

# REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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# *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

There's a new home for poetry in downtown Chicago, at the Poetry Foundation library at the corner of Dearborn and Superior. Open to the public since June, visitors to the library may browse a collection of over 30,000 volumes, experience audio and video recordings in private listening booths, and view exhibits of poetry-related materials. See article beginning on page 8.

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. 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 3,500 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has four 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.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org). You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 4 THE NEXT STEP FOR ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS: AN INTERVIEW WITH LESLIE BEDNAR AND MICHAEL PIPER  
by Brock Peoples
- 8 A HOME FOR POETRY: CREATION OF THE POETRY FOUNDATION LIBRARY  
by Katherine Litwin
- 12 2011 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- 16 INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
by Lisa Guidarini
- 18 2012 ILA PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES
- 19 2012 ILA ACTION AGENDA
- 20 NEW MEMBERS

## OPINION & COMMENTARY

- 26 MY TURN  
by Amanda McKay

## REGISTRATION FORMS FOR:

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# The Next Step for Illinois Library Systems:

## An Interview with Leslie Bednar and Michael Piper



Michael Piper, executive director of Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), and Leslie Bednar, executive director of Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), responded to the following questions drawn from system membership statewide. Both of the new systems are primarily supported by area and per capita grant funding from the Illinois State Library (ISL) and serve multitype member libraries in two separate geographic regions.

**Q: With the formation of RAILS and IHLS, member libraries are curious as to the advantage of the new larger systems over the former, more local, systems?**

**Piper:** The old saying “there’s power in numbers” is definitely true in this case. In the current fiscal environment, finding ways to increase the efficiency of service provision is key to maintaining those services going forward. Without the merger, we would have been unable to continue to provide key services that libraries and their constituents throughout Illinois have come to rely on: delivery, shared electronic catalogs, and the Talking Book Service. In time the merger will help us realize economies of scale in areas such as staffing, building costs and maintenance, and other day-to-day operations.

**Bednar:** Consistency. We now have the opportunity to ensure members will receive the same information and levels of system services. We operate as two locations within the same grant from the state library, and RAILS and IHLS have pledged to align our services as much as possible.

**Q: What role did the previous systems play, what role do the new systems play, and how do the two differ?**

**Piper:** Before the state financial crisis, systems were able to offer a broad array of programs and services. Now we must focus our efforts on providing three key priority services: delivery, shared electronic catalogs, and the Talking Book Service. These are the state library’s designated priorities for systems, and they reflect the top priorities of our members.

**Bednar:** The former regional library systems served a very important role in library development and consulting, continuing education, materials delivery, and also with supporting local library system automation programs (LLSAPs) at the grassroots level. The new systems will continue to support delivery and LLSAPs, but on a much larger level. My analogy: when systems began several decades ago members needed system support that modeled available technology and communication methods. We have evolved to fewer systems as communication and technology have evolved to serve much larger areas simultaneously.

[continued on page 6]



**Q: Will the systems support continuing education (CE)? What role will LLSAPs play?**

**Piper:** We look forward to the day when systems are once again able to provide all of the services their members want and need, and CE is at the top of that list. LLSAPs will continue to provide CE related to their shared automation systems.

**Bednar:** Within LLSAPs, continuing education will continue to be a service we provide. We are looking at ways to provide continuing education outside of the LLSAPs that is not dependent upon area and per capita grant funding. WebJunction Illinois is an alternative to traditional CE provided by systems, and is a grant project with continuing support from the state library.

**Q: RAILS and IHLS serve populations that are much more diverse than the previous systems did. Will systems be able to address issues unique to small rural libraries as well as large urban libraries? How will you keep everyone informed?**

**Piper:** Library staff members have always been tremendous networkers and we are working on tools that will help foster these networking relationships on a larger scale (such as online forums). We are in the process of forming a RAILS Member Advisory Group and one of the top priorities for this group will be to provide us with advice on how best to communicate with both large and small libraries. We will also take advantage of technology to keep in touch with our widespread, diverse constituency.

**Bednar:** Communication is the key to service in our much larger service areas. Members need mechanisms for reaching out to each other and to system staff. This can happen through the IHLS advisory councils that will be established soon, continuation of grassroots member meetings, and a variety of communication vehicles.

**Q: Will member libraries be able to use the new system structure to negotiate larger consortial purchases (for example, digital books, databases, etc.)?**

**Piper:** Looking further into the future when more financial resources may be available, it will be possible to explore ways to provide this service, if not directly, then through partnering or contracting with an organization already negotiating consortial purchases.

**Bednar:** We will continue to support consortial purchases through the LLSAPs and are evaluating self-sustaining models for consortial purchases outside of the LLSAPs.

**Q: Will the LLSAPs within the new systems continue to function with different Integrated Library Systems (ILS), such as SirsiDynix or Innovative?**

**Piper:** For the immediate future, yes. We are using the current fiscal year as a year of planning and exploring possible service models for the future.

**Bednar:** Our LLSAP working group is currently evaluating vendor responses to an RFI for a shared ILS platform. Our goal is to have all LLSAPs merged into a single organization, sharing the same platform and bibliographic database. The first step is to determine if there is a vendor that can accommodate our combined size, and what changes might be necessary if we can only share the platform and not the database.

**Q: How will the new systems facilitate discovery and access of materials between member libraries using different LLSAPs? Will systems provide delivery service between different LLSAPs? Is statewide service a possibility?**

**Piper:** Systems have long worked together to provide delivery service to the entire state of Illinois, via the LLSAPs and a wide variety of individual library catalogs, and we will continue to do so and actively seek new ways to leverage these services in the future. As you know, a delivery study is currently under way that I hope will help shed light on these issues as well.

