

Illinois Library Association Annual Report 2003-2004

# ILAA

Adding Up to Success



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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,

One of the most striking realizations of my year as president has been the recognition that we are much more than the sum of our individual actions, or even much more than the collective accomplishments of our individual libraries and institutions.

- + The work of a single member with a key legislator can make a difference for libraries all over the state.
- + A moment at a conference program where a light bulb goes on and a youth service librarian discovers a new way to reach teenagers or toddlers can send ripples through an entire community.
- + A committee meeting that leads to a grant application that leads to a new publication can reach hundreds or even thousands of people.

This association offers all of us the chance to contribute to the overall effort and reap the benefits of participation. In the end, it all adds up to success—for our patrons, our profession, and ourselves.

In a year such as this where budgets shrank or stayed the same, the only ways to make our marks were by working smarter. I learned from librarians all across the state who found creative ways to adapt to change. The association has employed similar strategies, by investing its time and energy wisely and putting its resources where they will do the most good. Through innovation and hard work, we've managed not only to survive, but to thrive.

This annual report offers just a glimpse of the ways we worked together in the past year. We lobbied in Springfield and Washington, D.C. We met via video conferences and in person to develop an agenda for our public policy efforts. We hosted workshops and training for trustees and librarians. We managed our resources to provide the most impact for the smallest investment.

As I conclude my year as president, I'm eager to return to the most interesting position in the association—that of being a member. My membership, like all of yours, adds up to the best we can be for libraries in Illinois.

Sincerely,



Nancy Gillfillan  
ILA President, 2003–2004



# Members + Information = Advocacy

Advocating for the highest quality library services is a major goal of the association, and it depends on leadership, a strategic approach, and member involvement. Through its Web site and other communications, ILA provides members with up-to-date information on pending legislation. This information is converted into results by a range of strategies and activities.

ILA maintains a high-level presence in Springfield through retained legislative counsel Kip Kolkmeier, and monitors bills as they move through the session. Members are tapped to testify as needed before key committees, and attention is focused on library issues through annual legislative days in both Springfield and Washington, D.C.

The Public Policy Committee takes advantage of the VTEL videoconferencing technology to hold its monthly meetings, insuring that voices from all parts of the state are heard. Through workshops and presentations at conferences, members are offered the opportunity to hone their advocacy skills to use in local, state, and national arenas.

Before successful lobbying efforts can be undertaken, the association has to track all bills, resolutions, and amendments filed in the Illinois General Assembly to determine potential impact on library services. It's as important to detect threats to library service as it is to support legislation that will improve it. The current Illinois General Assembly has seen a dramatic increase in legislative activity resulting in far more bills filed, and many more ultimately passed as new laws. ILA's advocacy team reviewed over 10,500 new bills, more than 2,000 resolutions, and literally hundreds of individual proposed legislative amendments; all of which were reviewed and analyzed for possible effects on the library community. More than 200 individual bills and resolutions were identified as having a direct impact on our constituents.

The variety of our issues continues to be vast, including budget and appropriation priorities, intellectual freedom, access and use of library services, and a host of issues specifically affecting state and local governmental bodies that provide library services. There are many victories to report including effective opposition to

legislation which would have mandated Internet filters on all public library computers. This was the eighth attempt to impose mandated filters. ILA continues to advocate for local control on the issue of filters.

ILA championed House Bill 4370 which permits county boards to increase fees to support county law libraries. House Bill 4370 was passed and signed by the Governor as Public Act 93-748. This legislation increases financial support for county law libraries by as much as 33 percent.

ILA also supported the efforts of public library districts to secure passage of Senate Bill 2158. Senate Bill 2158 entitles library districts to seek reimbursement for the cost of providing services to residents in tax increment finance districts. The legislation signed into law as Public Act 93-961 provides a precise formula for guaranteeing that library districts are fairly compensated.

ILA worked aggressively to support funding for libraries. The state continues to suffer from the worst budget deficits in its history and the resulting pressure to cut funding. This pressure to cut was especially strong this year because of the insistence by political leaders that no significant new state taxes or fees would be imposed. The library community was spared the most significant cuts imposed in this year's budget deal, and succeeded in securing essentially flat funding from the previous fiscal year. While ILA continues to advocate for increased library funding, in such a difficult budget year, successful opposition to additional cuts must be seen as a good result.

