

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

REPORTER

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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

Heather A. Hathaway Miranda spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at the 2022 ILA Annual Conference President's Program. Miranda is a bilingual, bicultural Latina and an award-winning, international speaker with more than 25 years of multidisciplinary experience as a researcher and educator specializing in a range of academic subjects intersecting race, ethnicity, class, gender, and disparity. She is fierce when it comes to injustice. As a scholar-activist, TRHT Greater Chicago-trained racial healing practitioner, and consultant through Hathaway Miranda LLC, her passion is to advocate for underserved communities by raising consciousness about oppressive issues, practices, and systems locally, nationally, and internationally. She has worked professionally with issues of diversity & inclusion and has utilized Spanish for more than 3 decades from research to high school and university classrooms to community work.

CORRECTION NOTE

ILA would like to issue a correction to the September 2022 ILA Reporter. The article "SIUE's Diverse Librarianship Career Training and Education Program" listed only Tammie Busch as the writer. The article was written by Tammie Busch, Lora Del Rio, Elizabeth Kamper, Shelley McDavid, Lamonta Swarn, & Simone Williams; Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. We apologize for this oversight and have corrected the online article and PDF.

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by email to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Public Libraries in Illinois Initiating Food Justice

Hunger was a problem many families experienced in 2020 in addition to the many stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), households dealing with food insecurity in Illinois increased to 38.3 million people in 2020 (Economic Research Service 2022). Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to, or inability to afford, healthy food. Although federally funded programs exist to help those in need, Illinois public library staff also play a part. Some public libraries have used the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a USDA program, to serve meals to hungry patrons. Food drives, like Food for Fines, are another way libraries can support local food pantries helping to address food insecurity.

Public libraries can implement food justice by providing summer meals and holding canned food drives. The food justice movement asserts that the current food system is interconnected with race and class in our society and low-income and communities of color are most severely impacted. Food justice is addressed by creating local systems to provide needed food (Alkon and Agyeman 2011, 4). In June of 2021 the author conducted research to better understand what public libraries in Illinois were doing to address food insecurity during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on the food justice movement. There were 491 public library staff in Illinois who responded to an anonymous survey. The survey revealed two types of food programs being used in Illinois libraries: cooperative food programs and individual organic food programs.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND FOOD PROGRAMS

Cooperative food programs involve other groups or organizations, but still take place at the public library. Meals distributed at the library were the main cooperative food program reported by survey respondents. During the survey period of June and July 2021, 20% of respondents had a meal program at their library. Food drives and collecting canned goods was the other cooperative program mentioned in the survey. Food was later donated to local food pantries.

According to the survey, 35% of respondents had individual organic food programs at their public libraries. The term “organic” refers to programs created by library staff, not to the way in which the food was grown and processed. The most common program was the mini food pantry, also referred to as micro pantries, little free food pantries, mini food banks, little free cupboards, cupboards, food boxes, food shelves, or gratis tables. These mini food pantries were initiated by library staff and included tables, bins, or cabinets of canned, fresh, frozen, or cold produce and food that patrons could give and/or take. Small onsite food pantries were usually described as being near the library entrance. Survey respondents noted that during the COVID-19 lock-down they often moved the pantry to a more accessible location outside of the building.

Other initiatives taken by public library staff were gardens (including seed banks and community gardens), cooking (including take & bake and kits), snacks (including prepackaged snacks and peanut butter and jelly sandwich bagged lunches), bags of groceries, gift cards or vouchers, monetary donations to food pantries, food baskets (holiday specific), blessing bags or community backpacks, and food pop-ups. During COVID-19, some libraries even had delivery or drive thru pickup for grocery bags, food baskets, and cooking kits.



In a partnership with the Southland Voice and the Illinois Partners in Hope that began in February 2020, the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District distributes food and other household items. The library serves approximately 150 cars weekly.

SERVING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Data from the study suggests an emerging sense of social justice, specifically food justice activities, in public libraries in Illinois. Other programs and assistance, aside from providing physical food, were also being created by public library staff. Food stamp assistance programs were designed to help patrons apply for food stamps and learn how to use food stamps efficiently to buy and make healthy meals. This program was especially helpful if language or technology was a barrier for patrons. Another program focus was the use of guest speakers, such as dietitians and nurses, to provide diet and health information.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Public library staff can play a key role in helping to address the growing food insecurity problem in Illinois communities. Libraries can promote partnerships with local food banks and service organizations and/or create activities or programs specific to community needs. Public libraries provide the people in their community with more than a building. Libraries connect community members with important resources and services every day. They can even assist communities with fundamental human needs such as food.

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Thank You to Our Libraries for a Successful 2022!

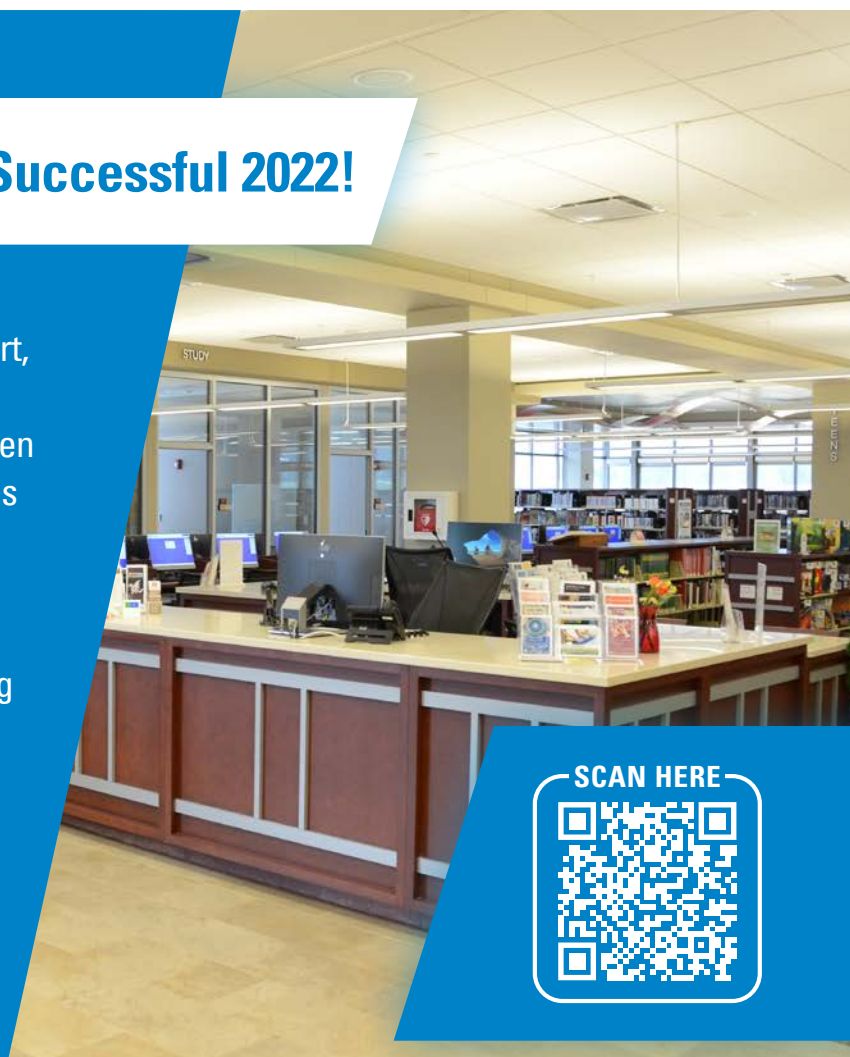
CONGRATULATIONS on a year of improving comfort, managing usage and reducing energy costs! With incentives and discounts offered through the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, our local libraries completed numerous energy efficiency projects this year.

We are looking forward to another energy-saving year in 2023!

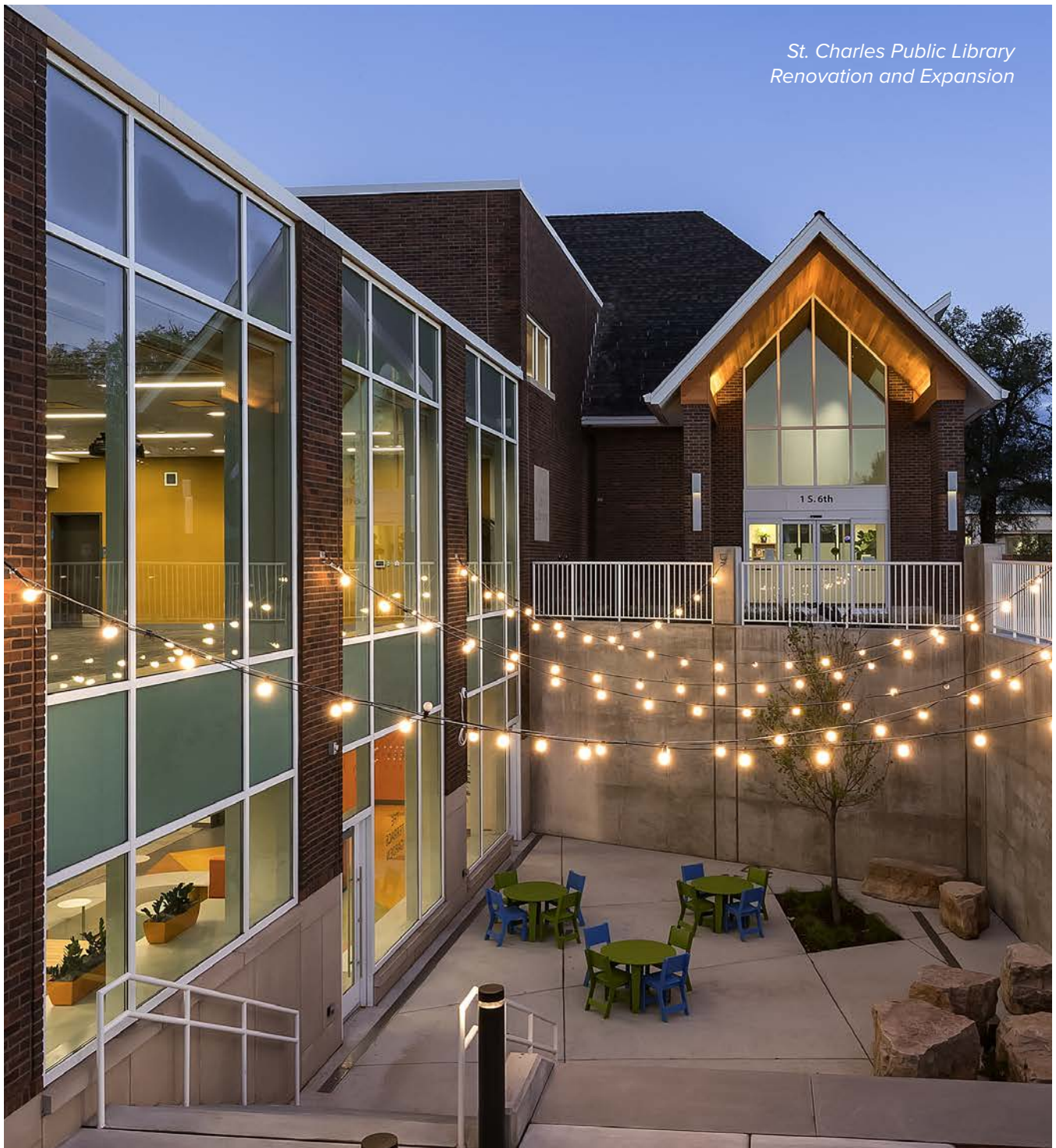


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Library Marketing in the “Post-COVID” Era

