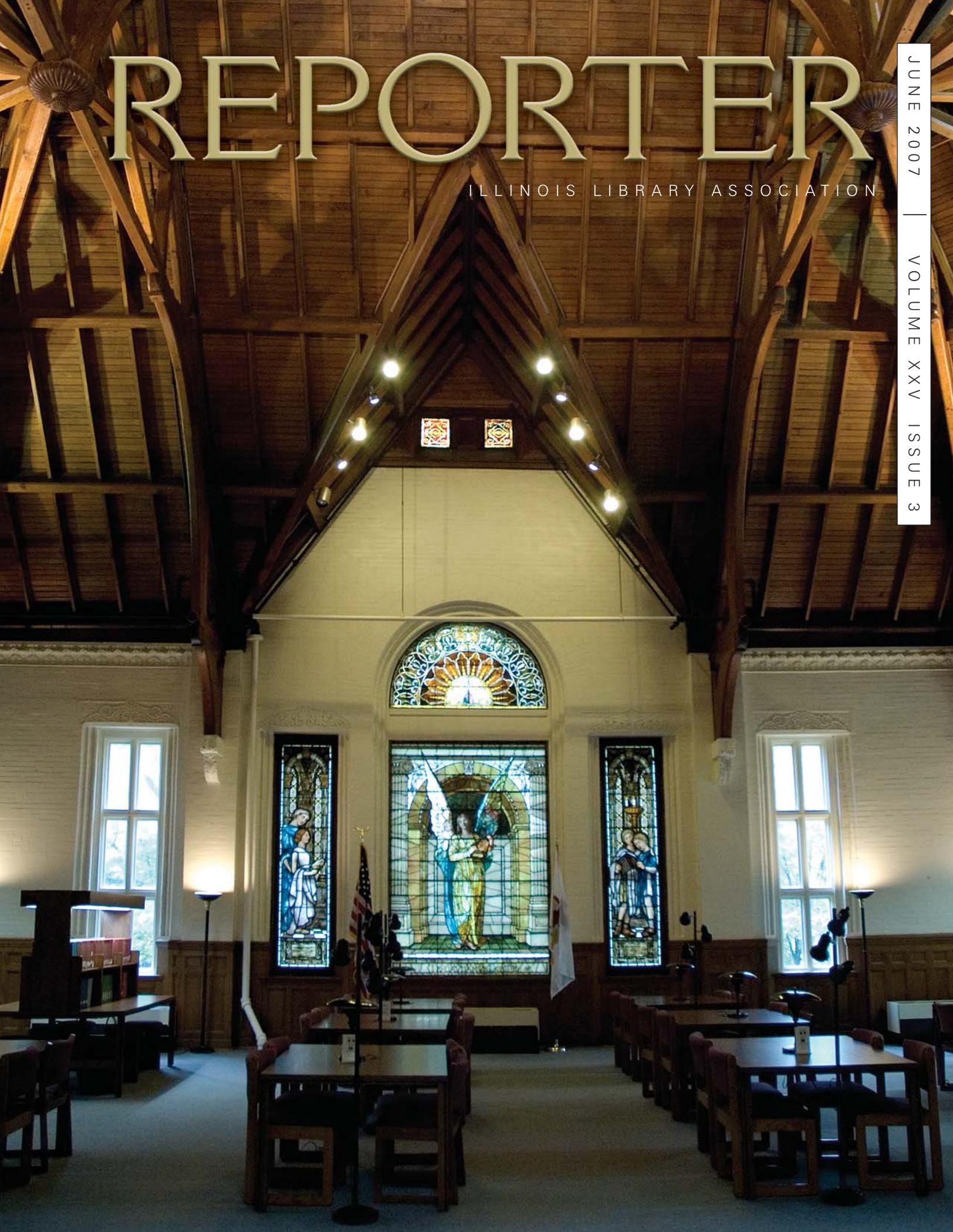


# REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2007

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 3



# 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

Reid Memorial Library at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey. Designed by Theodore Link, the 1898 building was originally built as a chapel for the women of Monticello College. The ceiling was constructed using only wooden pegs and resembles the inverted hull of a ship in recognition of Monticello's founder, Captain Benjamin Godfrey. In 1899, the large Praise Angel window was dedicated to Harriett Newell Haskell who served as Monticello's principal from 1867 to 1907. School folklore persists that Miss Haskell's spirit still inhabits Reid Memorial Library.

This year's *ILA Reporter* covers are showcasing Illinois libraries's incredibly rich heritage photographed, inventoried electronically, and archived in "Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries." (See April 2006 *ILA Reporter*, pp. 12–17.) This project was supported by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Principal investigators: Allen Lanham and Marlene Slough, Eastern Illinois University.

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 2,900 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

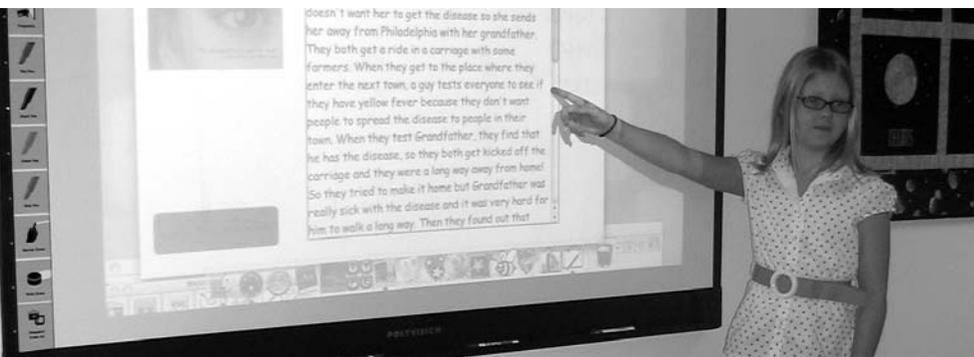
The Illinois Library Association has three full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Kolkmeier Consulting for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org). Copy may also be submitted on disk or faxed to (312) 644-1899. 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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# Discovering Technology Treasures in Illinois Libraries

**W**hile libraries have embraced technology for many years, improving access to information, recently we have seen some major leaps in how imaginative library staffs are finding new ways to make technology work for their users. Intriguing projects have been launched throughout the state, and at all types of libraries. Here is an opportunity to explore what's happening behind some doors you might not typically get to visit: an elementary school, an academic library, and a regional library system.

## School Scores an A+

Three remarkable innovations are in use at the Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary School in Arlington Heights, according to Suzy Rabbat, school library/media director. The Library/Media Center (LMC) at Olive-Mary Stitt School is a large open facility that includes a library with tables and seating for thirty-six students, an open "story room" where classes meet for book talks, read-alouds, and library skills, and a computer lab equipped with thirty new iMac computers. The building has a high-speed fiber optics connection to the Internet. Because the lab is an extension of the library, students have the flexibility to move freely between print and online resources. The LMC is an active hub of information access for the school.

As library/media director, Rabbat works collaboratively with classroom teachers to promote literacy and integrate technology into the grade level curriculum. Technology skills are not taught in isolation. Instead, these skills are integrated into the content areas of science, social studies, math, and reading. As a result, the time spent in the LMC reinforces and supplements what students are learning in their classrooms.

Rabbat has the full support of her building administrator as well as the resources and staffing necessary to provide the students with experiences that enrich their learning. She strives to provide students with the opportunities needed to develop the information-media literacy skills they will need to be successful in the twenty-first century.



While in the school media center, students in grades 4 and 5 create **Student Electronic Portfolios** to showcase what they have learned during the school year. This ongoing project enables students to archive samples of work completed in a variety of subjects. Using the application Media Blender, the portfolios combine image, text, sound, and Quicktime movie files. All work samples are linked to a table of contents.

Throughout the year, students select work samples to feature in their portfolios. Samples may include data from a science experiment, essays, diagrams of math concepts, and responses to literature. Students scan documents, take digital photos or use the program's drawing tools to illustrate their projects. Text boxes are added to describe the artifacts and reflect on their learning. The self-reflections focus on their successes and provide an opportunity to set learning goals for the future.

[continued on page 6]

In addition to images and text, students record their voices while reading excerpts from novels studied in class. PowerPoint slide shows are converted to QuickTime movies that are programmed to play at the click of a button. At the end of the school year, the portfolios are burned to a DVD and students have an electronic record highlighting their academic year. The electronic portfolio is an excellent springboard for student-led parent/teacher conferences.

**Video conferencing** has enabled students to be transported to other places and interact with people while remaining in a comfortable, secure environment. Students have participated in local video conferences taking them to the police and fire stations. They have also taken a “virtual field trip” across the country to learn about plate tectonics from a professor at the University of Nevada. Video conferencing has maximized instructional time and expanded resources with little or no cost.

All conferences are designed to support the school district’s learning standards. While studying community leaders, first grade students interviewed the mayor about her job responsibilities. Third-graders made a virtual visit to the Arlington Heights Memorial Library where they learned about resources in the reference collection as well as special programs designed to assist students with homework assignments.

These virtual visits have enabled Rabbat and staff to widen the geographical boundaries of their school and link students to primary sources while making learning exciting and stimulating.

The computer lab is equipped with an interactive, touch-sensitive whiteboard. This large board is connected to a ceiling-mounted LCD projector and one of the lab computers. Generally, the computer is controlled by a mouse; however, the interactive whiteboard allows the teacher to control the mouse and cursor with a touch of the screen. Teachers are free to interact with the class and have better eye contact. Students are focused and engaged. Children enjoy using the interactive whiteboard to showcase their learning or demonstrate their understanding of a new skill.

