

# 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

Rondelay 5x11 Matrix (2005) hangs near the entrance to the Oak Park Public Library. The artists, Louise Wimmer and Jonathan Wimmer, have been the owners and directors of Higgins Glass in Riverside, Ill. since the deaths of Michael Higgins (1999) and Frances Higgins (2004), who began the company in Chicago in 1948 basing their work on the ancient art of glass fusing.

This year's *ILA Reporter* covers showcase the incredibly rich heritage of Illinois libraries' 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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# Heresy and Misconduct: Evolution in Library Automation

*“All evolution in thought and conduct must at first appear as heresy and misconduct.”* —George Bernard Shaw

## **Evolution**

1. *The process by which different kinds of living organisms are believed to have developed, especially by natural selection.*
2. *Gradual development.*

## **PAST AND CURRENT SITUATION**

For the past few years, change has been the one constant in the integrated library system (ILS) arena; however, that change has not been characterized solely or even primarily by new product developments. Instead, corporate shakeups have been the norm as the marketplace has become saturated. As Karen Schneider indicated in a 2007 presentation to Illinois library trustees, there have been no “significant commercial products for decades.” Schneider noted that the ILS marketplace has become “an industry of mergers and acquisitions.”<sup>(1)</sup>

In a recent article on the automation systems marketplace, Marshall Breeding concurred: “Libraries feel a sense of urgency to acquire... interfaces... that work more like the Web of 2008 and [to] gain tools to manage ever-growing collections of electronic content.”<sup>(2)</sup>

According to Richard Shurman, administrator at Cooperative Computer Services serving twenty-three public libraries in northern Illinois, one struggle is that the library is a niche market and “nontraditional vendors are carving a path; there is some risk in being a customer of... a company that happens to sit among the portfolio of some equity firm that just picked up a library software provider or has been acquired by and ‘merged with’ a competitor.”<sup>(3)</sup>

A key question seems to be whether the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) as a basic part of the ILS will become extinct. The customer focus is moving away from library operations (processes and procedures) and toward enhancing the patron experience via the OPAC. This attention to OPAC usability will continue as the “born-digital” generation looks for features that they consider standard: relevance ranking, spell check, results list management, and social features such as recommendations and/or tagging.

## **Devolution**

*The devolving of power by central government to local or regional administration.*



## THE DIS-INTEGRATION OF THE ILS

Another major trend in today's ILS market place is the overlay of a third-party user-interface (discovery and display tools) to augment or extend ILS. Products such as Primo, Endeca, and AquaBrowser are offered to complement an ILS system. (Breeding offers an index of interfaces with a listing of the libraries that have implemented them at <http://www.librarytechnology.org/discovery.pl>.) <<http://www.librarytechnology.org/discovery.pl>> As Breeding indicates, it appears that "decoupling the front-end interface from the back-end ILS has become well established."<sup>(4)</sup>

## OPEN SOURCE

The past two years have also seen growth in ILS systems developed through open source software (OSS) projects. In 2006, for example, more than 250 Georgia public libraries adopted Evergreen, an open source ILS funded by the state library. This open source "transition into the mainstream" continued impressive growth throughout 2007 – with increased coverage in library press, more OSS offerings at library conferences, and perhaps most notably, new open source-based ILS such as Evergreen and Koha have been implemented in more than one hundred libraries throughout the US.<sup>(5)</sup>

While the movement toward OSS systems sends a message to traditional software vendors, Shurman pondered whether the open source model will be sustainable over the long-haul, noting, "R&D by a user base has yet to stand the test of time;" however, he also notes that "the strongest asset of the open source movement is the collaborative nature of the library profession."<sup>(6)</sup>

Michael Stephens, presenter and blogger in the library arena, notes that at the very least librarians need to pay attention to what is happening in the OSS marketplace. He commented on the strong presence of companies such as LibLime on the PLA exhibit floor. Not surprisingly much of LibLime's marketing message touted their staff members' experience in libraries; the company was started by Joshua Ferraro, a librarian who managed the implementation of Koha, an early open source ILS, in the Athens County (Ohio) Public Library System.

## WEB SERVICES

If this rapidly evolving vision of a "dis-integrated" or distributed ILS comes to pass, libraries will also need to pay attention to implementing Web services for their customers. As defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), a Web service is "a software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-

machine interaction over a network."<sup>(7)</sup> That is, Web services are tools that allow applications designed for specific proprietary platforms to work together, and be accessed through a standard Web browser. In fact, a Web service interface may be served by different software agents, each running on different platforms, or even under different languages, while providing a seamless service experience for the customer. Don't be surprised if this description sounds a bit vague; the W3C acknowledges that a "Web service is an abstract notion that must be implemented by a concrete agent."<sup>(8)</sup>

Another feature related to their systems integration function is the use of Web services in preserving and managing a legacy data system. If an organization has invested significant resources in an existing system or has a unique source of data, Web services could allow the legacy system to work within a newer environment. "The job of a Web service lies in transmitting a request for a particular task... and delivering back the results," noted Breeding in *Library Technology Reports*.<sup>(9)</sup> Web services are generally agnostic or neutral about platforms or operating systems.

### Revolution

1. *A forcible overthrow of a government or social order, in favour of a new system.* 2. *A dramatic and far-reaching change.*

## FORWARD THINKERS/ING

So, who or what may be pushing the evolutionary envelope toward a new distributed ILS paradigm? In the article "Dreaming of a Better ILS," Ellen Bahr asked leading lights in the library automation/technology field what they would most like to see in the future of the ILS. Frank Cervone, assistant university librarian for Information Technology at Northwestern University, replied "the catalog [should] go away. To a great degree, it is an anachronism."<sup>(10)</sup> This does not mean the data goes away; instead it becomes more portable, open, and accessible. Additionally, more information is added to the data: book covers, reviews, even full text, bringing OPACs into alignment with the features offered by commercial services such as Amazon or Google.

When talking to Michael Stephens about the future of the catalog, he highlighted Scriblio developed by Casey Bisson. An ILS inside of WordPress, an open source blogging software, Scriblio separates the searcher's interaction with data from the library business end (acquisitions, inventory, financials). Users can see Scriblio in action at the Plymouth State University Web site <http://library.plymouth.edu/> or the Cook Memorial Library (Tamworth, N.H.) Web site <http://tamworthlibrary.org/>

## Absolution

*A formal release from guilt, obligation, or punishment.*

## STATE OF SATISFACTION

Despite some concerns about the viability of the catalog, the current level of ILS satisfaction is not entirely negative. In 2007, Breeding surveyed libraries about levels of satisfaction with their OPACs. He found that the majority reported they were generally satisfied with their ILS, but a significant number indicated a willingness to look at other products, including open source systems.

Shurman observed that, compared to prior generations, current catalogs are far better; even the earliest OPACs dramatically increased portability. Shurman wryly recollected the past requests of patrons to have physical card catalog cabinets on every floor of the library. Now, the resource is available wherever users have online access.

## Resolution

*1. A firm decision. 2. An expression of opinion or intention agreed on by a legislative body. 3. The quality of being resolute. 4. The resolving of a problem or dispute. 5. The process of reducing or separating something into components.*

## FUTURE

So, one may ask, what is the alternative if the catalog goes away? Because the target is still moving, the answer today is unclear; however, that vision is coming into focus as discussions about the future continue. In 2006 and 2007, there were two symposia on the future of the ILS (in November 2006 at the University of Windsor [Ontario] and in September 2007 at the Lincoln Trail Libraries System [Ill.]). Moreover, industry leaders continue to think and talk and write, advocating open source, content management and Web services, among other issues.

As an ever-increasing number of patrons heed librarians' advice to use the catalog remotely, select materials online, put them on hold, and request drive-through or after-hours pickup, the OPAC becomes the public face of the library. Which is undoubtedly why even the most technologically enthusiastic thinkers focus on the human element.

In a 2007 presentation, David Lee King emphasized "communication, conversation, connecting, community."<sup>(11)</sup> Karen Schneider urges that "emotions do matter;" libraries don't want indifferent or disengaged patrons. If users turn to OPAC more, they need

to feel connected.<sup>(12)</sup> And Michael Stephens, assistant professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of Dominican University and author of *Tame the Web*, a technology blog, states: "The library is human." Any technology must "create a useful service, putting users together with the information and experience they seek."<sup>(13)</sup>

How can we move in that direction? Stephens would like to see the a portion of the LIS program as a "learning lab – exposing students to technologies."<sup>(14)</sup> Even better would be for the library to serve as a learning lab for patrons, demonstrating new technology tools coming down the pipeline.

