

Remembering, Reflecting, and Reinventing



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,

As many of you know, my passions are rooted in the past... music, antiques, postcards, and, of course, libraries. Throughout my career, and never more than during my year as president of the Illinois Library Association, I've realized that history and libraries have a powerful and essential connection. While we're constantly being reminded that libraries have to look to the future to accommodate technological, demographic, and economic change, we also need to remember the past if we wish to assure a bright future for libraries and their patrons.

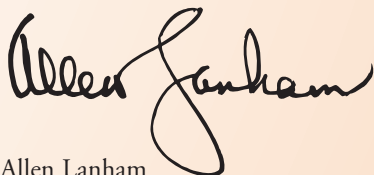
History almost always tells the story of conflict of some sort, and the history of libraries is no exception. Libraries are inextricably linked to hunger for knowledge and information and to the widest possible access to the most and best resources. There have always been people who struggle to increase those resources, while other forces work to limit them. The profession of librarianship provides the leadership to safeguard these needs, and it's been my privilege and pleasure to work with all of you this year in better understanding our history as a way of building a better future.

Some of my proudest accomplishments of the year illustrate the value of connecting the past to the future. For example, starting the practice of having younger members of the profession serve as committee interns gives the next generation of librarians a chance to work closely with and learn firsthand from today's library leaders.

Learning from the past can involve change as well as emulation. This past year the entire committee membership was invited to attend the committee orientation session held in July as a way to foster greater understanding in ILA. In prior years, this event was limited to committee chairs, which meant that for the many committees that meet virtually, many members never met each other face-to-face.

Our understanding of where we have been and who was there with us can only guide us to greater heights as we chart the future of library service in Illinois. This year we all worked together to prepare a striking exhibit on the history of Illinois libraries and librarians. Displayed at both the ILA Annual Conference on Navy Pier and the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June, thousands of visitors had a chance to walk back in time. Whether they managed to explore the history of their own libraries through a familiar face or building in a photograph, find inspiration from an image or quotation, or discover a new way to think about their profession from an example from the past, the exhibit gave us all a way to remember, reflect, and reinvent ourselves and our libraries.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Lanham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the name.

Allen Lanham
ILA President, 2004-2005

Advocating for the Public Interest: 2004–2005

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned the 2005 spring session just minutes ahead of their midnight deadline on May 31, 2005. The session was extremely active, and was dominated by a \$1.2 billion budget deficit. Despite this continuing budget limitation, Illinois libraries won some battles and set the stage for what we hope will be even greater success in the future.

Legislators filed more than 6,209 bills, and passed approximately 700. 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 the intellectual freedom and privacy front by turning back challenges to existing protections. House Bill (HB) 2485 mandated Internet filters on all government-funded library computers in special, academic, school, and public libraries, even on computers used exclusively by adults. Within twelve days of the bill's introduction, a coalition was formed, the committee hearing was held, and the bill was defeated.

Library advocates also succeeded in amending the language of House Bill (HB) 1582, which sought to weaken the confidentiality of library records. ILA opposed the bill as first conceived and only removed our opposition following months of negotiation and the adoption of numerous changes demanded by the ILA Executive Board. Ultimately, the bill's sponsor was not able to get the bill considered in the House and the existing confidentiality law remained unchanged.

Funding bills didn't fare as well, given the state's overall budget climate. A public library capital construction bill, House Bill (HB) 3761, introduced by House Speaker Michael Madigan failed to pass, marking the second consecutive year that a capital budget was not approved by the Illinois General Assembly. Two efforts to provide additional flexibility under the tax cap both failed to advance despite great efforts by ILA and a coalition of south Chicago suburban librarians. Both of these efforts, as well as other funding issues, remain priorities for the coming session.