### **ROVER Goes to College**

When Chicago State University opened its new library in 2006, it did so with the assistance of ROVER. (See February 2007 *ILA Reporter*, pp. 11–13.) Chicago State University’s 142,000-square-foot facility opened to the public at a formal dedication ceremony on October 12, according to Kathy Degnan, reference and instruction librarian. The library has many outstanding new features, one of the most interesting being the Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), nicknamed ROVER (Retrieval Online via Electronic Robot). In the early planning stages, pressing storage



and accessibility issues were resolved with the decision to install the HK Systems’ automated storage and retrieval unit.

The ASRS provides seven times the storage capacity per square foot of a conventional shelving unit and is a cost-effective, high-density storage option for library materials, according to Degnan. The CSU library ROVER has two aisles (134 feet long/aisle), both with 48 bays (columns) and 33 tiers (rows), which hold a total of 6,336 bins. Each bin is 2’x4’x1’, has a 350 lb. weight capacity, and can hold up to 96 volumes. Each of the two aisles has its own robotic crane, which retrieves and restores the bins on command.

ROVER is linked to the Endeavor Voyager’s database and will retrieve bins to the operator workstations in response to items requested by the user within six minutes. ROVER tracks each item by its bar code, keeps track of its location (bin), and holds additional bibliographic information about the item (e.g., title, author, call number). Staff members at the circulation desk retrieve the item from the bin utilizing MCS (Machine Control System) software (which interfaces with Endeavor Voyager) and the material is then ready for pickup and checkout.

Presently, about 80 percent of the library’s 420,000-volume collection has been put into ROVER. Materials in the ASRS include low-use books published prior to 1990, bound periodicals, microforms, archival materials, special collections, government publications, and older less-used reference books. However, students still have the capability to browse the library’s collection that has been placed on open shelves. Materials with open access include newer books (since 1991), current periodicals, reference materials, some special collections, and older heavily illustrated items. The new open stacks now look neater, have easier access, and are more up-to-date.

Initial loading of the ASRS took a few months and began in the summer to minimize impact on services during the spring and fall semesters. The entire library staff was trained and then scheduled at regular weekly time periods to load ROVER at four workstations. One benefit to the transition process of library materials was the discovery of materials that had been

presumed lost or missing. The circulation department has had to increase their staff slightly to accommodate the additional activity. However, the installation of ROVER allowed for the open look and feel of the new library along with the space needed to provide more than seventy public computer workstations for the students. Students and visitors remark on a daily basis about the attractiveness and function of the new structure.

### Living the Virtual Life

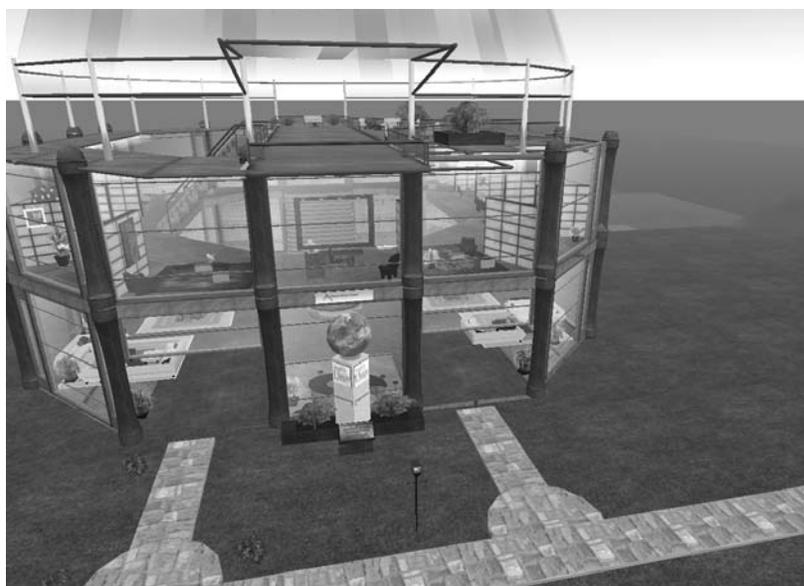
"Second Life is a 3-D online virtual world, begun in 2003 by Linden Lab in San Francisco, that is entirely built and owned by its residents," according to Lori Bell and Kitty Pope, in their article, "Get a (Second) Life! Prospecting for Gold in a 3-D World" (*Computers in Libraries*, January 2007). Pope is executive director of the Alliance Library System, with Bell on staff as director of innovation. Alliance is one of nine regional multitype library systems in Illinois providing services to 259 libraries in a 14,000-square-mile area.

In 2006, Second Life ([www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com)) experienced tremendous growth with more than 1.2 million individuals, organizations, and corporations from around the globe eagerly participating. At any given moment, thousands of people are online and "in-world," where they can do almost anything they can in real life: learn, conduct research, buy land, purchase homes, start a business, make friends, and much more. Second Life accounts are free and the only requirement is a broadband Internet connection and the free Second Life software. Once logged in, one can create an avatar, or visual presence, from a number of body styles at the Welcome Center. Clothing, home furnishings, and other items must be purchased with Linden dollars, which have a 300:1 ratio to U.S. dollars.

In April 2003, the Alliance Library System (ALS) developed Cybrary City on Info Island within Second Life. According to Pope and Bell in *Computers in Libraries*, January 2007, "when creating it, we quickly discovered that the residents appreciated having in-world access to our services and materials. Since more and more people of all ages use the Internet and spend increasing amounts of time online, the librarians who are active in Second Life can reach these folks where they are and investigate the needs and use of library services in virtual worlds." Cybrary City allows libraries to host continuing education events and conferences for librarians. Residents can go to the virtual library and use its resources and programs. More than thirty public and academic libraries from Australia,

Canada, and the Kansas State Library have made a commitment to Cybrary City. In exchange for contributing two hours to the Second Life library, each library obtains a small local space for meetings and book discussions.

In addition to sponsoring Info Island, SirsiDynix supports the Second Life island called Teen Info Island, named "Eye4YouAlliance." The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, located in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the lead agency on Eye4YouAlliance. The library, recognized nationally as a leader and innovator, sponsors a variety of computer and Internet education workshops. "The goal of Eye4YouAlliance is to create an interactive and informative space for young adults within the Teen Second Life virtual world and to collaborate with other educators who serve youth and are already present in Teen Second Life and in real life," according to a January 2007 SirsiDynix press release.



As of this writing, there are 5,798,490 residents in Second Life; mainland and island communities include H & R Block, the Weather Channel, Reuters, and Coldwell Banker, which maintains a virtual sales office on the central "mainland." Second Life even featured Easter and Passover celebrations this past season and contains traditional, if virtual, places of prayer and counseling.

As these three examples show, libraries and librarians in Illinois continue to incorporate new technological advances into their design and management. At the same time, they pave the way for the rest of us in the state and the country to explore the many ways in which technology can improve access to information for our patrons, customers, and guests. ■



# A Librarian's 2.0 Manifesto

A Librarian's  
2.0 Manifesto  
by Laura  
Cohen, 2006



I will recognize that the universe of information culture is changing fast and that libraries need to respond positively to these changes to provide resources and services that users need and want.



I will educate myself about the information culture of my users and look for ways to incorporate what I learn into library services.



I will not be defensive about my library, but will look clearly at its situation and make an honest assessment about what can be accomplished.



I will become an active participant in moving my library forward.



I will recognize that libraries change slowly, and will work with my colleagues to expedite our responsiveness to change.



I will be courageous about proposing new services and new ways of providing services, even though some of my colleagues will be resistant.



I will enjoy the excitement and fun of positive change and will convey this to colleagues and users.



I will let go of previous practices if there is a better way to do things now, even if these practices once seemed so great.



I will take an experimental approach to change and be willing to make mistakes.



I will not wait until something is perfect before I release it, and I'll modify it based on user feedback.



I will not fear Google or related services, but rather will take advantage of these services to benefit users while also providing excellent library services that users need.



I will avoid requiring users to see things in librarians' terms but rather will shape services to reflect users' preferences and expectations.



I will be willing to go where users are, both online and in physical spaces, to practice my profession.



I will create open Web sites that allow users to join with librarians to contribute content in order to enhance their learning experience and provide assistance to their peers.



I will lobby for an open catalog that provides personalized, interactive features that users expect in online information environments.



I will encourage my library's administration to blog.



I will validate, through my actions, librarians' vital and relevant professional role in any type of information culture that evolves.



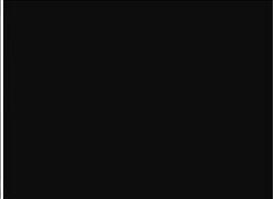
Mashup - Manifesto by Laura Cohen + Photos from Burning Man by John Curley, Thomas Hawk, Jaymce, Donovan Watts, herby\_fr (under a CC -licens 2.0)



Music: Libris - Fluid Power - Made by Søren Johannessen, Denmark 2006 - visit our danish library blog at [www.esbenford.dk](http://www.esbenford.dk)



share watch again



**O**n sabbatical from September 2006 to March 2007, Laura Cohen was thinking about a library 2.0 action plan for her library and writing in her blog — Library 2.0: An Academic's Perspective. On November 8, 2006, she was inspired to write a series of affirmations to “generate some positive energy among librarians around the world as we engage in the challenges of bringing 2.0 initiatives into our libraries.” Cohen said that there were two reasons for the posting. First, she wanted to express her frustration that many libraries are “behind the times” and have not kept up with rapid changes in information culture. Second, she wanted to express her excitement about the “many opportunities for libraries to open our spaces to engage the user in library services and collections.”