While the COVID-19 pandemic still rages on, killing more than 350 people each day in the U.S. (CDC), outcomes have greatly improved, and universities are mostly “back-to-normal.” However, the work that we do has been forever changed by the pandemic, and that includes the work of library marketing. When Stephanie Espinosa Villamor and I set out to write *Practical Marketing for the Academic Library*, there were no emergency closures or contactless book pick-ups. However, that changed in March of 2020, and our book’s production was delayed again and again due to supply chain shortages, while we witnessed the changes take place in real-time. Not much, and yet so much, has changed. What I mean by that is, the principles of library marketing remain the same. But our offerings (the services, resources, and programs that we market) have changed, and so have our audiences’ needs and preferences. While the literature on these changes is still emerging, we can see some noticeable shifts.

The two peer-reviewed library marketing journals are *Marketing Libraries Journal* and the *Journal of Library Outreach & Engagement*, the latter of which emerged in late 2020 and for which I serve as a member of the editorial board (full disclosure). By looking at the past two years of scholarship in the journals along with the presentations from the Library Marketing and Communications Conference (LMCC), we can learn how libraries have responded to the past two years of disruption through their marketing efforts. They give us a picture of the challenges libraries faced in the wake of COVID-19, and how they turned a crisis

into an opportunity. In fact, in 2021 there was a conference track dedicated to the “Lessons and Triumphs from the COVID-19 Pandemic” (LMCC). And while the pandemic was not only disruptive, but devastating to our libraries and communities, there is much to learn from the crisis.

First, what has remained the same. The principles of library marketing come from those of marketing and the work of Philip Kotler who defined marketing management “as the art and science of applying core marketing concepts to choose target markets and get, keep, and grow customers through creating, delivering, and communicating superior customer value” (Kotler 4). In the context of libraries, we have a lot of competitors to contend with when it comes to marketing our spaces, resources, and even services. For example, Google and Amazon—students can get information and books from the two, but we know that the library’s resources are superior; the databases we subscribe to contain information not available online, our access to books is free to the user and comes with the service of a librarian who can help patrons find the right books, databases, and websites. Our study rooms and group workspaces are clearly (to us) superior to the dorm room or home bedroom spaces where technology, printing, and quiet may be lacking. It is our job to communicate this superior value to our patrons (whether they are faculty, staff, or community members) because what is obvious to us is not so to those on the outside. In the midst of the pandemic, the core of marketing remained despite the many changes around us. The need to communicate our superior value has not changed.



“We have a lot of competitors to contend with when it comes to marketing our spaces, resources, and even services.”

Another principle that comes from marketing theory are the four “Ps” of the “marketing mix”: product, price, place, and promotion (McCarthy, vi). In the context of the library, our products are the services, spaces, and resources that we offer. Our price is a little less obvious—though libraries are funded in part by tax dollars and/or tuition, and thus do contain a real cost to the user (and non-user), the cost that we most often must contend with is that of our patrons’ time and effort. When we save our patrons time and effort, we are essentially lowering our price in comparison to our competitors. For example, communicating the time saved from working with a reference librarian when doing research versus doing it on one’s own prices our services at a value. After all, as the Neil Gaiman quote goes, “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one.” Patrons would be losing out on valuable time without using our services. The third “P,” place, is both the places where we exist and the places where we market. Our places are generally our brick-and-mortar buildings and our websites, and have, in terms of place, remained the same. Promotion is the “P” that we often think of as marketing: our branding, social media, and other marketing communications we use.

What has changed are the contents of those four “Ps.” First of all, our products are different. Library products can be grouped into the categories of services, spaces, and resources. Our services have withstood the most change, with some taking a temporary diversion, while others have changed forever. A glance at *Marketing Libraries Journal* articles from the past few years reflect some of these changes: curbside pickup (Cantwell 42), virtual programming (Wardell et al. 63, Droog et al. 42), virtual new-student orientation (Hoelscher and Jumoville Graf 96), and remote reference (Moyer et al. 160). Marshall University Libraries transitioned their stress-relief finals activities and popular emotional support dog visit to an online format by creating a LibGuide with stress-relieving activities students could do at home and a Zoom meet-and-greet with the beloved support dog (Johnson and Mollette 6). Those types of activities acted as a bridge between “normal” times, while maintaining consistent offerings that help make up the libraries’ brand. This is where libraries have risen to the occasion—I have never seen such innovation and care from libraries expressed through their service changes. Libraries were often considered essential services during strict lockdowns, and librarians had to find ways to keep their employees and patrons safe while maintaining some level of service.

LIBRARY

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We cannot talk about products without also considering the other “P” that has withstood the most change: promotion. Reaching our audiences when they weren’t physically in spaces added another layer of complexity to the already tough task of communication. Anna Moorhouse noted that libraries’ offerings are already complex and specialized—thus not easily understood by those outside the library (11). However, here we’ve also seen innovation and care. With COVID-19 adding to the complexity of library communication, Moorhouse utilized “strategic storytelling” to promote library offerings (12). Their storytelling structure took a familiar template and they used those stories to communicate library service changes in a way that was both straightforward and engaging. The stories cast the library workers as the heroes and contained a story arc that mimicked the hero’s journey, a classic storytelling template.

Changes to libraries’ communication strategies also reflect the patron’s increased need for information regarding the library service changes. One library noticed much higher social media interaction despite a reduction in programming due to the pandemic (Johnson and Mollette 5). They noted, “while the number of activities decreased (from 50 in 2019 to 26 in 2020), the attention to the needs of the students, the ongoing technological considerations, and the distinctive limitations inherent in conducting outreach during a pandemic resulted in a remarkable effort to connect with the campus community” (Johnson and Mollette 5). While the increase was in part due to their refined outreach strategy, it was also due to the library’s ability to quickly pivot and meet the needs of the community in a time of crisis—again, with innovation and care. Another example of creative communication during the crisis is Auraria Library’s move from using their internal crisis report to a tool that told the story of the library’s impact on research and student success (Browning and Freedman 12). The crisis report contained not only the factual information regarding to changes in library services, but also statistics that helped paint a picture of the impact of the library’s agility. For example, an increase in eBook offerings and use of virtual references services became talking points that communicated the value of the library.

What these examples have in common is the use of marketing from the heart, a way to engage with our communities by taking into consideration their needs as a whole person (Villamor and Shotick, 51) and turning a crisis into an opportunity. Whether it be through the creative use of video to connect patrons with their favorite program, contactless pick-up to keep our students and staff safe, or marketing our responses as a hero’s journey, we have continued our dedication to service and access throughout the darkest of times. As we continue toward an uncertain future, we can feel confident that we not only did the best we could, but we used the crisis to reinvent our services and reinvigorate our marketing efforts.

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What is the Cataloging Maintenance Center?

Why not have your local authors, history, and genealogy items cataloged for free? Funded through the Illinois State Library, the Cataloging Maintenance Center (CMC) can do just that! Since 2001, CMC staff have worked at the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) and there are now staff at all three of IHLS's locations (Edwardsville, Champaign, and Carbondale). We also catalog government documents, microfilm, and special collections (kits, world language materials, and realia). Database cleanup is another service provided by CMC staff. Do you have personal or corporate names that you wish were in the authority file? CMC staff can create name authority records (NACO) in OCLC for you. CMC staff can also catalog digital collections and upload them to the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) or upload to your library's website. We also provide transcription of audio files and written (handwritten or typed) documents. Besides cataloging, CMC staff present Online with the CMC webinars, August-May, which are hour-long sessions on various cataloging topics with a Q&A portion. Cataloging courses are offered using Moodle: Cataloging 3D Objects, Kits, and Realia; Subject Analysis; Cataloging Basics; RDA Book Training; and RDA Video and Audio Recordings Training. These are free to all Illinois library staff.

“Why not have your local authors, history, and genealogy items cataloged for free?”

CMC STAFF*

Dr. Pamela Thomas is the bibliographic grant manager (Champaign), while Barb Scoby (Edwardsville), Eric McKinney (Champaign), Mary Cornell (Champaign), and Shelley Stone (Carbondale) are CMC catalogers, and Katy Egts (Champaign) is the metadata cataloger.

LOCAL AUTHORS, LOCAL HISTORY, LOCAL GENEALOGY

If you have items written or created by local (Illinois) authors, featuring local history (Illinois), or local genealogy (Illinois) and a WorldCat record has not been created, then you can send your item(s) to the CMC using an Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS) label. An Illinois publisher does not qualify for free cataloging.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS/MICROFILM

The CMC also catalogs government documents and microfilm. It is preferable if the government documents have an Illinois connection. If you have one microfilm or a collection of microfilm, you can send it or them to the Edwardsville office for cataloging.

1850 Census KENTUCKY

Counties:

Adair

Allen

Anderson

Ballard

1860 KENTUCKY CENSUS

KENTUCKY

1860 census

#385

Magoffin, Marion and Marshall counties

gift 5/77

Roger Byerley

1880 KENTUCKY CENSUS

T9 1880 U.S. CENSUS (KY) #401

Adair

Allen

Anderson

Ballard

T623 1900 U.S. CENSUS (KY) #520

Fayette (part)

Fleming

Floyd

T624 1910 U.S. CENSUS (KY) #473

Daviess (part)

Elliot

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A special collection is defined by each library. As long as an item is part of a special collection, then the CMC can catalog it for free. Some special collections that we have cataloged are kits, realia, world language materials, blueprints, Civil War “fractional” money, and postcards. CMC staff can catalog most modern languages.