Stephens also encourages librarians to pay attention to research, specifically mentioning the OCLC Perceptions survey, which recently reported that only 1 percent of respondents – 96 percent of whom reported using their libraries – start their research at their library Web site. With such research in mind, many libraries would do well to put their resources elsewhere, focusing attention where most of their users are – 84 percent start with search engines.

King noted in his 2007 presentation that the Web is turning into a digital place, a destination. However, today's developing reality appears to go further than that; it seems that every place is becoming a digital place. Instead of having the catalog model become extinct, perhaps instead it will develop into a sort of ubiquitous research resource. ■

## ENDNOTES

Definitions are taken from *Compact Oxford English Dictionary*  
<http://www.askoxford.com/> <<http://www.askoxford.com/>>

- (1) Karen Schneider. ILS Issues for Trustees (podcast), ILS Symposium, September 2007. <http://lincolntrail.typepad.com/ilssymposium> <<http://lincolntrail.typepad.com/ilssymposium>>
- (2) Marshall Breeding. "Automation System Marketplace: Opportunity Out of Turmoil." *Library Journal* 04/01/08
- (3) Interview with Richard Shurman. April 2008
- (4) See note 2, above.
- (5) See note 2, above.
- (6) See note 3, above.
- (7) W3C Working Group Note. Web Services Architecture. <http://www.w3.org/TR/ws-arch/> <<http://www.w3.org/TR/ws-arch/>>
- (8) See note 7, above.
- (9) Marshall Breeding. "Web Services and Service-Oriented Architecture." *Library Technology Reports*. May/June 2006
- (10) Ellen Bahr. "Dreaming of a Better ILS." *Computers in Libraries*. October 2007
- (11) David Lee King. Web 2.0, Emerging Trends,, and OPACs. Presentation to the Central Kansas Library System. May 2008
- (12) See note 1, above.
- (13) Interview with Michael Stephens. April 2008
- (14) See note 13, above.

# New Vision and Plan for ILA

Following nearly eighteen months of planning and discussion, the ILA Executive Board has approved a new strategic plan for the association, now available on the ILA Web site at [www.ila.org](http://www.ila.org). I am excited to share a summary of the plan below and some thoughts on how it will impact the association and membership in the next few years.

## MISSION AND GOALS

The inspiration and content for the new plan resulted from an ILA membership survey conducted in early 2007 that focused both on challenges facing Illinois libraries and librarians and on identifying specific areas where ILA could achieve the most impact and value in addressing these challenges. It was very reassuring to discover from the survey that the overall mission and goals of ILA continued to resonate with the membership and those high-level statements of purpose did not require extensive revision. If there had been any question, it was very clear from the survey that the membership wants ILA to focus first and foremost on library advocacy, particularly in public policy development and in defending intellectual freedom, clearly areas where ILA can and must have a major impact. It is also clear that the membership

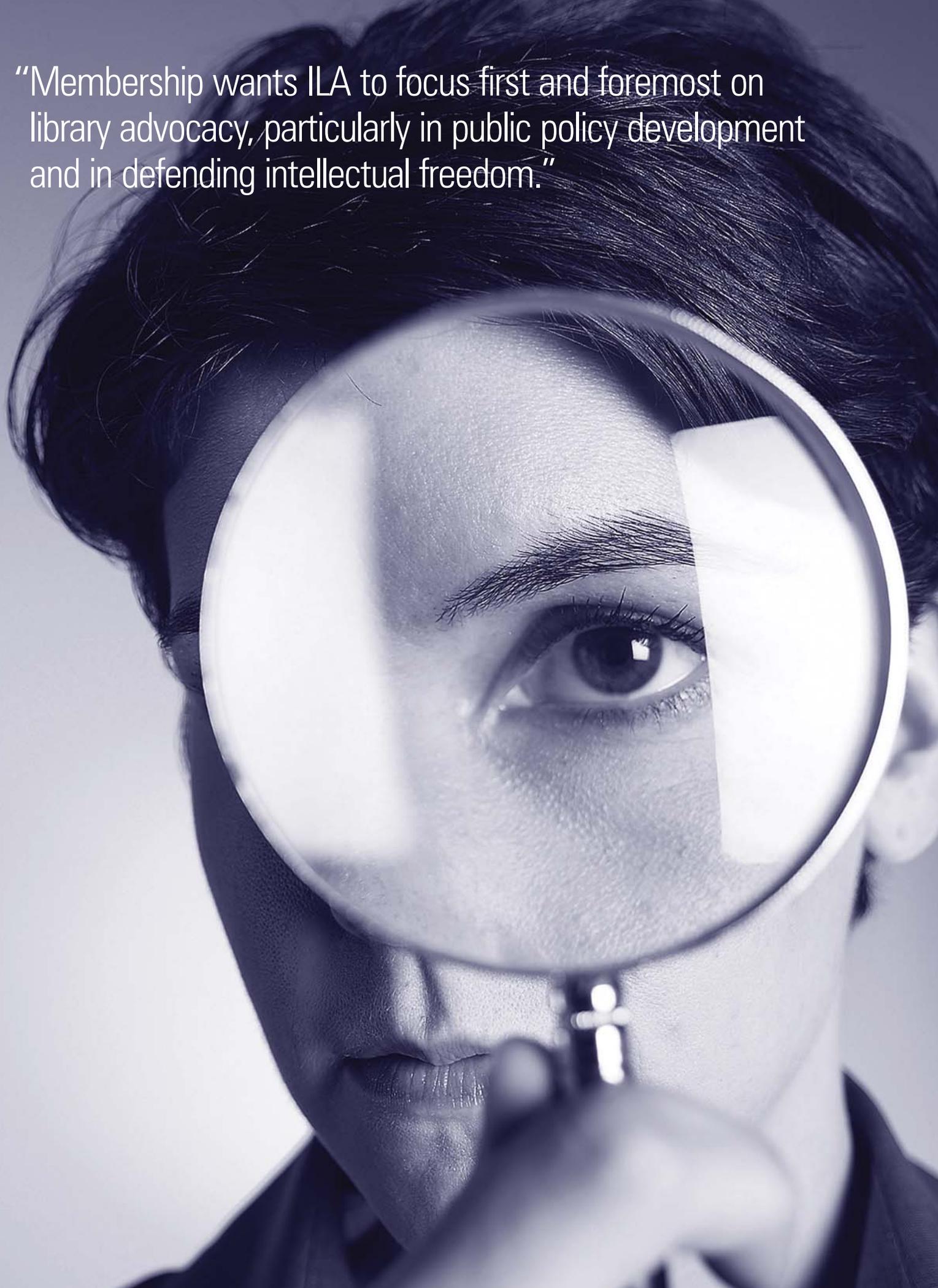
supports ILA leadership in promoting and celebrating excellence, innovation, and best practices in librarianship through association programming, publications, and awards. The traditional association roles of providing continuing education and networking opportunities also remain very important and relevant to the membership, though tempered with a clear message on the need to collaborate with other library-related organizations and associations to minimize duplication of effort.

## VISION

The ILA strategic plan centers on a new vision for the association, which reads as follows: *The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.* The hope of the ILA Executive Board is that this vision statement will stretch us as an association to become truly indispensable to the Illinois library community in the coming years. The vision also guides us, as noted above, in keeping our focus on advocacy and collaboration and on spearheading change and innovation to position libraries to thrive and to compete in the years ahead.

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“Membership wants ILA to focus first and foremost on library advocacy, particularly in public policy development and in defending intellectual freedom.”



## STRATEGIES

Five new strategies for achieving this vision emerged during the strategic planning process. Each is noted below along with context for how the strategy relates to the ILA mission and vision.

1. **Communication and outreach.** Revise ILA publications and communications initiatives to meet members where they are and at the point of need with timely and relevant information and content.

ILA members, perhaps even more so than the community at large, face an overload of information and demands for their attention. To be effective in communicating with members and facilitating communication among them, it is essential to move beyond traditional formats and old strategies. Members are unlikely to visit the ILA Web site on a regular basis to keep up with the activities of the association, even if the site is dynamic and up-to-date with very useful content. To be indispensable to our members and to truly impact the library community, ILA must move aggressively to redesign processes for the development and delivery of content using the latest social collaboration tools, personalization techniques, and other Web tools to push relevant content to members and to empower collaboration among the membership.

2. **Innovation and excellence.** Focus ILA programming on library best practices and transformation to showcase opportunities for libraries to become increasingly indispensable to the communities served by expanding their reach and impact.