Two days after the posting, librarian Søren Johannessen from Copenhagen, Denmark, created a Librarian's 2.0 Manifesto video slideshow. Johannessen saw in his RSS reader a link to Laura Cohen's blog. The text drew his attention because the Danish library community is facing the same issues and he thought, “Show, don't tell,” and created a slideshow mashup. He copied and pasted the manifesto text and then took some photos from Flickr, which all have a Creative Commons license. The slideshow idea came from Burning Man, a festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada, which brings creative people from all over the world together. “My aim was that librarians also would be that way, creative etc., as what is going on at Burning Man.”

The process of editing the slideshow took only two hours of mixing sound together. He then uploaded the slideshow to his YouTube account. After the release, he posted a comment on Laura Cohen's blog alerting her and her readers to the video slideshow mashup at YouTube. Laura Cohen then sent him an e-mail message, thanking him for creating the video. The videoshow is now posted on YouTube and the ILA Web site [www.ila.org/library2](http://www.ila.org/library2), along with other sites.

This is an amazing example of how quickly information and ideas are disseminated across the globe and how quickly content can be created through collaborative efforts.

#### **A Librarian's 2.0 Manifesto follows:**

- I will recognize that the universe of information culture is changing fast and that libraries need to respond positively to these changes to provide resources and services that users need and want.
- I will educate myself about the information culture of my users and look for ways to incorporate what I learn into library services.
- I will not be defensive about my library, but will look clearly at its situation and make an honest assessment about what can be accomplished.
- I will become an active participant in moving my library forward.
- I will recognize that libraries change slowly, and will work with my colleagues to expedite our responsiveness to change.
- I will be courageous about proposing new services and new ways of providing services, even though some of my colleagues will be resistant.
- I will enjoy the excitement and fun of positive change and will convey this to colleagues and users.
- I will let go of previous practices if there is a better way to do things now, even if these practices once seemed so great.
- I will take an experimental approach to change and be willing to make mistakes.
- I will not wait until something is perfect before I release it, and I'll modify it based on user feedback.
- I will not fear Google or related services, but rather will take advantage of these services to benefit users while also providing excellent library services that users need.
- I will avoid requiring users to see things in librarians' terms but rather will shape services to reflect users' preferences and expectations.
- I will be willing to go where users are, both online and in physical spaces, to practice my profession.
- I will create open Web sites that allow users to join with librarians to contribute content in order to enhance their learning experience and provide assistance to their peers.
- I will lobby for an open catalog that provides personalized, interactive features that users expect in online information environments.
- I will encourage my library's administration to blog.
- I will validate, through my actions, librarians' vital and relevant professional role in any type of information culture that evolves.

**ILA**

# Internet Safety, ILA, and MySpace:

## The Nine-Month Process that Produced Not a Baby, but a Bookmark

It all started with the U.S. House of Representatives passing a bill on July 26, 2006, requiring schools and libraries receiving E-rate funds to block access to social networking sites, such as MySpace, as well as access to a wide array of other content and technologies, such as instant messaging, online e-mail, wikis, and blogs. The Deleting Online Predators Act, or DOPA, was the name given to H.R. 5319, which passed overwhelmingly in the House by 410 to 15. (The U.S. Senate never considered the bill.)

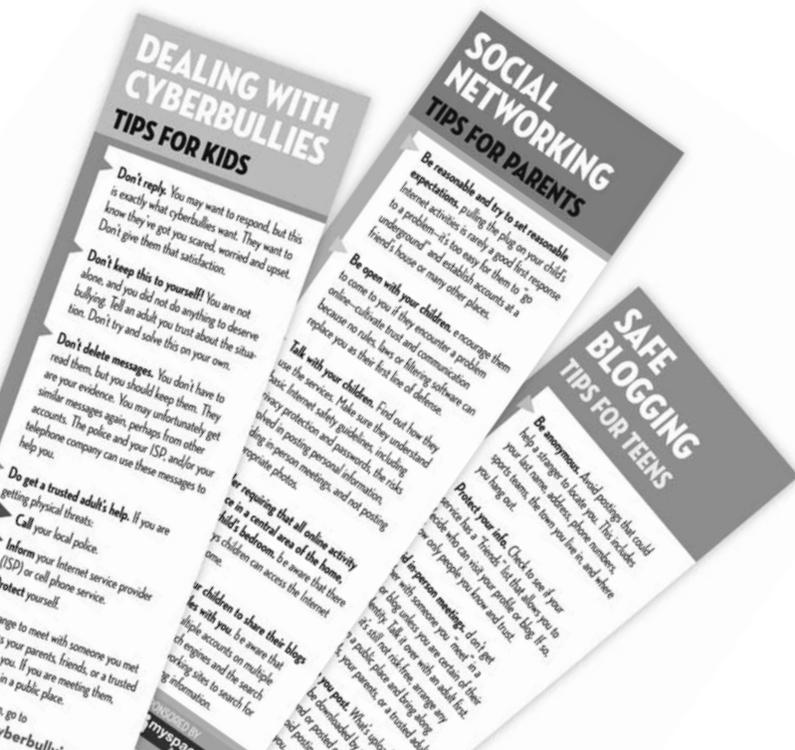
As is often the case, libraries found themselves in the crosshairs between legitimate concerns regarding “online predators” and access to information. The October 2006 *ILA Reporter* carried an article, “DOPA and the Participation Gap,” sharing concerns about the disproportional effect of the legislation on lower-income communities. The article offered alternative measures, such as “Basic Rules on Online Safety for Teens,” and talking points for librarians and others to use with the media, elected officials, and concerned citizens.

The article also proposed an emerging action plan to continue to address this legislation and its likely successors. At the September ILA Executive Board meeting, the action plan was approved. But the challenge remained. This was a piece of federal legislation that had passed by an overwhelming margin. How the heck were we going to do all of this?

As MySpace was at least as big a target as libraries in this situation, we wondered if they might like to partner in our educational efforts. ILA connected with MySpace’s Governmental Affairs Department, and in the ensuing conversation MySpace expressed interest in a cooperative educational campaign in response to the federal Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA) and possible legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. But the ball was still in our court.

In November, the ILA Executive Board approved a concept to produce a large quantity—one million or more!—“Internet Safety” bookmarks for distribution to the general public and our elected officials. Several bookmarks were envisioned, targeted to specific audiences—kids, teens, and parents on specific topics, e.g., cyberbullying, preventive action, and social networking. The bookmarks would also be available on the ILA Web site to download and print locally. We figured if we could take a finished idea to MySpace, we had a better chance of getting them on board, so we developed the copy and got ready to go, with no clear idea of where we would find the funds to produce them.

Fast-forward to the new year. The U.S. Congress returned to Washington and on January 6, 2007, Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) introduced Protecting Children in the Twenty-first Century Act (S. 49)—this bill was similar to the original DOPA bill that earlier passed the House. On February 16, Representative Mark Kirk (R-Illinois) introduced H.R. 1120—a reincarnation of the Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA) of 2006.



# “The NetSafe bookmarks are having a positive impact in library communities all across the country.”

Meanwhile, in Springfield, on February 9, 2007, Illinois State Senator Matt Murphy (R-27, Palatine) filed Senate Bill (S.B.) 1682, banning social networking sites in Illinois public and school libraries. Proposed anti-social-networking legislation was also introduced in Georgia (S.B. 59) and North Carolina (S.B. 132). It was beginning to look as though legislation targeting social networking sites would be similar to filtering legislation, coming back year after year requiring energy and resources to fight both in the U.S. Congress and the Illinois General Assembly.

It was time for us to mobilize, to be proactive, and to launch a campaign to educate children, parents, and teachers on how to use the Internet safely. We placed editorials in newspapers across the state. We informed our elected officials that the library community is very concerned about the safety of children. We stressed that education is the key to safe use of the Internet, not laws blocking access. We blogged. We sponsored educational programs on this topic. We set an April 1 deadline to get the bookmark to the printer even if funding was not obtained. We wanted the bookmarks for Illinois Library Day on April 18.

We kept MySpace informed of these activities, and our networking and bridge-building paid off. On March 29, 2007, MySpace offered to pay for the printing and mailing of a total of 900,000 bookmarks. Three weeks later the bookmarks were printed and distributed through the Illinois library systems—400 of each, three different bookmarks, times 750 libraries! In addition, ILA paid for and printed 300,000 bookmarks to distribute at Illinois Library Day (3,000 bookmarks) in Springfield, the 2007 National Library Legislative Day (20,000 bookmarks) in Washington, D.C., the Reaching Forward Conference (3,000 bookmarks) in Rosemont, and to sell.

The success of this project resulted in the creation and distribution of one million plus bookmarks, which we are pleased to report in this article. Our greater goal in writing this article, however, is to emphasize the value of establishing partnerships to secure wider awareness and greater support for libraries, both political and fiscal. We have recorded here the timetable and steps required to fund this initiative noting that the steps taken are not always direct and involved some risk. Building a successful partnership is time-consuming, but if your potential partner is a logical choice and

you can demonstrate to them that the proposed project is mutually beneficial, your persistence will be rewarded.

The NetSafe bookmarks are having a positive impact in library communities all across the country. They are a demonstration of our commitment to the safety of children. We know there are legitimate concerns about the Internet. We know, however, that the best way to protect children is to teach them to guard their privacy and make wise choices. Education will promote safe use of the Internet, not laws blocking access. As the technological and political landscape of our challenges keeps changing, we must learn to quickly adapt our partnerships and tactics to advocate for libraries. Visit [www.ila.org/netsafe](http://www.ila.org/netsafe) to download the bookmarks today. Check this site for additional resources.



