

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# REPORTER

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Tea and food come  
whenever you look.  
Sit back and relax,  
all you need is a smile.  
Dr. Seuss

# *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

The Huntley Area Public Library was formed after a successful referendum in November 1989. The board purchased a medical building to serve as the first library in 1990, but the library outgrew its space by 1996. A new building opened in 1999, on seven acres purchased from a local family. Since then, the library has seen tremendous growth in step with the booming population. In 2019, the community approved the library's building program, which included an addition and complete renovation of the original library. The ribbon cutting on the new Huntley Area Public Library was held in June 2022.

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. 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 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

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# Library Buildings

# 2022

Twelve libraries are showcased this year, including one academic library. The public libraries featured here range from those serving populations under 5,000 all the way up to over 150,000, in communities across the state. Outdoor spaces, expansions, and much needed updates are the prominent focus of the featured libraries. It's clear from the patrons' quotes in the "What people are saying" sections that libraries continue to be important places to meet, learn, work, study, connect, and more for their communities. As we continue to adjust to a post-pandemic Illinois, we hope to continue seeing adaptive and creative ways libraries approach renovations and new construction.

# Bloomington Public Library

Architect:	DLA Architects
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$548,665
Service population:	23,000
Library director:	Tim Jarzemsky

## What people are saying:

"I love having the new outdoor space for your Summer Concerts! My kids love the raised platforms and looking up into the dragonfly wings. It's also a nice place to read or have a snack before going into the library."

"The new outdoor garden space is great! The butterfly garden is fun, and I love that you provide Wi-Fi outside so I can use library services while I'm outside people-watching or having a snack."





# Charles B. Phillips Public Library District



photo credit: Andy Dogan, Williams Architects

Architect:	Williams Architects
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$1,406,578
Service population:	2,971
Library director:	Lynette Heiden

## What people are saying:

“Love the new sun room; it is so warm and inviting. Could sit in this room all day and just look out the windows, very relaxing.”

“It is nice to have a room for the programs and not be cramped between the bookshelves. It is simply wonderful.”

“It is wonderful that a small town can offer this great asset to the community.”





photo credit: Kmiecik Imagery



photo credit: Kmiecik Imagery



photo credit: Andy Dogan, Williams Architects

# East Moline Public Library



Architect:	HGA
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$7,288,000
Service population:	21,136
Library director:	Laura Long

## What people are saying:

“The new building is incredibly open and light! I love sitting in the windows and working on projects.”

“I love the new children’s area! It’s so nice to have someplace to sit and read with my kids — the whole area is inviting.”

“I didn’t realize that the bank would come with three vaults — the way you used them as a teen area and a quiet area is really cool!”



# Forest Park Public Library



Architect:	Williams Architects
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$717,331
Service population:	14,297
Library director:	Pilar Shaker and Interim Library Director Sue Quinn

## What people are saying:

"I'm very excited to see all the ways the library uses the patio in warmer weather. This is a great addition!"

"I appreciate that the library is working to keep the building up-to-date and in good condition for the community."

"I'm very happy that the library is thinking about energy saving ideas when it comes to the building."



# Geneseo Public Library District



photo credit: Don Beck

Architect:	Italo Milani
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion (New roof installed)
Total cost:	\$256,200
Service population:	12,974
Library director:	Claire Crawford

## What people are saying:

"It is just lovely!"

"When the sun hits it changes color!"

"Looks great!"



photo credit: Don Beck



# Huntley Area Public Library



photo credit: Doug Cataldo

Architect:	Wold Architects & Engineers
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$12,900,000
Service population:	43,839
Library director:	Frank Novak

## What people are saying:

"I've found my new favorite study space!"

"Terrific expansion with a lot more space compared to several years ago."

"Modern! Clean and super friendly."

"The Huntley library is one of the most beautifully renovated libraries that I've been to."





photo credit: Interiors for Business



photo credit: Interiors for Business

# Joliet Public Library Ottawa Branch



Architect: Engberg Anderson  
Architects

Type of project: Renovation/Expansion

Total cost: \$10,500,000

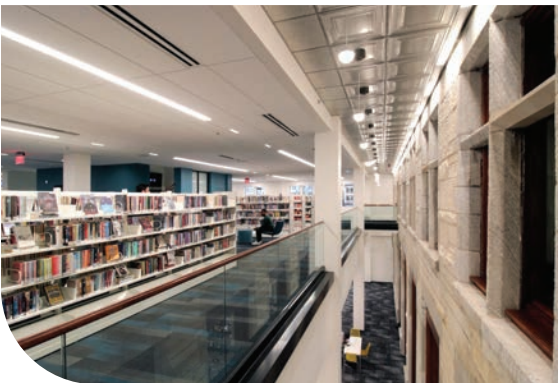
Service population: 150,372

Library director: Megan Millen

## What people are saying:

“I like how the DMS (Digital Media Studio) has been expanded with more space. It now has sound rooms, a video room, a huge recording lab, and a maker lab. The DMS team helps me get my books up and running on Amazon—and they help with all kinds of other tasks like making t-shirts, doing drawing videos, voice overs, printing and virtual books.”