Libraries will continue to confront disruptive technologies in the broader environment that seem to threaten traditional library roles and services. Libraries of all types need inspiration and new models for exploiting these technologies and for exploring other roles and opportunities to utilize their own strengths and expertise. ILA programming must provide a model of successful transformation for libraries to follow and also showcase innovative libraries that thrive in the current environment. Providing a forum and a clearinghouse of ideas related to library innovation and excellence in adapting to change and in meeting the changing needs of our increasingly diverse communities is critical to the future of libraries and library associations. In doing this, ILA must leverage the diverse talent within its membership and staff to serve as a think tank for the Illinois library community and beyond in developing a sustainable future for libraries.

3. **Advocacy and public awareness.** Enhance ILA's recognized leadership and success in legislative advocacy by becoming more proactive in the legislative process and by increasing the effectiveness of initiatives by ILA and individual member libraries that promote the value of libraries to the communities we serve.

Based on ILA member surveys, providing leadership in the area of library advocacy is the single most important activity for ILA. Individual libraries and other library organizations are not well positioned to effectively lobby state or federal legislators on their own or to even monitor proposed legislation of potential interest to the broader library community. ILA must continue to expand its impact in advocacy and move into an offensive mode wherever possible to shape our desired future by developing legislative proposals and by building an ever-growing base of stakeholders and supporters. This includes helping libraries positively impact the perceptions of themselves in their communities.

4. **Collaboration and partnerships.** Develop and enhance the impact of partnerships between ILA and other professional associations, organizations, and library consortia to enhance the breadth and depth of programming and services available to the library community while leveraging the expertise and strengths of ILA staff and membership.

To be effective, ILA must focus association energies on what it does best and what it can do that other organizations cannot do as well. This requires that ILA place a high priority on forming close partnerships with other associations, organizations, and consortia within and beyond Illinois and within and beyond traditional library allies.

[continued on page 12]





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5. **Financial strength and sustainability.** Remain fiscally conservative in developing annual operating budgets and fiscally disciplined in growing the level of association long-term investment reserves to ensure the viability of the association to support member needs.

ILA must manage and enhance its financial situation to secure its own future while meeting the demands of an expanded vision for the organization in serving the membership and the library community. Given all that ILA does accomplish on behalf of libraries, it is easy to forget that ILA has a very small staff and very limited resources. If we expect to increase the impact of ILA, we must find the necessary revenue to acquire suitable office space and to add additional staff to support strategic efforts outlined in the plan. To avoid raising membership dues to levels which discourage potential members from joining ILA, ILA must seek instead to grow membership to increase the base while adjusting other revenue streams where possible and supplementing this with new sources of revenue. This includes greatly expanding our emphasis on fundraising to build an endowment to support and to sustain ILA in the future.

## MOVING FROM PLANNING TO ACTION

The ILA strategic plan does include sample action items for advancing each strategy and metrics to measure our progress. As our strategy for implementing the plan, the Executive Board has challenged the leadership of each and every ILA committee, forum and task force to develop their own annual action plans with objectives tied to the plan. The Executive Board did review mid-year progress reports from each committee, forum and task force during our February retreat and I am pleased to report that good progress is being made on many fronts. Under the leadership of incoming President Donna Dziejdzic and the 2008/09 Executive Board, new action plans will be developed this summer for next year to keep the work of the association moving forward. As my term as President of the Illinois Library Association quickly draws to an end, I am confident that ILA will indeed attain our vision for ILA and will become increasingly indispensable to Illinois libraries and librarians. **ILA**

## BUY A RAFFLE TICKET

ILA will sponsor a raffle at this year's Annual Conference, which will be held at Chicago's Navy Pier, September 23–26. The drawing will be held during the ILA Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 25 at 4:45 P.M. Winners need not be present. The raffle will feature three prizes:

1. A 92" x 92" quilt (large enough for a queen-sized bed) created by Nann Blaine Hilyard, of the Zion-Benton Library District. The quilt block is "Drinking Gourd," a reference to the folk song about the Underground Railroad, "Follow the Drinking Gourd" (meaning the Big Dipper).
2. A gift certificate for a two-nights' stay at the Chicago City Centre Hotel and Sports Club, with breakfast for two each morning and a \$100 American Express Gift Check.
3. One free registration for the 2009 ILA Annual Conference in Peoria.



The cost of tickets is \$5 for one or \$25 for six. Tickets may be purchased during the 2008 ILA Annual Conference, September 23–26, Chicago, Navy Pier. Proceeds will go to the ILA Endowment Fund.

# Leave a Legacy, Support the ILA Endowment Fund

**Y**ou've worked hard for your library and the continued development of library services. Ensure that ILA can advocate for libraries for generations to come.

*In 1876, the American Library Association was founded and fourteen years later, in 1890, ALA created an Endowment Fund. Today, the ALA Endowment Fund is worth approximately \$30.3 million.*

*In 1896, the Illinois Library Association was founded and one hundred and five years later, in 2001, ILA created an Endowment Fund. Today, the ILA Endowment Fund is worth approximately \$26,523.*

Imagine how the endowment fund could fund ILA's programmatic initiatives if it had been started one hundred years ago. The interest alone could probably fund ILA's most important program — our legislative program. ILA is the only statewide library association in Illinois representing all types of libraries on all the difficult questions: operational issues, proposed filtering laws, proposed social networking legislation, Internet issues, pension issues, and others.

Let's not repeat the mistakes of our first hundred years. Let's work towards leaving a legacy for future librarians.

## There are a variety of ways to help:

1. **Buy a "Quilt" raffle ticket.**
2. **Include the ILA on your list for charitable giving in 2008.** Contributions to ILA, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. There are a variety of ways to make a contribution. **BY MAIL.** Please make checks payable to the Illinois Library Association and mail, noting on the check it's for the ILA Endowment Fund. If you prefer, you can make a credit card gift through the mail. To do so, please send your credit card number, expiration date, and daytime telephone number. **BY PHONE.** To make a credit card gift by phone, call ILA at (312) 644-1896. Please have your credit card number, expiration date, and daytime phone number ready.

3. **Consider a gift of securities in support of ILA.** Gifts of securities often confer significant tax benefits on a donor. For example, contributions of appreciated securities held for over a year are generally deductible at market value, regardless of what the donor paid for them; moreover, the capital gains tax is avoided through such gift.

4. **Individuals sometimes conclude that they have more life insurance than they or their family needs.** In this circumstance, you may wish to:

- name ILA as a beneficiary of an existing policy;
- transfer the policy, naming ILA as the owner and beneficiary, which will result in a tax-deductible gift; or
- purchase a new policy and name ILA as the owner and beneficiary. For premiums due on the policy, you may make an annual gift to ILA, which is tax deductible.

5. **Consider including ILA as a beneficiary in your will.** It is simple to prepare, revocable, and can be accomplished in several ways. To make a bequest to ILA, you may:

- specify a monetary gift or make a gift of securities, real estate, or other items of value;
- designate a percentage of your total estate to be given to ILA; or
- contribute to ILA that portion of your estate, which remains after all other bequests are satisfied.

For an organization of our size and resources, even modest bequests can help to provide long-term stability and improved services for the library community.

If you have questions or need any additional information, please call the ILA Office at (312) 644-1896. **Leave a legacy!** 

# Revision of *Serving Our Public: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries*

The library profession, as with other professions, has long recognized the importance of adhering to a recognized and established set of practices. Since 1971, Illinois's public libraries have followed standards for the development and enhancement of quality library service for their local communities. The Illinois Library Association supported the development of Illinois-specific public library-related standards in the late 1960s and early 1970s beginning with *Measures of Quality* (1971), evolving through *Avenues to Excellence* (1982, 1989) into the current *Serving Our Public: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries* (1995).

The adopted Illinois public library standards, regardless of its incarnation, developed in substantially the same manner. After reviewing the library standards from both states and organizations, discussing possible futures, and surveying public librarians and trustees for concerns and ideas, the appointed, representative committee drafts the standards document. A series of hearings allow Illinois public librarians to comment on the draft. If possible, the committee incorporates the comments prior to presenting the draft to the Illinois Library Association Executive Board for adoption.

Over the past few years, there have been various discussions concerning the need for either a revision or a review of the current standards. In 2007, the Illinois Library Association's Executive Board, after discussion with the Public Library Forum, appointed the *Serving Our Public* Review Committee. The committee covers the range of Illinois public libraries geographically, economically, and demographically. While having this representation ensures that all viewpoints and experiences are included in the new standards document, it does make meetings difficult to arrange. To date, the committee has done the bulk of its meetings via conference calls and e-mail.