DATABASE CLEANUP

The CMC staff have been working on a PrairieCat database cleanup project since 2019 and have enhanced or identified bibliographic record merges in more than 15,000 records. Starting in September 2021, the CMC hired three special project catalogers who have been working on an Alma cleanup project for the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI): 24,645 bibliographic records have been edited; 2,795,741 records have been deleted, and 1,921 records have been merged. These three temporary full-time special project catalogers work virtually: Blake Walter (since Sept. 2021), Bonnie Dauer (since Sept. 2021), and Katie Roberts (since Aug. 2022).

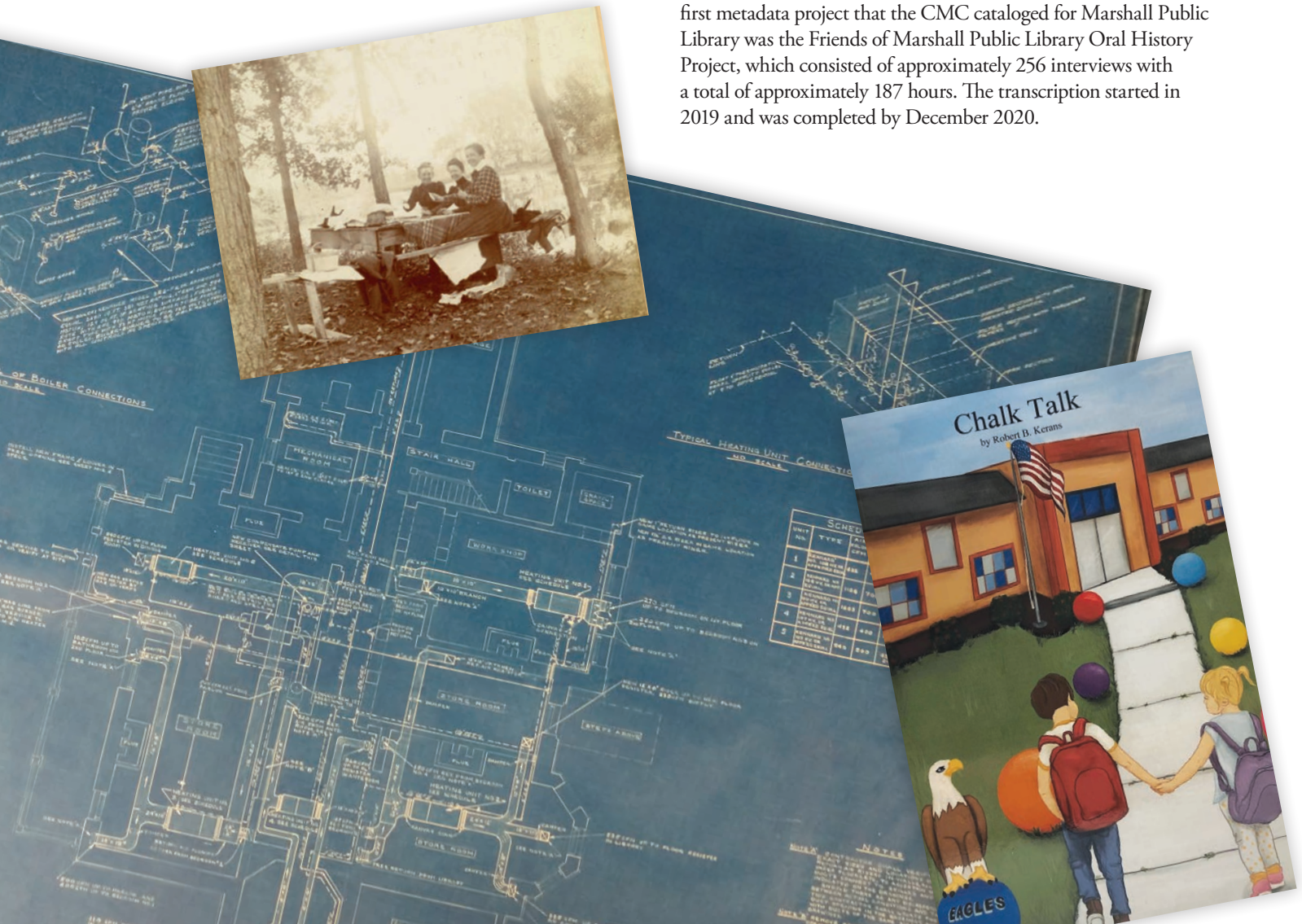
NACO RECORDS

As part of our mission, the CMC is obligated to create 100 NACO records annually (Sept.-Aug.). If you have any names that need an authority record created, then please send them to cmc@illinoisheartland.org with documentation and/or as much information as you have (scans of “about the author” from books, links to social media accounts, etc.).

METADATA PROJECTS

The CMC can transcribe oral audio files and handwritten or typed documents. Ideally, the collection will be copyright-free and can be uploaded to the IDA website. We can also provide consultations and help you plan a metadata project. Our Metadata Cataloger, Katy Egts, is eager to consult with you on your metadata projects, transcribe your textual or recorded collections, and either upload them to the IDA website or your library’s website. You can contact Katy at kegts@illinoisheartland.org.

Katy is currently working on four projects: Marshall Public Library Digital Archive Collection, Poplar Creek Public Library oral histories, New Lenox Public Library Digital Archive, and the Jayne Bartlett Kerr Photo Album for Marshall Public Library. The first metadata project that the CMC cataloged for Marshall Public Library was the Friends of Marshall Public Library Oral History Project, which consisted of approximately 256 interviews with a total of approximately 187 hours. The transcription started in 2019 and was completed by December 2020.



Katy is also working on the Marshall Public Library Digital Archive Collection, which is historical photographs relevant to their city that they post to their Facebook page with descriptions weekly. We collect all that information, translate it into metadata, append the metadata to the images, and then upload them into the Illinois Digital Archive, owned and managed by the Illinois State Library. The project consists of close to 2,500 images.

Poplar Creek Public Library has a collection of oral histories collected by the Streamwood Historical Society in the late 1990s and early 2000s from local residents about their lives spent in the Streamwood area. We are transcribing each audio recording and then fact-checking all names of people and places before sending the transcription back to the library to be displayed on their own website. This project consists of roughly 44 hours of audio recording.

The New Lenox Public Library has a large collection of various digitized documents, ranging from Civil War letters, short local history novels, obituaries, and documents pertaining to local schools, churches, and businesses. They will also soon have a video-recorded interview with descendants from a prominent local family. We are providing transcription services for handwriting, typed text, and audio recording so that these documents are all entirely keyword-searchable within the Illinois Digital Archive, in addition to creating and appending metadata for each item. This project currently consists of roughly 300 different documents.

The newest project Katy is working on for the Marshall Public Library is the Jayne Bartlett Kerr photo album. Marshall Public Library acquired an antique photo album belonging to a former Marshall resident, Jayne Bartlett Kerr. The album consists of roughly 95 photographs, all taken between 1900 and 1903. This project involves creating metadata for each photograph in the album as well as transcribing any handwritten notes associated with each photograph.



ONLINE WITH THE CMC

The CMC offers hour-long webinars, Online with the CMC, in August-May of each year. This year, we moved our presentations to the second Thursday of each month, from 10–11 A.M. Presentations range from 20–40 minutes followed by a Q&A session. In October, we will present on special collections cataloging; in November, DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility); in December, the 024, 028, and 588 fields for videocassettes and kits; in January, linked data and BIBFRAME; in February, the 033 and 518 MARC fields; in March, cataloging world languages; in April, basic book repair; and in May, cataloging local history. You can view the recordings of past presentations on the IHLS YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/ILHeartlandLS/videos>. If you have any topics that you would like the CMC staff to present, then please email: cmc@illinoisheartland.org. You can register in L2 for any of these webinars.

CATALOGING COURSES

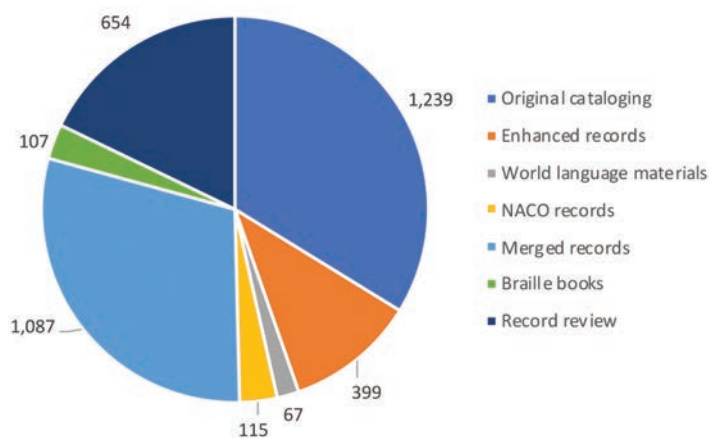
The CMC staff teach cataloging courses on the Moodle platform through the SHARE training website. Currently, we offer courses on Cataloging 3D Objects, Kits, and Realia; Subject Analysis; Cataloging Basics; RDA Book Training; and RDA for Video and Audio Recordings Training. If you have suggestions for new courses, please email us at cmc@illinoisheartland.org. Most of the courses are 6 weeks, except Cataloging 3D Objects, Kits, and Realia, which is a four-week course. These are self-paced and asynchronous, but quizzes and assignments need to be completed by the end of each week. You can register in L2 for any of these courses. They are free to all library staff in Illinois.





FY2022 STATS

During FY2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022), the CMC originally cataloged 1,239 items and enhanced 399 bibliographic records in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Russian, Vietnamese, and Spanish. For the world language materials, 61 books, four computer files, and two kits were cataloged. Of the 1,638 items cataloged, there were 1,273 books, 19 musical sound recordings, 140 serials, 46 archival collections, 17 e-books, eight atlases, 11 computer files, 19 videos, 33 kits, two mixed media, 31 spoken sound recordings, one microform, and six realia. A total of 110 name authority and five series records were created. Merged bibliographic records amounted to 1,087. The total of braille books cataloged were 107. Reviewed records totaled 654. Bibliographic records that were deleted, edited, or merged during database cleanup projects for the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries (CARLI) and PrairieCat equaled 3,130,319. See the pie chart below for a visual display of the data (database cleanup data was not included since the number was so large).



CHALLENGE

It's time to clean out your library closets or clean off your desks and send us those items and collections that you have been putting aside for when you have more time to catalog and let us catalog them for free. To find out more information about the CMC, check out our website: www.illinoisheartland.org/cmc. If you are uncertain whether your items fit the criteria for free cataloging by the CMC, then please send us an email cmc@illinoisheartland.org. **ILA**

*There have been some staff changes at the CMC prior to the article's publication but after this edition had gone to print. Kat Anderberg is the new metadata cataloger and Andrea Giosta has taken over Bonnie Dauer's position as one of the temporary full-time special project catalogers.

