

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

Looking out at the snowy landscape from inside the new Fondulac District Library in East Peoria is a pleasure for library patrons. This joint project by library and city officials revitalized a former brownfields site and is one of the libraries featured in this year's annual issue on new and renovated library buildings. Seven libraries tell their stories in words, pictures, and statistics, beginning on page 4. Cover photo by Ballogg Photography.

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 3,200 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. 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.

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Robert P. Doyle

New Library Buildings 2013

This is the seventeenth in a series of articles highlighting new library buildings, additions, or renovations. Each year, we feature noteworthy academic, school, special, or public libraries whose innovative architectural concepts merit attention. The recurring themes in this year's selections are spaces that are flexible and allow collaboration, but still offer separation for different needs. Technology is a given, with new twists. Services are expanding along with spaces and collections. Staff and storage areas are being converted to add square footage for the public, putting the patron first. And light and warmth remain key elements, encouraging people to gather and stay. Two of the projects offer stunning successes after earlier failed referendums, others are part of multiyear, multistage projects, and all of them demonstrate thoughtful planning for both present and future, with immediate increased usage and appreciation.

Please send suggestions for future library features to ILA, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799; phone: 312-644-1896; fax: 312-644-1899; e-mail: doyle@ila.org.

Chicago Public Library: Edgewater Branch



Chicago's Edgewater community lined up the morning of June 22 to await the opening of Chicago Public Library's (CPL) new Edgewater Branch. The two-story, 16,300-square-foot branch is nearly 5,300 square feet larger than the previous library, which served the community for forty years at the same location. As if we needed proof of the neighborhood's excitement, 2,300 residents visited the branch on its first day and checked out more than 1,500 items!

The \$13.7 million project is targeted to receive LEED Gold certification and includes additional spaces for community organizations and residents to meet. In addition to the large, dividable community room, two smaller study rooms offer flexible uses, from study groups to meeting space for small businesses. The public technology increased from ten computers to fifty desktops and four laptops available for public use. Reflecting the diversity of the neighborhood, the new branch offers collections in English, Russian, Hindi, and Spanish, including books, e-books, newspapers, magazines, educational and entertainment DVDs.





Photos by James Steinkamp. Steinkamp Photography

“We are thrilled to be able to offer Edgewater residents a twenty-first century library in order to better serve the needs of patrons in this diverse community,” said CPL Commissioner Brian Bannon. “We know how much this community loves its library — the previous Edgewater location was one of the highest circulating branches in the city.”

The new enclosed teen area reflects a growing trend of libraries providing physical space dedicated to nurturing teens’ values, identity, and the new skills necessary to grow and thrive. Teens are offered a variety of STEM-based and financial literacy programs, as well as book clubs, Teen Tech Week, and Teen Read Week. The expanded branch staff includes a librarian specifically for teen services. The branch also offers the services of a certified teacher on hand after school to assist students with homework and a CyberNavigator, who provides one-on-one assistance to help patrons better understand technology. Both programs are supported by the generous contributions from private donors through the Chicago Public Library Foundation.

Fast Facts

Building:	16,300 square feet
Project Costs:	\$13.7 million
Seating:	251
Collections:	46,670 branch; access entire CPL catalog via holds
Computers:	54
Hours:	48 per week
Staff:	10 FTE
Architect:	Lohan Anderson
Engineers:	Burling Builders Construction
Interiors:	Lohan Anderson
Website:	www.chicagopubliclibrary.org

Crete Public Library



In 2011 the Crete Public Library decided to undertake a major renovation of their 24,500-square-foot, two-story building to appeal to the changing needs of their community. Starting with the need to replace seventeen-year-old carpet, the project bloomed into a complete redesign of the facilities. With the passing of an earlier referendum and careful budgeting, the library was able to complete the project at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Based on numerous surveys and focus groups, the design plan prepared the building for the future and provided the types of spaces the community said they wanted. The \$680,000 project included new paint and carpet for most of the building, construction of three new meeting rooms and an exterior door to the library's patio, audio-visual upgrades, new furniture, display shelving, a security camera system, and improved accessibility for people with disabilities.





Flexibility was the guiding principle. Furniture was chosen that could easily be rearranged. Circulation, adult, and youth services desks that had once been permanent fortresses were replaced with modular pieces that could be reconfigured as services change. Rooms were added for programs, meetings, and quiet study, as more collaborative space was high on the community's wish list. The largest program room received a new, state-of-the-art, audio-visual system, providing patrons a place to enjoy movies in a theater-like environment, and to make it easier for both staff and patrons to run multimedia presentations.

Adult and teen areas each received a defined space and furniture to appeal to each group. The teen area was enclosed with a demountable wall system (DIRTT) to provide privacy while offering the option to change the first floor layout in the future. The number of computer stations and connections for personal laptops doubled. The youth services area added an additional program room strictly for the use of children's programming, quiet study space for school-age children, a self-checkout station, and areas defined for different ages, with new technology for each area.