The committee's charge was threefold: 1) to review the currency and relevance of *Serving Our Public*; 2) to review the products of other standard-setting agencies and closely related professional organizations for consistency in best practices; and 3) to produce a new set of standards governing public library service in the state of Illinois.

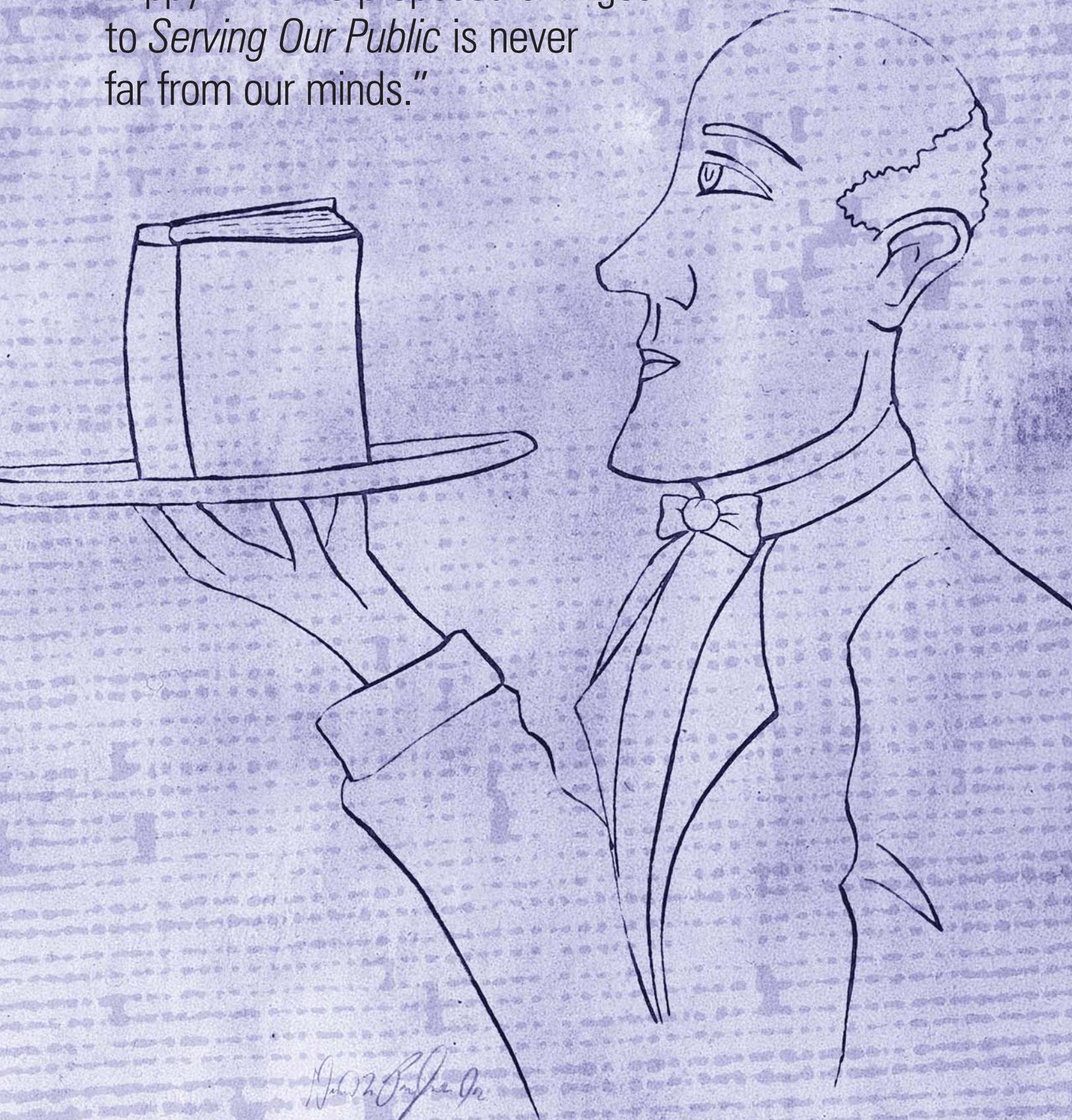
## WHAT HAS THE COMMITTEE LEARNED?

The committee decided to begin its work with the second charge. By reviewing the public library standards from other states, we gained an understanding of the potential best practices established in other states. During the summer of 2007, each committee member read and evaluated three or more states' standards. We shared our research and our accompanying comments via e-mail and during several conference calls.

Reading public library standards from more than thirty states provided the committee with red, dry eyes and an immense amount of information. Many states used a checklist format, easily allowing the library to complete its self-evaluation and to track annual progress. One popular feature was a minimum level all libraries must obtain, with the ability to choose an advanced level in specific categories. Technology standards were as much an issue for the other states as for Illinois; there was not one perfect example to follow. Community outreach by means of marketing and participation was a common theme. In this context, community outreach did not refer to homebound delivery but to library trustees and staff serving on community committees and projects.

[continued on page 16]

"The committee is facing several dilemmas: how to make nearly seven hundred public libraries happy with the proposed changes to *Serving Our Public* is never far from our minds."



*Michael B. ...*

## SURVEY SAYS

During this time, the committee also wanted to gain a better sense of how Illinois public libraries used the standards. The public library per capita grant requirement that libraries report on their progress toward meeting the standards is one such use. But how else were the standards used? At the October 2007 ILA Annual Conference's Public Library Forum meeting, public librarians and trustees completed a survey (posted on ILA's SurveyMonkey account) to help guide the committee's work. The survey received 220 responses; 107 library directors, 29 trustees, and 74 department heads.

The survey results revealed that 3 percent of respondents thought that existing standards are not helpful, 69 percent found them useful, and 27 percent have not used them. A high percentage of survey responders were unaware of the standards, even with the per capita grant requirement! Comments indicate the standards are used as: a guide, benchmark, planning tool, reference tool, checklist, orientation document for trustees, justification for increases in budget or service, teaching tool for library students, tool for creating new policies, etc. Among the survey's recommendations were: include more frequent revisions, include more salary standards, add outreach standards, have better bibliographies, and bring in more operational statistics.

## THE REAL WORK BEGINS

Adding the survey responses to our research, the committee met at the Lincoln Public Library District in November 2007 to complete the first part of our charge, reviewing the currency and relevance of the current standards. During the daylong meeting, the committee agreed that while the Illinois standards were dated, our research indicated only updating was necessary, not a complete revision. Tackled first were the Core Standards, as they provide the framework to the entire document. Next, we agreed that a section on technology was necessary, and the marketing section was ready for expansion. Each committee member volunteered to review a specific section, bringing suggested changes to the full committee in Spring 2008.

An issue not completely resolved is whether the standards should be quantitative or qualitative. The survey results are mixed. While many want more emphasis on output measures (quantitative) in order to show the library's value and use to trustees and local officials, others are concerned that such an emphasis will cause libraries to reduce the quality of service in order to achieve quantity of service. The committee will do its best to balance quantitative with qualitative within the standards.

## WHAT ARE THE COMMITTEE'S DILEMMAS?

The committee is facing several dilemmas: how to make nearly seven hundred public libraries happy with the proposed changes to *Serving Our Public* is never far from our minds. But, one dilemma is how to create technology standards when technology is changing so fast. (Committee members still remember the struggle to have telephones installed in Illinois public libraries — not phones for the public, but a library telephone!) What minimum standard can we recommend that is not too low? What life-altering technology waits around the corner for libraries?

Another issue: how to enforce the standards? Are the standards a mechanism for a library to judge itself or to act as a comparison tool between libraries? Interestingly, libraries seem to want the standards enforced on their neighboring libraries, not themselves.

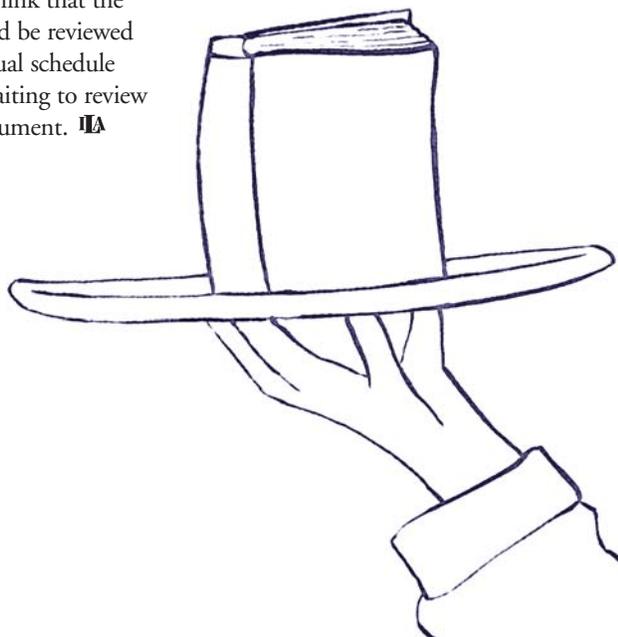
## WHAT'S NEXT?