ILA Welcomes New Members

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Connect and Color, Palatine
Stifel, Chicago

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Willie Akins, Broadview Public Library District
Meraj Alam, Fountaindale Public Library District
Gayle Booth, Cary Area Public Library
Mike Ennis, Broadview Public Library District
Jason Hill, Midlothian Public Library
Melissa Iwinski, Algonquin Area Public Library District
Josh Jackson, Lake Forest Library
James Johnson, Algonquin Area Public Library District
Paul Kaczor, Worth Public Library District
Donna Kassar, Hillside Public Library
Suzanne Lattanzio, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District
Patrick Liapes, Poplar Creek Public Library District
Jennifer Sanchez, Peoria Public Library
Robert Shaw, Lake Forest Library
Richard Sloan, Lincolnwood Public Library District
Shirley Wachowski, Hillside Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Savannah Adams-Clark, Urbana
Megha Bamola, Chicago
Carriann Cahall, Glendale, CA
Sanobar Chagani, The Colony, TX
Phillip Cole, Champaign
Estefania Eiquihua, Killeen, TX
Samantha Ehlinger, Urbana
Maria Escamilla, Urbana
Marycruz Flores Reynoso, Urbana
Kayla Johnson, Chicago
Jackie Keck, Belleville
Marjorie Luce, Lisle
Natalie Martinez, Chicago
Inbar Michael, Champaign
Wardah Mohammed, Chicago
Jarrett Newman, Champaign
Jennifer Parker, Peoria

Bianca Phipps, Chicago
Erica Rodriguez, Chino, CA
Andrea Serna, Champaign
Kaitlyn Smentek, Alsip
Faria Zafer, Bolingbrook

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Mia Adams, Goose Creek District Library
Dana Antonelli, Champaign Public Library
Natalie Baddour, St. Charles Public Library District
Ceili Boylan, Carbondale
Logan Braddock, Olney Public Library
Morgan Dempsey, Washington District Library
Savannah Derrig, Woodridge Public Library
Charlotte Dorsey, Elmhurst Public Library
Tiffany Dvorak, Six Mile Regional Library District
Dawn Ferree, Cary Area Public Library
Amy Gorham, Six Mile Regional Library District
Leah Gregory, Illinois Heartland Library System
Andrew Hazard, Skokie Public Library
Weronika Jozwiak, Lincolnwood Public Library District
Sarah Kaminski, Northbrook Public Library
Grace Kenney, Champaign Public Library
Roy Kinsey, Chicago Public Library
Beth Kirchenberg, Glen Ellyn Public Library
Amelia Kmiec, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District
Dana Kraszczyński, Woodridge Public Library
Liz Kristan, Ela Area Public Library
Gregory Lamberson, C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District
Jonathan Martin, American Library Association
Jeremy McAninch, Blackburn College
Christina McCormack, Fountaindale Public Library
Allison R McCray, Park Forest Public Library
Carla Owens, NORC Library
Abigayle Pignatari, Schaumburg Township District Library
William Pitkin, Limestone Township Library District
Lydia Raabe, Glenview Public Library
Anne Rasmussen, Vernon Area Public Library District
Johnny Sarabia Jr., Lincolnwood Public Library District
Alexa Selner, Zion-Benton Public Library District
Jay Semla, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Sherri Tader, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Since 2003, ILA has honored former ILA President Sylvia Murphy Williams by awarding ILA Annual Conference scholarships and a one-year membership to the Association to ALA Spectrum Scholars who live in Illinois or who are attending graduate programs in library and information science in the state, thanks to support from a fund established in honor of the late Sylvia Murphy Williams, 2002 ILA President, now known as the Diversity Scholarship Fund. ILA Williams Scholars are also connected with mentors via ILA's Diversity Committee. This year, we are pleased to welcome fifteen Williams Scholars to Illinois librarianship! Several of them contributed these inspiring comments about what motivated them to become librarians, favorite courses in graduate school, professional goals, hopes for librarianship, and anything else they'd like to share. We welcome all of them as future members of the profession.



ALIYA ESTES | University of Illinois

My goal is to become a Youth and Teen Services Librarian. When I went to college, I pursued a degree in Psychology because I love human connection and relationships. I always knew that I wanted to work in public service. After graduating and starting to work at Palatine Library, I was reaffirmed that my love of knowledge and love of people could be applied to librarianship. When I was a child, the library provided me with a space that benefited my intellectual growth and creative spirit. The next generation should be allowed the same inclusivity and creative opportunities. I want to create spaces and programs that inspire social change in my library work.

I am extremely honored and humbled to be able to call myself both a Williams Scholar and a Spectrum Scholar. Already, I feel like so many doors have opened for me and I am only just beginning. I am thankful for my family, my coworkers, and my partner for pushing me to apply and cheering me on along the way. My accomplishments reflect my environment and my community, and I am so grateful.

My first semester started on August 22, 2022. I am hoping to complete my degree in the expected graduation rate of 2.5 years, 5 semesters. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers a comprehensive fully online degree so I am able to work at Palatine Library while pursuing my degree. The best of both worlds!

I have attended many of ILA's online roundtables, and they have been a big influence in discovering the kind of work I want to do as a librarian. I am excited to take advantage of the networking opportunities that an ILA membership will allow for me. I hope that this is just the beginning of a longstanding relationship with ILA.



BIANCA PHIPPS | University of Washington

Librarians are stewards of knowledge and pillars of the communities they serve. It was important to me, when considering a career change, that I find a line of work that agreed with my values. I've always been an avid reader, and both the public library and the libraries at my schools played a huge role in my adolescence and young adulthood. Even today, the library is so important to my mental health and general sense of optimism and joy. I always wanted to pursue librarianship because I knew there was so much about it I did not know—and I'm fortunate enough to be able to pursue my curiosity.

The area of study that interests me most is Digital Youth & Children's Librarianship, ultimately working towards school librarianship.

I want to become a school librarian because I believe it is the most actionable way for me to contribute to a better future. Children will inherit the world we build, and they will improve upon it with the tools we provide. I want a hand in creating the toolbox by providing the support I received from my school librarians: a careful, guiding hand that encouraged my curiosity and compassion by connecting me to stories. Books provided tangible proof that I was not alone, that my experiences didn't isolate me. As an educator, I witnessed the gifts stories provided to underrepresented students. I want to cultivate a trustworthy haven for students which recognizes their individuality and makes them feel important. For me, a library is that haven.

I'm excited to foster connections with fellow librarians! Since I'm attending my program online, having peers, mentors, and other members of the library community so close to home will really help soothe the sting of being so physically far from my cohort.

I'm optimistic about the prospects of a national library union! I hope librarianship will curve away from neutrality and veer towards justice: as stewards of knowledge, information, and resources, I believe it is our responsibility to ensure we're doing all we can to build towards a future free from white supremacy, capitalism, and other harmful, individualistic modes of living.



CARRIEANN CAHALL | University of Illinois

I'm a curious person and found it difficult to "pick" one area of study or pursuit to focus my mind on, and LIS seems to be one of the few fields out there that supports an interdisciplinary approach to work since it is itself quite expansive. I've worked in various industries (writing, video production, teaching, sales) and feel like this is a field that sees that variety of experience as a benefit rather than a lack of direction. Overall, I've learned that I like connecting folks to information and resources that support their personal growth and deepen their existing knowledge.

My favorite course so far was Immigration & Information Behavior in my first semester at the iSchool; my mom was a young adult refugee from Laos and my father came to America as a teenager from Thailand, so I've lived a life that has been influenced by their access to information and their behaviors surrounding information in America. This course offered me the language and a deeper understanding of interactions or contexts that confused or maddened me over the years. Plus, this course also introduced me to the concept of community-led librarianship which is a practice I hope to take with me into my future career.

My interests are in open pedagogy, open educational resources, digital learning, and as mentioned above, community-led librarianship. Most of my LIS experience comes from working in an academic library, and I've developed an affinity for university communities, so I would love to find a job where I could still pursue research and also work on projects that connect a university's campus community to their immediate local community with the intention of better meeting the information needs of both.

Since most of my library experience comes from the same academic library where I received my BAs and MFA, I hope that an ILA membership can lead me into branching out more and broadening my network. I'm also interested in conducting more research, looking for future collaborators, and finding more mentors to learn from.

My hope for the library profession is that it not only continues to work towards diversifying the field, but also that it actually supports retaining those who are already there.



ERICA RODRIGUEZ | University of Illinois

Obtaining my first Master's Degree in Education in 2010 initiated my interest to pursue a second Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. I believe in empowering students to see themselves as scholars and architects of knowledge. Most importantly, I believe that literacy and critical-thinking skills are not only a fundamental part of academic excellence but also building blocks in creating access to equity and diversity in all formal and informal learning spaces. It has been my highest honor to serve K-12 Spanish-Bilingual students for the past 15 years. My passion to empower the next generation of scholars and architects of knowledge now drives me to seek and acquire the tools needed to teach students of all abilities, identities, and all walks of life, within a library space. In sum, my first career as an Educator solidified my commitment to librarianship. I see myself as a mentor, a knowledge-seeker, an information engineer with "people technology" at the center of my second life's calling: Spanish-Bilingual Youth Services Librarianship.

My favorite course by and large, is the Information for Diverse Users course. I am interested in the topic of Diversity within libraries, and the impact it brings to accessibility and equity through the delivery of information services. Similarly, I am also enjoying how to plan, implement, and evaluate programs for addressing these issues.

Although I have not attended the ILA Conference, my hopes for the ILA membership are to build meaningful connections with other BIPOC as well as with LGBTQIA+ peers, colleagues, and allies to create community by building equity and programming in traditional library spaces to re-center marginalized voices. Moreover, my hope for the library profession is to build a community of like-minded professionals and work towards the greater common goal of servant-leadership in order to make the field of librarianship more equitable. Once I earn my MLIS, my professional goal is to be a Spanish-Bilingual Youth Services Librarian in service of immigrants, refugees, and English-Learners. I also have a deep interest in Federal Government Librarianship--specifically, Collection Development and Bibliographic Access work with the Library of Congress. My interest has resulted in my second passion due to my recent work with Spanish-Speaking Blind, Visually Impaired, and Print-Disabled adults by providing access through the use of assistive technology to LOC's collection of 100,000 digital audiobooks in approximately 50 languages. Nothing brings me more joy than to serve children and persons with neurodivergent abilities. Lastly, I want to thank and express my sincerest gratitude towards ILA for the honor of being named a Williams Scholar for the 2022-2023 academic year. I embrace the new community of fellow scholars that I am warmly made to feel a part of, and look forward to engaging with my peers and colleagues in this meaningful, necessary, and life-long work.