Fast Facts

Building:	25,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$680,000
Seating:	145 plus four meeting rooms
Collections:	82,000
Computers:	42
Hours:	61 per week
Staff:	17 FTE
Space planner:	Kim Cullin & Associates
Project manager:	Professional Building Services, Inc.
Website:	www.cretelibrary.org

DePaul University John T. Richardson Library

The John T. Richardson Library has occupied the physical crossroads of DePaul University's Lincoln Park campus since its opening in 1992. The Library Information Commons, which replaced the entire first floor plan, reaffirms the library's place as a new model for collaborative and social learning. It is home to new service programs, including the Learning Commons and the Scholar's Lab, both of which foster collaboration. The Learning Commons provides "one-stop" access to tutors (Writing Center and Science and Math Learning Center), career counselors (Career Center), and small-group study assistance. The technology-enhanced Scholar's Lab supports emerging areas in teaching and research, including social science data, GIS, and digital humanities.



Photo by Zachary Sigelko, DePaul University

The Learning Commons includes tables and whiteboards that can be rearranged to meet user needs. With over a hundred public workstations (and hundreds more power outlets and network connections!) — along with upgrades to the networking and Wi-Fi infrastructure as well as “media:scape” collaboration tables — the Information Commons allows individual or collaborative work in a technology environment characterized by the desire to “bring-your-own-device” (BYOD).

Finally, the Information Commons provides a new showcase for scholarly and creative work, including a Faculty Art Program in collaboration with the Department of Art, Media, and Design, and the Faculty Publications Collection, promoting greater awareness of the faculty’s scholarly work (See photo on page 10). The relocation of staff offices from the first floor to allow for greater public service space has had the added benefit of exposing a wall of exterior windows and establishing the library as a component of the university’s emergent “cultural corridor” that includes the DePaul Art Museum, Theatre School, and School of Music. Initial data on use of the space demonstrates the success of this project. Gate count has increased, but especially notable has been the increased use of services.

Fast Facts

Information Commons:	29,499 square feet
Project Costs:	\$4,565,000
Seating:	355
Collections:	3,014 volumes (Ready Reference, Chicago Collection, Career Collection, Leisure Reading Collection, Faculty Publications)
Hours:	114.5 per week
Staff:	17 FTE
Architect:	Vasilko Architects & Associates, Inc.
Engineers:	WMA Consulting Engineers, Ltd.
Interiors:	Vasilko Architects & Associates, Inc.; OEC Business Interiors, Inc.; Hire Nelson Company, Inc.; Poblacki Sign Company; Professional Decorating & Painting, Inc.
Construction:	J.C. Anderson, Inc.; Rex Electric & Technologies LLC; Admiral Heating and Ventilating, Inc.
Website:	www.libguides.depaul.edu/infocommons



Photo by Jeff Carrion, DePaul University

Fondulac District Library

In 2008 Fondulac District Library was approached by the city of East Peoria to revitalize the former Caterpillar factory brownfield site. Having experienced a failed referendum in 2007, the library board decided it was a great opportunity to reattempt passing a referendum for the construction of a brand new library facility. The library and city would share parking, meeting rooms, and entrances, decreasing overall construction costs and increasing efficiencies. District voters approved a \$7 million referendum in 2009 to construct, furnish, and equip a new building.

The next four years were spent planning, with the goal of ensuring the new library would fit the current needs of the community, as well as those of the future. The city worked to prepare the sites' infrastructure, such as sewers and roads, for new construction of public and retail buildings on the factory sites. Library staff drew on their previous experience with the design process gained through the earlier failed referendum.



Based on the intergovernmental agreement with the city, the library would encompass 32,000 square feet spread between two above-ground floors. Requirements, as determined by experienced library staff, included a first floor circulation desk (Check Out) and some sort gathering space that encouraged visitors to stay and enjoy the new library. The planning team added lounge seating, a gas fireplace, and new book displays in the gathering space.

At the previous library, the children's department was in a cramped, dark basement that had no natural light. In the new facility, the children's department has a wall of windows overlooking a plaza, plenty of comfortable, child-sized seating, and new interactive games and toys. Staff made the conscious decision to not limit the department's décor to a particular theme and instead focused on using bright, yet sophisticated, colors.

Except for the newest print releases, the adult collection resides on the second floor of the library. Teens now have a space to call their own, which has a larger young adult collection, two gaming stations, lounge seating, and café tables. The library has also implemented an in-library gaming program, which includes video gaming for kids and teens and board gaming for all ages. The new Quiet Reading/Local History Room offers an opportunity to display items of local interest not browsable in the library's former basement. Two study rooms are available for the public to reserve, and the collection increased by nearly 30 percent to more than 90,000 items.

Fast Facts

Building:	32,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$7 million
Seating:	154
Collections:	90,114
Computers:	42
Hours:	69 per week
Staff:	14 FTE, 16 part time
Architect:	Dewberry
Engineers:	Dewberry
Interiors:	Dewberry
Construction:	CORE
Website:	www.fondulaclibrary.org



Photos by Ballogg Photography

Lanark Public Library

The Lanark Public Library Board, seeking a visible location for the library in the heart of Lanark's historic downtown, found the long-abandoned and overlooked Hart Garage Chevrolet dealership to be the perfect fit. The 6,000-square-foot, single-story structure offered an open floor plan, high ceilings, exposed structures, and prime street frontage. The city hall/public library adaptive reuse of the space aims to encourage other restoration and retail development in the downtown area.