ILA co-sponsored the 2004 Illinois Library Advocacy Day with 347 library supporters attending. The event was sponsored by the Illinois Library Association, Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois State Library, and the Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO). ILA sponsored the largest delegation (58 delegates out of 500, or 11 percent from Illinois) attending the 2004 national Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

The 2004–2005 legislative session is expected to be another extremely busy year and ILA will continue to be an aggressive advocate for all members of the library community.

# Information + Design = Education

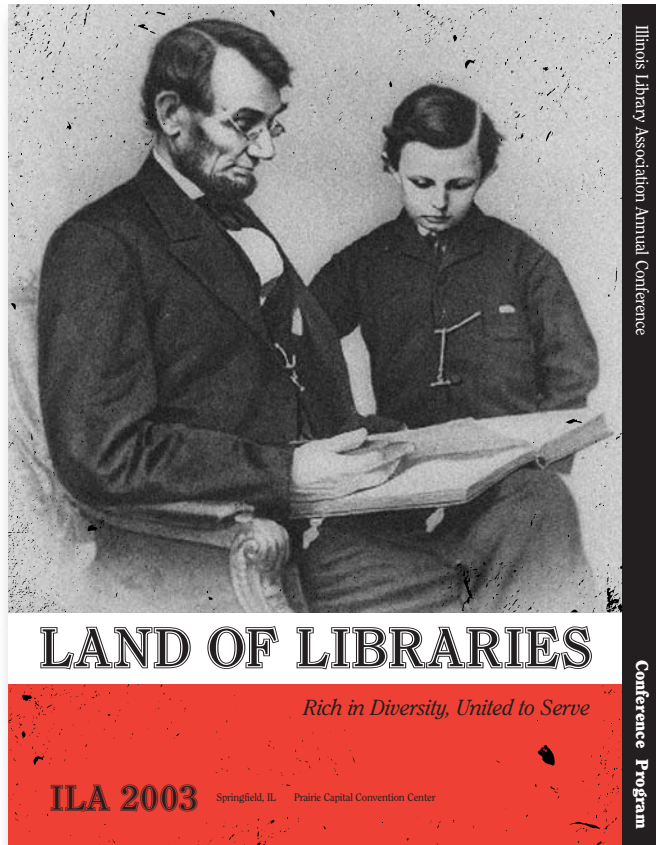
This year, the association provided continuing education in more formats than ever—in print, through a wide variety of electronic media, and in-person. The capstone event of the year is always the annual conference, and this year was no exception. Held October 14–18, 2003, in Springfield, the conference highlighted the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, along with the amazing variety of library service in Illinois.

Programs and exhibits are designed to deliver both in-depth and a variety of experiences. With eight distinct program tracks and preconferences on such hot topics as measuring social and economic benefits of libraries and negotiating licensing agreements, there was something for everyone. Conference attendance was 1,156, including 202 exhibitor representatives. Even though downstate conferences generally have smaller attendance and exhibitor figures, this year's exhibitor total exceeded the 2001 Springfield conference by 18 percent.

The conference may be the centerpiece of the association's feast of continuing education, but there are no shortage of side dishes, many of which have grown to main-dish proportions. Chief among these are the Reaching Forward conferences, now held twice each year in both Chicago and downstate locations. Most, if not all of the association's forums hold separate educational events for their members, in addition to meetings to conduct forum business. From e-lists to video conferencing, technology is employed throughout the association to bring members together.

The ILA Web site has become a virtual meeting place for members. New features this year include online forums being used for committee communication, which will soon be available for member communication on a variety of topics.

Fully searchable and downloadable, the site is a place to register for conference, contribute ideas for IREAD, or print favorite articles from any current (and many past) ILA publications. With a quick link to the ILA Jobline, it's a single stop for job seekers and employers alike. The site shows heavy use, with more than 650 users per day and more than three gigabytes of information transferred per month. The most requested file is *Books Challenged or Banned in 2002–2003*, and Jobline alone received more than 4,035 hits per month.



In a year where budgets remained tight all over the state, libraries adapted to change and managed to provide better services and results, as borne out by the 2004 *ILA Reporter* series on "Doing More with Less." In a year where retirements and growing populations brought out the need for new librarians, the 2003 *ILA Reporter* featured the many "Fresh Faces" being recruited to the profession. The new Elmhurst Public Library was featured in the ongoing series on how architecture enhances library services.

Special inserts throughout the year offer a cost-effective means to maximize distribution of information of interest to members.