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# Sally in Libraryland

I am lucky enough to have a window in my office—actually, there are two! There's a big (I'm on the second floor, and I look straight at it) old gnarled pine tree outside the one on the right, and a view across a soccer field to some houses (and a lot of sky) on the left. Since I spend so much time in this office, I truly appreciate having some way to ground myself in time and space—it's easier to realize it's time to go home when it gets dark (unless, of course, it's my night to work).

But, as lovely as the view from my windows is, we need to remember that, unless we're in some fabulous space that has windows on all sides, we should not be fooled into thinking we're seeing the whole picture, big as it may be! Case in point: a couple of months ago, there was one of those unexpected big snowstorms, accompanied by strong winds. I took several walks to the windows behind the non-fiction area, overlooking the staff parking lot, and reported back to staff that, mercifully, because it was blowing so hard, our cars were not being buried. After about the third time I looked and reported, Kelly Brungraber, who had actually been outside, pointed out that although my car was indeed not buried, because of the blowing, there was a three-foot-high drift behind it that I couldn't see from the window! She was right to be entertained by the look on my face. It was lucky for me that there was another perspective available, or I would not have allowed anywhere near enough time to get out of the lot and on to an appointment.

## And of course this relates to libraries

We just rearranged many things to make room for more world languages books, and decided we could survive with one micro-film reader/printer. So we advertised the one we no longer had room for in the classifieds published by North Suburban Library System, and our neighbors at the Deerfield Public Library made the best offer. No big deal, Judy Hortin and I both thought—either our wonderful maintenance man with a truck would deliver it, or their wonderful maintenance man with a truck

would come get it. But then I talked to Mark Lonigro, who has maintained it for as long as we've had it, to ask if the unused portion of our service agreement could go to Deerfield with the machine—and I'm glad I did. Judy and I, being reference librarians, had not considered the delicacy of the machine, and the potential disaster of it tipping in transit and coating its insides with toner, or actually breaking some vital component. When I called Judy to tell her that it might be best to let Mark move it, we agreed that we had both thought of it pretty much like moving a toaster—no big deal, throw it in the back and go! Had we proceeded with plan A, there was a good chance Deerfield would have ended up with a pricey and oversized paperweight.

In addition to rearranging our physical space, we've had a staff reorganization here. It's been an interesting time, as we shifted staff around into whole new configurations to meet the goals of our new strategic plan. People were moved from circulation to reference, and from reference to materials. (No one lost a job, or got demoted, despite any nifty rumors you may have heard.) We started transitioning in November, and had everyone in their new jobs in January. I thought I had a pretty good handle on the pieces I'm responsible for now. The beginning of our annual budget process mid-March showed me how wrong I was. Luckily, some staff familiar with the pieces new to me came along with those pieces before I did anything irredeemable. Never having had to budget for youth reference material, or Peg Sharpe programs—things crucial to healthy services to children—I could have easily forgotten them entirely in the mayhem that was that week. But because other people had a perspective that was different from mine, and shared it, we avoided what could have been an oversight with complicated consequences.

No matter what your job is, you have a slightly different perspective on your library and everything in it than anyone else in your building. Even the person who, on the surface, has exactly the same job you do, and possibly does it next to you every day. Your



## “Your window is a valuable piece of the total view.”

window is a valuable piece of the total view that we all need to consider to do stuff right.

My staff will tell you that I cannot stand to hear an adult say, “It’s not fair.” (How does anyone get old enough to hold a job and still expect life to be fair?). Right behind that, hearing, “I could have told you that would happen,” is my least favorite thing to hear. (Well, maybe after, “I have the flu and can’t come in today.”) If you could have, why didn’t you? If the person you share your perspective with does something differently because of your input, you’re a hero. And if they choose to disregard your view, at least you tried (and your small internal voice can say, “I tried to warn you,” but I recommend against saying it out loud).

If I had left with exactly enough time to get to my appointment that snowy day, I would have been really miffed if Kelly had said later, “Yeah, I saw that drift when I was outside. Awful, huh?”

If we had moved the reader as we planned, and something unpleasant had happened, and Mark said, “I could have told you it wasn’t a good idea,” I’d probably be looking for a new service provider. If I had gotten into budget trouble, I would not have reacted well to a staff member could have told me so, and didn’t.

So what do you see from your “window” that someone else needs to know about? And the view out any window changes minute by minute—are you keeping an eye on it so you know when something is happening that someone else needs to know? And then do you tell them? How you handle all that is just one more way to tell whether you work in a library, or for a library. Which are you?

E-mail ([sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com)) or fax (847) 459-4760 or write (355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, IL 60090) your tale to me, and then watch this space! **ILA**

Library-related stories appearing in local Illinois news media are reflected in this section of the *ILA Reporter*. The intent is to alert and inform other libraries about issues and events that are considered significant by the general media. The draft *ILA Reporter* text is sent to the library in question for accuracy before being published here.

## Township Vows to Fight Eviction from Library

A spat over space between the Dundee Township Library District and Dundee Township could end up in court now that the township says it plans to defy the library's eviction notice, reported the March 27 *Daily Herald*.

The township received a notice from the library board evicting the township as of June 30 from the roughly 3,500 square feet in the library in East Dundee it leases for eleven employees. The eviction notice was served after the library board voted March 12 to evict the township, which has had offices in the library since 1975, when the library was still governed by the township.

Township Supervisor Sue Harney said that on July 1, the township — including the township clerk, supervisor, and assessor — has every intention of remaining in its offices at the library. “We have a viable lease signed by both parties,” Harney said. “We will continue to abide by it as we have for thirty years.”

But library district officials say the lease is no longer valid and they need the space leased by the township for expansion. The original lease, which was signed in 1975, isn't valid because leases can't be for more than twenty years, library officials said. Library officials say they need the eight rooms in the building to house more computers, staff, and study rooms. “It's a necessity. We're just out of space,” Library Director Elisa Topper said.

The township is consulting with its attorney to explore its legal options to contest the eviction, Harney said. But

township leaders say they also need space and will have to cut back on programs if they are forced to move. “It's not a viable option for us,” Harney said. “It's devastating for us.”

The issue first arose in 2003, when the library board approved a three-year lease with the township that charged rent at a higher percentage of the market rate each year. But the 2003 lease isn't valid because the township board didn't sign it, both sides say. The township rejected the new lease because it thought the original lease was still valid, Harney said.

Though library officials say the township has not had a valid lease since 2003, the township says it continues to pay the library \$1 in rent, a portion of the utility and maintenance bills, and 66 percent of the state replacement tax — between \$28,000 and \$48,000 annually.

## Books Abandoned at East St. Louis Public Library

For the 7,000 books sitting in a storage unit on State Street, it's abandonment all over again, reported the March 14 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

The books were among at least 10,000 items including magazines and albums left in a shuttered city library for more than three years. Many of the items became makeshift beds or fire starters for homeless people, who broke into the library for shelter. A leaky roof damaged or destroyed many of the books in the building.

Library officials admit that they erred in leaving the materials behind when they moved to a new site in January

2001. The library board hired a consulting firm to determine what books would go into the new library but made no plans to find a home for those they did not want, which included city directories and other records that help track the city's history from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Outraged city officials, who said they assumed the old library was empty, shooed away the homeless and boarded up the building in August 2004. Two months later, the city got inmates from the nearby Southern Illinois Correctional Center to box up the books and take them to a public storage facility, where they were to stay until the city could work with the library board and archivists to assess what should be salvaged and what should be tossed out.

That never happened.

Today, nearly two and half years later, the boxes of books still sit in the storage unit, and the owner of the facility has sent a \$2,700 bill to the city. He wants payment or the books out. “Sooner or later, I assumed someone would try to get in contact with me,” said Brooks Hairston, owner of Eagle One Storage. “I had donated the space for three months, but the person who got me to put the books in here is in jail now, and I know the deal I made with him is no good now.”

Kelvin Ellis, who was the city's code enforcement chief and arranged for the books to be moved into storage in October 2004, was indicted three months later on a series of federal charges and is now in prison, serving time for tax evasion, vote buying, and obstructing justice in a wide-ranging federal investigation.

Robert Storman, the city manager who worked with Ellis to secure the old library and get the books moved, resigned in January 2005, a week before Ellis was indicted. Robert Betts is the third city manager to serve since Storman resigned. He said he was unaware of the books in storage. "I thought the library took control of that," Betts said. "It hasn't been one of the priorities at City Hall. I thought for sure the school district or library or community college would have stepped in to preserve those books."

Cynthia Jones, who was library director when the abandoned books were discovered but not when the transition was made from the old building to the new one, has since resigned. Harold Lawary, the library board chairman who publicly apologized for bungling the care of the books and other materials, could not be reached for comment.

Mayor Carl Officer said he was working with the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities to try to find permanent storage for the items in one of

the buildings the organization owned.

Reginald Petty was one of about a dozen volunteers who showed up on a Saturday in August 2004 to begin removing the books from the old library. Petty, a collector of African art and a historian, has a few hundred of the books in his home, including city directories, high school yearbooks, and other volumes that help chart the city's history. He is among a group of residents working to form an East St. Louis historical society, using the books as a starting point. "It's unfortunate this hasn't been done," Petty said. "All the small towns around here have a historical society."