The working draft is posted on the Illinois Library Association's Web site, allowing librarians and trustees the opportunity to read the draft document, consider the implications for future library service, and to provide comments and suggestions. Visit the site to make your comments in the late summer.

Illinois librarians also have other opportunities to interact with the committee. A preliminary presentation is planned during the annual Small Public Library Management Institute in early June. The *Serving Our Public* revision committee will present our draft for public comment during September 2008. In conjunction with the Public Library Forum, one public hearing site is at the ILA Annual Conference, the afternoon of Wednesday, September 24. The other hearing site is still to be determined.

After the comment period, the committee incorporates any necessary changes into the revision before presenting *Serving Our Public II* to the Illinois Library Association's Executive Board for consideration and adoption. A review schedule is part of this presentation to the board.

We strongly think that the sections should be reviewed on an individual schedule rather than waiting to review the entire document. **ILA**



## **FEBRUARY 2008**

Initial draft of each section;

## **April 15–30**

Second draft and meeting of group;

## **May 30**

Third draft/editing of document (prior to third draft each committee member will be sharing his or her draft with a focus group to gain insight);

## **June**

Meeting with Small Public Library Institute to introduce group to document and gain feedback on third draft;

## **July/August**

*Serving Our Public II* draft electronically posted for discussion and comments from librarians and trustees;

## **September/October**

Public hearing on *Serving Our Public II* at 2008 ILA Annual Conference in Chicago and at central location;

## **November 2008**

ILA Executive Board approves document;

## **December 2008**

Copy editing, design, proofing;

## **January 2009**

Indexing and printing; and

## **February 2009**

*Serving Our Public II* available for sale.

# *Serving Our Public* Revision Committee

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# Sally in Libraryland

It has often been said — at least once here, by me — that being nominated for an award is an amazing honor, whether you win or not. And I still think that's true — but I can tell you that winning an award is pretty darn mind-boggling.

As announced in the April *ILA Reporter*, ILA's Intellectual Freedom Committee won the ProQuest/SIRS State and Regional Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award!

You may have heard about — or attended — the training that earned the award. I suspect you were not aware of everything that had to happen behind the scenes for the training to happen; I am as oblivious as the next person, and I had no idea what it takes to pull off something like this until I saw it firsthand.

It actually started when Dianne Harmon was ILA President — the Intellectual Freedom Committee, with Rose Chenoweth in her first year as chair, was charged with providing training to library staff and board members across the state. Then there was one of those confluences of events that, while unexpected, seem in retrospect to be less coincidence than fate. The Public Library Association (PLA) published *Defending Access with Confidence: A Practical Workshop on Intellectual Freedom*, by Catherine Lord. Harmon was on the PLA Publications Committee, and was aware of and excited about the new book, and had high hopes for its usefulness to ILA.

Indian Trails Public Library District snapped up the first copy. And then five more, as we decided to provide the training for all our staff and board members. The training was a rousing success. By then Tamiye Meehan was ILA President, and the charge to the committee became using this particular tool to provide training all over the state. Everyone appointed to the committee had to be willing to get up in front of an audience to provide the training — a condition that made appointments a little dicier than usual,

but Meehan and Chenoweth persevered. As Chenoweth said, “Most people who join ILA committees take a more passive role than this committee has had to take in the last few years. It was a unique experience for the members, and they rose to the challenge.” And it was a challenge — but it was also fun, and very professionally satisfying.

Most of us on the committee met in East Peoria, at the annual ILA orientation session, for the first time. Nearly all the members of the committee were there: Rose Chenoweth, chair for the second year, David Hamilton, Juliette Douglas, Jack Tegel, Ruth Miller, and me. We were not sure exactly what it was we were taking on, but we were prepared to do it with energy and enthusiasm. We met again at a ridiculously early hour at the 2006 ILA Annual Conference in Chicago (and many of us had a congenial breakfast together afterwards) and then again in Champaign in November (where MapQuest let me down but the Champaign Public Library saved me) where we spent a full day becoming familiar with the training tool. At the same time, Chenoweth tackled the most difficult portion of the project: making arrangements at each system. Dates were difficult, lunches a challenge, and determining the magic number to charge attendees (one that would cover costs, and at best, turn a modest profit for ILA) nearly drove Chenoweth around the bend. What libraries consider reasonable differs dramatically in various parts of the state, and she had to find a number that would be the same for everyone, and a barrier to no one. Once that was accomplished, the sessions were publicized, registrations were received and processed, and confirmations were sent.

Members of the committee paired up and sorted out dates. Most of us presented twice, at systems mostly reasonably close to us. Since we started planning months ahead of time, there were trades made as real life intervened, and although one session was cancelled because minimum enrollment didn't happen, none were cancelled because no presenter was available!

# “Winning an award is pretty darn mind-boggling.”

We were delighted with the turnout: 139 people — directors, staff, and board members from libraries of all sorts — were willing to spend a full day working through the workbook with us. The evaluations indicated that people learned a lot and had a good time. We arranged for a deep discount for any attendees who wanted to buy the manual to train at their own libraries, and twenty-eight people took advantage of that opportunity.

When Chenoweth heard from ProQuest/SIRS that the committee had won, she immediately forwarded the e-mail to everyone else on the committee. We were uniformly tickled! And when we tracked down Catherine Lord in Seattle with the news, she was tickled too.

The final — for now — piece of the project was taking it to the ILA Trustee Forum meeting in February. It was right after Chenoweth had been notified that we'd won the award, and it was fun to hear ILA President Donna Dziejdzic refer to it as “an award-winning program”!

ILA's commitment to promoting and defending intellectual freedom is long standing: ILA won this award for the first time ten years ago, for its efforts to defeat legislation in Illinois that would have given each county in the state the power to define obscenity, which would have caused major disruption to library services statewide. ILA followed the legislation closely: notifying the Illinois library community, mobilizing the membership, forming and leading a broad-based coalition in opposition to the proposed legislation, and presenting testimony.

For the 2008 ProQuest/SIRS State and Regional Intellectual Freedom Achievement Award, ILA's two-pronged approach — advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress, and education for the library community and general public — was praised. The regional workshops, the successful defeat of sixteen separate legislative efforts to require filters on library

“For many, many reasons, Illinois is a great state for libraries, and national recognition is just the icing on the cake!”

computers, and the defeat of proposed prohibition of social networking sites on library computers. Finally, the committee was impressed with ILA's partnership with MySpace regarding the production of NetSafe bookmarks on social networking, cyber bullying, and safe blogging. Millions were distributed in 2007 — free — to Illinois libraries and elected officials, at the Illinois Library Day, the National Library Legislative Day, and at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

So if you happen to be at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, and not otherwise occupied on Saturday, come join us at the Intellectual Freedom Round Table program/award ceremony at 12:30 P.M. (we don't know where, yet). Chenoweth will be accepting the award for all of us, and there will be much cheering. For many, many reasons, Illinois is a great state for libraries, and national recognition is just the icing on the cake!

Did you attend a training session? Did you buy a book (or ILL one!) to use to train your staff? How's that working out? Tell me stories to share with the group, at [sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com)!



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.

## Illinois, Contractors Settle Fight over Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

A long and bitter fight about cost overruns at the \$145.2 million Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has ended with the state collecting more than \$3 million and refusing to pay millions of dollars that contractors contended they were owed, reported the March 30 *Chicago Tribune*.

All parties, state officials said, accepted some portion of the responsibility for overruns and delays that led to the festering financial dispute over construction of the project, which spanned three governors and cost millions of dollars more than anticipated.

Although early on state officials optimistically thought they could recover as much as \$15 million, they negotiated a settlement worth slightly more than \$3 million, including \$2 million from the architect. Officials said they also deflected claims from contractors worth more than \$7 million following three years of negotiations that led to the settlement.

The Lincoln complex — the museum, library, parking garage, visitors center, and park in downtown Springfield — took longer to plan and build than it took Lincoln to lead the country through the Civil War.

And the settlement negotiations began even before President Bush dedicated the museum in April 2005. The state's legal costs alone hit \$1.2 million, a figure paid under a no-bid contract to the Chicago law firm of Bell, Boyd and Lloyd and to

Chicago claims consultant URS Corp.