The enlarged library space, more than twice the size of the former library, is spacious while maintaining a quaint, comfortable patron experience. There's room for new computers, services, and program and collection development for all ages, soft seating for reading and collaborative group study. The increased space allows the library to partner with local schools and organizations to showcase artwork and speakers.

In keeping with being known as the Maple City, Library Director Janie Dollinger enjoys showing off what she refers to as the "zingers" of the building, including the maple-leaf imprinted ceiling tiles, the colored teardrop night lights in the children's department that face the main street, and the large maple tree donor wall designed by a local artist and patron. "Branching Out to Serve the Community" was the theme for the library open house, and that slogan continues to direct the dedicated library board and talented staff members to develop programs and services.





Photos by Quentin M. Hacker, Bray Architects

Fast Facts

Building:	6,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$910,000
Seating:	23
Collections:	18,500
Computers:	4
Hours:	27.5 per week
Staff:	1 FTE
Architect:	Bray Architects
Engineers:	Metro Design Associates; Muermann Engineering; Fredericksen Engineering
Interiors:	Bray Architects
Construction:	Ringland-Johnson Construction, Cherry Valley, IL
Website:	www.lanarkil.com/community-info/ resources/library/

Vernon Area Public Library District



When the doors of the Vernon Area Public Library District reopened on May 28, 2013, staff quipped that it felt like the big reveal on an episode of “Extreme Makeover: Library Edition.” A dramatic transformation had taken place during the twelve-week renovation, and it was apparent as soon as visitors stepped in the front door. Patrons returned to a bright, airy space with new features in the building’s lobby, youth services, and adult services departments. New furniture and finishes throughout contribute to the library’s more contemporary appearance.

The \$1.3 million renovation marks the first major update to the space since opening in 1993, during which time library use has evolved. The project aimed to address the needs of twenty-first century patrons, including more collaborative workspace, technology, and dedicated areas for teens, early readers, and quiet study. Also high on the priority list was improved access to popular materials, a goal addressed with face-out shelving and thoughtful new signage.

Adult new and popular materials now cover a full wall of display near the lobby — an effective placement. Circulation of new adult fiction saw an increase of 14 percent in the first month after reopening, new nonfiction was up 24 percent. A new quiet reading room features soft seating and one-person tables to encourage low noise levels. “It was important for there to be a refuge available for patrons who value silence in their library,” said Library Director Cynthia Fuerst. A stone fireplace completes the room’s cozy atmosphere.



The youth services department was completely transformed with colorful walls and furniture, a toddler activities table featuring LEGOs and iPads loaded with early literacy apps, and a new dedicated area for early readers. “We wanted children to feel welcomed and engaged when visiting our library,” said Fuerst. “One eight-year-old summed it up pretty well: ‘Wow! This place looks so much more fun now!’”

The new spaces were created without any change to the footprint of the 50,000-square-foot building. Instead, interior walls were moved to carve out 1,775 square feet of new public space from storage and staff areas. A periodicals desk and high-density storage were eliminated to make way for expanded study rooms; a circulation workroom was reconfigured to provide space for a new self-service café. With the renovation complete, the library board and staff now turn their attention to filling the updated spaces with the materials, resources, and activities that are most important to patrons.

Fast Facts

Building:	50,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$1.3 million
Seating:	383
Collections:	219,000
Computers:	30, plus laptops and iPads available for in-library use
Hours:	69 per week
Staff:	94
Architect:	Product Architecture + Design, Chicago
Construction:	IHC Construction Companies, LLC, Elgin
Website:	www.vapld.info

Photo by Vernon Area Public Library District. Library Furniture International



White Oak Library District: Crest Hill Branch and Lockport Branch



These two branches, one new construction and the other a renovation/expansion, were completed in 2013 as part of a three-building project stemming from a successful \$23 million referendum, following earlier efforts that failed. [The Romeoville Branch, completed in 2012, was featured in the February 2013 *ILA Reporter*.]

The design of the Crest Hill Branch is loosely based on Prairie-style architecture, but with a modern feel through use of glass and steel. The front façade is dominated by a beautiful limestone wall and the interiors are made rich with high ceilings, wood accents, and vibrant colors. The community is especially excited about this project because this facility is over three times larger than the old Crest Hill Branch.

The adult department has two study rooms, open seating public computers, a computer teaching lab, and a quiet reading room. Patrons love the quiet reading room for its fireplace, comfy furniture, and sweeping views to the west. Teens gather in a space all their own, showcasing a more edgy feel, complete with an exposed ceiling, diner booths, and modernistic décor. Public meeting spaces in the new building are plentiful, with a large room that can be divided in half, a medium-sized conference room, and a large children’s program room. The theme of the children’s program room is “sunrise on the prairie.” The floor, walls, and ceiling are designed to make those present feel like they are sitting on a grassy knoll watching the sunrise over the distant horizon. The ceiling in this space contains a detail that resembles the rays of the sun emanating from the north end of the room, where clerestory windows provide natural light.