**Bednar:** We are excited about the possibility of a single LLSAP in IHLS utilizing the same platform and database for discovery. That will guide and shape our utilization of delivery methods, with an end goal of an improved patron experience all around. In the interim, we will continue delivery between the LLSAPs, and look at options to make that more seamless. I believe a statewide resource sharing service is a possibility, and our move to a single platform/database in IHLS is an important first step.

**Q: Do you see systems as leaders, experts, and models? Will you be introducing libraries to new service models and technologies—or merely responding as necessary?**

**Piper:** Systems have long been in the leadership role in Illinois, especially in the area of technology. Our CE and consulting services have been key tools in fostering this leadership role as well. Introducing member libraries to new service models and technologies to help them meet the demands of the future is a key role I hope we can continue to play, as funds permit.

**Bednar:** I see systems as leaders in providing services that matter most to patrons. As we spend this first year refining our current services, we will also consider different service models and share with our members as appropriate.

**Q: In your own words, characterize the relationship between the library systems and the Illinois State Library (ISL).**

**Piper:** The state library is not only our funder, they are also our partner. We intend to continue building on the strong relationship we have developed. We share the same goal — to elevate library service across the state.

**Bednar:** I see the relationship as being collaborative and supportive. The merger planning in FY11 would have been quite a challenge without their support and guidance. With that behind us, I look forward to strengthening and refining our services to members, while working in partnership with RAILS and ISL.

**Q: With state funding so insecure, do the systems plan to seek other sources of funding besides the area and per capita grant?**

**Piper:** This is an area we would like to explore further in the future.

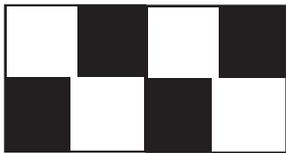
**Bednar:** We need to explore other models of sustainability to ensure that the services our members depend on can survive.

**Q: Finally, why should systems still exist? Could their services be provided more effectively at a statewide level or even by independent consortia? Could Illinois libraries possibly be better served by a repeal of the library systems act and the redistribution of the area and per capita grant monies received by systems directly to the libraries?**

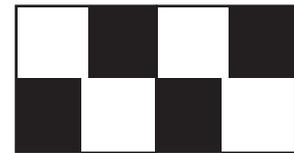
**Piper:** Throughout their illustrious forty-five-year history, systems have demonstrated a cost-effective and efficient service model that served our state well and stood as a national model. Today's systems are much different than their predecessors, testifying to their ability to stand the test of time. To survive, systems must demonstrate that they are the preferred provider for cooperative services. That means we must continually seek new efficiencies and cost savings. Our proactive decision to consolidate operations is one example of that. We know the merger is only a start. With support from our partners, we have every intention to continually seek new ways to improve, so systems can remain a vital aspect of our state's library services environment.

**Bednar:** With the creation of RAILS and IHLS, we are truly approaching a statewide model of system services. After all, we operate from the same grant. We are committed to working with our sister system, RAILS, to provide comparable levels of core services. We recognize that member libraries have choices to make regarding service providers, and appreciate the trust they have placed in us. Illinois' library systems have evolved over the decades in part due to the leadership and abilities of our staff and services. With much fewer administrative units today, we are able to hone our core services and deliver an improved experience to our members. The return on investment validates the utilization of tax dollars in library systems. **ILA**

# **LIBRARIES LEADING THE RACE!**



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# A Home for Poetry: Creation of the Poetry Foundation Library

**W**hen the Poetry Foundation Library opened its doors on June 25, 2011, it became the only library in the Midwest dedicated solely to poetry, and one of a small number of poetry libraries around the world. As the first librarian hired by the Poetry Foundation, my fantastic task was to create a new library out of a singular collection of resources to be housed in an architecturally distinctive space. Located at 61 West Superior Street and designed by the Chicago firm John Ronan Architects, the building was designed to be an artistic, cultural building in an urban environment.

The newly created library exists to serve both the needs of foundation staff and to fulfill the mission of promoting a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. The foundation's board decided that the collection would be non-circulating; how to use this valuable resource to engage the larger community of Chicago was yet to be determined. And that's where I came in.

## THE COLLECTION FINDS A HOME

The origins of the library's collection stem from *Poetry* magazine, founded in 1912 by Chicago's own Harriet Monroe. Titles were sent to the magazine by both publishers and poets with the hope that they might be granted review space in its pages or even a listing in its "Books Received" column. When Monroe died in 1936, the magazine's book collection, along with its archive, was given to the Special Collections department at the University of Chicago, where both are still held today. After this initial transfer, the magazine's collection of review copies began to grow again,

along with an accumulation of purchased titles and augmented by the occasional gift of a valuable first edition by board members or friends of the magazine. But it was without a home of its own.

One of the first initiatives undertaken by the Poetry Foundation, which grew out of *Poetry* magazine and expanded in 2003 following the receipt of a major gift by philanthropist Ruth Lilly, was to create "A Home for Poetry." The goal was construction of a building that would house both the magazine, which had been itinerant throughout its century of existence, as well as all other programs and foundation operations. One of the central features of the building's public space would be a library where the collection, in storage at the Newberry Library since 1987, would once again be within reach of staff and made available to the public for the first time.

## GETTING READY FOR VISITORS

My first charge was to prepare the collection for use by the public. During its years in storage at the Newberry, it had never been cataloged or made ready for external users. This involved three phases, some of which are ongoing. The first phase assessed what was in the collection and determined what would be held in open stacks, what would be closed, and what would be culled. Exceptional works that would be difficult to replace were placed into closed stacks. Additionally, many works that were fragile or in need of repair were also pulled into closed stacks.

[continued on page 10]

OR ST

"The newly created library exists to serve both the needs of foundation staff and to fulfill the mission of promoting a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture."