The state negotiated the final settlement with Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, the St. Louis-based architectural firm known also as HOK; Siciliano Inc., a Springfield general contractor; and BRC Imagination Arts of Burbank, Calif.

After legal fees, the state ends up with about \$575,000 more in the bank overall with the settlement, but officials point to the millions in payments it did not have to make because it successfully challenged billings and claims of contractors. HOK will pay the state \$2.125 million and forgo a final payment of \$175,000. The architectural firm will give up \$1.6 million in claims for money it said the state owed, officials said.

The state will pay Siciliano for \$350,000 of \$1 million it laid claim to for about eighty orders for changes made during the construction of the museum, officials said. The company will give up roughly \$5.5 million in claims overall for work done at the complex, but it will be paid for undisputed expenses that had been put on hold during negotiations, including for other state work, officials said.

BRC, operated by designer Bob Rogers, gives up a final \$750,000 payment and backed away from potentially millions of dollars in claims of money owed, officials said. BRC still received more than \$55 million, partly because the contract was written before Blagojevich took office so that Rogers himself was able to make as much as \$3,600 a day, officials said.

HOK's payment is largely tied to a delay and repairs linked to a climate control system at the new library, where

there were problems with condensation and leaks, officials said. The museum was delayed, in part, because of myriad changes, ranging from moving an interior wall to a late redesign to improve an area for temporary exhibits, officials said.

## Niles Library Board Denies Request to Remove Book from Collection

The Niles Public Library Board denied a request to remove a book from its collection that allegedly glamorized drug use, reported the March 27 *Daily Herald*.

Chicago resident Julie Koenig made a formal request to the board asking that Nicola Monaghan's award-winning debut novel *The Killing Jar* be pulled from the library's shelves. "This book really struck me as being dangerous," Koenig said. "It hit me very badly. It made drug use easy — no consequences. It didn't show the dark side enough."

Koenig told the board that the issue was deeply personal to her. "Personally, I have family members that were both heroin addicts," she said. "It's a dangerous book to have on the shelves. I feel like it should be pulled."

Librarian Barbara Kruser defended the book. "I thought it was a brilliant book," she said. "We base books we buy on reviews. This got incredible reviews." Since it was published in 2006, *The Killing Jar* has won a Betty Trask Award, The Authors' Club Best First Novel Award and the Waverton Good Read Award.

Kruser admitted that the book was graphic. "It was a very hard read," she

said. "It was very realistic."

Koenig, who called the book "addicting," agreed that it was well written. "I loved it, truthfully," she said. "I thought it was good, but it struck me as dangerous." Koenig graciously accepted the board's ruling. "I couldn't have lived with myself if I didn't try," she said.

## Batavia and Geneva Library Annexation Case Sent Back to Circuit Court

The Illinois Appellate Court has sent the ongoing annexation dispute between Batavia and Geneva library districts back to Kane County Circuit Court, reported April 9 *Kane County Chronicle*. (See *ILA Reporter* December 2006, p. 33; February 2007, pp. 28-29; and December 2007, p. 23.)

The court said Circuit Court Judge Michael Colwell erred last year when he decided not to review a decision by the Kane County Electoral Board about the ongoing dispute over Batavia Library Board's annexation of 1,600 acres west of the Mill Creek subdivision. Colwell had said the case was out of the court's jurisdiction because the petition should have named the members of the electoral board as parties.

The Batavia Library Board appealed Colwell's decision to the 2nd District of the Illinois Appellate Court. The disputed land is within the Geneva school district and is considered part of the Geneva library's future service area. Right now, both Geneva and Batavia library districts serve portions of the other city's school districts.

The electoral board in December 2006 overruled objections to a petition requesting that Batavia library's annexation be brought to voters. In doing so, the board upheld a petition, signed by Lori and Russell Ott, that protested the annexation. Former Batavia Library Board member Daniel Zack later objected to the Otts' petition, which put it up for the electoral board's review.

As it turns out, the Otts never were part of the annexation because of an

error in the original ordinance, which is why the Batavia Library Board asked Colwell to review the electoral board's decision.

Geneva Library Board President Esther Barclay was pleased with the appellate court's decision. "This will give us an opportunity to put it on the ballot, like it should have been all along," Barclay said.

## ILA Past President Jack Chitwood Dies

Julius Richard, better known as Jack Chitwood, 86, died Monday, April 21, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio Regional Hospital, reported the April 24 *Rockford Register*. Chitwood was born June 1, 1921, the son of Hoyt Mozart and Florence Umfrid Chitwood, at the family home in Magazine, Logan County, Ark. He graduated as valedictorian of the 1938 class of the local high school and in 1942 was a cum laude graduate of Ouachita Baptist College.

From 1942 to 1946, he served in the infantry in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of major, and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving on the staff of the 2nd Battalion, 422nd Infantry, 106th Division (The Golden Lion Division). While the division was stationed at Camp Atterbury, Ind., he married Aileen Newsom on Aug. 6, 1944. Their marriage of 63 years is terminated by his death.

Subsequent to his Army service, he taught music for the Edinburgh, Ind., schools, received a master of music degree from Indiana University in 1948, and served as music librarian for Roosevelt College in Chicago while pursuing a master of arts degree in 1954 at the University of Chicago. From 1951 to 1953 he was humanities librarian at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1954, he joined the staff at Indianapolis Public Library until 1961, when he became executive director of the public library in Rockford, Ill.

During the period he was there he was active in the community and in Illinois Library Association, serving on commit-

tees and the executive board, including as president, the state library's advisory committee, the University of Illinois School of Library Science advisory committee, and as chairman of National Library Week in Illinois. He was one of the leaders in the development and organization of the Illinois Library Systems designed to provide better service to all the state's citizens. Concurrent with his Rockford position, he led the organization and development of Northern Illinois Library System (now part of the Prairie Area Library System) and served as its director from 1964 to 1975. He was selected as Illinois Librarian of the Year in 1974.

In Rockford, he was very active in Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, serving two terms as president in the mid '60s. His other community activities included Rotary and University Club membership, service on the symphony board and United Fund leadership positions. A life member of American Library Association, he had served as president of the Administration Division, on the board of Adult Services Division, and was chairman of Public Library Services Division, which revised public library standards. Following his retirement in 1981, he and his wife continued their world travel hobby, which eventually resulted in visits to forty-one foreign countries as well as forty-seven of the United States. He and his wife lived in Bloomington, Ind., for six years, from 2001 until moving to Columbus in October 2007.

## 2008 Election Results

### Vice-President/President-Elect

371 Cynthia L. Fuerst, Kankakee Public Library

460 **Carole A. Medal, Gail Borden Public Library District**



Carole Medal will begin her three-year term on July 1, 2008, running through June 30, 2011.

Board of Directors (a three-year term beginning July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011). One candidate from each pairing was elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference.

### Director-at-Large:

395 Beverly J. Obert, Rolling Prairie Library System

413 **Diana Brawley Sussman, Southern Illinois Talking Book Center**

### Director-at-Large:

434 **Dianne Happ, Peoria Public Library**

378 Michael A. Rogalla, Champaign Public Library

### Director-at-Large:

424 **Betsy Adamowski, Itasca Community Library**

386 Amy Falasz-Peterson, Fondulac District Library

### Director-at-Large:

348 Terry Cottrell, University of St. Francis Library

453 **Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University**

This was the fourth year that ILA experimented with electronic voting. In 2008, with 2,459 personal members eligible to vote: 839 voted (**34.1 percent**), breaking down to: 742 electronic (1,907 eligible electronic voters or 38.9 percent) and 97 paper (552 eligible paper voters or 17.5 percent).

As a point of comparison, in the 2008 American Library Association election, with 59,141 eligible to vote: 17,089 voted (**28.9 percent**), breaking down to: 15,655 electronic (35.52 percent) and 1,434 paper (13.04 percent). In the 2007 ALA election, with 55,775 eligible to vote: 15,031 voted (26.95 percent), breaking down to: 13,373 electronic (30.22 percent) and 1,658 paper (14.39 percent)

Year	Ballots returned	Total personal members	Percent of membership
2008	839	2,459 personal members	34.1 percent
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 (HB) 1727. Takes away local control by mandating statewide public library Internet filters

### Support

Senate Bill (SB) 2321. Increases funding for county law libraries

House Bill (HB) 4202. Allows for disposal of withdrawn materials from Illinois academic libraries

House Bill (HB) 4518. Provides a fair process to dissolve local libraries which do not meet specific criteria (such as appropriate, elect library board, hold meetings)

House Bill (HB) 4527. Increases public library equalization and school grants

Library advocates asked for support for the following budget proposals:

Illinois Secretary of State's proposal to increase public library per capita grants by \$1 million

Library system grant funding

Illinois State Library operations funding

Inclusion of library projects in state capital bill

State university library funding

State Board of Education funding for electronic databases

Citizens' Library of Illinois-Comprehensive Knowledge Service and Health-E Illinois funding

Attendees represented the following systems:

Alliance Library System (16);

Chicago Public Library System (1);

DuPage Library System (21);

Lewis & Clark Library System (24);

Lincoln Trail Libraries System (17);

Metropolitan Library System (29);

North Suburban Library System (49);

Prairie Area Library System (21);

Rolling Prairie Library System (12);

Shawnee Library System (19).