The existing Lockport Branch, built in 1965, was gutted, asbestos removed, the small west wing demolished, and a larger west wing added. The exterior was given a facelift by adding new windows, as well as a metallic-silver fascia. The bricks used to clad the addition were selected carefully to make it appear that the new portion of the building was original. Inside, the use of glass, stone, and rich colors makes this relatively small building feel much larger.

The first floor houses circulation, an AV room, and the children’s department. Guests often comment that the circulation desk resembles a hotel’s concierge desk. The entryway into the children’s department was designed with a tree “canopy,” reinforcing the district’s “White Oak” theme, and the program room uses geometric shapes and colors. The second floor contains the adult department, teen area, a public gathering/social space, and the large meeting room. The adult department features two study rooms, open seating public computers, a computer teaching lab, and a quiet reading room overlooking Lockport’s city hall and central square.

Fast Facts Crest Hill Branch

Building:	24,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$7.8 million
Seating:	85
Collections:	80,000
Computers:	39
Hours:	60 per week
Staff:	21 FTE
Construction:	The Lombard Company

Lockport Branch

Building:	19,500 square feet
Project Costs:	\$5.9 million
Seating:	56
Collections:	80,000
Computers:	40
Hours:	60 per week
Staff:	22 FTE
Construction:	Frederick Quinn Corporation

Both Projects:

Architect:	Dewberry
Engineers:	Dewberry
Interiors:	Dewberry
Website:	www.whiteoaklibrary.org

Voila! Summer Reading Goes International in Southern Illinois

The 2013 iREAD theme, *Have Book Will Travel*, prompted a terrific collaboration that identified international university students at Southern Illinois University (SIU) and sent them to visit libraries during the summer. Students from Canada, China, Iran, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, and Turkey visited eleven public libraries, covering more than a thousand miles and spending time with four hundred families — talk about a road trip!

The project was initiated by SIU's College of Mass Communications and Media Arts (MCMA) and WSIU Public Broadcasting, in partnership with the Prix Jeunesse International, which promotes excellence in children's television and provided additional resources to the traveling student ambassadors, while MCMA/WSIU offered libraries ideas and expertise in promotion and outreach. The *Have Book Will Travel* project included these resources:

- a Prix Jeunesse International suitcase of award-winning television programs about rural life in other countries
- a comprehensive promotions and outreach toolkit
- bibliography of suggested companion book titles and references
- surveys, press materials, and additional artwork.

The toolkit was provided to libraries on compact discs and used by the project team to create web pages, social networking posts on Facebook and Twitter, promotional fliers, electronic postcards, and news releases in advance of the summer reading program launch.

The Prix Jeunesse videos, coupled with the *Have Book Will Travel* theme and resource guide, made it easier for librarians and the international students to work together. There was a built-in framework for programs and projects, giving them a jump-start. The project team, led by MCMA Interim Dean Dafna Lemish and SIU graduate student Elizabeth Spezia, arranged the visits and helped publicize and promote the programs. Media coverage included articles in local newspapers, photo stories, fliers, and online reporting, with WSIU's PBS KIDS literacy van visiting a number of libraries throughout the summer.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Southern Illinois University international students who visited the libraries and shared stories about their native countries included: Jeff Morrisey of Canada; Lei Gao, Ling Jin, and Bowen (Kevin) Gao of China; Nina Marhamati and Javid Pourkia of Iran; Yurino Kawashima of Japan; Fatuma Boru Guyo of Kenya; Lindani Memani of South Africa; and Iclal "Alev" Degim of Turkey, who joined the families via Skype! SIU's international students contributed many enriching elements to the program and tried to dispel myths about their countries.

As Sharon Yearwood, children's librarian at the C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District in Mt. Vernon, said, "The children and adults at Brehm Memorial Public Library were enthralled with the films and the student ambassadors. You definitely broadened our horizons and showed that books and film can take you many places."

[continued on page 22]



“Children expressed curiosity about differences between customs in the United States and the countries depicted in the programs they watched.”



[continued from page 20]

Children expressed curiosity about differences between customs in the United States and the countries depicted in the programs they watched, and it was great to have real people who could talk about their own lives and experiences. After watching the program from Turkey, *My Dream Bike* (TRT Istanbul, 2010), children generated comparisons to southern Illinois. Many children focused on the boy's effort to obtain his bike, asking questions such as, "Why does it cost so much to buy a bike?" and declaring, "The little boy worked hard for what he wanted," and "The Turkish boy had to work to earn his bicycle." An eleven-year-old from Metropolis said, "I'll remember that kids in other countries don't have all the things we have." Children also focused on differences in language, especially the word 'biscuit,' which was used in the Irish program *Grubz Up* (Radio Telefis Eireann, 2012) and British program *3rd and Bird! Meet Elliot* (Little Airplane Productions, 2010). A nine-year-old from Eldorado said she learned that "biscuits are cookies."

