility of being information providers.*

*– Carlos Melian, Ronald Williams Library, Northeastern Illinois University*

*Illinois and Illinois’ future leaders need the Illinois Century Network. We are going to create a place where universities, colleges, schools, libraries, government agencies, museums, and businesses can all communicate and share information regardless of their geographic location.*

*– Illinois Governor George H. Ryan*

*I look forward to the challenge of leading Illinois libraries into the next century, continuing to raise our profile in the state legislature, in our own publications and in the media, and in the eyes of our patrons and supporters. Libraries need to be better than ever. With each of you by my side, raising your voices, I am confident they will be.*

*– Denise M. Zielinski, ILA vice-president/president-elect*

*We’ve come a long way from Reaching Forward’s first conference of 250 attendees to this 10th anniversary conference of 1,000 at the Rosemont Convention Center. Success is a journey, filled with unique opportunities, lots of surprises, and wonderful rewards.*

*– Candace Biancalana, Cook Memorial Public Library*

*While I think of my job as being interesting and even fun, and occasionally involving high drama, I don’t want any media people coming in here to make me a prototype for librarians in the media.*

*– Sally Decker Smith (aka Sally in Libraryland), Indian Trails Public Library District*

# Income

General Operations.....	\$27,833
Membership .....	\$248,950
Directory .....	\$22,726
Conference .....	\$278,370
Publications .....	\$37,759
IREAD .....	\$206,638
Public Policy .....	\$5,000
Awards .....	
\$1,478	
Workshops/Projects.....	\$40,583
Professional Development .....	\$441
Reaching Forward.....	\$65,120

**Total Income \$934,898**

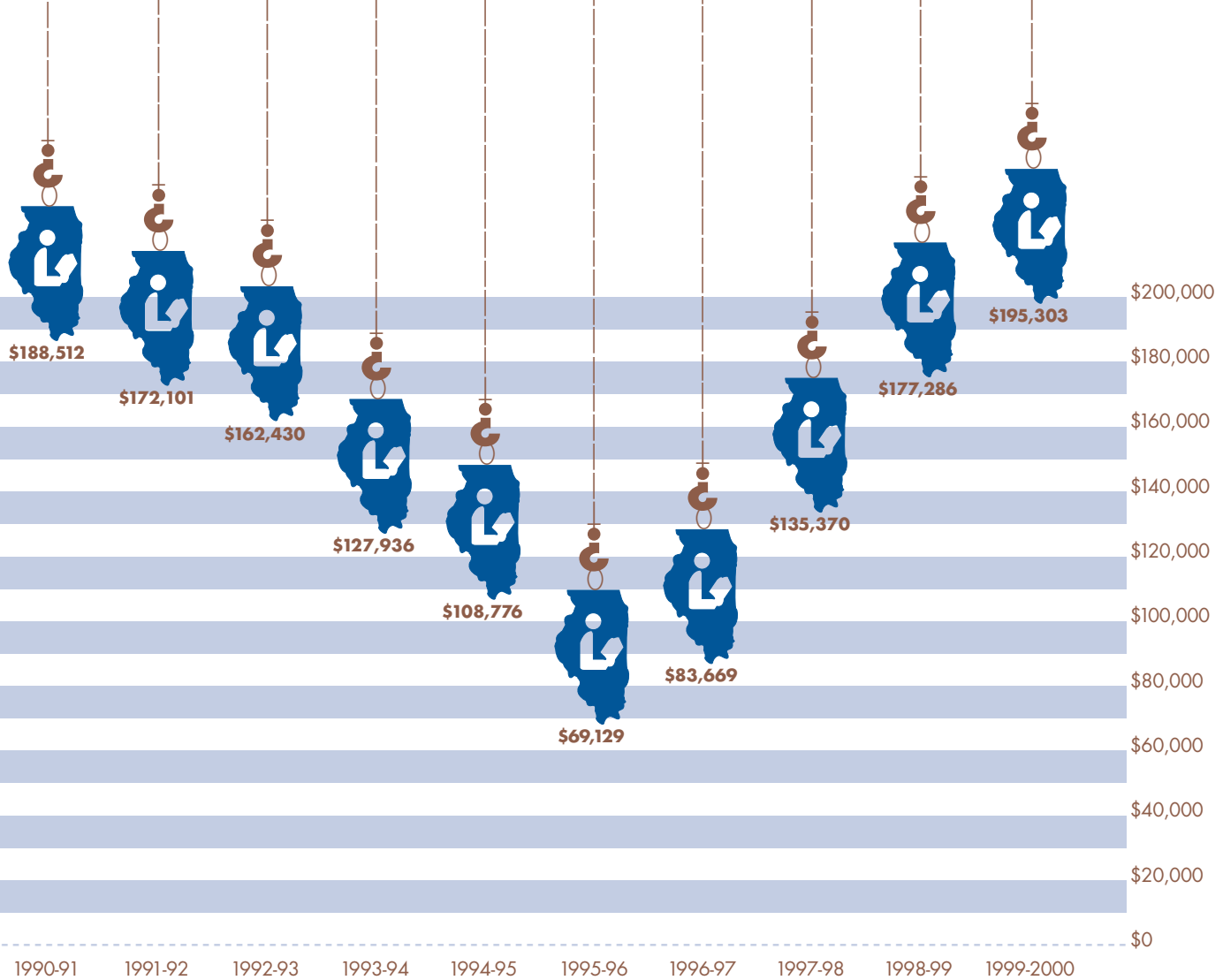
# Expenses

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

General Operations.....	\$268,755
Membership .....	\$77,567
Conference .....	\$196,160
Board & Committee .....	\$6,438
Publications .....	\$23,747
IREAD .....	\$187,139
Public Policy .....	\$48,229
Awards .....	\$2,027
Workshops/Projects.....	\$36,530
Professional Development .....	\$1,523
Forums .....	\$272
Reaching Forward.....	\$65,120

**Total Expenses \$913,507**

Income/Expenses .....	\$21,391
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investment .....	(\$3,319)
Net Income .....	\$18,072
Unrestricted Net Assets at Beginning of Year .....	\$157,630
Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year .....	\$175,702



# Historical Overview of Net Assets

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets at End of Year.....\$19,601

**Total Net Assets at End of Year \$195,304**

## Cumulative Surplus

After four years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive control costs, the association has restored its net assets to the same level as ten years ago. The association ended the last four fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$126,139.

1999-2000 \$18,072 | 1998-1999 \$41,916 | 1997-1998 \$51,701 | 1996-1997 \$14,450 | **Total \$126,139**

## Annual Audit

The accounting firm of Glenn Ingram & Company Ltd. prepared the association's final audit for FY 1999-2000. The auditors "were pleased to note that the association ended the 1999-2000 fiscal year with a \$18,072 surplus. This is

## Members

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

## Administration and Governance

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

## Forums

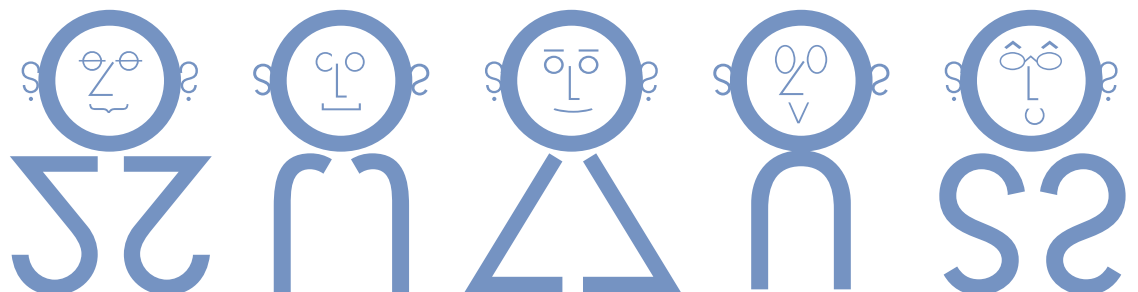
- + Government Documents Forum
- + Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum
- + Public Library Forum
- + Resources and Technical Services Forum
- + Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum
- + Library Trustee Forum
- + Reference Services Forum
- + Youth Services Forum

## Standing Committees

- + Awards Committee
- + Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee
- + Intellectual Freedom Committee
- + Marketing Committee
- + Nominating Committee
- + Conference Program Committee
- + Finance Committee
- + IREAD Committee
- + Membership Committee
- + Public Policy Committee

## Task Forces

- + Fundraising Task Force
- + Leadership Task Force
- + Preparation of Preprofessional Staff to Work with Youth Task Force
- + IREAD—Adult Services Task Force
- + Museums Task Force



# Officers 1999-2000

President

**Carolyn Anthony**  
Skokie Public Library

Vice-President/President-Elect

**Denise Zielinski**  
Helen M. Plum Memorial Library

Immediate Past President

**Pamela Gaitskill**  
Prairie State College

Treasurer

**Jack Hurwitz**  
Hinsdale Public Library

# Executive Board

**Kathleen L. Bloomberg**  
Illinois State Library  
1998-2001

**Barbara J. Lintner**  
Urbana Free Library  
1997-2000

**Doris R. Brown**  
DePaul University  
1998-2001

**Tamiye Trejo Meehan**  
Indian Trails  
Public Library District  
1999-2002

**Jane E. Chamberlain**  
Bloomington  
Public Library  
1999-2002

**Tom G. Rich**  
Warren-Newport Public  
Library District  
1998-2001

**Mary M. Downing**  
Illinois State Library  
1997-2000

**David Dyer**  
Trustee, Elmhurst  
Public Library  
1999-2002

**Nancy M. Gillfillan**  
Dixon Public Library  
1997-2000

**Thomas Joe Harris**  
Shawnee Library System  
1998-2001

**Mary Jane Kepner**  
Consultant  
1999-2002

**Kathleen M. Balcom**  
Arlington Heights  
Memorial Library

ALA Councilor

Ex Officio

**Jean Wilkins**  
Illinois State Library

**Robert P. Doyle**  
Illinois Library Association



*Robert P. Doyle*

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