## Registration Numbers for Illinois Library Days

2008	209
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 14 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 \$214.432 million.
- Funding the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program at \$100 million.
- 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

2008	52
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 23; Texas 15; New York 18; Florida 2; Illinois 52; Pennsylvania 16; Ohio 11; Michigan 8; New Jersey 15; and Georgia 2. Total attendance was 405. One state — North Dakota — had no one attending the event. The Illinois delegation represented 13 percent of the total attendance.

## Second Annual Book Cart Drill Team Competition

**2008 ILA Annual Conference —  
September 24, 2008**

ILA invites you to join the competition to find the best book cart drill team in Illinois. Do you have what it takes? Did you ever want to do something different with a cart besides shelve a book? Creating and participating in a book cart drill team might be for you!

Library book cart drill teams can be found promoting libraries in parades and community events across the country. If you've never seen a drill team in action, you can get a taste at <http://tinyurl.com/35rao7>.

ILA will crown the 2008 Illinois State Champion Book Cart Drill Team at the ILA Annual Conference this September. Join in the fun and win prizes for artistic impression, technical skills, best costumes, best cart decorations, and more. But that's not all! The Illinois State Champion will also be invited to compete in the ALA World Championship to be held in Chicago in July 2009.

This year's competition will be held on Wednesday, September 24 from 5:15 to 6:45 P.M. in the exhibits area. Sponsored by DEMCO.

## 2008 BOOK CART DRILL TEAM APPLICATION

Name of Team:

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Representing (library, town, etc.):

---

Contact Name:

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Address:

---

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

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Number of participants:

Number of carts needed:

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DEMCO will supply 12-15 carts for your team's use. Teams are not allowed to bring their own carts.

Please provide a brief description of music selection, theme, and performance. This information will be used by the emcee:

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Music (circle one):  Yes  No

---

If providing music (circle one):  Recorded  Live

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Name of music:

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Theme:

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If recorded, a CD is required. Music must be submitted to the ILA office by September 8, 2008.

Registration Fee: \$25

Deadline for entry: September 2, 2008. Payment must accompany application.

Check or money order (payable to ILA)

Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

Card#:

Exp. Date:

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Signature:

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# 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.

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

**Jeff Ahrens**, Round Lake Area Public Library District  
**Nadine R. Bachman**, Elmhurst Public Library  
**Debra Bacon-Ziegler**, Cooking & Hospitality Institute of Chicago  
**Allison Beasley**, Kankakee Public Library  
**Stephen Bertrand**, Kankakee Public Library  
**Julie Blackwell**, Carol Stream Public Library  
**Valerie A. Clark**, Nilis Public Library District  
**Ellen K. Corrigan**, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston  
**Debi Duros**, Nippersink Public Library District, Richmond  
**Keshia Garnett**, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling  
**Robin Helenthal**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Heather Imhoff**, Des Plaines Public Library  
**Mary Johns**, Evanston Public Library  
**Njambi Kamoche**, William R. Harper College, Palatine  
**Mary Klatt**, Loyola University Health Sciences Library, Chicago  
**Beverly Lawniczak**, Nippersink Public Library District, Richmond  
**Mary Mathias**, Carol Stream  
**Catherine Mau**, Barrington Area Library  
**Karin Murphy**, Moline Public Library  
**Cynthia Reynolds**, Rasmussen College, Rockford  
**Meinda Shimp**, Aurora  
**Kimberly Stack**, BWI Follett, Lexington, Ky.  
**Tina Viglucci**, Aurora Public Library  
**Buz Wehrman**, Aeneid Research, Champaign  
**Eric Werner**, Saint Charles

## STUDENT MEMBERS

**Richard Ashley**, Shorewood  
**Jennifer Baker**, Algonquin Area Public Library District  
**Amy Holcomb**, University of Wisconsin - Madison PALS MLIS Program, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Dominic Imbordino**, Saint Charles  
**Cate Levinson**, Dominican University, River Forest  
**Adam Mastrangeli**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Joseph Monatgner-Gilmore**, Saint Charles  
**Gopi Soni**, Hanover Park

## TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**Derrick Baker**, Mahomet Public Library District  
**Wilma Bates**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Robert Becker**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Patsy Bowles**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Thelma Brunious**, Maywood Public Library District  
**Barbara M. Brust**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Emily Gates**, Edwardsville Public Library  
**Dave Hargett**, Fountaindale Public Library District, Bolingbrook  
**Narandra Jaggi**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Blake Mier**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Richard Perry**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Tracy Pierce**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Judith Pokorny**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Luann Sarro**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**Socorro Vina**, Maywood Public Library District  
**Linda Wallace**, Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, Hampshire  
**William Wetzel**, Bloomington Public Library  
**Elliot Wimbush**, Maywood Public Library District

## ILA Best Practices Committee

David J. Seleb, Winnetka-Northfield Library District

The ILA Best Practices Committee promotes excellence in Illinois libraries by collecting and publicizing real-life examples of solutions to problems and issues faced by libraries in their communities.

Our primary objectives for the 2007–2008 year include finding and promoting best practices about Return on Investment (ROI) and library advocacy, sponsoring ILA Annual Conference programs on these and other timely topics, and writing one or more articles for the *ILA Reporter* promoting “best of the best” practices for the year. Objectives for the new year will be reviewed and revised this summer after we welcome several new committee members.

Be sure to attend this fall’s conference at Navy Pier and join Best Practices Committee members for several outstanding programs that we are sponsoring, including a multitype panel discussion on customer service as library advocacy, promotion of ROI strategies to maximize exposure to the value of library programs and services, and a luncheon co-sponsored with the Reference Services Forum featuring Susan Roman of Dominican University’s School of Library and Information Science.

Share a best practice with us! What is going on in your library and in the libraries that you know that sets an example and makes a difference? We want to know about it. And, join a discussion of best practices at our forum on WebJunction Illinois. Go to <http://il.webjunction.org> and click on “Community” and then “WJ-Illinois Forums.”

The current members of the committee include: Laura Birmingham, Indian Prairie Library District; Geoff Morse, Northwestern University; Lori Murphy, DePaul University; Deborah Owen, Fairview Heights Public Library; Kathy Parker, Glenwood-Lynwood Library District; Lisa Poignant, Roselle Public

Library; Diane Srebro, Orland Park Public Library; and Kristine Kenney, Schaumburg Township District Library.

Let us hear from you, today!

## Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee

Kay Shelton, Northern Illinois University

The committee is currently planning two events for the September ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier. At the annual DiversiTea!, over tea and refreshments, attendees will learn practical information on diversity resources for their library’s patrons and workplace enhancements leading toward excellence for the twenty-first century.

Additionally, take advantage of the richness of the diverse Chicago neighborhoods — the popular pre-conference bus tour returns, featuring libraries offering a variety of resources and services for under-represented groups. Please look for those events in the conference brochure, and consider registering for them.

What are your favorite books related to diversity topics? Consider yourself cordially invited to share a couple of paragraphs reviewing your favorite diversity book on the committee’s blog. We would love to hear from you! Please include the bibliographic citation and an approximate reading level. Any reading level would be fine, from preschool early reader to seasoned library administrator. The URL for the blog is at: <http://illinoislibrarydiversity.blogspot.com/>

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## Reference Services Forum (RSF)

Blaine Redemer, Illinois State Library

If you have not noticed before, the RSF has a presence on WebJunction Illinois (<http://il.webjunction.org/>). Simply look for the link to “Illinois Forums.” Clicking on that link leads to a listing of forums for the purpose of discussing a variety of topics concerning libraries in Illinois. One of these forums is provided for the RSF. As the description states, “This forum is dedicated to the posting and discussion of events, ideas, programs, topics, and concerns related to the ILA RSF.” Anyone can read through the forum, but to post announcements or add topics, or to sign up to receive e-mail alerts when a new topic has been added to a forum, you need to be registered with WebJunction. We hope this forum will offer an added avenue for discussion of reference topics for Illinois librarians from every type of library.