The second phase addressed the documentation that accompanied the collection. The majority of the roughly 25,000 titles contained some form of paper ephemera; most of this was standard issue publication information, but personal letters from authors and publishers were not uncommon. All of the ephemera needed to be removed and preserved in its original order, with notes made as to its origin when this was not immediately apparent.

Cataloging the collection, the third phase, included a key decision to shelve single author volumes of poetry by author last name, as opposed to using the Library of Congress or Dewey system. Commonly used in bookstores and the fiction section of most public libraries, alphabetical shelving provides both ease of access and an association of reading as a pleasurable pursuit, as opposed to something done as a chore or out of duty. Alphabetical shelving also eliminated the need to add spine labels to a collection in which many of the titles were physically remarkable. We retained Library of Congress for all of the biographical and critical works.

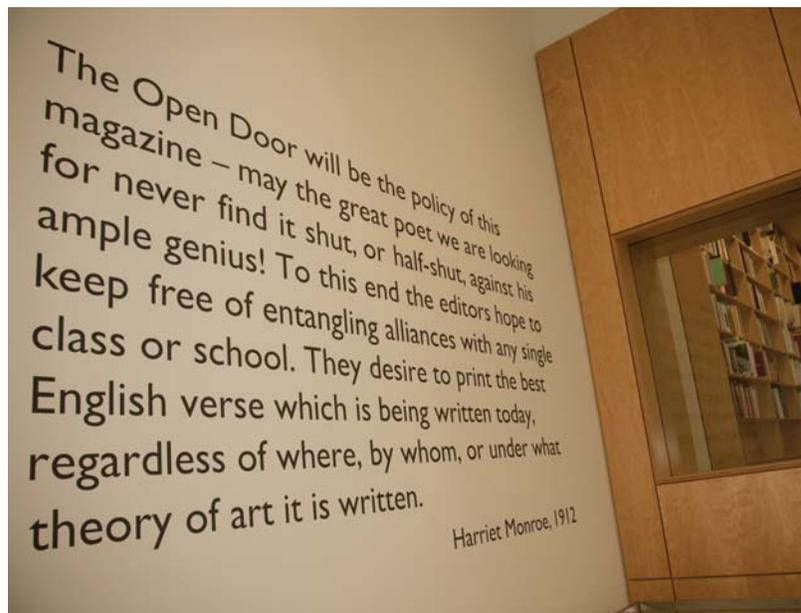
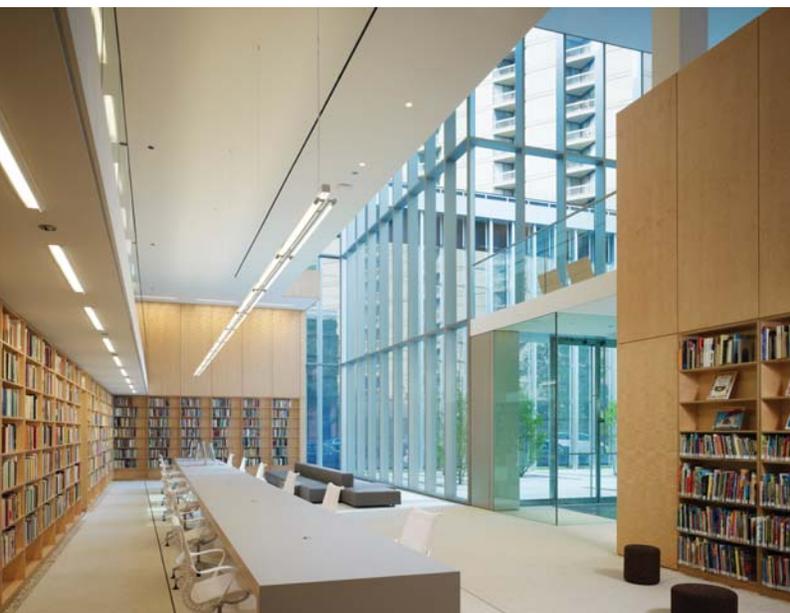
In addition to the collection that had been housed at the Newberry, the foundation also possessed a second, smaller collection of children's poetry, donated by current and former Children's Poet Laureates. While this material did not require the research and archival work called for by the main collection, it did warrant the creation of a shelving system based on reading level. I opted for a rather broad system with the titles grouped into three levels to encompass the earliest readers through elementary school.

## MAKING VISITORS FEEL AT HOME

Since the library's opening last June, and with the largest portion of collection preparation complete, my focus has turned to developing programs for the library. The library is still in its formative stages, and as we learn more about our patrons' needs, new program ideas will surely arise. Since our collection is non-circulating, our programming needs to be a springboard to inspire patrons to engage with both the collection and with poetry in new ways.

Our first program, a library open house, was created to introduce the collection to the public. We highlighted some of its richness by asking local poets to read works that were meaningful to them, and created a scavenger hunt which gave patrons an opportunity to explore the collection in-depth. We also had a fortune teller giving tarot readings and prescribing poems to participants based on their selected cards. More than 800 people attended, building an audience base for announcements of future programs.

Every Wednesday, we open the space only to children under eighteen and their accompanying guardians. This allows us to transform the space into a more child-friendly one, and also to run programs whose noise might otherwise interfere with an adult patron's enjoyment of the space. We hold a story time for very young children every week, during which the children do art projects that relate to the poems that have been read.



We also offer field trips, free of charge, for any school that wants to bring classes for a visit. We work with individual teachers to customize the experience to meet the needs of their students. As an example, we created “Politics of Poetry” for high school students. Students use newspaper headlines to write their own found poems. After they complete them, we discuss how creative expression differs from the journalistic news. Then we discuss theories of authenticity and creative license as it relates to popular contemporary poetic works.