Another major victory for the library community was our success in amending a complex library district disconnection bill, Senate Bill (SB) 847. ILA opposed this legislation as first introduced, and insisted that the bill be amended to prohibit any disconnection without the consent of the affected library district. As passed by the Illinois General Assembly, no area may disconnect from a library district without the approval of that library district. The ILA amended bill also guarantees that no library patron would lose library service as a result of a disconnection. Despite these changes, the legislation remained controversial, generating countless hours of discussion, confusion, and negotiations. In August 2005, the governor vetoed the bill stating that it might lead to an increased tax burden on disconnected areas. The bill's sponsors have pledged to seek an override of the governor's veto during the fall 2005 veto session. If the override vote succeeds, the bill will become law. If the override vote fails, there will likely be an effort to recraft this legislation in the 2006 spring session.

In a separate measure, legislation to raise the competitive bid threshold from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in local library statutes moved successfully through both chambers with the endorsement of ILA's Executive Board.

Remembering, Reflecting, and Reinventing

Significant victories were scored



The Cherry Valley Case

Our advocacy efforts focus primarily on state-level legislation, but in 2004–2005 the Illinois Library Association found itself involved to a significant degree in a court case. The Cherry Valley Public Library District annexed an unserved library area using a technique frequently called a back door referendum, which was contested by a group of citizens and resulted in a 2003 ruling that the annexation exceeded the district’s authority.

The precedent-setting aspects of this ruling led to early ILA involvement, including filing an *amicus curiae* brief on behalf of the library district in its initial appeal to the Appellate Court of Illinois Second Appellant District in Elgin. The executive board established a legal defense fund to pay for the expenses incurred in representing the library community, raising over \$5,000 to cover the cost. Bob McKay, former ILA Treasurer, directed those fundraising efforts.

The appeals court decision is now being appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court. If the court determines to hear the case, the ILA Executive Board plans to file another *amicus curiae* on behalf of the library district.

Capital Ideas

The 2005 Illinois Library Advocacy Day, cosponsored by ILA, brought 259 library supporters to Springfield to meet with their legislators. The purpose, as always, is to educate, inform, and enlist the support of these key representatives. These face-to-face encounters are invaluable when we need to call on their influence to shape the future of library services.

National Library Legislative Day, held in Washington, D.C., saw ILA once again sponsoring the single largest state delegation, with 62 delegates out of 480 total from around the country.

Promoting Professional Excellence: 2004-2005

Highlights from the 2004 ILA Annual Conference, held October 14–18 in Chicago, included a preconference on training staff in intellectual freedom issues and an exhibit on the history of Illinois libraries. Kathleen M. Balcom, former Arlington Heights Memorial Library director and past-president of ILA, received the Librarian of the Year award among the many awards for outstanding achievement presented at the conference. Conference attendance was 2,108, including 392 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. In addition to 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 "Learning from the Past, Building the Future" used historical photographs to give us all a glimpse of libraries as they looked over the course of the last century.

Other notable *ILA Reporter* features explored the success of a program involving teenagers as library assistants and a workshop on teaching librarians to write for publication (October 2004); the "Doing More With Less" series concluded with the trustee's point of view (December 2004); and several journeys by Illinois librarians into worldwide librarianship through articles on attending library school in Rome, an exchange project with South African librarians, and a U.S. Department of State–sponsored visit to Costa Rica by ILA President Allen Lanham.

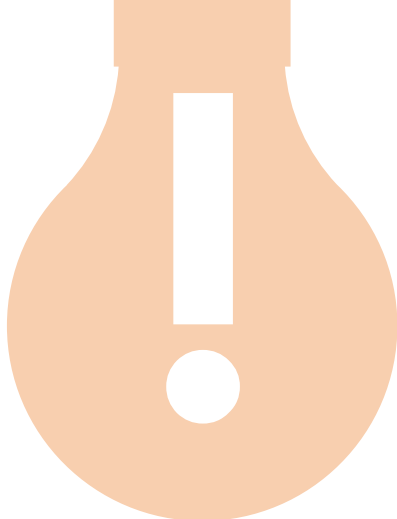
Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2004-2005 included:

- *Books Challenged or Banned, 2003–2004* (August 2004)
- *2003–2004 ILA Annual Report: Adding Up to Success* (October 2004)
- *2005 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2005)

The professional excellence of several Illinois librarians was recognized by *Library Journal* in a feature in their March 15, 2005 issue. Listed among the "movers and shakers" were: Karen D. Bersche, Alliance Library System; Cynthia L. Fuerst, Kankakee Public Library; Veronda Pitchford, Metropolitan Library System; Lisa Poignant, Chillicothe Public Library District; and Aaron Schmidt, Thomas Ford Library, Western Springs.