The survey that the RSF posted in April and May is over and we would like to thank all who participated in it. Our goal was to learn more about what the reference community in Illinois wanted and needed from the ILA RSF. We hope the information gained from your insights will help us provide the reference community of Illinois with a better and more productive service to all. Thank you again.

If there are any questions concerning the RSF please feel free to contact Blaine Redemer at [bredemer@ilsos.net](mailto:bredemer@ilsos.net) or call (217) 782-5430.

## Resources & Technical Services Forum (RTSF)

Richard A. Stewart, Indian Trails Public Library District

Dear Elsie,

I'm a little confused by publication and copyright dates. When do I record just a plain date, and when should it have a “c” or “p” (or both, and what's the difference anyway)? And what do I do with multiple copyright dates on a single item?

Oh, and what about printing dates?

Shook Up in Salem

Dear Shook,

Basically, publication is the act of making an information package (to use Arlene Taylor's term) available for public use. In commercial publishing this generally means released for sale. In descriptive cataloging, the date of publication (that's the date that is recorded as a plain unadorned year) is the year in which an edition of an information package was first published. Copyright is defined by the *American Heritage Dictionary* as “The legal right granted ... to exclusive publication, sale, or distribution of a ... work.” Copyright can be established before or even in the absence of publication.

Which date or dates should you record? The order of preference is:

1. Date of publication, if one is found in the prescribed sources of information for Area 4.
2. Copyright date, if it applies to the whole publication and can be assumed to be close to the date of publication.
3. Inferred date of publication, if neither condition above applies but there is evidence indicating a probable date or approximate date of publication (such as a dated preface).
4. Date of manufacture (for printed materials a printing or “impression” date) found on the item, only if none of the above can be determined.

How can you tell that a date is a publication date? In English-language books, one traditional place for this date is at the foot of the title page. (Books published in non-English-speaking countries may present special problems in distinguishing publication from printing and copyright dates.) This convention is more frequent in hardcover than in paperback and in older than newer books, but has never been universal in any case.

The next place to look (in books) is the verso of the title page, where you may find a statement such as “First published in 2006,” “First published in Penguin Books 1996,” or “Fourth Edition published 1987.” These dates would be recorded as dates of publication.

Many books, and most nonprint materials, will not show a date of publication. For these materials, look for a copyright date, remembering that such a date must apply to the whole work, and you must be able reasonably to assume that the copyright is close to the likely publication date.

Let's explore some of the issues that can apply to copyright dates.

The 1976 Copyright Act established two symbols for copyright: a C in a circle for “visually perceptible copies” and a P in a circle for sound recordings. These are represented in descriptive cataloging by a lowercase c or p immediately preceding the date, with no intervening space or punctuation: c1987, p2001.

If you see multiple copyright dates on a single item, you have to try to figure out what those dates represent. For collections of independent works, such as an anthology or a CD of musical selections, the dates are likely to refer to the copyrights of the individual works — not to the collection as a whole. The latest copyright date might, at most, be taken as evidence of a probable date of publication. But if a work of individual or shared authorship is in a second or later edition, two or more copyright dates might refer to the successive editions as a whole, and if this seems to be the case, the latest could be recorded.

On sound recordings you will often find both the “C-in-a-circle” and “P-in-a-circle” symbols associated with the same date. Some catalogers record such a date with both symbols, e.g., cp2007. Don't do this! Every time a cataloger records a date like this, a bibliographic angel loses his wings. The “p” refers to the copyright for the recorded sound — the main content for this item. The “c” refers to copyright for such ancillary matter as the packaging and accompanying printed material. Use the “p” if you record the copyright date in this case.

But remember the second caveat, that the copyright date must be close to the likely date of publication. If you find a (P-in-a-circle) copyright date of 1978 on a compact disc, you wouldn't just record "p1978" as the date, because CDs weren't commercially available in 1978. Instead, you'd look for evidence for a probable date of publication. Or consider this example from Elsie's own shelves, a paperback reprint of Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*:

Copyright, 1934 by Henry Roth  
 First printing, October 1964  
 Second printing, October 1964  
 Third printing, November 1964  
 Fourth printing, November 1964

Obviously, in this case, you would use the printing information as evidence for an inferred date of publication.

These examples bring up another point. Where the dates of publication (as found or inferred) and copyright differ by at least a year, AACR2 gives us the option of recording both: 1987, p1978; 2007, c2006; [1964], c1934. Since December 1989, the Library of Congress has not applied this option for books and serials. Elsie disagrees with this decision, since the date of copyright can give the catalog user a clue that the main content is of a different vintage than the current edition of the work; but you need to be aware of the policy if you are cataloging to LC standards.

One more point. You may have noticed that toward the end of each year, books start appearing with publication and copyright dates for the following year. Obviously a book received in November of 2008 cannot actually have been published in 2009 even if the verso of the title page says so, so conscientious catalogers may be tempted to correct "2009" to "2009 [i.e., 2008]." But OCLC asks member libraries not to do so — for the original cataloging we add to WorldCat, anyway — and not to report such "next-year" dates as errors.

Until next time, happy spring (at last)!

Bibliographically yours,  
 Elsie

# 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.

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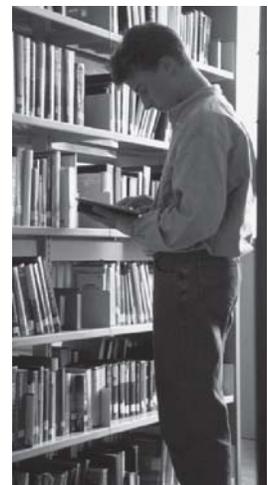
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# Show Me the Money!

## FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Tuesday, August 12 » 9:30 A.M. – NOON

Metropolitan Library System | 125 Tower Dr. | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | phone: (630) 734-5000

Monday, August 25 » 9:30 A.M. – NOON

Alliance Library System | 600 High Point Lane | East Peoria, IL 61611 | phone: (630) 694-9200

In conjunction with the publication of the *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*, the Illinois Library Association and the Alliance and Metropolitan Library Systems are offering this two-part, half-day workshop.

### MAKE YOUR LEVY AND B & A ORDINANCES MAXIMIZE YOUR LIBRARY'S GOALS

Participants will learn tips and tricks in getting the best finance performance into place with proper application of their Levy Ordinance and their Budget & Appropriation Ordinance. Recent changes of the state statutes allow for more flexible application of library levies. Knowing the proper techniques in structuring the levy will reduce the percentage of legal challenges that cost the library money in court or negotiation settlements. Participants will learn techniques to make the B&A Ordinance become a working document to control expenditures and measure fiscal performance. Listen to a finance talk that incorporates humor, straight talk, and get-you-thinking ideas. Come listen to the people who wrote the new ILA book on library finance.

### ALTERNATE REVENUE STREAMS: FISHING FOR MONEY OUTSIDE OF THE LEVY

Participants will also learn about new, enhanced, and simple ideas on increasing library revenue, public relations, cost savings, and increasing public participation in the library. It is time to think beyond real estate taxes, fines, and fees as the only revenue possibilities for the library. Learn to use the right lure in the tackle box to bring in the big catches of the day. Come listen and let your thinking lead you to new ideas to make your library better.

**Speakers:** Britt Isaly, Stephanie Posey and Robert Porter from Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer P.C.



### Registration Form

- August 12, Burr Ridge -- \$35 workshop registration  
 August 25, East Peoria -- \$45 workshop registration

*Please note: the price difference for East Peoria reflects speaker travel costs.*

Register online at [www.ila.org/events/](http://www.ila.org/events/)

Order your copy of the *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*. The Manual will be shipped when your registration is received. \$20 ILA Members • \$30 Nonmembers

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

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Registration

Financial Manual

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**Deadline for registration is August 5, 2008 for the August 12 session, and August 18 for the August 25 session.** Cancellations must be received in writing before August 5 and August 18, respectively. Cancellations received after August 5 and 18 and before August 12 and 25 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after August 12 and 25. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Send workshop registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610-4306; phone: (312) 644-1896, fax: (312) 644-1899; Web site: [www.ila.org/events/](http://www.ila.org/events/).



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#### ■ Coverages And Endorsements Designed Specifically For Libraries

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  - Outdoor signs
  - Valuable papers and records cost of research
  - Property in transit
- Library Protector Endorsement
  - Business interruption and extra expense
  - