


**EXTENDING
OUR REACH**





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

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



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

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

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

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

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

Best wishes,

Dianne Harmon
ILA President, 2005–2006

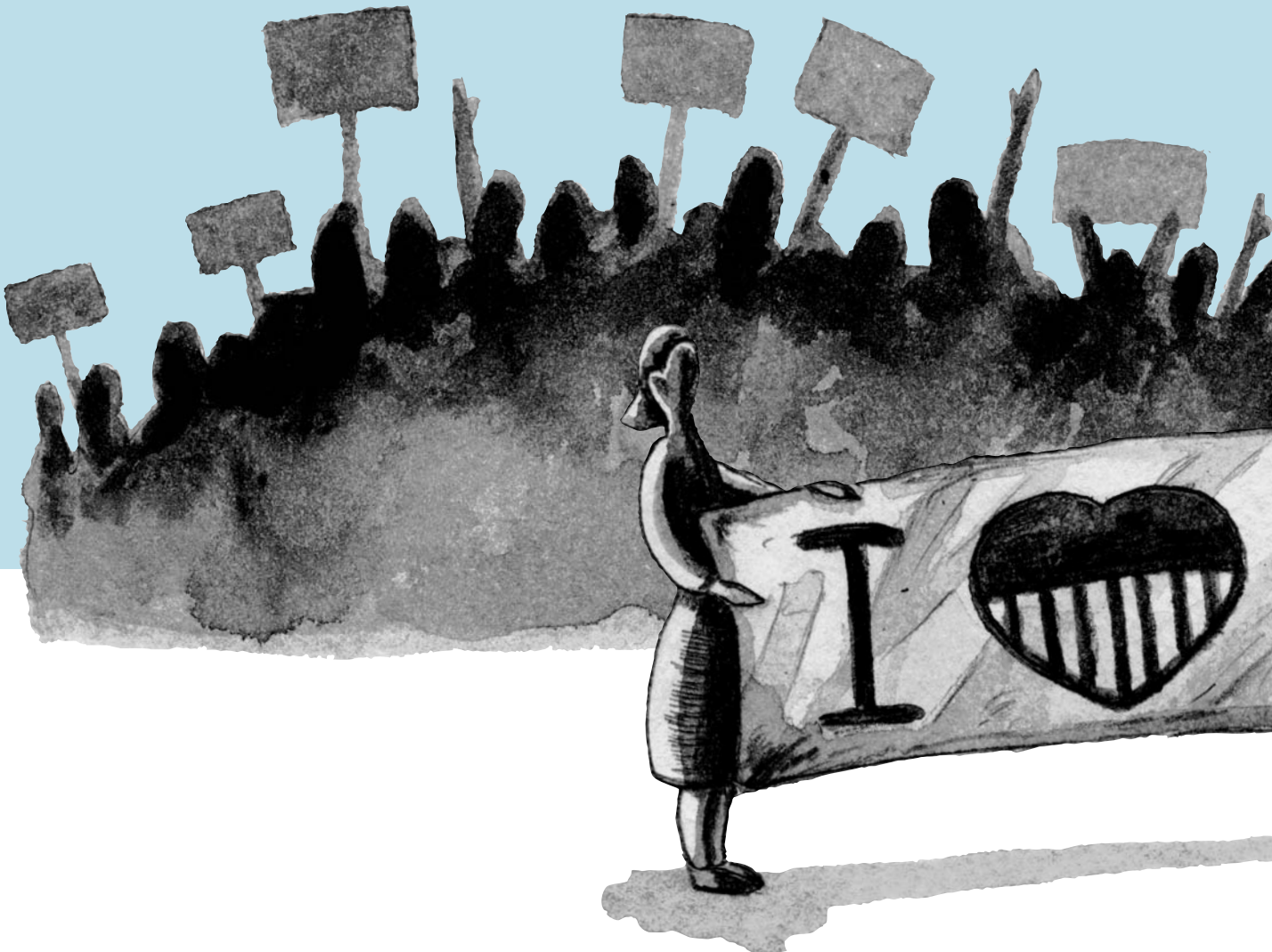
ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST: 2005–2006

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

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

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

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



OUR LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

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

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

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

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

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

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



PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: 2005–2006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: 2005–2006