ESTEFANIA EIQUIHUA | University of Illinois

The decision to become a librarian was heavily influenced by a variety of positive experiences I've had with libraries throughout my life: from going to my local public library as a little girl, to volunteering at a public library throughout my undergraduate studies, to working alongside school librarians during my time as a high school English teacher. These experiences have illuminated the wonderful possibilities that libraries have to offer their communities and I'm eager to be a part of a profession with such transformative potential.

I'm in my second year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and thus far, my favorite course has been Social Justice in the Information Professions. This course centers critical issues in the information professions and has been foundational in my knowledge of social justice issues and advocacy work in librarianship. Courses such as these motivate me to commit to the hard work that is critical reflection and to enter librarianship with the mindset of working towards social justice by examining harmful power dynamics in our workplaces and society.

Once I earn my MS/LIS degree, I hope to work in an academic library as a reference and instruction librarian, or as an adult services public librarian. As I grow into this profession, my professional interests include critical information literacy, critical pedagogy, and library outreach for non-traditional students. These interests align with my goals of making the library a place where patrons feel welcomed, represented, and safe in the library. Ultimately, I desire to become a librarian in which I make genuine connections with patrons and work towards creating a library environment that is inclusive and enriching for all.

I am deeply honored and thankful to be a part of the Spectrum Scholars and ILA Williams Scholars family. I look forward to making connections within the community, and I'm eager to join a coalition made up of people from many cultures, backgrounds, and experiences in working towards a more just future. This honor means the world to me!



INBAR MICHAEL | University of Illinois

I had a discussion with one of my undergraduate professors about pursuing a PhD, but feeling uncertain about the prospect of engaging in a lot of research writing. My professor had also told me about how competitive it is to get a professor position, and it didn't feel like it really aligned with what I wanted to do. My professor recommended librarianship, as it combines the elements of a profession that I wanted, which includes community engagement/outreach, instruction, and programming. After looking more into the roles of librarians at public and academic institutions, I realized that it was the path I wanted to pursue.

So far, my favorite class in library school is about libraries, society, and information.

I have a variety of professional goals, but am focused on being able to work at either a public or academic library. I would like to be a subject specialist, reference/instruction librarian, or an archivist through a public institution that works with the community to maintain records of their history, especially marginalized communities.

My impression of the ILA Conference was that it presented a unique opportunity for me to get to know more about librarianship within the state of Illinois, and hear about librarians' perspectives on current matters within the field in this particular state. Often, I have heard about librarian conferences on a national level, which tend to be broad. It was exciting to hear about a conference that is for the state because it means that issues within the state regarding librarianship will be heard and more likely addressed since others might have the same situations.

I hope to learn more about the current discussions of librarianship within the state of Illinois. I am not from the state, so I hope to gain a better understanding of the library system here.

I hope that the library profession will continue to dismantle the systemic barriers that have made it more difficult for patrons to access library spaces and become more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible.

Thank you once again for selecting me to be a scholar!



KAYLA JOHNSON | Chicago State University

After receiving my undergraduate degree in African and Black Diaspora Studies, I decided to take a couple of years off of school to work and reflect. I found myself continuously growing in youth work, but also craving working in a different capacity to provide youth with a greater impact. One day, after completing the novel *Grown* by Tiffany D. Jackson, my only thought was “All teen girls should read this book. It can save lives.” I felt compelled to really reactivate my youth work and share this novel, but I was interested in doing that in a library where similar impactful resources lived. Quickly, I learned it would be some time before that, because first I had to obtain my Master’s in Library and Information Science. Currently, I love all my classes. Learning about media literacy and technology has been extremely useful, because the two are ingrained into how we can survive and thrive with just access to it. I also appreciate my current Library Professions class, because it is guiding to research the profession in a way that my professional goals align with what makes me unique as a person. My hopes for the ILA membership are humble: to be in community and work with like minded individuals who understand the opportunity in librarianship to be an activist.



MARYCRUZ FLORES | University of Illinois

“I hate reading,” is a common response I hear when telling people I want to become a librarian. The field of Library and Information Sciences has the reputation of being only connected to books, which ignores the interdisciplinary nature of the field and variety of careers available. In the Netflix show *Rhythm and Flow*, one episode involves Chance the Rapper returning to Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago to hold auditions for a competition-based reality show. He tells an anecdote about how he got into slam poetry and performing through the library and how he benefited from the available workshops and equipment. The positive portrayal made me happy. It showed how libraries are spaces for many individuals, not just avid readers. The interdisciplinary nature of LIS and the ability to work with diverse population groups makes me excited and confident to pursue a career as a librarian. I am incredibly interested in learning about how bilingualism is utilized in library spaces and in examining how a multilingual, multicultural approach can serve patrons.

Outside of class, you can find me reading or watching television shows. I also enjoy going on walks and trying my hand at different crafty activities such as cross-stitching and paint-by-numbers.

“The field of Library and Information Sciences has the reputation of being only connected to books, which ignores the interdisciplinary nature of the field and variety of careers available.”



REBECA ESCAMILLA | University of Illinois

I chose to become a librarian because I am interested in the dissemination of indigenous knowledge and information. I am specifically interested in the Latin American Indigenous communities and Mesoamerican studies. I chose these fields because I want to preserve ephemeral indigenous information from my community such as songs, poetry, and plays.

My favorite course so far in library school is Digital Preservation. I was hesitant at first to enroll in this course since I lacked technical skills and I believed the course would be tech-heavy; however, the professor for this course gave excellent lectures and always made sure that students understood the concepts. This course gave me the foundational knowledge I would need for the rest of my MLIS courses. Due to this course, I also began to explore digital preservation and how it can be combined to further highlight indigenous knowledge.

By combining my interest in digital preservation and indigenous information, I have decided to begin my own research project. I am currently in the process of collecting information on *Pastorelas*: I am exploring the effects indigenous communities had on Spanish colonial Christmas plays. I would also like to digitally preserve all the records I have obtained and make them available to a wider audience.

With my ILA membership, I hope to network and meet professionals who will counsel me on my research projects and professional goals. I am excited to get to know other library professionals and what I can learn from them and give back as well.



SANOBAR CHAGANI | University of Illinois

I decided to go to library school after reflecting on my experience working at a library during my undergraduate studies. My favorite class so far is the History of the Book because I am learning to challenge my previous assumptions about the book, readers, authorship, and more. It helps me reframe how I view the discipline of library and information science. My professional goal is to be an archivist at a history museum and to pursue grant writing to provide funding for marginalized communities. My hope for my ILA membership is to connect with like minded individuals in order to form an accepting library community founded on the principles of seeking knowledge and understanding new viewpoints. I hope the library profession will begin to understand its roots based on colonialism and the oppression of people of color. This acknowledgement can help the library and education field grow and change in ways that are better for BIPOC communities.



WARDAH MOHAMMED | University of Illinois

Libraries have always been an essential part of my life and I had never thought I could become a librarian. Only after talking with a mentor and the librarian at a local library did I find confidence in looking into librarianship programs. And from then on I knew this route would be different but rewarding because I wished to continue supporting the education and literacy sector.

My favorite classes in library school so far have been Library Resources for Spanish Speakers, Intellectual Freedom and Censors, and African American Bibliography and Librarianship. Each class has respectively taught me the various services, actions, historical memory, and cultural preservation that libraries fulfill. There is power and community libraries help foster; particularly important to me are efforts towards creating a sense of belonging for people.

I have been struggling with choosing a clear professional goal within librarianship because public and academic librarianship have been two paths that I have yet to decide between. On one end I want to support literacy for children and adults, especially home language acquisition curriculum; and, on another end I would like to support a library at a given university and learn how to build a collaborative relationship with professors and faculty.



ZHANEILLE GREEN | University of Illinois

When I volunteered with AmeriCorps after undergrad, I met various people and provided service in different settings. This experience reminded me of the little girl that had no home access to the internet or a nearby community library. The library provided the tools to help make me who I am, and I decided I wanted to do that for others.

My current favorite class, I feel like I have one for each semester, is Makerspace: Open Studio. This class has exposed me to the maker movement and allowed me to stretch my design thinking muscles by learning different technologies and creating projects.

I haven't nailed down one type of library I'd like to work in. I'm open to academic libraries and government (city, state, national) libraries. I prefer creative roles. My work in grad school spans reference services to electronic resource management.

I'm looking forward to meeting and learning from other library professionals. I'm a new librarian, and I'd love to meet different folks to hear about their experiences and share my own.

I want to be a part of our professional mission to expand inclusivity and avenues toward access and education to our patrons and peers.

“Libraries have always been an essential part of my life and I had never thought I could become a librarian.”



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2022 ILA Awards Showcase



Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award for Interlibrary Cooperation

Sponsored by the ILA Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund. Award recipient Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University. Award accepted on behalf of the library by Elizabeth Heldebrandt (l) and Stacey Knight-Davis (r).



Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers

Sponsored by Dominican University School of Information Studies. Award recipient Jocelyn Armstrong, Riverdale Public Library District.



Intellectual Freedom Award

Sponsored by the ILA Intellectual Freedom Fund. Award recipients Tabitha Irvin (l) and Julia Hanson (r), Downers Grove High School students. Award recipients not pictured: Emily Hernandez, Lauren Pierret, and Josiah Poynter, Downers Grove High School students.



Librarian of the Year Award

Sponsored by Today's Business Solutions (TBS, Inc.). Award presented by Mickey Smith, TBS, Inc. (l) to Rhonda Jenkins, Kendall Elementary School (r).



Young Adult Library Professional of the Year Award

Sponsored by Sourcebooks. Award presented by Emily Luedloff, Sourcebooks (l) to Allison Riggs, Schaumburg Township District Library (r).



Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award

Sponsored by the ILA Robert R. McClarren Fund. Award presented by Ryan Livergood, Chair, ILA Public Policy Committee (l) to Deirdre Brennan, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) (r).



Deborah Dowley Preiser Marketing Award

Sponsored by the Oak Park Public Library. Award presented by Alexandra Skinner, Oak Park Public Library (l) to Karina Guico, Morton Grove Public Library (r).



Alexander J. Skrzypek Award for Exceptional Service to People with Disabilities

Sponsored by the Illinois State Library. Award presented by Karen Egan, Illinois State Library (l) to Susan McBride, Hinsdale Public Library (r).



Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award

Sponsored by Children's Plus Inc. Award presented by Rob Innes, Children's Plus Inc. (l) to Jess Alexander, Morton Grove Public Library (r).



Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award

Sponsored by Library Juice Academy. Award recipient Michelle Nielsen Ott, Cullom-Davis Library, Bradley University.



Readers' Advisory Service Award

Sponsored by the Adult Reading Roundtable (ARRT). Award presented by Karen Toonen, ARRT (l) to Becky Goode (c) and Julie Hornberger (r), Shorewood-Troy Public Library.



TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Sponsored by Today's Business Solutions (TBS, Inc.). Award presented by Mickey Smith, TBS, Inc. (l) to Lisa Bobis, Arlington Heights Memorial Library (r).



Trustee of the Year Award

Sponsored by Peregrine, Stime, Newman, Ritzman & Bruckner, Ltd. Award presented by Roger Ritzman, Peregrine, Stime, Newman, Ritzman & Bruckner, Ltd. (l) to Joe Filapek, Aurora Public Library District (r).



Resources and Technical Services Scholarship

Sponsored by the ILA Resources and Technical Services Forum. Scholarship recipient Brittney Bradshaw, Metropolis Public Library



Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship Grant for Library Education

Sponsored by the ILA Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund. Scholarship Grant recipient Carleigh Obrochta, Niles-Maine District Library.

AWARDS

2022 Annual Conference

Statistics



Conference Registration

	2022 Rosemont	2021 Virtual	2020 Virtual	2019 Tinley Park	2018 Peoria	2017 Tinley Park	2016 Rosemont	2015* Peoria	2014 Springfield	2013 Chicago
Full	688	782	747	661	542	616	641	837	555	620
Single Day	233	–	–	584	267	543	527	451	170	611
Preconference Only	0	–	–	0	13	0	0	20	0	0
SUBTOTAL	921	–	–	1,245	822	1,159	1,168	1,308	670	1,231
Speakers	24	–	–	22	32	50	42	47	49	81
Exhibits Only	45	–	–	98	44	46	61	89	101	131
Exhibitor Representatives	240	100	164	300	220	290	270	250	267	378
TOTAL	1,210	882	911	1,665	1,118	1,545	1,541	1,694	1,087	1,821

* Joint conference with AISLE.

Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	322	–	–	342	905	402	475	1,325	980	491
Hotel Rooms Used	358	–	–	263	865	398	354	1,190	921	352
Number of Companies	76	33	50	109	92	114	113	116	113	124
Number of Booths	98	–	50	121	102	126	128	138	131	141
Total Booth Square Feet	9,800	–	–	12,100	10,200	12,600	12,800	13,900	13,100	13,300



Illinois Library Association Annual Report 2021–2022



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

The experience of serving as ILA President is bookended by two member-centered responsibilities. The first one is to convene a Conference Program Committee and to choose a theme for the Annual Conference that will take place approximately 18 months later. The second is two-fold: chairing and convening the Nominating Committee, and chairing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Executive Board. The latter is a relatively new group, intended to provide guidance and leadership to the Executive Board, and by extension to the association and profession, in strategically planning our efforts to increase and develop diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; and to keep the Board accountable for progress toward our DEI-related strategic goals.

Newly elected Vice Presidents/Presidents-Elect and the Conference Committee do not know what the future will hold, or what the Illinois library environment will “look like” when we begin planning for the ILA Annual Conference. This was particularly true for my conference committee and me as we were still in the very early stages of the pandemic. However, we did know that our communities, and libraries’ place in them, was more important than ever. As the committee and I thought about the flexibility and resilience that libraries showed to help reduce the disruption that COVID-19 had caused; the courageous steps libraries were taking to increase awareness of systemic racism, social injustice, and other current issues; and the ways libraries and library staff simply “thought outside the box” while designing and implementing library services and programs, we found our way to the theme of Breaking Down Barriers, Building Up Communities.

Over the course of the year, as the state—indeed, the world—began to adapt to post-pandemic conditions, libraries, particularly school and public libraries, found themselves at the nexus of culture wars over materials and programs, primarily those by and about people of color or LGBTQIA+ people. We worked with our sister organization the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) to amplify their strong statement about book bans, and our own Intellectual Freedom Committee chose to honor the students of Downers Grove High School in recognition of their extraordinary advocacy for their own right to read. Legislatively, we focused on reducing the digital divide by introducing legislation to ensure reasonable, equitable pricing for e-books for libraries and advocating for library broadband connections to be included in the state budget.

As I look ahead toward finishing my term, I am excited by the opportunity to chart the future and future leadership of ILA via the Nominating Committee, ensuring that the future board represents the diversity of our members with representatives from all backgrounds, all library types, and all geographic areas of the state. Also, I am looking forward to being a part of the award process for our second year of the inaugural Inclusive Travel Grant program that financially supports Illinois library staff from underrepresented populations to attend a national conference of their choosing. Thank you to the 2021-2022 DEI Subcommittee for initiating this incredible step forward! The bar has been set high and the Executive Board and elected leadership remain focused on you, our members.

Here’s to 2023 and beyond,



Jeanne C. Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library
ILA President, 2021–22

2019–2023 ILA Strategic Plan

Vision

Collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois

Mission

Leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries

Core Strategic Values

- Energizing, visionary leadership
- Adaptation to change
- Long term strategic perspective/direction
- Member service focus
- Partnerships and alliances
- Diversity and equity of opportunity

Core Values of the Profession

Information access, equity, intellectual freedom, and objective truth

Strategies, Goals, and Desired Outcomes

Strategy: Advocacy

Goal: Legislative Advocacy

- Invest in advocacy. Educate and mobilize activist groups and other professional associations to understand and support the cause and critical nature of libraries.
- *Desired outcomes:* Activated strategic alliances and informed advocacy at all levels achieve adequate funding for libraries. Governmental decision-makers increase support for libraries.

Goal: Community Advocacy

- Develop education and tools for library leaders and staff to establish clear understanding of libraries' worth among the people served, resulting in community and stakeholder ambassadorship and engagement.
- *Desired outcomes:* The communities and people served value the presence and vitality of libraries. The communities and people served are vocal advocates for libraries.

Strategy: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion

Goal: In the Profession

- Develop education for library leaders and staff about increasing diversity in collections and programs and creating an inclusive environment in libraries and librarianship.
- *Desired outcome:* Library leadership and staff are cultivated and engaged in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the communities they serve.

Goal: In the Association

- Review and revamp the committee and volunteer system for functionality, diversity, inclusivity, and recognition. Increase awareness, understanding, and commitment to creating an inclusive environment in ILA.
- *Desired outcomes:* Members recognize their ownership in and have equitable access to participate and be heard in ILA's volunteer structure. Members connect collaboratively for sharing and creation of knowledge.

Strategy: Delivery of Member Value

- **Goal:** Assess and refresh programs and services, integrating new approaches and technologies to deliver member value in programming, communication, and involvement.
- *Desired outcome:* Members in every segment find relevant value from ILA programs and services.

Strategy: Leadership

- **Goal:** Convene critical conversations with partners in the library ecosystem including the Illinois State Library, the three systems, AISLE, and other related consortia and organizations.
- *Desired outcomes:* Access to library service continually expands to increasing numbers of Illinois residents. Librarians, library staff, and trustees are supported effectively and efficiently by the library ecosystem in the state.

Strategic Progress

2021–22 is the third full governance year with ILA’s strategic plan, which was developed in 2018–19 and approved in April of that year. Originally intended to be a three-year plan in effect from 2019–20 through 2021–22, it was extended for one year by Executive Board vote in September 2021, to run through 2022–23. A July 2022 assessment included the following progress toward the association’s strategic priorities since the prior (2021) report:

Strategic Priority: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion in the Association

- Implementation of Young Adult Services Forum teen-specific DEI statement, cascading from ILA’s association-wide one
- Reviewed and revamped committee composition statements, resulting in an overarching one that applies to all ILA committees, to make appointment process more accessible and understandable
- New logo for ILA Diversity Committee

Strategic Priority: A Culture of Diversity and Inclusion in the Profession

- Implemented and awarded six inaugural travel stipends for Illinois librarians from underrepresented populations to attend their first national conferences, including five of these in the ILA budget ongoing and securing sponsorship of a sixth
- Publication of article by the ILA Best Practices Committee regarding development of a land acknowledgement statement, along with a case-study from Downers Grove Public Library to inform and aid other libraries’ such efforts
- New Facebook group hosted by ILA Diversity Committee titled “DiversiTEA” to “facilitate communication between and among marginalized groups (BIPOC, disabled individuals, LGBTQIA+) in the library profession.”

Strategic Priority: Legislative Advocacy

- Invested in Advocacy by hiring an advocacy consultant, who developed high-impact stories, images, and content presented at the 2022 Library Legislative Meet-ups
- Successful introduction and passage through committee of a bill to require equitable e-book pricing for libraries; federal court has since ruled that such legislation belongs in U.S. Congress
- Successfully advocated, with CARLI, for the inclusion of academic librarians on the College Course Materials and Textbooks Affordability Task Force; collaborating with CARLI on a statement for the task force regarding Open Educational Resources

- Full funding for state library grant programs
- Inclusion of libraries in state’s plans for federal funds supporting broadband implementation statewide

Strategic Priority: Community Advocacy

- Development and production of “Ready, Set, Advocate” training initiative, featuring uploaded and recorded modules intended for anyone to be able to use, in addition to live presentations at ILA Annual Conference, Reaching Forward, Reaching Forward South
- Planned revamp of “Bigger than a Building” to become evergreen, and serve libraries beyond the COVID-19 pandemic environment
- Presentation by iREAD at Illinois Association of Park Districts Annual Conference in January 2022, to increase awareness and support of libraries in communities

Strategic Priority: Leadership

- First Director’s University 2.0 conference planned for August 2022
- Produced first Reaching Forward and Reaching Forward South in-person conferences since 2019

Strategic Priority: Delivery of Member Value

- Capitalized on enhanced functionality of iREAD website enabled successful negotiations to increase state adoptions from three to nine in 2022, in addition to Illinois and the U.S. Department of Defense (customer value)
- Implemented new Illuminate fundraising initiative to recognize all donors (donor value), and encourage lifetime giving, in order to bolster ILA’s long-term sustainability

The complete report, including ongoing work toward advancing ILA’s goals, is available on the ILA website at www.ila.org/about/strategic-plan.

ILA'S Advocacy Efforts

In Illinois

ILA focused on two primary legislative priorities in 2022: Equitable e-book pricing for libraries and state provision of broadband to public libraries. ILA worked with state legislators to introduce the Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act to require “reasonable” access for “electronic literary products” for libraries. State Senator Rachelle Aud Crowe introduced SB 3167 and State Representative Katie Stuart introduced HB 4470 for this purpose. The House bill moved unanimously out of its committee but did not advance in the full House and the Senate bill was not called in committee; not because the legislation was without merit or support, but because a federal court ruled in favor of a stay to a similar law passed in Maryland. The judge affirmed that the libraries’ case had merit, though, noting that a solution belongs in Congress rather than in state legislatures or in court. We consider this a success, having surfaced the issue here in Illinois and contributing to the show of national support for it.

The other major legislative focus in the association this year was securing state-sponsored high-speed broadband for public libraries in the state, as is currently offered to K-12 buildings via the Connect Illinois program. Bills were introduced in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly outlining uses of federal funds coming to states for this purpose, and we were able to secure libraries’ inclusion in both bills via amendment. As federal guidance for use of the funds is still pending, the bills did not advance but we plan to keep this issue top of mind in future sessions.

ILA worked with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) to identify librarians to serve on the College Course Materials Affordability Task Force created by the Illinois General Assembly. CARLI director Anne Craig and Denise Cote, librarian at College of DuPage, were both appointed and the ILA Executive Board voted in May in support of a CARLI-authored statement to the Task Force advocating for Open Educational Resources (OER).

ILA’s series of Library Legislative Meet-ups continued in a virtual format for the second year in a row. In total, 423 attendees and 72 legislators participated across six events organized geographically around the state. Legislator comments were very positive, both about the series and about ILA’s legislative agenda. Several committed publicly to sponsoring the Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act after hearing the presentations; all were supportive of libraries as a key piece of the broadband solution puzzle.

On the Federal Level

Library funding continued as the top federal advocacy issue this year. Once again, ALA and its state chapters, including ILA, engaged in a campaign to secure funding for library construction, funding of IMLS/LSTA at its full authorized amount of \$232 million, and \$50 million in funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act (IAL) grant program in the Department of Education. ALA hosted “Virtual Fly-In Days” in February, and ILA, along with Greg McCormick of the Illinois State Library, Sara Benson of UIUC Libraries, and Sylvia Norton of AASL, met with four federal offices: Senator Dick Durbin, Representative Darin LaHood, Representative Rodney Davis, and Representative Cheri Bustos. Both Illinois Senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, signed “Dear Appropriator” letters in favor of both funding requests; eight Representatives signed the one in favor of IMLS/LSTA and seven signed the one in favor of IAL.



Developed by the ILA Advocacy Committee, Ready, Set, Advocate is a comprehensive training package that provides the education librarians, library staff, library trustees, and library supporters need to become successful advocates for the library and to achieve library advocacy goals. Ready, Set, Advocate is an online toolkit including tip sheets, scripts, and examples; and three recorded video modules that each correspond to a section in the toolkit. These modules are designed for in-person or remote presentations and are available in two formats: prerecorded sessions that can be broadcast online or shown in person or slides only for presenting live.

Ready, Set, Advocate is part of ILA’s sustained program of advocacy training and is based on the best practices of other successful training programs such as the ALA “Advocacy Boot Camp” and other state library associations.

Conference & Events



Events began to return to in-person formats in 2022, although some remained virtual. ILA put on our second virtual Annual Conference on October 12–14, 2021, implementing lessons learned from our first virtual conference the year before.

Nearly 800 people participated in three days' worth of programs, exhibits, and online networking opportunities presented under the theme "Breaking Down Barriers, Building Up Communities." Conference Co-Chairs Amanda McKay and Rachel M. Park led a Conference Program Committee that assembled a remarkable array of speakers: Clint Smith, staff writer at *The Atlantic* and author of *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* (Little, Brown, 2021), presented the Opening General Session; ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall spoke on the President's Program; and Twanna K. Hodge, DEI Librarian at the University of Florida, was the DiversiTEA speaker. iREAD illustrator and cartoonist Steenz presented the Youth and Young Adult Keynote.



Director's University, Reaching Forward, and Reaching Forward South all returned to in-person formats, as will the 2022 Annual Conference; and plans were put in place for the inaugural Director's University 2.0. The Director's University events are collaborative projects of ILA,

IHLS, RAILS, and the Illinois State Library and are intended to give new directors—and now, with DU 2.0, seasoned directors—the information and connections with colleagues they need to succeed.



Library Trustee Forum
Illinois Library Association

The Library Trustee Forum again presented its series of spring workshops online, which has enabled greater attendance from trustees all over the states. Topics covered in three sessions on March 5, April 2, and May 14 included "Illinois Library Trustees: what's the job and how do I do it?" presented by Amanda Standerfer; "Library Director Evaluation" presented by Becky Spratford; and "Streamlining the Budget Process" presented by James Rachlin.



The "Noon Network," a series of midday micro-learning webinars on various topics designed to help achieve professional development goals, continued for its third year. Webinars are held at noon on Mondays

and Wednesdays for 20 to 30 minutes followed by a question- and-answer session. Topics included "Career Pathway Talk Series: How to Retain BIPOC Students and New Professionals in Librarianship;" a series focused on Illinois' state sponsored, child-voted book awards programs; and "Balancing Equity and Freedom in Collection Development."



The Marketing Forum's annual Mini-Conference has become a highly popular and successful event. This year's virtual event took place on April 29 and featured marketing and communications expert Cordelia Anderson and web developer, librarian, national speaker, and author Laura Solomon. These experts showed successful plans and techniques from internal communications among leadership and staff, to public messaging and responses to criticism.

"ILA enjoys a diverse array of revenue sources, making the association unique among state chapters of ALA."

Realizing Revenue

ILA enjoys a diverse array of revenue sources, making the association unique among state chapters of ALA. Membership, continuing education, and publications are all traditional sources of revenue; the iREAD® summer reading program enables ILA to survive and thrive as traditional revenue sources face pressure from tight budgets and changing environments. The Fund for Illinois Libraries continues to offer ILA institutional members who do not have their own associated foundations or friends groups a way to accept donations, primarily from corporations that require a 501(c)3 for their philanthropy. Our long-term investments help ensure the Association's continuity; although the portfolio is managed conservatively, we do historically see investment growth over the long term, although year-over-year this year shows a decline, given that investment markets saw unprecedented high levels in 2021.

iREAD 2022, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," encouraged summer reading participants to engage in activities with a camp theme. Committee chair Becca Boland led an effort that included art by an accomplished array of illustrators including Dav Pilkey, Jessica Gibson, Christina "Steenz" Stewart, and Kayla Miller. The U.S. Department of Defense continues to purchase iREAD resources and incentives for military libraries worldwide; and the 2022 program was implemented well beyond Illinois' borders with statewide adoptions in nine other states (Alaska, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington), and individual libraries in more than 30 states.



Contributions to the association also continue to increase, most notably through the Illinois Library Luminaries program, which supports the ILA Endowment and saw three new inductees in 2021–22: Kathryn Harris, Patricia Boze, and Jean Wilkins. Contributed income also helps build ILA's array of restricted funds, which primarily support awards and scholarships, including the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund, the Diversity Scholarship Fund, the Intellectual Freedom Fund, the Legal Defense Fund, the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund, and the Robert R. McClarren Fund. For the second year, the ILA Executive Board voted to transfer \$10,000 from ILA's net asset balance into the Diversity Scholarship Fund, to enable it to support initiatives broader than its traditional role in the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholar program. This year, the inaugural Inclusive Travel Grants were awarded from the DSF; five with ILA funds and a sixth with sponsorship from Amanda Standerfer and Fast Forward Libraries.

Illuminate

The ILA Fundraising Committee launched a new initiative this year: The Illuminate program, designed to inspire giving with universal recognition of all gifts of \$5 or more, and increasing honors for increasing levels of cumulative lifetime support. For the first time in the organization's history, we are recognizing our donors in the annual report; see below for the list. We are eternally appreciative of everyone who thinks to include ILA in your philanthropy; your contributions truly do make a difference in Illinois librarianship.

Fiscal Report (Year Ended June 30, 2022)

Revenue

General Operations	\$31,835
Membership	\$275,298
Conference	\$174,622
iRead	\$2,550,691
Publications	\$18,714
Public Policy	\$2,000
Awards	\$5,750
Endowment Contributions	\$9,100
Workshops	\$66,751
Reaching Forward	\$86,460
Donor Restricted Funds Contributions	\$4,312
Total Revenue	\$3,225,533

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

General Operations	\$312,211
Membership	\$172,301
Conference	\$140,607
iRead	\$2,114,935
Publications	\$10,285
Public Policy	\$173,892
Awards	\$33,553
Workshops/Projects	\$78,382
Forums & Committees	\$7,929
Reaching Forward	\$88,571
Total Operating Expenses	\$3,132,666

Operating Net	\$92,867
Other Revenue: Gain on Long-term Investments	\$-232,838
Other Expenses: Amortization, Depreciation	\$-4,237
Increase in Net Assets	\$-144,208
Net Assets at end of FY 2021	\$2,745,824
Net Assets at end of FY 2022	\$2,601,616