**August 2003** *Books Challenged or Banned, 2002–2003*

**October 2003** *2002–2003 ILA Annual Report: For the Love of Libraries*

**June 2004** *2004 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program*

Other specialized publications, such as *Illinois Library Laws and Regulations in Effect January 2004*, as well as the summer reading materials produced for the IREAD program, contribute to the array of available information for libraries and their patrons. Although it won't appear in print until the coming year, work on the newly revised *Trustee Facts File* has been underway with support from an LSTA Illinois State Library grant.



# Investment + Management = Solvency

The association ended the year 2003–2004 with a surplus for the eighth year in a row, all the more notable as gains in some areas offset losses in some others. Diversifying the association's income base, investing in program areas that indicate future growth, and building a reserve to cushion short-term fluctuations are all part of a strategy that has helped us strengthen a solid financial base.

Highlights of the financial statement include the following:

- + 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 2003–2004 fiscal year, the portfolio showed a gain of \$22,571 for a total value of \$192,614 and an increase of 14 percent. As we do not budget for a gain, this is a significant contribution to the association's bottom line.
- + Another long-term investment of a different sort paid huge dividends when the Reaching Forward program became an official forum of the association. Since 1994, ILA and Reaching Forward have worked cooperatively to produce one, and now two, conferences each year for library assistants and support staff. Reaching Forward is now a contributing item in the ILA budget, rather than an expense. While the transfer for the current year yielded a one-time gain of more than \$30,000, if conference revenues continue to exceed expenses, there could be a net gain in future years as well.
- + Finally, another strong performer this year was publication and sales of *Illinois Library Laws and Regulations in Effect January 2004*, yielding more than \$11,000 over budget.
- + One down note in the budget were lower than anticipated sales for the 2003–2004 IREAD campaign. A combination of factors may have contributed, and the association is seeking outside support for 2004–2005 to be able to offer the theme materials free of charge as a way to build use and participation.

In addition to financial management, the association continues to make improvements in overall administration and delivery of services to members.

# ILA Fiscal Report Year Ended June 30, 2004

## Income

General Operations .....	\$76,203
Membership .....	\$287,452
Directory/Reporter .....	\$23,325
Conference .....	\$234,243
Publications .....	\$33,874
IREAD .....	\$149,454
Public Policy .....	\$5,600
Defense Fund .....	\$1,023
Awards .....	\$1,030
Workshops/Projects .....	\$37,460
LTSA Grant.....	\$50,871
Restricted Contributions .....	\$5,220
Reaching Forward .....	\$92,565
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$998,320</b>

## Expenses

General Operations .....	\$343,922
Membership/Directory/Reporter .....	\$ 66,283
Conference.....	\$147,852
Board/Committee .....	\$5,779
Publications .....	\$20,561
IREAD .....	\$144,115
Public Policy.....	\$57,492
Defense Fund.....	\$1,023
Awards.....	\$1,138
Workshops/Projects .....	\$33,638
Professional Development.....	\$707
Forums .....	\$621
LSTA Grant .....	\$50,930
Reaching Forward .....	\$80,074
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$954,135</b>