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

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



ILA FISCAL REPORT YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

INCOME

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

EXPENSES

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

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

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

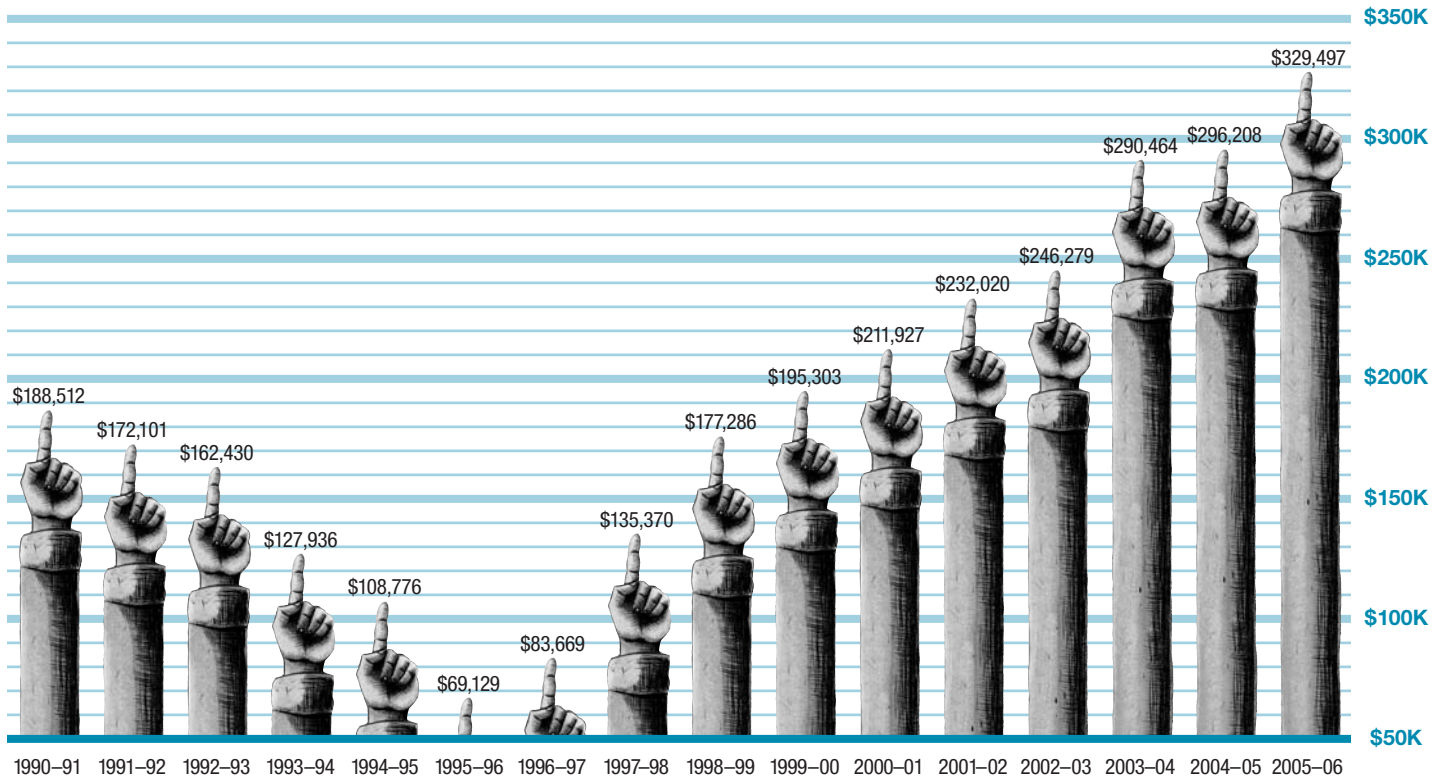
Net Assets are Comprised of:

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



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

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NET ASSETS



CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

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

FORUMS

Government Documents Forum

Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum

Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum

Library Trustees Forum

Public Library Forum

Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff

Reference Services Forum

Resources and Technical Services Forum

Young Adult Services Forum

Youth Services Forum

STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

Best Practices Committee

Conference Program Committee

Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee

Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee

Intellectual Freedom Committee

ILA Reporter Advisory Committee

iREAD Committee

Marketing Committee

Membership Committee

Nominating Committee

Public Policy Committee

2005/2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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



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