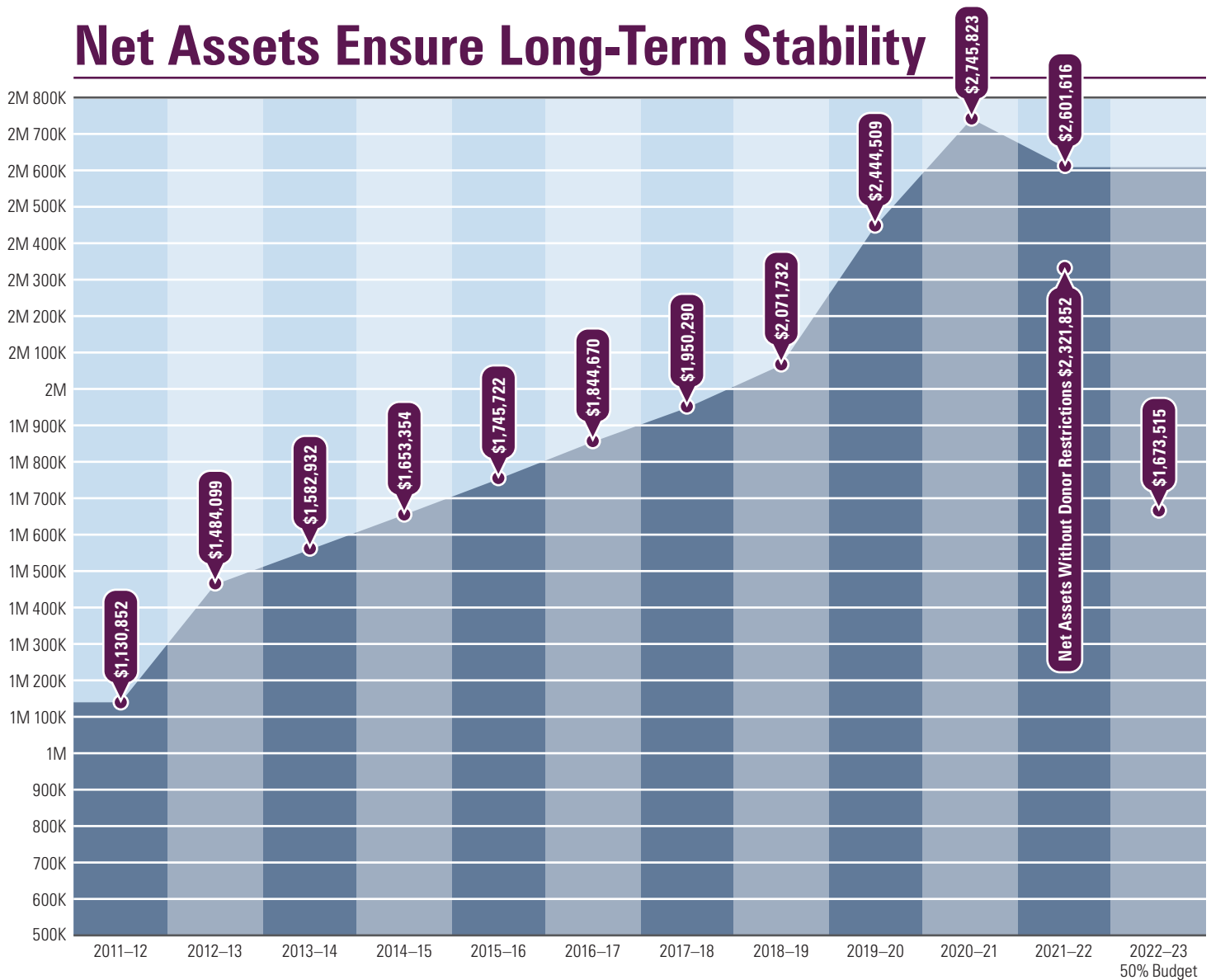
Net Assets Comprise:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$2,321,852
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$279,764

- Atkinson Memorial Award: \$110
- Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development: \$8,911
- Legal Defense Fund: \$1,095
- OCLC Users Group: \$25,266
- Valerie Wilford Fund: \$16,352
- Diversity Scholarship: \$3,942
- Diversity Scholarship (Board Designated): \$0
- Intellectual Freedom Fund: \$1,185
- Endowment Fund: \$209,537
- Unappropriated Endowment Fund Earnings: \$13,366

Total Net Assets at End of FY 2022	\$2,601,616
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Net Assets Ensure Long-Term Stability



Cumulative Surplus

The growth in ILA’s net assets, particularly net assets without donor restrictions, has been a conscious strategy over the past 20-plus years, with the goal of producing an annual budget surplus that will build up a reserve fund of net assets without donor restrictions equal to at least 50% of the subsequent year’s budgeted expenses, according to ILA fiscal policy. This goal has been achieved since 2013; this year, of the net assets listed in the chart above, \$2,321,852 are without donor restrictions. The expense budget for 2022–23 totals \$3,347,030; 50% is \$1,673,515

2021–2022	\$270,275
2020–2021	\$301,314
2019–2020	\$372,777
2018–2019	\$121,442
2017–2018	\$105,620
2016–2017	\$98,948
2015–2016	\$92,368
2014–2015	\$70,422
2013–2014	\$98,833
2012–2013	\$353,247
2011–2012	\$178,331
2010–2011	\$193,267
2009–2010	\$372,938
1896–2009	\$386,316
Grand Total	\$3,016,098

Thank You to Our Donors

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We thank all donors who sparked change with a gift during the 2021–22 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

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We thank donors who energized Illinois librarianship with cumulative gifts of at least \$1,500 during their lifetime.

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We thank donors who inspired the profession with cumulative gifts of at least \$2,500 during their lifetime or via estate plans.

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Cynthia M. Robinson, Deputy Director



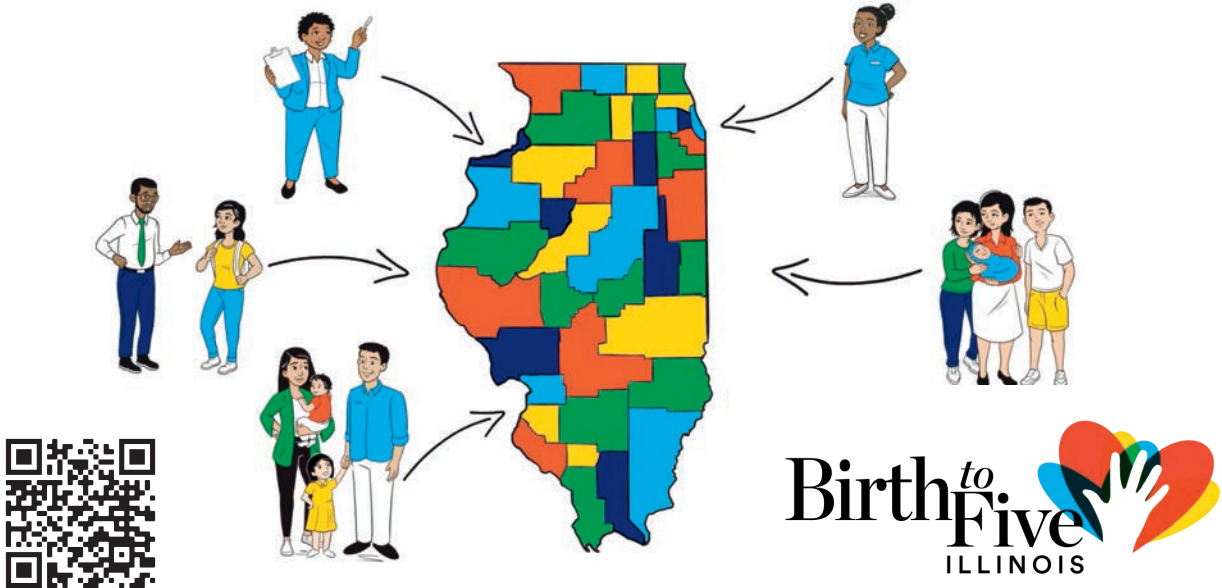
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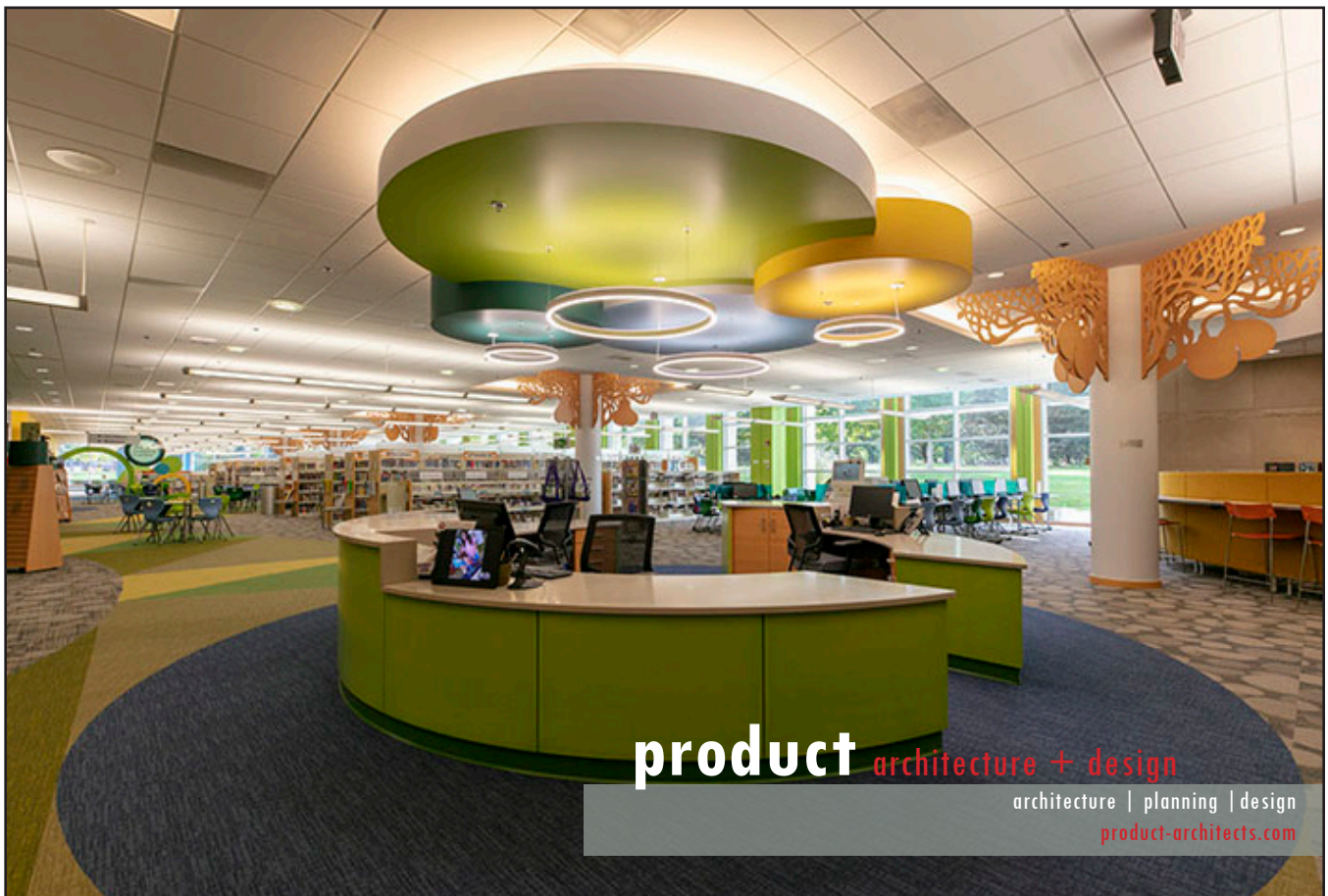
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- Submissions from all geographic areas of the state
- Submissions that relate to ILA's strategic goal area of a culture of diversity and inclusion, both in the profession and the association



Illinois Library Association

View submission guidelines at www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter
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Friday, May 5

Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont

Visit ila.org/rfs for more information.

REACHING FORWARD



REACHING FORWARD / SOUTH



Friday, April 14, 2023

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