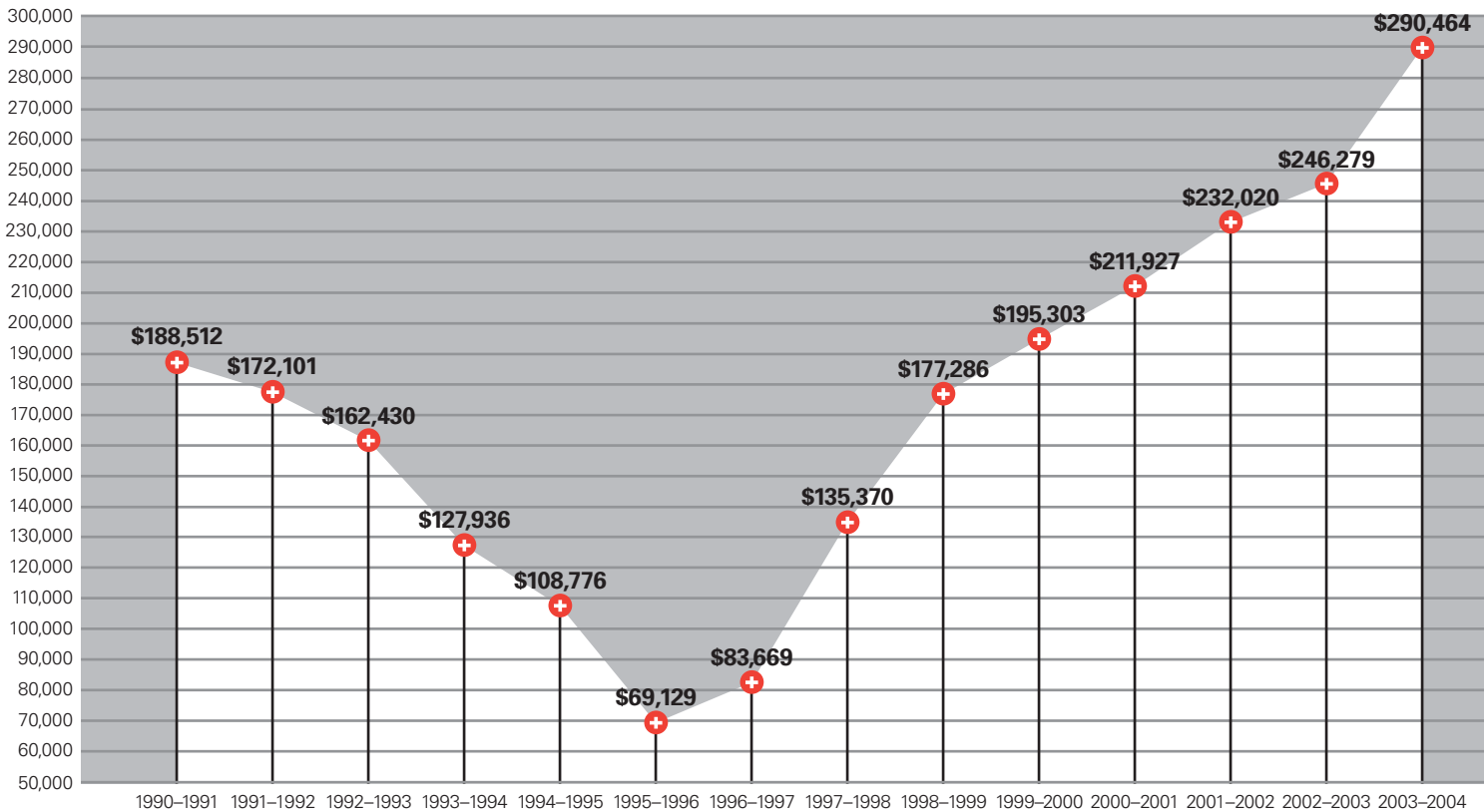
## Unrestricted Assets

Income/Expenses .....	\$44,185
Net Assets at end of FY2003 .....	\$246,279
Net Assets at end of FY2004 .....	\$290,464
Net Assets are Comprised of: .....	\$254,640
Temporarily Restricted Assets .....	\$ 28,362
Permanently Restricted Assets .....	\$7,462
<b>Total Net Assets at End of Year .....</b>	<b>\$290,464</b>

- Atkinson Memorial Award.....\$3,642
- Student Librarian Scholarship.....\$10,979
- deLafayette Reid Fund  
for Continuing Education .....
- Robert R. McClarren Award Fund  
for Legislative Development.....
- Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund.....
- Legal Defense Fund.....



# Historical Overview of Net Assets



## Cumulative Surplus

After eight years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last eight fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$221,335.

2003-2004 .....	\$44,185
2002-2003 .....	\$14,259
2001-2002 .....	\$20,093
2000-2001 .....	\$16,624
1999-2000 .....	\$18,017
1998-1999 .....	\$41,916
1997-1998.....	\$51,701
1996-1997.....	\$14,540
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$221,335</b>

# 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 2,722 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 + 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

# 2003/2004 Executive Board

<b>President</b> .....	Nancy Gillfillan, Fondulac Public Library District
<b>Vice-President/President-Elect</b> .....	Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University
<b>Immediate Past President</b> .....	Kathryn M. Harris, Illinois State Historical Library
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Robert W. McKay, River Bend Library System
<b>Directors</b> .....	Bradley F. Baker, Northeastern Illinois University Marsha Balster, Arlington Heights Memorial Library Christopher Bowen, Downers Grove Public Library Kathleen Conley, Illinois State University Larry D'Urso, Mount Prospect Public Library Annie Marie Ford, University of Illinois at Chicago Linda J. Mathias, Marion Carnegie Library Laurel Minott, Northwestern University Nestor Osorio, Northern Illinois University Ellen C. Popit, Shawnee Library System Amanda Standerfer, Helen Matthes Library, Effingham
<b>ALA Councilor</b> .....	Lynn Stainbrook, Warren-Newport Public Library District
<b>Ex Officio</b> .....	Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association Jean Wilkins, Illinois State Library



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Doyle".

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