Project surveys collected additional comments. A ten-year-old from Metropolis said the best thing about the program was that "I got to listen to different languages." A nine-year-old from Mt. Vernon was excited that "I got to meet someone from China." Several girls indicated that *Picture This* (South African Broadcasting Corporation, 2012) was their favorite program and as a result of watching it, want to read books about Africa and African art.

BEYOND BORDERS

In addition to the videos, other program elements included things such as autograph cards for children with their names written in Chinese, Japanese, and Farsi. Lei Gao, an SIU graduate student in business administration explained, "I think before me, the children have never seen a Chinese person, and so they were quite curious. I have practiced calligraphy for several years, so I wrote their names with a traditional Chinese brush, and they liked those quite a lot."

The experience worked both ways, bringing insights to the international students as well as the children and families at the libraries.

- Javid Pourkia, an SIU graduate student in computer science from Iran, said, "It's been almost a year that I'm in U.S. and it was kind of the most fun day that I ever had."
- Ling Jin, a student from China, talked about how the programs helped her think about her future career as a teacher, and what she hopes to bring back to China. "This is a really fun and inspiring experience for me. My major is education, so I learned a lot through these programs. I learned to talk with children in different languages...that reminds me a lot about how to be a teacher and how to teach children what they want to learn. About this program, I think it really makes a difference in children's early life. These little things may open some windows for them to learn. When they want to learn about other countries they may go to books, more films. I think it's really meaningful and I hope my country can do more things like this."
- And Lindani Memani, South African graduate student in history, thought the programs helped to dispel myths about her country. "Kids are curious. They want to know more. They may have stereotypes like adults do and in fact, sometimes you gather that they get the stereotypes from their parents. So in my interactions, I do my best to explain about Africa, which is the continent, but also about South Africa, which is the country where I come from. If we were to have a similar program at home, where children and their families come to the libraries and listen to students from other parts of the world, it would open up a different world and they would possibly have a different perspective on things; because sometimes, hate and violence is fueled by misinformation."

If you're wondering how something similar might be received at your library, take it from a seven-year-old from Salem who said... "It was super great." **IA**



2014 COLLABORATION INVITATION: *PAWS TO READ*

The 2014 iREAD theme is *Paws to Read*, and we'd like to invite ideas for putting together a program collaboration with a local or regional resource that builds on the example of the SIU collaboration. You could even continue the idea of working with international students from a local college or university and invite them to partner with you in presenting programs on animals in their native countries. Other likely partners might be animal shelters, humane societies, animal rescue centers, zoos, but don't forget about partners such as television or media outlets that might help you develop a film or video series.

We'll build a partnership idea list and promote it on the iREAD website, the ILA website, and other online forums. **We'll also offer \$500 grants for the top three ideas, based on the following criteria:**

- Project involves at least 10 libraries and reaches at least 500 participants (remember, even if you're a tiny library, you can collaborate!)
- Project produces resources that can be shared with other iREAD libraries via website or other means.

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) for 30 days and the cost is \$100.

You Had Me at Checkout

Forget about eHarmony, speed dating, or blind dates. Love these days can be found in the library, and I am talking about what's beyond the 808.8385 section. Is there an invisible cupid roaming the stacks, striking unsuspecting victims when they least expect it? Can we tell if someone is compatible based on his/her reading interests? Who knew seemingly innocuous library jargon such as "Interlibrary loan," and "IPLAR" is the language of love? Is there really something super sexy about open access journals and OPACS?

We will never know for sure what it is about libraries that fill the air with love. But we do know that it happens and more frequently than you might expect. When we asked Illinois libraries if their library had been struck by cupid's arrow, we received an outpouring of responses from a range of once and future lovers. We heard from current and former employees who became a couple after meeting at work, patrons who chose the library as the venue to propose, some who had their wedding or engagement photos taken at the library, others who had the ceremony in the library, and even one person whose entire wedding became book-themed!

TURNING THE PAGE

Our first story comes from two former pages from the Niles Public Library District who started out as patrons, then joined the teen advisory board and soon became library employees. In August 2012, Dan Marcus and Sara Turk took their wedding photos at the library and after the ceremony, returned using books as a backdrop for more wedding photos.

WORKPLACE ROMANCES

In November 1999, Paul, who is now the director of Fountaindale Public Library District, was on Jennie's interview team for the community services librarian position at the Bensenville Community Public Library. Jennie remembers, "I was interviewed by someone really tall." Paul mostly remembers that Jennie wore a brown suit and "...was really impressed that Jennie knew all about community Freenets." They both worked together in adult services for a year until Paul left for a position at the now defunct Heritage Trail Library System. The two stayed in touch and eventually started dating. In 2008, at the Bensenville Community Public Library staff party, Paul took Jennie aside and proposed in the meeting room where they first met. Jennie, now the director of the Shorewood-Troy Public Library District, and Paul are still happily married.

Jennifer, head of youth services at the Warren-Newport Public Library District, lays claims to a "true librarian love story." While working at the Fox River Grove Memorial Library, she attended the Lincoln Story League, a group of children's librarians that met once a month to share storytime ideas. That's where she first laid eyes on Joe. At the next Lincoln Story League meeting, Joe presented a program on puppets — after all, Joe said, "puppeteers get all the chicks." They had lunch, talked about everything but puppets, and exchanged numbers on their bunny name tags. Eight years later, when asked if she believes in love at first sight, Jennifer asserts, "beyond a doubt, I do."