Petty said the books would probably still be in the old library if someone from the National Railroad Association had not begun looking for records at the new library nearly three years ago. The man was bounced from one city historian to the next, including Petty. Finally, the man went by the old library as part of his research and found the discarded books.

Some of those items that Petty and

other volunteers removed before the city intervened were stored in a building that state Rep. Wyvetter Younge, D-East St. Louis, once used as her office. A fire later took the building and all the items inside. Petty said most of them were magazines.

As for the old library, it still stands. Last week, the boards were off the windows and doors. Petty said homeless people were once again using the building. As for the books in storage, Petty and others would like to see what condition they are in. But it is unclear who has the key.

Hairston, the storage unit owner, said he sent the city a bill a week ago. He's unsure if he will get paid, but he would like the books out so he can begin renting the space for the advertised \$99 a month. If the city does not respond, he will eventually cut the lock, but he has no idea what he would do with the books. Petty says the books may be too badly damaged to be saved. Some had mildew on them when they were stored. "Someone needs to find out if they are salvageable," he said.



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## New Rock Valley College Facility to Be Named after Estelle Black

It was an era when community colleges were far from the rage, when the concept of a commuter school was so foreign that an outsider was brought on board to get classes started. And without the massive east-side campus it dominates today, Rock Valley College relied on the know-how of others to help nurse it along. Estelle Black was one of them, reported the March 30 *Rockford Register Star*.

The Rockford native was early in her career as a librarian, fresh from setting up a library at Auburn High School. Black stepped in and helped Rock Valley create its academic library, then housed in the downtown branch of Rockford Public Library. She organized and cataloged the books, making sure there were plenty of resources on hand for busy college students with papers to research. Finally, when the library was done and ready to use, Black moved on to her next project.

Now forty-two years later, the library is in the middle of an entirely new transformation. A major library renovation, priced at \$7.5 million, is under way on the school's east-side campus and is set to open in the summer. When it does, it will be called the Estelle M. Black Library. Black, retired from a twenty-seven-year career with Rockford Public Library, still lives in a quiet neighborhood on the city's west side. Active in community affairs, she was part of the local group giving feedback on the college library's renovations and anxiously awaits its opening.

"It really is state-of-the-art," she said. "I'm looking forward to students being able to have access to all of their needs with the technology and materials housed there."

For Black, the thrill of watching people enjoy a library is what has kept her passionate about her field for so many years. She worked as the assistant executive director at the public library for twenty years, helping reopen four library branches and adding technology to a world dominated by books. "I love the opportunity to help someone get the answer to a ques-

tion," she said. "I love to see young people get excited about reading and books."

She's saddened by the misconception that libraries are only for well-read people. In fact, her first job with the Rockford Public Library was to encourage nonusers to become involved with the library. "People think libraries are for the elite and people have to be at a certain status to use libraries," Black said. "On the other hand, it's a way to learn absolutely anything. I feel they're for everyone."

LoRayne Logan, president of Rockford's workplace inc. and a board member for the Rock Valley College Foundation, donated \$200,000 toward the new library and requested that it be named after her longtime friend and mentor. "She has many, many accomplishments in the library world," Logan said. "As an individual, I feel she's been a way-shower, a bridge builder, and a developer and mentor of people. She's an extraordinary human being. She would have been extraordinary in any community. We were blessed that she was extraordinary in this one."

## Cook Library Announces \$12 Million Expansion

Cook Memorial Public Library District Director Dan Armstrong has submitted an expansion proposal that outlines a strategy for adding an additional 30,000 square feet to the district's facilities, reported the April 21 *Lake County News-Sun*. The \$12 million expansion would be financed without a referendum.

"One goal of this strategy is to provide the maximum amount of square footage for library services with available funding," said Armstrong. "That's why this proposal first determines the available funding and then determines the most effective strategy for the facility expansion utilizing that funding."

In the past fifteen years, library consultants have estimated Cook needs 98,000 to 121,000 square feet to operate at maximum efficiency, at a cost of at least \$30 million. Studies cite that the "facility overcrowding and space deficits negatively impact service delivery, opera-

tions, staffing arrangements, and organizational management at both the Cook Memorial and Evergreen facilities."

Armstrong said that without adequate space, the library is forced to offer reduced services. The proposal cites the absence of meeting and group study space, limited reading rooms, off-site programming necessitating room rental fees, and inadequate access to computers and Internet. Space constraints also affect the library's collection; every time a new item is added, an old item must be removed. The expansion plan calls for two projects:

- The construction of a 20,000-square-foot library in Vernon Hills.
- Adding approximately 10,000 square feet and renovating the Cook Park library.

Each project would cost approximately \$6 million dollars, with a total budget of \$12 million.

To finance the expansion, Armstrong recommends that approximately \$910,000 be segregated from the annual operating budget to service \$12 million of debt certificates over twenty years. For the last few years, the district has been operating at \$500,000 surplus, so a contingency fund of approximately \$2 million dollars is available, Armstrong said. The public will not see any changes in service, though a number of changes have been made to next year's budget. Most of the changes focus on purchasing policies and human resources management.

Cook Memorial Public Library District serves 60,000 residents in Libertyville, Vernon Hills, Mundelein, Mettawa, Indian Creek, Green Oaks, and unincorporated Libertyville Township. The district operates Cook Park Library in Libertyville and Evergreen Interim Library in Vernon Hills. For more information, or to read the expansion proposal in full, call (847) 362-2330 or visit [www.cooklib.org](http://www.cooklib.org).

## They May Be Young, But They're Ready to Be in Charge

Adam Sesso wants to devote the next four years to the Schaumburg Township

District Library board, reports the May 6 *Daily Herald*. He is one of a growing number of young people in Illinois to accept the demands of civic duty. He is twenty-five years old. "Once you graduate college, you go through a time where you're a taxpayer, a homeowner, and now you're a member of the community," he said. "That should be represented."

Across the state, members of Generations X and Y - sometimes labeled apathetic about government and civic life — are taking spots on library boards after winning seats in last month's elections. Sesso said he knows it's a little uncharacteristic for someone of his age to be out campaigning for votes, but he doesn't want to sit back and just watch. "I think that it catches people off guard, but they understand it makes sense to get involved and have some say in the community," he said.

Nationwide, people between the ages of 18 and 35 make up a full 20 percent of the voting-age population but only 4.8 percent of elected officeholders, according to the Florida-based Young Elected

Officials Network. "This is a huge disparity when you talk about equity of this age group being represented," said Andrew Gillum, director of the network, whose mission is to support young people's involvement in public office. "A lot of decisions being made by elected officials are decisions that have long-term implications," he said. "Inherently, young people come with a larger sense of purpose and innovative ideas to the public forum."

As president of the Cook Memorial Public Library District in Libertyville, twenty-four-year-old Aaron Lawlor knows something about being young and commanding respect. He started serving on the board at twenty-one, so he has some perspective on being a young elected official. He agrees that not a lot of young people are interested in public service. In fact, he says his friends find it amusing that many library staff members are the age of their parents.

One of the biggest things to happen in the Cook Memorial district lately is that the board hired a new library director. "I

am twenty-four years old, just starting my career, and here I am speaking to someone who had been in a library district for thirty-eight years about retirement and planning," Lawlor said. "It was interesting for me and awkward at the same time."

Rebecca Jensen, 32, who was voted onto the Bartlett Public Library District board, said that since Bartlett is a diverse community with a large number of residents 25 to 44 years old, she wanted to represent that voice. "I may be younger than some others, but diversity is an important component in serving the needs of a diverse and growing community like Bartlett," she said.

Across the state there are many other examples, for example, Richard Mason Sloan from the Harrisburg Public Library District just graduated from Southeastern Illinois College in May. Sloan was elected two years ago in Harrisburg and serves as liaison to the teen advisory board. Twenty-year-old Mathew Cook was just elected to the Carier Hills-Stonefort Public Library District.

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## 2007 Election Results

### Vice-President/President-Elect

**304 Donna Dziedzic, Naperville Public Libraries**

293 Pam Van Kirk, Galesburg Public Library

Donna will begin her three-year term on July 1, 2007, running through June 30, 2010.

Board of Directors (a three-year term beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010). One candidate from each pairing was elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference.

### Director-at-Large

**448 Halle Mikyska, Kane County Law Library, St. Charles**

### Director-at-Large

244 Robyn Hendricks, Decatur Public Library

**323 Michelle Petersen, Glen Carbon Centennial Library**

### Director-at-Large

195 Mesfin Tefera, Aurora Public Library

**418 H Dayle K. Zelenka, Skokie Public Library**

### Director-at-Large

**300 Carole Dickerson, Freeport Public Library**

274 Lisa Poignant, Chillicothe Public Library District

This was the third year that ILA experimented with E-Voting.

Year	Ballots returned	Total personal members	percent of membership
2007	613	2,457 personal members	25 percent
2006	648	2,453 personal members	26 percent
2005	472	2,462 personal members	19 percent
2004	727	2,330 personal members	31 percent
2003	742	2,403 personal members	31 percent
2002	787	2,481 personal members	32 percent
2001	817	2,456 personal members	33 percent
2000	914	2,532 personal members	36 percent
1999	982	2,471 personal members	40 percent
1998	1,110	2,489 personal members	45 percent
1997	886	2,262 personal members	39 percent



## Illinois Library Day

The event was sponsored by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Illinois Library Association, Illinois Library Systems Directors Organization (ILSDO), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Illinois chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and Illinois State Library. Advocates went to Springfield to:

Oppose House Bill 1727, Mandatory Internet Computer Filters, taking away local control, imposing a costly unfunded mandate, and punishing libraries and librarians with fines and frivolous lawsuits.