Our special collections are highlighted through talks and exhibitions. Our first exhibition, *Beautiful Outsiders*, currently on view until January 11, 2012, features titles from the library’s holdings of Black Sparrow Press, Burning Deck, and Fulcrum Press. These three independent presses are known for their striking book design and wide-ranging publication history. Events planned for the exhibition include a talk about design by *Poetry* Senior Editor Don Share and a demonstration of the clamshell press by April Sheridan of Columbia College’s Center for Book and Paper Arts.

The library is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; and to children and guardians only on Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information on library programs, services, and events, visit <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>. 



## PERSONAL PICKS: KATHERINE LITWIN'S FAVORITE BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION

*The Ratio of One to a Stone*  
Adams, Anna  
The First East Coast Theatre and Publishing Company, 1982

*The Sleeping Fury*  
Bogan, Louise  
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937

*Light and Dark*  
Bronk, William  
Origin Press, 1956

*Flower, Fist, and Bestial Wail*  
Bukowski, Charles  
Hearse Press, 1959

*Glottal Stop: 101 Poems*  
Celan, Paul (translated by Nikolai Popov & Heather McHugh)  
Wesleyan University Press, 2000

*The Country Between Us*  
Forche, Carolyn  
Harper and Row, 1981

*The Dream Keeper*  
Hughes, Langston  
Alfred A. Knopf, 1935

*Cables to Rage*  
Lorde, Audre  
Paul Breman, 1970

*Factory of Tears*  
Mort, Valzhyna (translated by Elizabeth Oehlkers Wright and Franz Wright)  
Copper Canyon Press, 2008

*The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*  
Ondaatje, Michael  
Norton, 1974

*Hallelujah Anyway*  
Patchen, Kenneth  
New Directions, 1966

*On the Boiler*  
Yeats, W.B.  
The Cuala Press, 1939

# 2011 ILA Annual Conference

## Conference Statistics

**Total attendees:** 1,945

**Exhibit booths:** 145

**Major Speakers:** Opening General Session Keynote speakers Joan Frye Williams and George Needham; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham; Duane Bray from IDEO; David W. Singleton of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library; Joseph F. Clair, Campus Energy and Sustainability Director, IIT; iREAD illustrator Barry Gott; and Emmy Award-winning comedian, Paula Poundstone.

## Conference Registration

	2011 Rosemont	2010 Chicago	2009 Peoria	2008 Chicago	2007 Springfield	2006 Chicago	2005 Peoria	2004 Chicago	2003 Springfield	2002 Chicago	2001 Springfield
Full	623	673	460	767	580	844	616	736	527	699	579
Single day Tuesday	186	190	51	242	68	281	35	151	39	161	46
Single day Wednesday	219	191	77	269	109	233	122	282	119	258	66
Single day Thursday	238	194	10	77	12	66	24	98	8	83	47
Preconference only	0	0	0	16	5	32	6	108	151	151	73
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>811</b>
Speakers	80	147	65	83	74	100	27	105	78	133	102
Free expo passes	169	220	91	326	141	206	50	236	100	426	88
Exhibitor representatives	430	469	187	407	227	368	207	392	202	503	236
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>1,237</b>

## Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	685	685	994	695	795	592	783	575	918	554	861
Hotel Rooms Used	432	384	737	611	939	690	945	626	1,169	605	896
Number of Companies	125	149	101	157	125	137	113	151	132	165	117
Number of Booths (including any paid canceled booths)	145	170	118	178	142	158	129	170	144	173	112.5
Total Square Feet	14,500	17,000	11,800	17,600	14,200	15,800	12,900	16,700	14,400	18,600	12,250

962 early bird registrations accounted for 76 percent (versus 64 percent last year) of final paid registration figures; 133 advance registrations accounted for 11 percent (versus 27 percent last year) of final paid registrations; and 171 late and on-site registrations accounted for 13 percent (versus 14 percent last year) of final paid registrations.

## ILA expresses its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and donors of this year's conference:

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WCT Architects, Inc.

ILA wishes to thank our sponsors and all those individuals and organizations who have given generously of their time and talents to make this conference a success.

Photos by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.



Kathi Kresol, 2011 iREAD Chair, presents ILA Immediate Past President Gail Bush (r) with the 2011 Summer Reading mascot in recognition of her support of the Summer Reading Program.



Frank Martin, producer and director of *For the Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots*, speaks at the annual DiversiTEA!



ComedySportz cracked up the crowd on Wednesday night, with the help of several ILA members, including Kate Hall (r), Director at New Lenox Public Library District.

# 2011 ILA Annual Conference Award Photos

Photos by Dennis Pryber



## Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial/DEMCO Award

The Literacy Suite, Waukegan Public Library, accepted by Richard Lee and Elizabeth Stearns (r), representing the Waukegan Public Library, presented by John Ison and Janet Nelson (l), DEMCO, Inc.



## Crosman Memorial Award

Michele Paladines (r), Oak Park Public Library, presented by Kathy Underriner (l), Brodart Co.



## Davis Cup Award

Lori Pulliam (r), Oak Park Public Library, presented by Stephanie Edwards, ILA Youth Services Forum (l).



## Robert P. Doyle Award and Oberman and Rich Award

Rhonda Szewczyk, Elk Grove Village Public Library (r), Oberman and Rich recipient; and Sara Torrez (cr), Zion-Benton Public Library, Doyle Award recipient. Representing the ILA Reaching Forward Forum were Debra Nelson and Maureen Dunne. Awards were presented at the 2011 Reaching Forward Conference on May 6, 2011.



## Golden Ticket Award

Kathryn Mitchell (r), Homer Township Public Library District, presented by Stephanie Edwards, ILA Youth Services Forum (l).



## Highsmith Library Innovation Award

Early Learning Center, Waukegan Public Library Award presented by Matt Mulder, Highsmith, to Richard Lee (r) and Elizabeth Stearns, Waukegan Public Library.



## Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award

Paula Kaufman (r), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented by Jane Treadwell, representing IACRL (l), Susan Singleton, CARLI; and last year's Illinois Academic Award winner, David Carlson, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.



## Librarian of the Year Award

Su Erickson (r), Robert Morris University, presented by Nancy Maloney (l), LAC Group



## Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award

Donna Dziedzic, Organization Transition Solutions, accepted by Lynn Elam (r). Presented by Kathy Berggren (l), Public Policy Committee chair.

# Awards



### Deborah Dowley Preiser Award

Nicolette M. Seidl, Evergreen Park Public Library, presented by Gail Bush (l). Accepted by Laura Meyer (c) and Mary Deering (r), Evergreen Park Public Library



### Alexander J. Skrzypek Award

Gary Gustin (r) and Holly Jin (c), Skokie Public Library, presented by Anne Craig (l), the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service.



### TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Theodore Schwitzner (r), Illinois State University, presented by Nathan Handlon, TBS (l).



### Trustee of the Year Award

Jacqueline Hinaber (cr), Mount Prospect Public Library, presented by Dorothy Smith (r), Library Trustee Forum manager, Massimo (Max) Bianchini (cl) and Forrest Wendt, WCT Architects (l).



### Sylvia Murphy Williams Award

(r to l), Barbara Ann Alvarez, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Rebecca M. King, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Margita Lidaka, Dominican University. Presented by Gail Bush (l).



### Reference Services Award

William J. Pardue (r), Arlington Heights Memorial Library, presented by Diane Srebro (l), Reference Services Forum and Cynthia Lett, ProQuest.



### Jeanne Gilborne and Ellen Johnson School Librarianship Scholarship Award

Robert Allen (r), Yorkville Intermediate School, presented by Chris Graves, President-Elect, Illinois School Library Media Association.

# Interview with Michael Cunningham

**P**ulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham (*The Hours, A Home at the End of the World, Flesh and Blood, By Nightfall*) headlined the Illinois Authors' Dinner at the ILA Annual Conference, and graciously granted the following interview to Lisa Guidarini, Algonquin Area Public Library District.

**LG:** How do you feel about the direction publishing is going — eBooks, self and indie publishers attempting to replace big publishers?

**MC:** I don't think that indies and others are trying to push out big publishers. I think they're widening the field. They're publishing writers the big publishers won't, because certain writers just don't sell enough copies. They're making more books available to more people. I'm all for it.

**LG:** Do you schedule in writing time? How do you balance writing and other parts of your life?

**MC:** I have a strict routine. In the mornings I go straight to my studio, which is a fifteen-minute walk from my apartment in New York. I need to segue straight from sleep and dreams into writing — it helps me maintain the illusion that this world I'm inventing is real. I work for at least three or four hours, or more, depending on how it's going that day, but never more than six hours, by which time my brain has taken on the consistency of lukewarm tapioca. I work six days a week. I am not particularly glamorous, reckless, or erratic in my work habits, and sometimes I wish I were more interesting along those lines. But really, I can only work this way — steadily, regularly, daily.

**LG:** Were you a bookish child? Favorite books?

**MC:** I was not, in fact, an especially bookish child. I grew up in Los Angeles and was more a surfer dude than a reader. It wasn't until high school, when I was forced to read Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, that I understood what writing could be — how language could be made to swoop and swirl and sing. That's what really got me started, first as a reader and then, eventually, as a writer. I will say, however, that *Winnie the Pooh* and *A Wrinkle in Time* were huge to me when I was a little boy, before I turned seven or eight and began to pursue an adolescent life of crime. So you could probably say my most crucial influences were A. A. Milne and Virginia Woolf.

**LG:** Was your family bookish/did they encourage your writing?

**MC:** My family has always been encouraging about my writing, for which I bless them a thousandfold. They would in fact have been encouraging about anything I wanted to do, though of course, being parents, they worried that I was embarking on a life of obscure impoverishment. What parents wouldn't worry about that?

We were not a particularly bookish family. We weren't opposed to books, we owned books, but we weren't one of those "Highly Literate" families, we didn't worship the written word. I suppose you could say that we felt about literature the way certain Presbyterians feel about divine glory. Yeah, right, sure, but what's for dinner?

**LG:** Any writers a particular inspiration for you?

**MC:** Woolf, obviously. And Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*. James Joyce. Flannery O'Connor. Denis Johnson. Don DeLillo. I could name at least a few dozen more.



Photo by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.

**LG:** Which writers do you respect? Favorite recent reads?

**MC:** I'd have to say I respect pretty much anybody who's able to finish a novel. Most recently, I've been enamored of Julie Otsuka's *The Buddha in the Attic*, and Denis Johnson's *Train Dreams*.

**LG:** Where do you do your writing? Do you do much revision?

**MC:** I work in a studio, a tiny tenement apartment about six blocks from where I live. I revise constantly, obsessively, and sometimes beyond reason. It's all I can do not to go into bookstores and make changes, in ink, by hand, to the books I've already published.

**LG:** Do you handwrite/use computer?

**MC:** I use a computer. I love my computer. Words on the computer screen feel to me like they occupy a halfway point between my consciousness and the page. They're like projected dreams, real and yet not quite real, endlessly malleable.

**LG:** Are you working on your next novel? Anything you can tell us about it, if so?

**MC:** I am in fact well into a new novel, but am sorry to say I can't tell you anything about it. I've found that talking about a work in progress robs it of its power, in my own mind. A novel in its early stages has to remain a secret, something with which I live alone, a deeply private affair. Blabbing about it seems to dilute my own slightly nutty adoration of it. ■■

# 2012 ILA Public Policy Initiatives

## Introduction

Illinois libraries provide a high rate of return on investment to the taxpayers they serve. They link people to information, act as a focal point of the communities they represent, and level the playing field by making resources equally available to all members of their constituency. As Illinois residents have become more diverse, libraries have developed collections and services to meet the unique and varying needs of these distinct populations. The ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) works with the Illinois State Library and the broader library community to maintain open communications with state officials.

The Illinois State Library provides guidance and grants to libraries. It negotiates contracts and serves as a resource for all libraries in the state.

Public and school libraries receive per capita grants from the state that provide critical services. For smaller, less affluent libraries, these grants can be the only funding for materials or technology. These grants are even more important during difficult economic times when other revenue sources have been eliminated.

One way libraries provide a healthy return on investment is by having skilled and knowledgeable librarians to answer questions, organize information, and guide customers through the maze of available data. In order to keep and attract highly skilled staff, libraries need to offer pay and benefits packages that compete with private industry.

Libraries are often the access point to the World Wide Web for many Illinois residents. Again, skilled staff is needed to provide basic training to the public in new and emerging forms of communication, and to maintain the equipment. The three — five-year replacement span for maintaining updated hardware, and the ever-increasing need for added bandwidth, imposes a significant cost upon libraries.

Throughout the year, PPC meets regularly to review all legislation with potentially beneficial or harmful consequences for the library community. Working with legislative counsel, the committee will pay attention to issues ranging from library funding to intellectual freedom to pension reform for public employees. Its work will be shared with members through ILA's communication channels and all members are encouraged to be active participants in keeping libraries on the agenda in their local communities and in Springfield.

## Library Jobline of Illinois



<http://www.ila.org/jobline>

**Positions for Librarians and Support Staff**

All employer job openings are listed on the ILA Web site ([www.ila.org/jobline](http://www.ila.org/jobline)) for 30 days and the cost is \$100.

# 2012 ILA Action Agenda

The Illinois Library Association is committed to serving as an advocate for libraries by developing legislative initiatives that: improve funding for libraries; protect intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality; expand access to information and library resources to all Illinois residents; and increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries through cooperation, collaboration, and resource sharing.

## **Library Funding**

The Illinois Library Association will work with a broad coalition of library advocates to improve funding for libraries. The association will:

1. Work to restore legislated funding levels such as the public and school library per capita grants, and explore alternative sources of library funding.
2. Support legislative proposals to mitigate the harmful effects of the tax cap limitation act.
3. Work with the legislature to increase the Secretary of State's budget in order to increase the funding for the Illinois State Library.
4. Work with the legislature to ensure responsible pension systems.

## **Intellectual Freedom and Privacy**

The Illinois Library Association is committed to protecting intellectual freedom and privacy while providing open access to information for all Illinois residents. The association will:

1. Continue to educate the public on the safe use of the Internet, including interactive Web applications, by children.
2. Continue to oppose legislation mandating the use of Internet filters in libraries.
3. Encourage governing boards of schools and libraries to develop an Acceptable Internet Use Policy with input from their community.
4. Continue to oppose legislation that erodes the privacy of library users.

## **Access to Library Services**

The Illinois Library Association believes access to library services should be a right and the responsibility of every Illinois resident. The association will:

1. Oppose legislation that would erode public library service areas.
2. Work to extend tax-supported public library service to the 9 percent of Illinois residents currently unserved.
3. Work to ensure libraries are established in good faith with intentions to operate as a library.
4. Work to ensure that school library legislation is expanded to equip all school libraries with certified media personnel.

## **Increased Effectiveness of Illinois Libraries**

The Illinois Library Association is committed to promoting legislation that will increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries. The association will:

1. Work to develop library legislation that is comparable to legislation benefiting other entities of government.
2. Work to develop initiatives that improve the ability of Illinois libraries to provide library services to the citizens of Illinois.
3. Provide measured, thoughtful direction into legislation that could provide administrative cooperation, public service enhancement, and economies of scale to public libraries in the "new normal."

# ILA Welcomes New Members

We would love to welcome your friends and colleagues, too. By sponsoring a new member, you share the benefits of membership with others ... and help create a stronger and more effective voice to promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Blank Slate Press**, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Innovative Design Concepts**, Frankfort  
**Unitrends Software**, Chicago

## FRIENDS OF ILA MEMBERS

**Nanette Andersson**, Prairie Grass Design.com, Geneva  
**Elizabeth Khoodikians-Guillette**, Nalco Company, Oak Park  
**Tari Marshall**, So Write Communications, La Grange Park

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

**Forest Park Public Library**  
**Lexington Public Library District**  
**St. Augustine College**, Chicago

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

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**Rebecca A. Anderson**, Chicago  
**Sandy Anderson**, Frankfort Public Library District  
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**Karen Bersche**, Towanda District Library  
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**Shelley Sutherland**, Niles Public Library District  
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**Nina Varma**, Deerfield Public Library  
**Carroll Wagus**, Cary Area Public Library  
**Susan Wisnieski**, Geneva Public Library

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**Lauren Crowther**, Darien  
**Kunal Kochar**, Naperville  
**Erica E. Myles**, Chicago  
**Julie Rand**, Glencoe  
**Patrick Seymour**, Chicago  
**John W. Stillwell**, Chicago

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**Margaret Geiger**, Glenview Public Library  
**Janan Hudek**, Messenger Public Library of North Aurora

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**Susan Brabeck**, Cary Area Public Library  
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**Robert Diehl**, Warren-Newport Public Library District, Gurnee  
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**Gail Keefe**, Covidien, Wood River  
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# Illinois Library Trustees: Charting a New Course in Times of Change

## ILA Library Trustee Forum 2012 Workshops

**North: Saturday, February 4, 2012**  
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook  
1401 W. 22 St.  
Oak Brook, IL 60523

**South: Saturday, March 24, 2012**  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center  
701 E. Adams St.  
Springfield, IL 62701-1616

Join the ILA Library Trustee Forum for our annual workshop, designed specifically for library trustees. This year we will be offering the program twice, in Oak Brook and Springfield.

For more information on the program, and to register online, please visit [www.ila.org/trustee-workshop](http://www.ila.org/trustee-workshop).

For those requiring an overnight stay, a block of hotel rooms has been reserved for each location.

**Chicago Oak Brook Marriott:**

The single/double room rate is \$74, plus tax, per night. Please call (800) 228-9290 or (630) 573-8555 to make your reservation. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 13.

**President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center:**

The single/double room rate is \$89.99. Please call (217) 544-8800 to make your reservation. Reservations must be made by Friday, March 2.

### Registration Form

Remember to contact the hotel directly for room reservations!

ILA Member Registration: \$125\*

Non-Member Registration: \$150\*

Registration includes breakfast and lunch, two snack breaks, and the workshop.

*\* Register multiple trustees and save! Register one trustee at the full price and each additional trustee from your institution will receive a \$10 registration discount. Please send a separate form to register each trustee.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your session:**

North/Oak Brook, February 4:

South/Springfield, March 24:

**Payment Information:**

Registration Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

Check  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  AmEx

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline** for registration is January 27, 2012 for Oak Brook and March 16, 2012 for Springfield.

**Cancellations** must be received in writing before January 27 or March 16, respectively. Cancellations received after January 27/March 16 and before February 4/March 24, will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 4/March 24. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the workshops. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799; phone: (312) 644-1896, fax: (312) 644-1899.



# adopt, adapt, accelerate

IACRL 2012 Conference ■ March 16, 2012 ■ DoubleTree Hotel, Oak Brook

Join IACRL, a forum of the Illinois Library Association and a chapter of ACRL, for a statewide conference for academic librarians in Illinois. The conference will offer inspiration as well as practical tips for academic librarians in all types of institutions.

**Keynote:** Steven Bell, ACRL 2011–2012 Vice-President  
Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services, Temple University

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 15:**

Pre-Conference Dessert Reception 8:00 – 9:00 P.M.

**Friday, March 16:**

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Breakfast
9:15 – 10:15 A.M.	Breakout Sessions
10:30 – 11:30 A.M.	Breakout Sessions
11:45 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.	Luncheon Keynote and Poster Sessions
1:45 – 2:45 P.M.	Breakout Sessions
3:15 – 4:15 P.M.	Breakout Sessions

**For more information on the conference and to register online, visit <http://www.ila.org/iacrl2012>**

## CONFERENCE HOTEL

A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree Oak Brook. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation:

DoubleTree Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook  
1909 Spring Road  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
Phone: (630) 472-6000  
Reservations: (800) 222-TREE or <http://doubletree1.hilton.com>  
Single/Double/Triple/Quad Rate: \$117  
Reservations must be made by February 23, 2012

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Early Bird Registration:** \$125

The Early Bird Deadline is February 17, 2012

**Advance Registration:** \$150

Registration between February 18 and March 9

**On-Site Registration:** \$175

Registration after March 9

**Student Registration:** \$60

Sponsor-a-Student: \$15

Your contribution will help underwrite the cost of attendance for a library school student.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Registration Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

Check  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  AmEx

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Deadline for registration** is March 9. Cancellations must be received in writing before March 9. Cancellations received before March 9 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after March 9. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the workshops. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: (312) 644-1896, fax: (312) 644-1899.

# National Library Legislative Day

**April 24, 2012** Mark your calendar for National Library Legislative Day, Tuesday, April 24, 2012. With state cuts and more federal dollars being used for per capita grants, this is a very critical and exciting time for us to get our message out to Congress. A variety of activities have been designed to prepare National Library Legislative Day participants for an informed and effective day of congressional visits.

**Accommodations:** ILA has reserved a block of rooms at the Capitol Hill Suites, 200 C St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: (202) 543-6000; fax: (202) 547-0883; \$249 single, \$269 double, \$289 triple, and \$309 quad, 14.5 percent sales taxes are not included. Room rates include continental breakfast. High-speed wired and wireless Internet access are available complimentary within guest suites. When making reservations, please mention the **National Library Legislative Day**. The cutoff date for reservations is March 22, 2012. At that time any unsold rooms will be released to the hotel for general sale. Reservations received after the cutoff date will be on a space-and-rate available basis only.

## MONDAY, APRIL 23

- 9:00 A.M. Participants may want to attend the ALA briefing day to be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill, an Affinia Hotel, 415 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001. This full day (9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.) of issues briefings is designed to prepare participants for congressional visits.
- 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. The National Library Legislative Day Committee has scheduled a Congressional Reception (location to be announced). All representatives and senators will be sent invitations to attend the reception. Congressional staff is also being invited.
- 6:00 P.M. This day's events will continue with a cocktail hour (6:00 – 7:00 P.M.) and dinner (7:00 P.M.) at the Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: (202) 484-4590. Attendance at dinner is optional. Our invited speaker is Christina M. Tchen, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 24

- 8:30 – 9:45 A.M. A kickoff with a brief summary of key issues has been scheduled at a location to be announced on Capitol Hill.
- 9:45 A.M. The delegation will "Hit the Hill," with scheduled congressional appointments.
- 3:00 P.M. Currently, the tentative scheduled meeting with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your registration fee includes legislative materials, coffee breaks at the briefing sessions, and the Congressional Reception on Monday evening, organized by the National Library Legislative Day Committee. \$25 of your registration fee goes to the ALA for coffee breaks, room rental, and speakers; \$15 goes to ILA for registration, organizing the packets, dinner, and congressional appointments; and \$5 goes for speaker and guest expenses.

- \$45 for ILA Members     \$55 for nonmembers
- \$55 for dinner on Monday night at the Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: (202) 484-4590. All dinners will be served with warm breads; seasonal garden greens (baby spinach, bib lettuce, red oak, tomatoes, cucumbers, dates, walnuts, dried cranberries, herb vinaigrette); Ghirardelli chocolate truffle cake, pomegranate coulis, whipped cream; coffee, decaffeinated coffee, and a selection of fine teas. A cash bar will be available. **Price includes 10 percent District of Columbia sales tax and 20 percent gratuity.** Please choose one of the following menu options:

- Classic chicken piccata, sautéed with lemon, capers, and butter, roasted mushroom potatoes, asparagus, baby carrots
- Herb crusted mahi mahi, lemon beurre blanc, roasted potatoes, julienne carrots, green beans
- Fine herb risotto, roasted asparagus, seasonal grilled vegetables tomato jus, parmesan cheese (vegetarian)

### Method of Payment:

- Check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to ILA or
- MasterCard     VISA     Discover     AmEx

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

While attending the 2012 National Library Legislative Day, I will be staying at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of hotel or other accommodations).



### Deadline for registration is April 1, 2012.

Cancellations must be received in writing before April 1. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after April 1. Confirmations and additional information will be sent after the registration deadline. Send payment to the ILA Office, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799, fax: (312) 644-1899, <http://www.ila.org/events>.



# Internships

A MUTUALLY REWARDING EXPERIENCE

**T**he job market is more competitive than ever, and internships can give new Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) graduates a leg up in their job searches.

“Internships allow students to give different LIS career pathways a test drive, gain practical hands-on experience, build relevant skills to add to their résumé, and engage in valuable professional networking opportunities,” said Jill Klees, San José State University career center liaison to the School of Library and Information Science.



The San José State University School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) invites members of the Illinois Library Association to take advantage of this mutual learning experience by becoming internship supervisors and sharing their knowledge with aspiring information professionals.

Internship supervisors collaborate with SLIS faculty to provide rich, structured field learning experiences for students in a variety of professional settings. As interns gain new knowledge, explore career options, and expand

their professional connections, they also participate in a two-way exchange of knowledge with their site supervisors and other employees at their host institutions.

“Interns not only contribute their time and work to our library, but also give us an opportunity to stay up-to-date on what is being taught in graduate schools and receive fresh input about current practices,” said Alba Scott, internship supervisor and librarian, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Graduate students enrolled in the ALA-accredited, fully-online MLIS program at San José State University can select from more than 225 internship opportunities each semester. SLIS students live across North America, including Illinois. Learn how you can host an intern: <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/interns>

The School of Library and Information Science at San José State University offers a robust curriculum for aspiring information professionals including two fully-online master degrees and a doctoral program: Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS), Master of Archives and Records Administration (MARA), and the San José Gateway PhD Program.



Let the learning begin:  
[slisweb.sjsu.edu/ila](http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/ila)



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY  
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE



## ◀ MY TURN ▶

| Amanda McKay, Helen Matthes Library |

# From Layoff to Library Director, and Stops Along the Way

I knew the call was coming. My work as the special projects coordinator for all nine Illinois multitype library systems ensured that I was privy to what was going on with the state financial crisis, so I wasn't surprised. The afternoon that it happened, I thought about all of the thousands of people in this recession that didn't see it coming, had no advance warning. Most of all, who didn't have bosses that were as kind and caring as mine, doing everything humanly possible to ensure that we landed with only the softest of thuds rather than being forced unceremoniously off the steep cliff of unemployment. At my office at the Lewis and Clark Library System (LCLS), we all had a few weeks to wrap up projects, gather new leads and share them with each other, mourn, and, most importantly, celebrate our work and encourage those left behind for the difficult task of merger.

Still, a layoff stings, and those first few weeks were hard. Work provides one with a sense of both purpose and accomplishment — and as someone obsessed with schedules, time, and lists, it was difficult for me to find a way to organize each day. But once I got my bearings in this new world, it became a time for reinvention. I took time to revisit my teaching career, the career that drew me into librarianship in the first place. I taught basic writing skills to college freshmen and, in between lessons about comma splices and pronoun-antecedent agreement, I sneaked in lessons about searching and resource analysis. That year of teaching reconfirmed for me that librarians are needed more than ever to be the guides to information as my students, woefully unprepared, ambled their way through a virtual world they thought they knew.

Though I deeply enjoyed a return to teaching, I never stopped looking for library work. About a year after I was laid off, I found myself as the director of the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham. It's an exciting time to start this new chapter of my career, as we are embarking on a building project and developing a new strategic plan.

I miss having the same type of support and encouragement of the system consultants that I hope I was able to provide to other librarians. I would love to turn to them as I encounter this new world of levies, fundraising, leaky toilets, etc. But the systems have weightier issues to sort out at the moment.

Though I mourn for the systems of old, I'm excited for the future and how they will reinvent themselves to remain the cornerstone of the strongest library state. When I started working at the Lincoln Trails Library System (LTLS), I didn't even know what a library system was. I soon found out that they were support and safety nets for small libraries (and medium and large ones, too), networks linking resources in both the real and virtual worlds, and incubators of innovation. They were (and still are) able to try new and daring things and push libraries to do the same. They also continue to show that we are always stronger when we work together. These are the things I try to bring to my own library work because of the knowledge I received at the beginning of my career, from some of the greatest leaders in libraries today. ■





Illinois Library Association

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