Improvements to the ILA Web site continued in 2004-2005 with the acquisition of the iMIS eCustomer Management e-Series software. The software allows members to sign in to their accounts from the Web site and enabled major gains in electronic efficiency, including online voting for ILA officers. This platform will eventually enable members to register for events and pay their membership dues online.

Finally, the 2005 IREAD theme, *Superheroes: Powered by Books*, brought Illinois libraries the colorful and imaginative graphics of illustrator Harry Bliss.



Preparing for the Future: 2004-2005

The association ended the fiscal year 2004-2005 with a surplus for the ninth year in a row, albeit a slim surplus in contrast to some past years. ILA's auditors, Selden Fox, Ltd., "commended the executive board and management for an increase in net assets of \$5,744 during 2005. This is an accomplishment to be proud of considering the current economic condition." 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 2004-2005 financial statement is in part due to several unbudgeted or better-than-anticipated results. For example:

- The association has maintained an investment portfolio since 1998; 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 \$15,028 for a total value of \$218,445 and an increase of 13 percent. As we do not budget for a gain, this was a significant contribution to the association's bottom line in 2004-2005.
- Another strong contributor to this year's bottom line was the publication and sales of *Trustee Facts File*, yielding \$7,944 over budgeted revenue.
- In 2003-2004, IREAD raised \$5,339, but the 2004-2005 program turned a \$21,652 profit, largely due to increased marketing and visibility as the result of an LSTA grant.

The above figures are before the allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits related to the project.

The association will enter the coming year under the leadership of President Dianne Harmon and newly-elected Vice President/President-elect Tamiye Meehan. Together with the executive board and staff, the leadership has pledged itself to building on the past for a strong future for ILA.

We face a year sure to be filled with new challenges and opportunities. In the face of an extremely tight FY 2005-2006 budget, the association is already working on ways to find additional revenue sources. The executive board has approved a fund-raising plan in principle and we look for extensive member involvement and assistance.

Income

General Operations _____	\$50,888
Membership _____	\$295,739
Directory/Reporter _____	\$19,391
Conference _____	\$334,999
Publications _____	\$30,361
IREAD _____	\$151,837
Public Policy _____	\$6,100
Legal Defense Fund _____	\$2,765
Awards _____	\$425
Workshops/Projects _____	\$9,614
LSTA Grant _____	\$12,167
Restricted Contributions _____	\$4,239
Reaching Forward _____	\$91,605
Total Income _____	\$1,010,130

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

General Operations _____	\$360,616
Membership/Directory/Reporter _____	\$75,119
Conference _____	\$240,514
Board/Committee _____	\$5,307
Publications _____	\$9,579
IREAD _____	\$130,401
Public Policy _____	\$59,256
Legal Defense Fund _____	\$3,875
Awards _____	\$1,545
Workshops/Projects _____	\$8,622
Professional Development _____	\$832
Forums _____	\$491
LSTA Grant _____	\$13,712
Reaching Forward _____	\$94,517
Total Expenses _____	\$1,004,386