Support Senate Bill 186, Library District Working Cash Funds, making library district funds more consistent with other local governments and clarifying existing provisions.

Support House Bill 2782, providing additional public notice and an opportunity to comment on proposed annexations.

Attendees represented the following systems: Alliance Library System (29); Chicago Public Library System (0); DuPage Library System (33); Lewis & Clark Library System (30); Lincoln Trail Libraries System (16); Metropolitan Library System (53); North Suburban Library System (57); Prairie Area Library System (37); Rolling Prairie Library System (15); Shawnee Library System (68).

# Registration Numbers for Illinois Library Advocacy Days

2007	.....338
2006	.....581
2005	.....259
2004	.....337
2003	.....346
2002	.....352
2001	.....313
2000	.....358
1999	.....no event
1998	.....no event
1997	.....no event
1996	.....83
1995	.....86
1994	.....153
1993	.....175
1992	.....211
1991	.....284
1990	.....unknown

## National Library Legislative Day

Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day on May 2 in Washington, D.C. (see below for previous registration figures). Library advocates met with members of Congress and their staff to support:

### Appropriations

- Funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the President's FY 2008 request of \$226.182 million.
- Funding the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program at \$100 million. The President's FY 2008 budget freezes funding for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries programs at the FY 2005 level of \$19.486 million.
- Support the inclusion of school librarians in the "Highly Qualified" language of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Multiple studies have affirmed that there is a clear link between school library media programs that are staffed by an experienced school library media specialist and student academic achievement.
- Co-sponsor the "Librarian Act of 2007," which provides for Perkins student loan forgiveness for librarians that are employed in low-income schools and public libraries.

### Telecommunications and Internet Issues

- Co-sponsor H.R. 278, which would permanently exempt all universal service funds, including the E-rate telecommunications discounts, from the Anti-Deficiency Act accounting rules that caused the E-rate to be frozen for several months. The recent one-year exemptions should now be made permanent.

## Blocking and Filtering

- Oppose provisions in S. 49, the "Protecting Children in the Twenty-first Century Act," and H.R. 1120, the "Deleting Online Predators Act of 2007" that would require E-rate recipients to block interactive Web applications. Support proposals that provide Internet education for parents, students, teachers, and librarians on the best techniques for safe Internet use.

## Copyright

- Co-sponsor H.R. 1201, the FAIR USE Act of 2007 — to amend Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) to allow bypassing a technological lock that controls access to and use of a copyrighted work — if the circumvention does not result in infringement of the work.

## Open Government Legislation

Support open government legislation: the House passed and the Senate has in committee several bills that would enhance and remove restrictions to important open government laws including the Freedom of Information Act, the Presidential Records Act, and whistleblower protections. These key laws support the public's "Right to Know," the cornerstone of government accountability and informed public participation.

Open Congressional Research Service (CRS): Congress must make the critical, taxpayer-funded reports produced by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) available to the public over the Internet. The current policy allows for lobbyists and those who can pay to obtain the reports, but leaves most ordinary Americans unable to take advantage of an important source of government information.

## Federal Libraries

The library community is concerned about threats to and adequate funding for federal libraries, especially considering the recent closing of several libraries within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We thank Congress for interceding and conducting investigations into the EPA library closures; however, we continue to be concerned as other federal libraries close and remove access to important resources used for the public good.

## Privacy and Surveillance

- Support legislation to reform the REAL ID Act to avoid serious privacy and security risks. This Act creates elements of a national ID (through driver's license) and concerns the library community because patrons use these types of ID for library cards. This would also increase opportunity to access library use records and violate patron privacy.
- Support ongoing investigations into the FBI abuses of National Security Letters (NSLs), which are part of the USA PATRIOT Act. These abuses reflect the more critical need to reform parts of the USA PATRIOT Act to incorporate and remove gag orders for NSLs.

## Registration Numbers for National Library Legislative Day

2007	.....76
2006	.....68
2005	.....62
2004	.....58
2003	.....49
2002	.....68
2001	.....81
2000	.....76
1999	.....90
1998	.....78
1997	.....73
1996	.....62
1995	.....58
1994	.....60
1993	.....59
1992	.....46
1991	.....50
1990	.....50

Attendance by the ten most populous states: California 18; Texas 12; New York 14; Florida 11; Illinois 76; Pennsylvania 20; Ohio 15; Michigan 6; New Jersey 15; and Georgia 4. Total attendance was 422. Three states—Hawaii, Louisiana, and North Dakota—had no one attending the event. The Illinois delegation represented 18 percent of the total attendance.

## Rolling Prairie Library System Participates in Farm Progress Show

One of the biggest agricultural events in mid-America, the Farm Progress Show, draws over 300,000 visitors during a three-day period. For Rolling Prairie Library System (RPLS) in Decatur, Illinois, this event will be right in their backyard biennially for the next twenty years. As visitors plan their trip to Progress City on the edge of Decatur, RPLS is capitalizing on the event as an opportunity to rally small libraries across the state and showcase the valuable services they provide to agricultural communities.

Rolling Prairie Library System has sponsored a booth at the three most recent Illinois-based Farm Progress Shows. Beginning with the 2005 show, Decatur, Illinois and Boone, Iowa rotate the show in alternate years. There is no other event as large or as definitive in terms of reaching a rural audience.

For the upcoming Farm Progress Show, August 28-30, 2007, a committee of Rolling Prairie Library System staff and librarians have begun work developing a booth, defining a theme, raising funds, and creating promotional items. The theme and graphic were created by Peggy Durst, executive assistant at RPLS, and by Michelle Johnson of Barclay Public Library District in Warrensburg. Both the theme and the graphic have won praise from the @Your Library® campaign at ALA in Chicago and from the Illinois Farm Bureau's graphic design department in Bloomington.

During the month of August, RPLS libraries will showcase library services to agricultural communities by posting lawn placards in their communities, flying banners, and wearing "Think Outside the Barn @Your Library®" shirts. During the three days of the show, they will staff the booth and remind Farm Progress Show visitors of the value of libraries while highlighting the variety of services available in libraries of all sizes. Promotional activities at the booth will include a paperback book giveaway (with each book bearing a sticker marking it as "A Gift from Your Illinois Library"), agriculture-themed literature lists, and drawings for prizes such as an iPod Shuffle, and a book and barn quilt donated by the Decatur Public Library.

More than 80 percent of the public libraries in Illinois serve small communi-

ties of fewer than 25,000 residents.

Despite limited funding and small staffs, these libraries often become the hub of a small town. They serve the needs of their communities in ways that larger libraries may find impossible. As one rural library director put it, "We are what is happening here because there just isn't anything else." From fresh produce being swapped at the circulation desk to campground visitors being visited by the local librarian, the small library is both space and place to small town residents. It is not just a window to the world through public access to the Internet. It is the front porch of the general store that no longer exists, the back fence where community news is exchanged, the country intersection where the brim of a hat is more than tipped, the potluck where favorite recipes are shared, and, as many small library directors attest, it is the place where the village character is well known. Rolling Prairie Library System invites other libraries and library systems to join them in recognizing the small library in the coming months.

For more information on how to participate in promoting small libraries during August please contact RPLS consultants Louise W. Greene [louiseg@rpls.ws](mailto:louiseg@rpls.ws) and Rachel Miller [rachelm@rpls.ws](mailto:rachelm@rpls.ws) or visit our Web site at <http://www.rpls.ws/FPS/index.htm>.

# Library Jobline of Illinois

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



## Positions for Librarians and Support Staff

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

## 2007 Primary Election Library Referenda Results

According to the Illinois State Board of Elections Web site ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)), from 1995 to 2005, there have been 200 library referenda — 91 passed; 88 failed; and 21 no results. In 1995, there were 10 library referenda — 9 passed, and 1 failed for a 90 percent success rate. In the 2004 General Election, there were 23 library referenda — 10 passed, 13 failed for a 43 percent success rate. In the 2005 Consolidated Election, there were 29 library referenda — 11 passed, 18 failed for a 38 percent success rate. In the 2006 Primary Election, there were 24 library referenda — 16 passed, 8 failed for a 67 percent success rate.

In this latest election, there were 24 library referenda — 11 passed, 13 failed for a 46 percent success rate.

### Consolidated Election 2007

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
Alpha Park Public Library District	Fulton, Peoria	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Alpha Park Public Library District, Peoria and Fulton Counties, be established at .19% instead of .15% otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
Anne West Lindsey Carterville Nature Park	Williamson	Passed	Tax	Shall a public library district known as “The Anne West Lindsey Carterville District Library and Nature Park” be established in part of Williamson County, and may an aggregate extension, not to exceed \$275,000, be made for the 2007 levy year?
Bellwood Public Library	Cook	Failed	Tax	Shall the board of trustees of the public library in Bellwood be authorized to convert the public library to a public library district, with a maximum annual public library tax rate established at 0.60% of the value of taxable property in the district?
Bellwood Public Library	Cook	Failed	Tax	Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, may an aggregate extension not to exceed \$1,980,614 be made for the Bellwood Public Library District for the 2007 levy year?
Bement Public Library District	Champaign, Piatt	Passed	Tax	Shall the maximum annual public library tax rate for the Bement Public Library District, Piatt and Champaign Counties, be increased at .30% of full, fair cash value instead of .15%?
Cary Area Public Library	Lake, McHenry	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall certain portions of Township 44 North be annexed to the Cary Area Public Library District, McHenry and Lake Counties, Illinois?
Caseyville Public Library District	St. Clair	Failed	Miscellaneous	Shall the unserved territory of Hollywood Heights Fire Protection District, St. Clair County, be annexed to the Caseyville Public Library District in St. Clair County?

