



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

Illinois Library Association
560 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60661-2692

Phone: 312.644.1896
Fax: 312.644.1899
Email: ila@ila.org

Press Release

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is proud to announce Jeannie Dilger, Executive Director of the Palatine Library District (PLD), as the recipient of the 2023 Librarian of the Year Award. This award recognizes Dilger’s outstanding service, exceptional leadership, and invaluable contributions to libraries in Illinois and beyond. The Librarian of the Year Award is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated distinguished service and leadership in the library profession. Nominees are evaluated based on their local, statewide, and national impact, showcasing a commitment to libraries that can serve as a model for others in the field. This award is sponsored and presented by Today’s Business Solutions, Inc.

Throughout her illustrious career, Dilger has been deeply involved in the library community and has made remarkable contributions to the field and the profession. Dilger has served as Vice President, President, Past President, and ILA Councilor within ILA. Her contributions and leadership on ILA’s Advocacy Committee, Awards Committee, Membership Task Force, Public Policy Committee, and Conference Planning Committee have been instrumental in shaping the association’s initiatives. She has shared her insights and leadership as a frequent speaker at ILA Annual Conferences, Reaching Forward Conferences, and staff development days for numerous libraries. As a former outreach librarian, in 2010 she co-edited *On the Road with Outreach: Mobile Library Services*.

Dilger’s impact on libraries extends beyond Illinois. Her involvement in the ALA-APA Certified Public Library Administrator Certification Review Committee and the PLA 2024 National Conference Program Subcommittee has helped transform future leaders in the American Librarian Association (ALA) and Public Library Association (PLA). She

recently finished terms on the PLA Legislation and Advocacy Group and the PLA Membership Advisory Group.

Dilger has been a catalyst for change at PLD, where she has served as the library's Executive Director since 2018. Under her leadership, the library led significant advancements in community service. She successfully spearheaded a referendum campaign that secured a 29% increase in operating revenue, with a definitive 64% yes vote. The accompanying marketing and PR campaign for the referendum was awarded the prestigious *Library Journal* Marketer of the Year Award in 2019.

Building on this success, Dilger led a comprehensive renovation project for the library's three locations, resulting in state-of-the-art facilities that meet the community's evolving needs. She secured a Public Library Construction Act Grant from the Illinois State Library for \$1.8 million, further enhancing the library's provision of exceptional resources and services.

Concurrently with the referendum and construction, Dilger led PLD in joining the CCS catalog consortium, greatly expanding the availability of resources and materials available to patrons and participating more fully in resource sharing in Illinois. In recognition of her remarkable contributions, she was recently elected Vice President and President-Elect of the CCS governing board.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dilger is actively engaged in the communities she serves. She is a Co-Chair of Partners for Our Communities, a member of the Rotary Club of Palatine, and recently finished a term as Chair of Women Engaged in Business, a networking group of the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dilger's advocacy for libraries extends to direct engagement with local legislators, where she champions the importance of libraries and has spoken to the Illinois legislature against property tax freezes. She was recently selected by Illinois State Library Director Greg McCormick to speak to the media on critical issues affecting libraries, including House Bill 2789.

"Jeannie Dilger's exceptional commitment to libraries, innovative leadership, and profound impact on the library community make her the clear choice for Librarian of the Year," said Lizzy Boden, Adult Services Manager at the Hinsdale Public Library and the chair of the 2023 ILA Awards Committee. "Her passion for advancing library

services, both in Illinois and on a national level, is truly inspiring. We congratulate Jeannie on this well-deserved honor.”

The ILA Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2023 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 24-26 in Springfield, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release