Unrestricted Assets

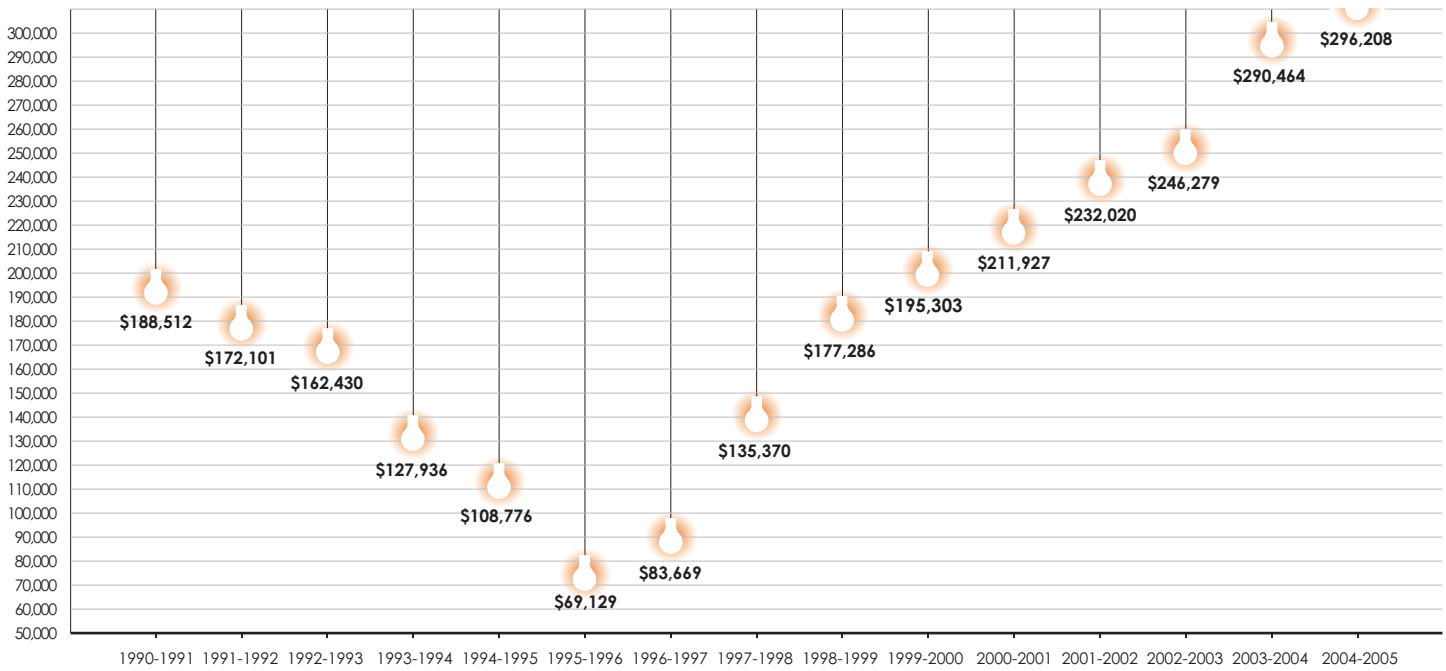
Income/Expenses	\$5,744
Net Assets at end of FY2004	\$290,464
Net Assets at end of FY2005	\$296,208

Net Assets are Comprised of:

Unrestricted Assets	\$257,561
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$30,950
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$7,697
Total Net Assets at End of Year	\$296,208

• Atkinson Memorial Award	\$3,571
• Student Librarian Scholarship	\$10,979
• deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education	\$4,283
• Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development	\$1,278
• Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund	\$10,284
• Legal Defense Fund	\$555

Historical Overview of Net Assets



Cumulative Surplus

After nine years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last nine fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$227,079.

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	\$227,079

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
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

2004/2005 Executive Board

President	Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University
Vice-President/President-Elect	Dianne C. Harmon, Joliet Public Library
Immediate Past President	Nancy Gillfillan, Fondulac Public Library District
Treasurer	Christopher F. Bowen, Downers Grove Public Library
Directors	Laura L. Barnes, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center Kathleen Conley, Illinois State University Lawrence A. D'Urso, Mount Prospect Public Library Annie Marie Ford, University of Illinois at Chicago Margaret Ming Heraty, Arlington Heights Memorial Library Richard C. McCarthy, Gail Borden Public Library District Laurel Minott, Northwestern University Nestor Osorio, Northern Illinois University Ellen C. Popit, Shawnee Library System Charm N. Ruhnke, Lewis & Clark Library System Amanda Standerfer, Helen Matthes Library, Effingham
ALA Councilor	Lynn Stainbrook, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Ex Officio	Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association Anne Craig, Illinois State Library

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