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
City of Peoria	City of Peoria	Passed	Bond	Shall bonds in the amount of \$35,000,000 be issued for library purposes for the City of Peoria?
Divernon Township	Sangamon	Passed	Tax	Shall the Limiting Rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Divernon Township, Sangamon County, be increased for township library purposes?
East Dubuque District Library	JoDaviess	Failed	Bond	Shall the bonds of the East Dubuque District Library, JoDaviess County, be issued in the amount of \$2,600,000 for the purpose of erecting a building to be used as a library?
Elizabeth Township Public Library	JoDaviess	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall the Elizabeth Area Public Library District be established in part of JoDaviess County, and under the property tax extension limitation law may an aggregate extension not to exceed \$90,000 be made for the 2007 levy year?
Fondulac Public Library District	Tazewell	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate for Fondulac Public Library District, Tazewell County, be increased by 0.35% above the limiting rate for levy year 2005 and equal to 0.6498% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2007?
Kewanee Public Library District	Henry	Passed	Miscellaneous	Shall Kewanee Public Library District spend \$800,280 to construct, remodel, repair, and improve the library building and purchase necessary equipment?
Lacon Public Library District	Marshall	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Lacon Public Library District, Marshall County, be established at .25% instead of at .15% the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
Mahomet Public Library	Champaign	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Mahomet Public Library District, Champaign County, be increased by .33% for levy year 2005 and equal to .5354% of the assessed value of taxable property for levy year 2007?
Manhattan Public Library District	Will	Failed	Bond	A proposition to issue \$19,500,000 library bonds.
Manhattan Public Library District	Will	Failed	Tax	A proposition to issue the Limiting Rate.

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
Poplar Creek Public Library District	Cook, DuPage	Passed	Bond	Shall the bonds of the Poplar Creek Public Library District, Cook and DuPage Counties, in the amount of \$22,700,000 be issued for the purpose of remodeling and repairing the existing library?
Sherrard Community Library District	Mercer, Rock Island	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Sherrard Community Library District, Mercer and Rock Island Counties, be established at .60% of the value assessed by the Department of Revenue instead of at .15%?
Sugar Grove Public Library District	Kane	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Sugar Grove Public Library District, Kane County, be increased by .05064% for levy year 2005?
Swansea Public Library District	St. Clair	Failed	Miscellaneous	Shall a Swansea Public Library be established in part of St. Clair County?
Towanda District Library	McLean	Passed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Towanda District Library, McLean County, be established at .20% instead of at .15% the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?
Village of Carol Stream	DuPage	Failed	Bond	Shall bonds in the amount of \$25,000,000 be issued by the Village of Carol Stream, DuPage County, for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new public library?
Village of Midlothian	Cook	Passed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the library funds of the Village of Midlothian, Cook County, be increased for levy years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009?
Zion-Benton Public Library District	Lake	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Zion-Benton Public Library District, Lake County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to .04% above the limiting rate for tax levy year 2005 and be equal to .25% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy years 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010?

# 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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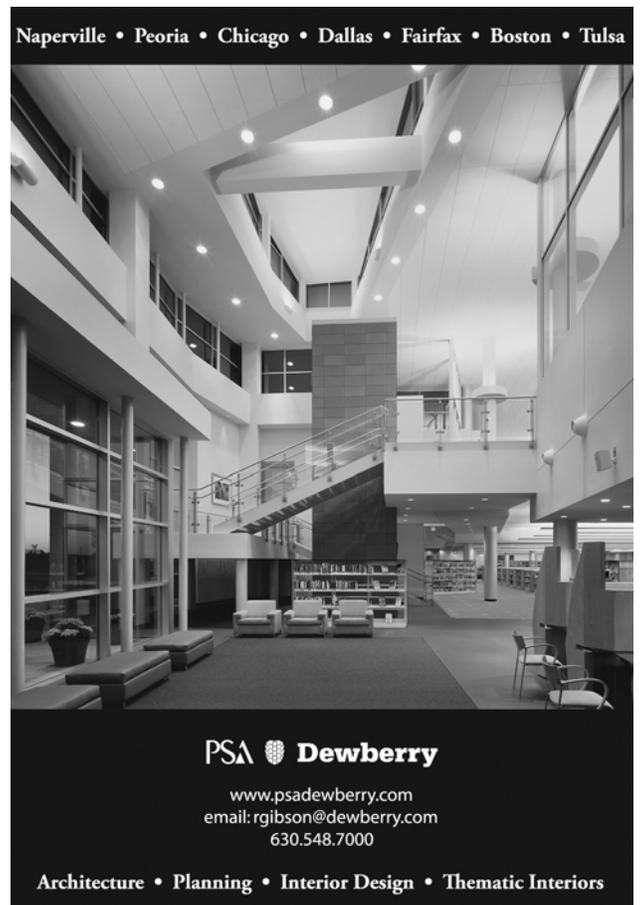
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**Charles Fuller**, Mount Prospect Public Library



## Illinois Reading Enrichment and Development (iREAD) Committee

Jane Kauzlaric, Joliet Public Library

Cindy Dingwall, youth services programmer from Prospect Heights Public Library District, was a valuable contributor to the 2007 *Resource Guide*. Unfortunately, her name was omitted from the list on page 8. Many thanks to Coordinator Kristi Miller-Pease, the 2007 Task Force, and all contributors for teaming up to create such a valuable guide.

If you need additional *2007 Mission READ: To the Library and Beyond* products, check the online order form at <https://www.ila.org/pub/ireadorders.htm>. Some items are still available.

Lori Craft, 2008 chair, reminds everyone that the 2008 *Get in the Game — READ!* Showcase will be held in October at the 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield. The 2008 Resource Guide, along with select 2008 merchandise, will be available for purchase during the conference.

2010 iREAD chair Jason Stuhlmann invites you to submit 2010 theme suggestions online via the ILA Web site: <http://www.ila.org/pub/iread.htm> and then join him for a live brainstorming session during the showcase at the 2007 ILA Annual Conference.

*Read on the Wild Side* is the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Chair Vince

Sovanski encourages library staff to interpret the theme as best suits their own community. Safari, zoo, or wild animals are just some of the ways to appeal to children. Young adults may relate more to the increasing confidence and independence of their teen years. As 2009 marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, libraries may want to tie-in to how "wild" Illinois was when Lincoln moved to the state in 1830.

## Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum

Bleue J. Benton, Oak Park  
Public Library

Librarians for Social Responsibility is looking at ways that libraries in Illinois respond to poverty. We are working on a statewide study of library services for low-income people.

Released in February by the nonprofit Heartland Alliance ([www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org)), the "2007 Report on Illinois Poverty" found that 85 percent of Illinois counties experienced an increase in poverty in 2006. Nearly 1.5 million state citizens live in poverty. The report also noted that Illinois has more poor young adults (age 18 to 29) than any other Midwest state. Nearly 68 percent of poor children have parents who work. Significant numbers of families and individuals are eligible for income support programs but are not enrolled as participants. We plan to distribute a survey to public libraries throughout the state. This

project will build on current initiatives within the American Library Association to assess the implementation of ALA's policy on library services for the poor, and to collect information about poverty-focused programs and barriers to service. Resources for effective service to low-income people can be found online at [www.hhptf.org](http://www.hhptf.org).

For more information, contact John Gehner at [jgehner@hhptf.org](mailto:jgehner@hhptf.org).

## Youth Services Forum

Kelly Laszczak, Orland Park  
Public Library

Programs-in-a-Box are now available! Each box contains materials for a great themed storytime. Materials include: books, puppets, craft suggestions, and other creative ideas for a fun and entertaining program. So far, five Programs-in-a-Box are available covering the following topics: Dora the Explorer, Thomas the Tank Engine, Bob the Builder, Captain Underpants, and Parachute Play. To find out more about the Programs-in-a-Box or to reserve one, please contact Lori Craft at the Itasca Community Library by phone at (630)773-1699 or email [lcraft@linc.lib.il.us](mailto:lcraft@linc.lib.il.us).

Vince Sovanski, long-time forum member, is stepping down from the forum this year. We thank him for his years of service and wish him luck in his future endeavors.



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## JUNE 2007

- 8** ILA Executive Board meeting, 10:00 A.M., Urbana Free Library, 210 Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3283; phone: (217) 367-4057; fax: (217) 367-4061.
- 20** Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- 21-27** ALA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## AUGUST 2007

- 20** Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- 20-26** World Library and Information Congress: 73rd International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Council and General Conference, Durban, South Africa. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

- 20-21** Reaching Forward South 11th Annual Conference for Library Assistants, Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702; phone: (217) 523-7900.

- 29-Oct. 6** Banned Books Week—Celebrating the Freedom to Read. For further information, contact American Library Association, Office for Intellectual Freedom, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611; phone: 800-545-2433 x4220; fax: (312) 280-4227; e-mail: [oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org). Or visit the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>.

## OCTOBER 2007

- 4-7** Library and Information Technology Association, National Forum, Denver, Colo. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/lita/>.
- 9-12** ILA Annual Conference, Springfield, Ill., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Conference Hotels: Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center, 701 East Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701; phone: (217) 544-8800; fax: (217) 544-8079; single/double: \$97, plus tax. Hilton Springfield, 700 East Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701; phone: (217) 789-1530 or 800-445-8667; fax: (217) 522-5346; single: \$105/double: \$120, plus tax.
- 14-20** Teen Read Week. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/yalsa>.