“Updated with lighting and stain, the new Burnham lobby is designed to mirror the original building’s lobby from 1903.”



# Founders Library Learning Commons Northern Illinois University



Architect:	Dewberry
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$173,352
Service population:	16,000
Library director:	Fred Barnhart

## What people are saying:

“The Founders Learning Commons puts critical student services in an accessible location and reflects the library’s commitment to student success.”

“Love the new chairs and the Sphere!”



# Palatine Public Library North Hoffman Branch



Architect: Engberg Anderson  
Architects

Type of project: Renovation/Expansion

Total cost: \$244,570

Service population: 89,000

Library director: Jeannie Dilger

## What people are saying:

"My family and I appreciate all that they do to make walking into the library an enjoyable experience for everyone."

"I live near the North Hoffman Branch and the staff sure made going to the library a great day."

"I love the Palatine Library! The renovations have truly updated the feel and functionality of the North Hoffman Branch. Self check-out is a huge help when things are busy. I love that everything is in one room. The colors and lighting are modern and very appealing."

"I love the space – the remodel looks great. Carpet and walls tie together well with blue and lime green."



# Palatine Public Library Rand Road Branch



Architect: Engberg Anderson Architects

Type of project: Renovation/Expansion

Total cost: \$244,570

Service population: 89,000

Library director: Jeannie Dilger

## What people are saying:

"The library is very nice, very new, modern, clean. Many services. Thanks a lot."

"It looks so beautiful; I love the combination of colors and the children look so happy. Congratulations!"

"I really liked the change and the renovation, and I have always liked the service."

"The renovation turned out wonderful, congratulations to the entire Rand Road team."





# Palos Heights Public Library



Architect:	product architecture + design
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$1,290,000
Service population:	12,068
Library director:	Jesse Blazek

## What people are saying:

“The new space is like a library and children’s museum in one. We love coming here to hang out, play in the interactive room and then get some new books for bedtime. We come at least once a week!”

“We are thrilled with the new renovation at the Palos Heights Library! The space is bright, welcoming, and so fun for our kids! What a great way to start a love of books, learning, and creative playing!”

“The wait is finally over, and the youth department looks great and is making and coming up with so many programs to keep my kids interested.”



# Sugar Grove Public Library



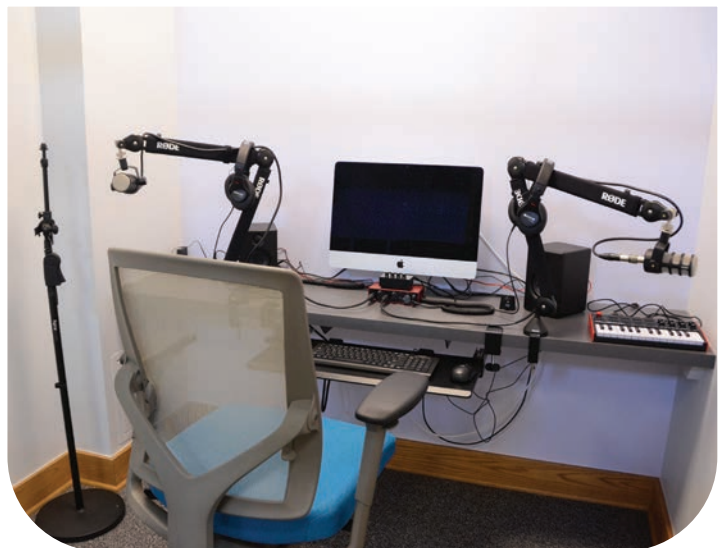
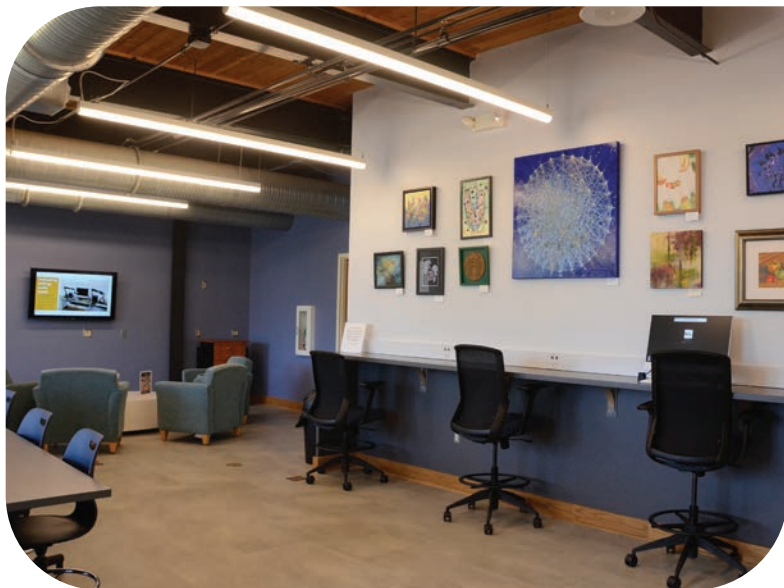
Architect:	Cordogan and Clark
Type of project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total cost:	\$170,000
Service population:	16,000
Library director:	Genna Mickey

## What people are saying:

"This would be a terrific space to have a business meeting. I just have to reserve the space?"

"This would be a great place for me to record a business presentation or for my kids to record something for a school project."

"It's pretty cool. I see a lot of great applications; I think the public will enjoy using this room."



# Creating the Career Pathway Talk Series

**I**n February 2020, the Illinois Library Association (ILA) created the Students & New Professionals Forum with the goal of prioritizing the interests of library & information science students and new professionals. Before then, there was not an ILA group that specifically served students and new professionals and offered a place for their voices to be heard. What students and new professionals are looking for in a professional organization can vary drastically from what a seasoned professional is hoping to gain from that same organization.

As someone new to the field, navigating professional organizations can be a difficult feat because the question is often “where do I start?” There’s a plethora of committees, forums, events, etc., that can be a starting place for those new to a professional organization, but oftentimes it becomes overwhelming and difficult to find your place amongst all the moving pieces.

The Students & New Professionals Forum, also known as SANP, is striving to become that hub for students and those who are new to the library workforce. One of SANP’s main goals is to invite students and new library professionals into the forum and allow their voices to be heard. There are often opportunities to gain new skills and to share ideas with the group. Beyond that, the forum often surveys members and non-members to understand the interests of its desired demographic.

One of the ways the forum has accomplished this goal is through the creation of the popular Career Pathway Talk Series, which kicked off in November 2020. The Career Pathway Talk Series was created to invite emerging and established library professionals to discuss various topics of interest to students and new professionals. The first edition of this series highlighted traditional library pathways including academic librarianship and public librarianship, with a special webinar on nontraditional pathways in librarianship. The purpose was to highlight the various careers in the library field, and to give attendees an answer to the common question, “what does a typical day look like for you?”

Some students know what they want to specialize in, but others may not. Through this first series, SANP wanted to provide exposure to different career paths within librarianship, hoping that students and new professionals would better understand the job responsibilities, expectations, and career trajectory. The series also served as a chance for students and new professionals to be directly connected to established library professionals and have the opportunity to ask questions about their career field.

Our panelists in the webinar series come from a variety of educational backgrounds, various-sized libraries, and vastly different experience levels. The same applies to our attendees. Our outreach efforts include accredited MLIS programs, Library Technical Assistants (LTA) programs at junior colleges, and prospective library science students. The forum also prioritizes building relationships with library programs in Illinois to encourage membership and to share information about what resources are available to students.



# “Navigating professional organizations can be a difficult feat because the question is often ‘where do I start?’”



The forum also wants this series to support library science students outside of Illinois. This is accomplished by sharing the events with library schools all across the country. Regular reposts of the webinar recordings serve as a refresher for old members and an introduction for new forum members.

After the initial success of our public librarianship, academic librarianship, and nontraditional librarianships webinars, we expanded our efforts in the following year to focus on specific areas of development. The Spring 2022 edition of our series highlighted career changers, networking, and BIPOC retention and recruitment in library science, which was our highest-attended program that year. These topics were of interest to our members and responsive to ILA’s equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts.

The insight gained during these webinars has been valuable for forum members and students. The series has been so popular that even library directors and senior library staff have attended the webinars, although our focus is students and new professionals. The forum is continuing this series and planning on hosting new events and programs for students and new professionals as SANP continues to grow.

SANP’s Spring 2023 season of the Career Pathway Talk Series kicked off in January, with a panel on salary negotiations. The next webinar, “Nontraditional Pathways in Librarianship Part II,” is on March 15. This webinar will again focus on careers in libraries outside of the traditional public and academic specialties. The Spring 2023 series concludes on May 17 with a webinar on experiences as a first-year librarian, intended to cater to graduates transitioning from school into their first professional library job.

SANP wants to spread the word about this series, so new library professionals and students can be informed of our initiatives. The forum hopes to continue growing membership and reach students and new professionals who are looking to learn more about librarianship and expand their network. To register for an upcoming Career Pathway Talk Series webinar, view past webinars, or learn more about the forum visit the ILA SANP webpage at [www.ila.org/sanp](http://www.ila.org/sanp). **ILA**



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# Illinois Specialized Libraries Take a National Stage

## “SPECIALIZED LIBRARIAN”

Maybe you’ve heard this term before, but never quite known what it means. The specialized library field is more easily defined by what it isn’t than what it is. It is easy for most people to identify the audience that public, academic, and school libraries serve. Specialized librarians serve just that: a specialized audience. In many cases, that means a library in a corporate, government, law, health, museum, or other setting.

Illinois has many of these specialized libraries and they are often located closer than you think. From big law firms in downtown Chicago to corporate headquarters like Caterpillar in Peoria, there are specialized libraries all around the state. And they often serve users around the world.

“Illinois has many of these specialized libraries and they are often located closer than you think.”

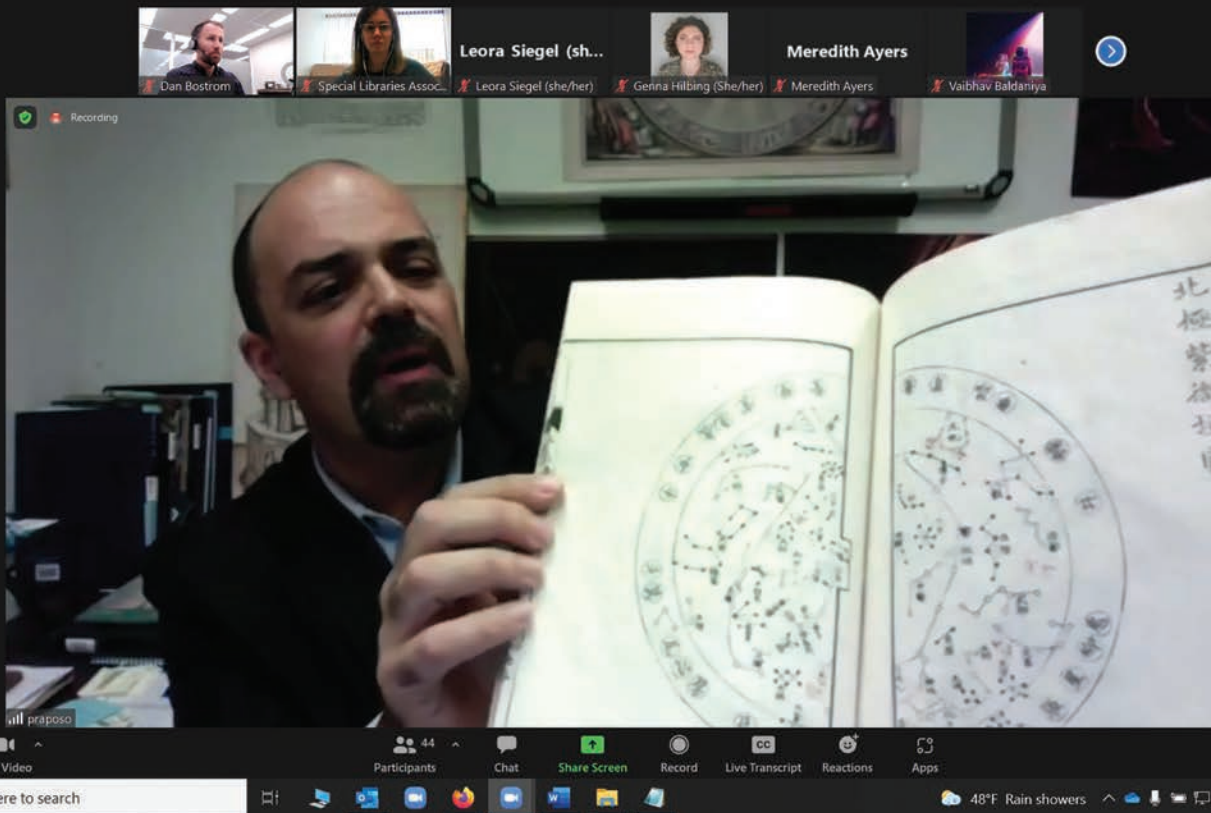
## NEWS FROM SLA HQ

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners in business, government, academic, and other “specialized” settings. With approximately 4,000 members worldwide, SLA offers members learning, networking, and community building initiatives.

In 2019, SLA restructured the organization, moving from units and chapters to communities. As part of the restructuring, all SLA members could now join any community as part of their annual membership. This broke down many of the silos that had been created through the old system; it also allowed members to get involved in as many communities as they wanted.

Although SLA has seen a decline in overall membership over the past decade, members are still finding new ways to connect and share best practices. In 2022, the association held their first in-person conference since 2019 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference included live streamed presentations and access to pre-recorded sessions.

In 2023, the association will partner with the Medical Library Association (MLA) for its annual conference. The joint MLA/SLA Annual Conference will take place in Detroit, Michigan on May 16-19, 2023. This event will bring together professionals from around the world to talk about important topics such as knowledge management, taxonomy, information systems, and information evaluation.



Dr. Pedro Raposo gives SLA Illinois attendees a virtual tour of the Adler Planterium Library in April 2022.

## SLA ILLINOIS LEADS MIDWEST COLLABORATION

On Friday, June 10, 2022, specialized library workers from around the Midwest and beyond came together for a professional development event that has continued to grow and attract attention. The 2022 SLA Midwest Symposium was the third time that Midwest communities of SLA came together to host this half-day virtual event. The host communities for this event were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and St. Louis Metro.

The 2022 version broke records for the most people registered (100) and participated (over 80). The event featured keynotes by 2022 SLA President Catherine Lavallée-Welch and Gary Price, author of *Library Journal's* popular InfoDocket column. Participants also heard three educational sessions, six lightning talks, and had the opportunity to network with other specialized information professionals. This event continues to successfully bring together the best minds from the Midwest and the collaboration between the five communities leads to stronger regional ties.

“In 2022, we really focused on creating a welcoming event for students,” said 2023 SLA Illinois President Valerie Moore, who chaired the planning committee. “These folks are the future of the profession and by offering them free registration, we hope to encourage them to get more involved in SLA.”

## RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

Like many organizations, SLA Illinois has had to shift the way that it reaches members over the past few years. Before the pandemic, SLA Illinois hosted an annual, in-person symposium, where members would get together to hear about new projects that other colleagues had been working on. The 2019 SLA Illinois Symposium was held in a small dining room at a restaurant in Chicago’s Greektown.

“The 2020 SLA Midwest Symposium was intended to be an in-person conference in Champaign-Urbana,” recalls 2021 SLA Illinois President Kristin Stutzman. “We were very excited to get membership together in a centralized location. Then the pandemic hit. But we pivoted to an online conference and the result was more successful than we could have imagined.”

In addition to holding the Symposium, SLA Illinois has continued to hold online events that appeal to a wide audience. In the past year, the community has held Zoom events such as:

- A virtual book discussion of the classic *Maus* by Art Spiegelman
- A virtual trivia event
- A virtual lunch with illustrator and writer Anika Orrock
- A virtual tour of the Adler Planetarium library

These events are often open to both members and nonmembers. They not only give attendees the opportunity to learn more about specialized librarians, but also the chance to connect with colleagues across library types.

## A NEW PATH FORWARD FOR SLA

In 2023, one of SLA Illinois' main goals is to collaborate more closely with other Midwest communities. Building off the successful SLA Midwest Symposium, the collaborating communities have entered into an informal agreement to work more closely together. These communities include:

- SLA Illinois
- SLA Indiana
- SLA Iowa
- SLA Kansas-Western Missouri
- SLA Michigan
- SLA Minnesota
- SLA St. Louis Metro

As part of this agreement, the communities will be hosting monthly networking events, doing joint board meetings, and exploring other options for professional development. The communities hope that by working together they can improve the benefits that they offer to members.

Meanwhile, SLA Illinois continues to demonstrate leadership in the larger national organization. In 2022, three SLA Illinois members were recognized for their contributions:

- Barbara Kern, University of Chicago Library — Fellow of SLA
- Eugene M. Giudice, Dentons US, LLP — Fellow of SLA
- Valerie Moore, Prairie State College — James M. Matarazzo Rising Star Award

These are some of the highest honors that SLA awards. It's exciting to see Illinois members recognized and it should assure the greater library workers across the state that our community will continue to have a bright future. **ILA**



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### MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

*"Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I've learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it's a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result."*

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

For additional information visit [www.lirapool.com](http://www.lirapool.com)

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# Getting to Know

## Monica Harris, the New Executive Director of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System

**A**fter a nationwide search, the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) Board appointed Monica Harris as the system's new Executive Director on February 7. We recently sat down with Monica to find out more about her and her goals for RAILS.

***ILA:** Congratulations on your appointment as RAILS Executive Director, Monica! For those who don't know you, could you tell us just a little about your library background?*

**MH:** Thank you so much, I'm thrilled for the opportunity to continue my work with RAILS in this new role. I've been working in libraries for 20 years, starting out in youth services in small public libraries in Michigan before moving to Illinois in 2007. Since then, I've worked as a teen librarian, circulation manager, and assistant director in public libraries in the Chicagoland area. Immediately before coming to RAILS, I was the Executive Director of the Schaumburg Township District Library. I've also taught as an adjunct lecturer for San Jose State University's iSchool, teaching a course in library innovation in a multitype environment. I've been very active in state and national organizations including the American Library Association (ALA), where I am currently serving as a Councilor at Large; Association

of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE); Illinois Library Association (ILA), where I co-chaired the Annual Conference Committee in 2014; Public Library Association (PLA); and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). After joining RAILS as Associate Executive Director in January 2020, I provided leadership for several RAILS departments, including Delivery, Continuing Education and Consulting, and Library Programs. I also led the development of the 2022-2025 RAILS Strategic Plan.

***ILA:** What do you consider to be some of your immediate priorities in your new role?*

**MH:** I feel very fortunate to be coming on at a time when our foundation at RAILS is solid and the path ahead is clear. I was deeply involved with the 2021 strategic planning process, where members from all types of libraries provided feedback on what they liked about RAILS, as well as new priorities and aspirations for the future. Our new strategic plan was approved in January 2022, and I have the tremendous opportunity to continue the great work RAILS has done thus far and to build on that work using the strategic plan feedback as a guide.



My top priority is to continue to build relationships and foster strong communication with our members and statewide partners. There have been many changes in leadership throughout the state recently, and by working together, we can achieve the ambitious goals we have set for Illinois. I want to meet with members directly and hear what is important to them. Most importantly, I want to sustain the vibrancy and success of RAILS while continuing to lead the system into the future and to provide the innovative and essential services libraries have come to rely on.

**ILA:** *What is your vision for RAILS moving forward, and what are some of your long-term goals?*

**MH:** Our continuing priority at RAILS is to ensure sustainable, equitable resource sharing between libraries of all types and sizes, and there are many ways we do that every day. We know how important our delivery program is to our many members and their communities, and we will continue to look for ways to make that service as efficient as possible while continuing to provide excellent service. We will continue to grow existing programs like Find More Illinois, eRead Illinois, and Explore More Illinois and to find ways to meet the needs of the statewide users of those programs in an equitable way. We will

also continue to focus on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility as we plan leadership initiatives, continuing education, and other programs, and we will provide support for our members to help them develop their own initiatives. Our members have made it clear that this is a priority for them, and we believe it is a path all libraries must follow to provide the best service to every member of their individual communities. Last but not least, we will continue to advocate for a statewide electronic resources program that would benefit libraries who can't afford these resources at all, as well as those who would see that money better spent on much needed staffing and other programs and services.

Long term, I want RAILS to continue to be an organization that libraries continue to look to for inspiration and leadership. We want to continue to strengthen collaborative relationships and to find ways to speak effectively on behalf of all system members. We have unique opportunities to monitor larger patterns and trends in Illinois libraries, and we have a responsibility to report on those findings in ways that can help all members to understand clear steps they can take to improve services and connect with and learn from one another.

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**ILA:** As I understand it, RAILS serves about 1,300 libraries with nearly 4,000 individual buildings across a 27,000 square mile area. What do you consider to be some of the major challenges facing the staff at all of those libraries and how do you see RAILS helping with these challenges?

**MH:** Our membership is truly diverse, and the challenge of a multitype environment like ours is how to serve the needs of as many libraries as possible with limited resources and often competing priorities. One thing we learned from our strategic planning process is that there is a perception that RAILS serves some types of libraries better than others. We are taking that feedback seriously and are currently in the midst of an in-depth Service Inequities study, where we hope to learn more about those perceptions and come up with creative ways to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all types and sizes of RAILS libraries as equitably as possible.

We also feel a deep responsibility to continue our work at dismantling the silos that often exist between libraries of different types and sizes and in different geographical areas. Our new mission statement is, We Connect Libraries, and we want to pursue a future where we can all recognize the value of each other's work and build on each other's strengths. The more we are connected, the stronger we all really are.

**ILA:** What other challenges and opportunities do you think RAILS is currently facing?

**MH:** There are very real concerns across different types of Illinois libraries. School libraries face the challenge of having retiring library staff who are often not replaced, or library workers who are responsible for many locations with very few resources. Special libraries are closing at an unprecedented rate, and those that remain need our support more than ever to avoid a similar fate. Academic libraries must constantly advocate for their budgets and services to their administrations, while

hoping to expand innovative services for students like Open Educational Resources (OER). Public libraries saw huge shifts in leadership and staffing during the pandemic, and they need quality resources to train their administration and trustees on how to be strong advocates for library services in precarious times. Generally, libraries need support in demonstrating their value to all stakeholders, countering materials challenges, and finding ways to serve the one million unserved individuals in Illinois.

I am very proud of how RAILS is constantly working towards solutions for even the toughest of these challenges, and I am confident that with our statewide partners and all of the talented, dedicated staff in Illinois libraries working together, we will continue to meet all of these challenges head on.

**ILA:** Is there anything else you would like Illinois library staff to know as you take over the leadership of RAILS?

**MH:** Despite the challenges we are facing, I think there is a lot of excitement about the future of libraries in Illinois. As new leadership takes hold at the statewide and national level, new strategies and ideas are moving forward in compelling new ways. We have a responsibility at RAILS to continue to nurture and support the next generation of library leaders – helping them to achieve their vision of service for their communities and encouraging them to share that success with their colleagues.

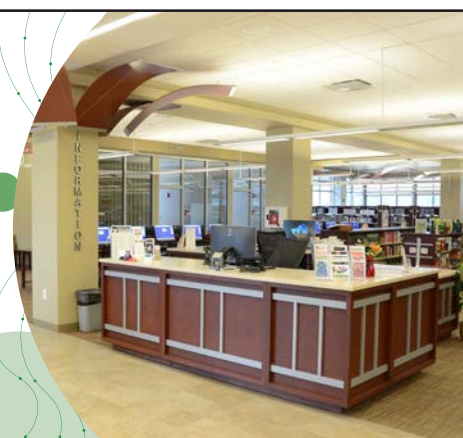
One of RAILS' strongest assets is a talented staff dedicated to the mission of the organization and with a strong bias towards action. We have an important responsibility to serve our members and we take that very seriously. We also have many partners throughout the state who share these goals and priorities. The more we work together and stay focused on the greater good, the more we will accomplish towards the goal of making all Illinois libraries the strongest and the very best they can be. **ILA**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ILA Candidates for 2023

The ILA Nominating Committee has announced the 2023 candidates for election in the spring of 2023.

### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026)

**Amy Byers**, Chatham Public Library District  
**Ashley Stewart**, Caseyville Public Library District

Any ILA member wishing to be added to the ballot by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the paired candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliations of the petitioner as determined by the Nominating Committee. Petition candidates for vice president/president-elect will be added to the presidential slate as requested.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026)

A candidate from each pairing will be elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

Nominations by petition for an elective office shall be proposed in writing by at least one hundred (100) personal members of the association and delivered to the Executive Office by March 1. Candidates nominated by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliation of the petitioner. The determination of placement on the slate is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee.

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Gretchen Rings**, The Field Museum  
**Penny Sympton**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc.

The polls will open electronically April 1, 2023 and close on April 30 at midnight.

Serving on the Nominating Committee are Jeanne Hamilton (chair), Anthony Auston, Joe Filapek, Lindsay Holbrook, Kate Kite, Leora Siegel, and Alissa Williams.

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Jen Abler**, Oak Lawn Public Library  
**Dawn Bussey**, Glen Ellyn Public Library

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Angela Campbell**, Rock Island Public Library  
**Laura Keyes-Kaplafka**, Dunlap Public Library District

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Elena Carrillo**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Gwen Harrison**, Illinois State Library



# ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**OC Creative**, Dekalb

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

**Calumet Park District 132**, Calumet Park

**Emmons 33**, Antioch

## TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**Jennifer Borrell**, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

**Dr. Taneen Brinson**, Olympia Fields Public Library

**Dolores Cupp**, Prairie Trails Public Library District

**Matt Kinnich**, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District

**Paula Lauer**, Fox River Valley Public Library District

**Melissa Sanchez**, Peoria Public Library

## STUDENT MEMBERS

**Steffanie Baseley**, New Lenox

**Jacob Bonner-Baker**, Wheaton

**Michelle Buri**, Fenton

**Jace Cook**, Granite City

**Lori Cummins**, Lombard

**Aliya Estes**, Palatine

**Lisa Garza**, Alsip

**Jennifer Gunn**, DeKalb

**Jeremy Hunter**, Peoria

**Andie Kelch**, Peoria

**Evan Murdoch**, Chicago

**Kennedy Pasley**, Champaign

**Zoe Peterson**, Urbana

**Ruby Plank**, Bolingbrook

**Michelle Rojas Garay**, Arlington Heights

**Molly Seidl**, Downers Grove

**Samantha Swift**, Wheaton

**Anslie Waldrep**, Mahomet

**Deona Walsh**, Braidwood

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

**Trevor Burrows**, Eastern Illinois University

**Christine Currie**, Elia Area Public Library District

**Shawn Erens**, Palatine Public Library District

**Kaitlyn Frye**, Carol Stream Public Library

**Christine Garner**, Hillsboro

**Leah Gregory**, IHLS

**Sarah Hartman**, Bradley Public Library District

**Chelsea Lord**, Mount Prospect Public Library

**Katie Parfitt**, Naperville Public Library

**Amy Peterson**, Schaumburg Township District Library

**Gretchen Rings**, The Field Museum

**Frani Sherman**, Glenview Public Library

**Penny Sympson**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc.

**Char Sisteck**, Centralia Regional Library District

**Courtney Volny**, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District

**Kristen Zambo**, Batavia Public Library District

# New Illinois Library Luminary



## DIANE FOOTE

Diane Foote served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Library Association from November of 2017 to July 2022. She had large shoes to fill after Bob Doyle's 20 year incumbency. However, very quickly it became obvious that Diane would make her own very important mark on ILA.

During her tenure, Diane increased the number of U.S. States purchasing iREAD® as their summer reading program by an amazing seven states: Alaska, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington! In 2020, she also successfully won the RFP from the U.S. Department of Defense to continue supplying the iREAD® Summer Reading Program for the next five years. These efforts help to ensure ILA's continuing fiscal sustainability.

Diane led the way for revising ILA's Strategic Plan which was implemented in 2019 after a comprehensive year-long process that will carry through 2023. The Strategic Plan included strategies and goals to support ILA's mission of leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries.

She saw a need to evaluate ILA's staffing levels and reorganized, adding much needed positions to make the organization more effective.

In an effort to make attendees feel safer and more comfortable at ILA events, Diane initiated a Statement of Appropriate Conduct and reporting process. She has demonstrated a commitment to advancing principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout her career, including service and leadership roles on ALA's Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee and launching a DEI Subcommittee of the ILA Executive Board.

Along with the Fundraising Committee, Diane has launched a brand new fundraising mechanism: Illuminate Illinois. This is a program of annual recognition of donors and increasing recognition for lifetime giving that has already begun to have an impact.

Perhaps her most memorable contribution, however, was the courageous way Diane led the organization through the global pandemic of COVID-19. Immediately recognizing the potentially devastating financial impact of the pandemic, Diane successfully applied for vital PPP funding to keep the organization afloat. She had the foresight to pivot conferences in 2020 and 2021 to a virtual format. She harnessed technology to the benefit of keeping members informed and in touch with each other. Her leadership was truly inspirational!

Prior to leading ILA, Diane served as Assistant Dean and Curator of Butler Children's Literature Center at Dominican University; Executive Director of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association; Associate Editor of ALA's *Book Links* Magazine, and did extensive work in the publishing industry.

Inducted December 21, 2022

# New Illinois Library Luminary



## ROBERTA KOSCIELSKI

After 38 years of being a vibrant force for good in her community, Roberta retired as Peoria Public Library's Deputy Director in 2022. She is well-known and respected for the countless ways she has inspired and guided connections between the library and all facets of the community.

Roberta was honored as the 2020 Librarian of the Year by the Illinois Library Association. In her nomination, Roberta is described as "a passionate, dedicated champion of her community, her library's role in it, and the profession at large." Roberta was the first Peoria Public Library librarian to receive this statewide honor.

During her career, she forged connections with city leaders, area nonprofits, and other organizations. For decades, she was an adult literacy tutor and board member for first Common Place and then Neighborhood House. Her tireless volunteer efforts garnered her a Volunteer Service Award and a one-on-one meeting with then-President George W. Bush in 2007.

Her work in raising opioid addiction awareness in libraries was recognized nationally. She was dubbed "a new first responder" by *U.S. News and World Report* and named as one of *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers in 2018.

Roberta started Peoria Reads!, a one city, one book program with Common Place in 2001 and was its main steward for 20 years, attracting additional community partners, including Bradley University, Methodist College and Neighborhood House.

Roberta graduated with distinction with a bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and then immediately completed a master's degree in library science at the university. While much of her career has been in administration, Roberta always welcomed opportunities to work one-on-one with patrons. She led two book clubs through the library, which she plans to continue after retiring. Her retirement plans also include using her grant-writing skills to help our Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Inducted November 17, 2022



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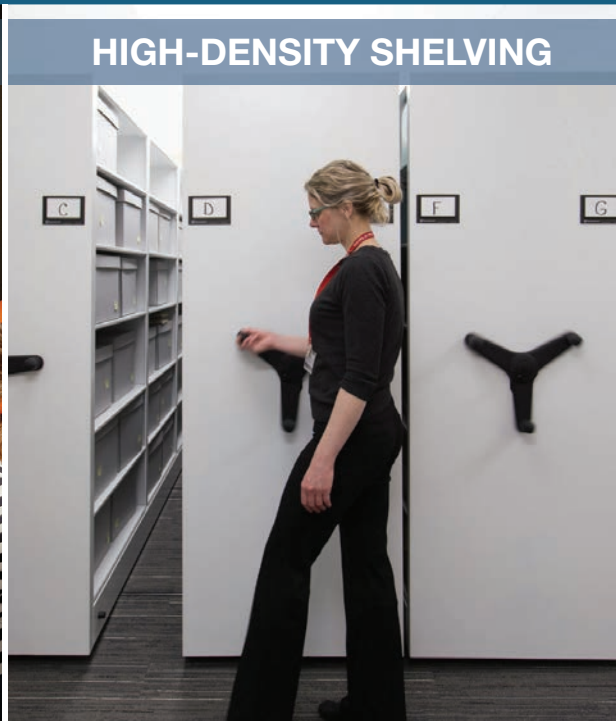
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