[continued on page 26]



POETRY AND PROSE, WAR AND PEACE

When Virginia was the young adult librarian at Algonquin Area Public Library District, she organized a program for teens called Eclectic Cafe, a poetry, song, and performance event, where two high school juniors, Linda and Mike, first met and then began dating. After graduation, they became engaged before Mike left for the army for the next two years. Linda continued her attendance at the Eclectic Cafe. The couple ultimately married and Virginia attended the ceremony. Mike and Linda's story is only one of at least half a dozen couples who have met at the Algonquin Area Public Library District.

SNAPSHOT LEADS TO WALKING DOWN THE AISLE

At the Gail Borden Public Library District, Billie Jo was a library associate in the adult services department where one of her duties was taking photographs for the staff directory. She first met Robert when she took his picture. After a summer of seeing each other in the hallway and in the break room, Robert asked Billie Jo to go to the movies. After a few months of dating, they became engaged and were married in the library's beautiful River Room that overlooks the Fox River. "After working at the library I cannot imagine getting married anywhere else." Still basking in bridal bliss eight years later, Billie Jo reveals, "I love when people discover that we were married at the library, I love to see the look of amazement on everyone's faces."

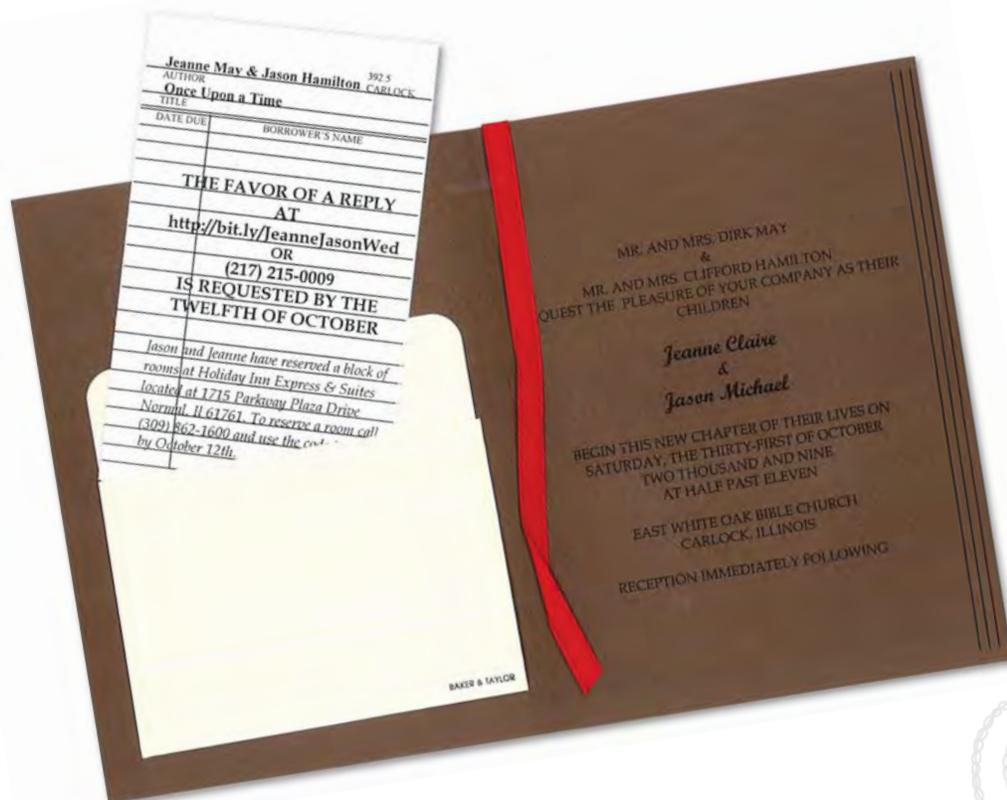
BRANDED FOR LOVE

Arlington Heights Memorial Library (AHML) had two stories to share from just the last fourteen months, one that included six hundred rose petals and another with a book scavenger hunt that led Tyler to the spot where he later proposed to his future bride Dani. Another couple, Tracie and Steve, had their wedding photos taken at the library and AHML used the event to demonstrate how the library is "adding value in your life," the tagline of their branding campaign.

WEDDING BELLS IN THE STACKS

An article in a local paper reads "Storybook Romance," and tells the tale of Bee, an aspiring author, and Craig, a prolific reader, who said "I do" in front of thousands of books as well as family, friends, staff, and regular patrons at the North Riverside Public Library. The Danville Area Community College Library also hosted a wedding for Paul and Jessica, two former student workers, and even provided a reading-themed activity kit for children at the reception.

For more library love, check out *The Romance of Libraries* (Scarecrow Press, 2006). With Valentine's Day right around the corner, post your library love stories from 2014 on ILA's Facebook page and make it a record-breaking year for library engagement!



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.

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Sally in Libraryland

Over the course of this many-faceted library career, I've attended more meetings and programs than I can count. Some have been large and long — council sessions at ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting are pretty intense, hours at a time several days in a row, and getting elected to ALA Council meant a three-year commitment to those meetings. Regular library management team meetings could be short or long, acrimonious or harmonious. And I was a member of many, many program audiences long before I started spending so much time as the person at the front of the room!

At the end of a recent LACONI (Library Administrators Conference of Northern Illinois) middle managers meeting (notable, among other things, for the fire alarm in the middle of it, which provided the opportunity to observe that the staff at the Fountaindale Public Library District absolutely have their procedures for such incidents down cold — kudos to them!) an attendee came up to ask a question, and handed me a lovely origami flower made from a Hershey's mini wrapper! She explained that the woman sitting next to her had made it and left it on the table on her way out, and she thought it was too pretty to waste, so she wanted me to have it. It's on my kitchen table, and I smile every time I see it.

And it reminds me that over the course of these many years, I've seen and heard about many interesting things that people do during meetings and programs — in addition to, or instead of, paying close attention, participating fully, and making copious notes.

Many — probably all by now — ALA councilors come to meetings equipped with an impressive array of electronics. Laptops, netbooks, tablets, and smartphones are everywhere on the council floor. Early on, I naively assumed that the people so equipped were doing important things, like solving problems at their library far, far away, or making notes for a meeting later, or checking documentation of issues on the floor. I am sure many people were doing those things — but after wondering about it aloud over wine one evening, here are some OTHER things people told me they observed on screens around them: Shoe shopping. Lots and lots of games. Lots and lots of e-mail and texting, which may or may not have been council-related. At least one job application. Photo albums. Perusal of restaurant listings. More games. And I'm sure similar things are going on in meetings and programs in all sorts of places, not just council.

Handcrafting is a popular thing to do during these kinds of events, and I'm actually grateful for that — the chapter councilor from Massachusetts was an incredible knitter, and taught me to knit baby hats! And here is one more reason why you absolutely must talk to strangers at all library gatherings: I learned that at least one school in New York teaches knitting to all students in the third grade — boys and girls — and then encourages them to knit in class ever after! Their studies have shown that it actually increases concentration and focus, which is pretty amazing. So when I see attendees pull out yarn and needles or hooks as I'm getting ready to start a program, I no longer think they're planning to be disinterested!



<Here I climb up on my soapbox.> Surreptitious phone conversations aren't a good idea anywhere, unless it's a bona fide crisis that you are the only one in the world who can help. In which case you should quietly excuse yourself and leave the room. <Climbs down.>

Smart phones are making distraction during meetings much easier, and that can be a problem. Here's a tip: if you think people sitting around a table with you don't notice that you are texting or game playing, because your phone is below the table top, think again. And then cut it out.

Another thing I've seen people do in meetings and programs: sleep. I was warned before my first ever local Rotary presentation that one member always fell asleep after lunch. Didn't matter who the speaker was, or what the topic. Naptime was naptime. I was glad I was warned, because that's the kind of thing I can really take personally. I've noticed that when a program is totally voluntary — like a LACONI program, or anything at Reaching Forward or ILA — people tend to stay awake. In captive audience situations, like a staff day, I sometimes wonder if napping is more a political statement than a result of weariness. It's not the MAIN reason that I distribute chocolate at the beginning of a program, but what could a little extra caffeine hurt?

Long ago as an undergrad, I started drawing teeny-tiny boxes in the margins of my notes in less enthralling lectures, and shading in one box for each fifteen minutes. My brain found the concrete evidence of time passing very soothing. Colleen Costello, with whom I attended many classes in pursuit of our MLS's, got so invested in her doodles during one particularly deadly semester that she decided she needed to check out some books on drawing and perfect her technique.

I have only encountered the one origami artist, and that at secondhand, but so far that is the coolest thing I know of to do whilst attending a program. What have you seen or done? What do you want to emulate, and what annoys the heck out of you? Have you learned a new skill not related to the discussion at hand, or do you wish you could? How would you feel if everyone at your next departmental meeting pulled out yarn and started knitting?

We could have a lot to talk about! E-mail me at Sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com. 

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ILA CANDIDATES FOR 2014

The ILA Nominating Committee has announced the candidates for election in the spring of 2014.

For vice president/president-elect (three-year term beginning July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2017):

President-Elect:

Betsy Adamowski, Wheaton Public Library

Tina Hubert, Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City

Board of Directors (three-year term beginning July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017). A candidate from each pairing will be elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

Director-at-Large:

Rob Morrison, National Louis University, Wheeling

Susan Prokopeak, Joliet Junior College

Director-at-Large:

Beth Duttlinger, Lillie M. Evans Public Library District, Princeville

Anne Hughes, Glen Carbon Centennial Library

Director-at-Large:

Jeremy Dunn, Chicago Public Library

Brock Peoples, Dunlap Public Library District

Director-at-Large:

Roxane E. Bennett, Fox River Valley Public Library District, Dundee

Veronica Defazio, Plainfield Public Library District

Any ILA member wishing to be added to the ballot by petition may call the ILA office for information. Nominations by petition for an elective office shall be proposed in writing by at least one hundred (100) personal members of the association and delivered to the executive office by March 1, 2014. Candidates for director nominated by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the paired candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliations of the petitioner as determined by the nominating committee. Petition candidates for vice president/ president-elect will be added to the presidential slate as requested. The polls will open electronically April 1, 2014. In addition, paper ballots will be sent to persons requesting one. The return deadline is thirty (30) days after the ballot is postmarked. The electronic polls will close April 30.

Serving on the nominating committee are Gail Bush, Deanne Holshouser, Allen Lanham, Amanda McKay, Diane McNulty, Janice Sherman, and Pamela Van Kirk, chair.

Spring 2014 ILA Advocacy and Continuing Education Events

Don't miss any of these opportunities to learn and connect with colleagues, elected officials, and improve your library in 2014!

For complete registration forms and information, see the December *ILA Reporter* or visit the ILA website



Illinois Library Association

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IACRL CONFERENCE MARCH 21

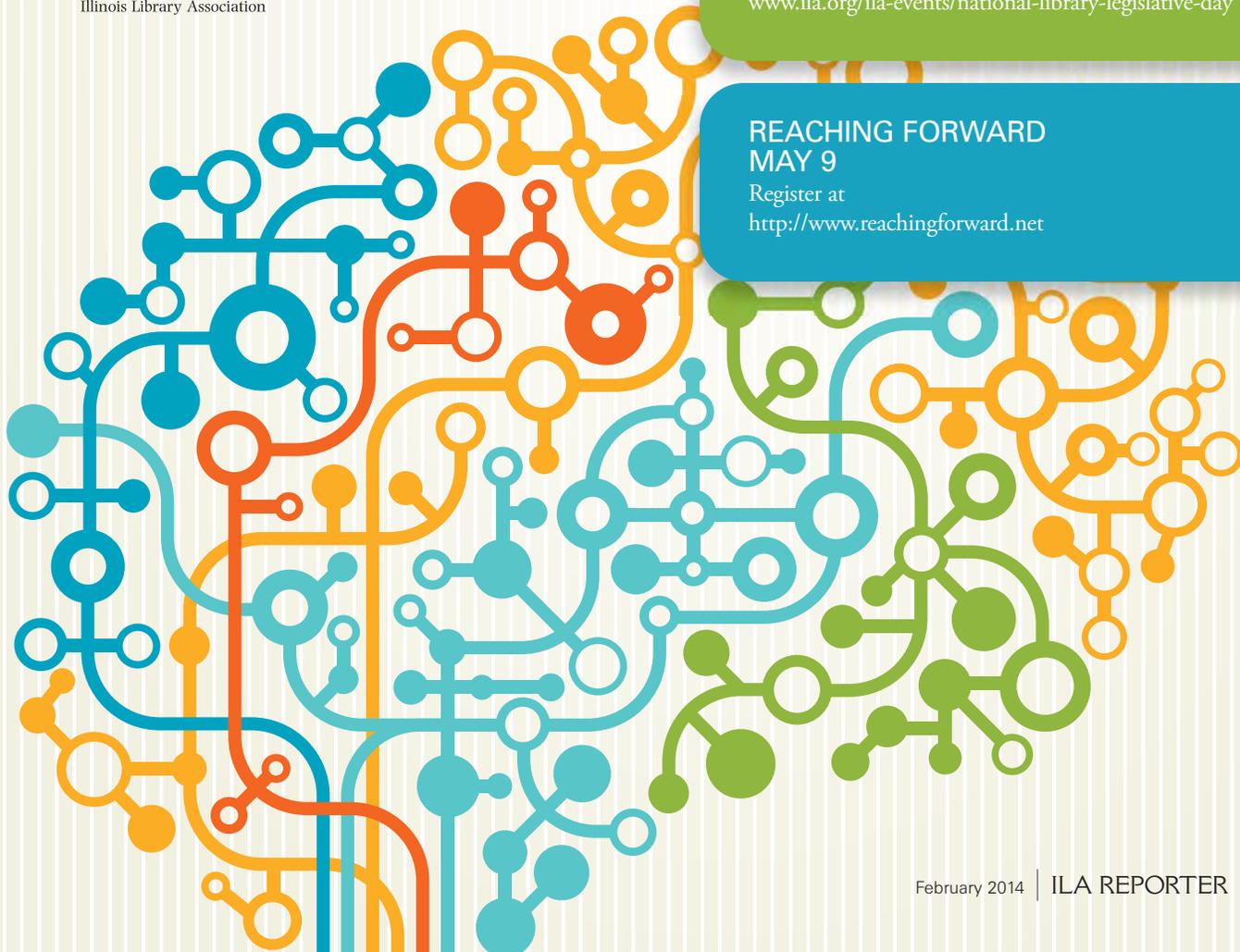
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www.ila.org/events-and-exhibitors/iacrl-conference

NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY MAY 6

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REACHING FORWARD MAY 9

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Illinois Library Association

Nominations for all ILA Awards are due May 15, 2014.

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