- 20** Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.
- 25-26** Health Science Librarians of Illinois Annual Conference, Champaign, Ill. For further information, please contact: Stacey Knight-Davis; phone: (217) 581-7549; e-mail: [slknight@eiu.edu](mailto:slknight@eiu.edu).
- 25-28** American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Reno, Nev. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/aasl/>.

## NOVEMBER 2007

- 1-3** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

## DECEMBER 2007

- 20** Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JANUARY 2008

- 11-16** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## FEBRUARY 2008

- 20** Deadline for April issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## MARCH 2008

**25–29** Public Library Association's Thirteenth National Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.; phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: [pla@ala.org/](mailto:pla@ala.org/).

## APRIL 2008

**13–19** National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: [pio@ala.org/](mailto:pio@ala.org/); <http://www.ala.org/>.

**14–20** Young People's Poetry Week, sponsored by the Children's Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children's Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>.

**20** Deadline for June issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## MAY 2008

**13–14** National Library Legislative Day. The registration form will appear in the February 2008 *ILA Reporter*. The ALA briefing day will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

## JUNE 2008

**20** Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

**26–2 July** ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## AUGUST 2008

**10–15** World Library and Information Congress: 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council, Quebec, Canada. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

**20** Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## SEPTEMBER 2008

**23–26** ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill.

## OCTOBER 2008

**20** Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## NOVEMBER 2008

**6–8** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Chicago Sheraton Northwest, Arlington Heights, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

## DECEMBER 2008

**20** Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JANUARY 2009

**23–28** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver, Colo.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## FEBRUARY 2009

**20** Deadline for April issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## APRIL 2009

**13–19** National Library Week. Contact ALA Public Information Office, phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 5044/5041; fax: (312) 944-8520; e-mail: [pio@ala.org/](mailto:pio@ala.org/); <http://www.ala.org/>.

**13–19** Young People's Poetry Week, sponsored by the Children's Book Council, highlights poetry for children and young adults and encourages everyone to celebrate poetry. For more information, contact the Children's Book Council, 12 W. 37th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10018; phone: (212) 966-1990; <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>.

**20** Deadline for June issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JUNE 2009

- 20** Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JULY 2009

- 9-15** ALA Annual Conference, Chicago;  
phone: (312) 280-3225;  
<http://www.ala.org/>.

## AUGUST 2009

- 20** Deadline for October issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

World Library and Information Congress: 75th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council, Milan, Italy. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

## OCTOBER 2009

- 6-9** ILA Annual Conference at the Peoria Civic Center. Conference Hotels: Hotel Pere Marquette, 501 Main St., Peoria, IL 61602; phone: (309) 637-6500 or 800-774-7118; fax: (309) 671-9445; single/double: \$109, plus tax. Price includes complimentary breakfast buffet. Holiday Inn City Centre, 500 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria, IL 61602; phone: (309) 674-2500; fax: (309) 674-8705; single/double: \$103, plus tax.

- 20** Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

- 29-31** Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

## DECEMBER 2009

- 20** Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JANUARY 2010

- 15-20** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, Mass.;  
phone: (312) 280-3225;  
<http://www.ala.org/>.

## FEBRUARY 2010

- 20** Deadline for April issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## MARCH 2010

- 23-27** Public Library Association's Fourteenth National Conference, Portland, Oreg.;  
phone: 800-545-2433,  
ext. 5PLA; e-mail: [pla@ala.org](mailto:pla@ala.org).

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# Get in the game, **READ!**



Tom Lichtenheld for IREAD

## **iREAD 2008**

IREAD 2008 artwork by Tom Lichtenheld, author of *What Are YOU So Grumpy About?*, *Everything I Know About Pirates* and *Everything I Know About Monsters: A Collection of Made-up Facts, Educated Guesses, and Silly Pictures about Creatures of Creepiness*.





# Gaming and Libraries: A Perfect Fit

One hundred years ago, fiction in the library must have been a pretty tough sell. Fifty years ago, romance novels must have been an equally tough sell. Twenty years ago, it was movies. Ten years ago, it was e-mail. Today, it's gaming.

Except that it's really not that difficult to see how gaming fits into library services if we just look a little more closely than we're used to at gaming. The stereotype is that the average gamer is a teenage boy sitting alone in a dark basement staring at a screen. That might have been true in the past, but these days the average gamer is thirty-three years old. Two generations have grown up with gaming the way baby boomers grew up with television. The largest group of online gamers is middle-aged women playing such games as Tetris, Bejeweled, Bookworm, and more over the Web.

The number of gamers under the age of thirty-five in the U.S. is now around 90 million, which means there are more of them than there are boomers, and we know how much impact boomers had on our society due to the sheer size of their numbers. The number of people gaming will only grow, as games go mobile on cell phones, broadband Internet adoption increases, and new consoles (such as the Nintendo Wii which uses a motion-sensitive remote) and social games (such as Dance Dance Revolution) make gaming a family affair.

Where, then, does the library fit into this picture? Some of the answers are easier to see than others. If we can justify circulating CDs, DVDs, and CD-ROM programs, it's difficult to argue against adding games to our collections. When the school bell rings, public library computers everywhere are rushed by students to play Runescape, Flash Flash Revolution, and other online games. Some adult non-gamers look at these kids and think to themselves that it's television all over again, kids staring at screens, their brains rotting away. Nothing could be further from the truth, though.

For despite the fact that many folks still consider games to be purely "play," there are literacies and learning attached to these games. Runescape players may look like they're just wandering around this virtual world, possibly talking and laughing loudly with their compatriots around them, but in fact the main method of communication in the game is text-based chat. To be able to keep up with the chatter in the game (as with most games that include chat), kids have to be able to read the screen quickly, interpret information, make quick decisions, and then type a response, all in very short time frame. In games such as World of Warcraft (WoW) and Age of Empires (AoE), this is even more true, all while taking in the socialization cues of the online world, planning strategy, and in the case of games like AoE or Civilization, interpreting history.

So if we can accept that there are good things happening in games, can we accept that these things can happen in libraries? My answer is yes, especially in light of what libraries can add to the gaming experience. In his forthcoming book *Gamers...in the Library!*, Eli Neiburger asks why public libraries offer storytime. Any parent can check out a book, take it home, and read it to his child, so why do we offer storytime? Eli's answer is that there is literacy attached to the act, that the child hears alternate interpretations of the book, and that it is a communal experience only the library can provide. He goes on to explain how libraries can offer this same experience for gaming, by allowing open play time and/or holding tournaments using games rated "E" for "everyone." At the Ann Arbor District Library where Eli works, he and his colleagues set up a sophisticated gaming network for a whole weekend of gaming events. Families can share the experience on Friday nights, teens get to play on Saturdays, and tweens and younger play on Sundays.

But it's not just public libraries that can use gaming to reach new and old audiences. School libraries can create the same kinds of connections and goodwill using gaming, even for as short a time as during National Library Week. Some academic libraries allow open play gaming or tournaments as a way for students to let off some steam during the semester or during finals. Both groups, though, are investigating using gaming to teach information literacy. For example, staff at the Fletcher Library at Arizona State University's West Campus first created a board game called "Information Pursuit" that students loved (after all, not all gaming has to be done using video games). This effort was so well received that staff have been working on a Web-based game in which students must use library resources to help fight a virus outbreak on campus.

[continued on back cover]



Gaming is increasingly entering the world of education in general, not just in libraries. In the last six months, two major reports have been released, both of which cite the potential for simulation and gameplay to help prepare today's students for the twenty-first century jobs our businesses need them to fill. The first report is from the MacArthur Foundation, which has invested \$50 million into researching digital learning and media, while the second report on the future of the U.S. education system, complete with recommendations to implement gaming in our schools, comes from the Federation of American Scientists. Both reports are well worth your time, especially since both focus on the need to teach information and media literacies and yet neither one mentions librarians as the best and most qualified experts to teach these skills.

It's time for librarians to "get in the game" and reach out to gamers of all ages with new and supporting services for this recreational format that is more educational than it first appears. There are so many different ways libraries can utilize gaming that it's a wonder it has taken us this long to begin embracing it. If you're still on the fence about gaming, read up on it further or look at your neighbors, as more and more libraries are offering gaming services. I have yet to hear about a library ending a gaming program because of negative reactions from the community. In fact, it is usually the reverse – positive reactions, praise, and strong support. These outcomes can be yours, too, if you're willing to just play around a little.

## Further Reading

Gee, James Paul. *What Video Games Have to Teach Us about Learning and Literacy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

*Harnessing the Power of Video Games for Learning: Summit on Educational Games, 2006*. Washington, D.C.: Federation of American Scientists, 2006. (<http://www.fas.org/gamesummit/>).

Jenkins, Henry. *Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the Twenty-first Century*. Chicago: MacArthur Foundation, 2006. (<http://www.digitallearning.macfound.org/site/>).

Johnson, Steven. *Everything Bad Is Good for You*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2005.

Levine, Jenny. "Gaming and Libraries: Intersection of Services," *Library Technology Reports*, Sept./Oct. 2006, vol. 42, no. 5.

Neiburger, Eli. *Gamers...in the Library?! The Why, What, and How of Videogame Tournaments for All Ages*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2007.

Prensky, Marc. *Don't Bother Me Mom, I'm Learning: How Computer and Video Games Are Preparing Your Kids for Twenty-first Century Success and How You Can Help!* St. Paul, Minn.: Paragon House, 2006.

Shaffer, David Williamson. *How Computer Games Help Children Learn*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

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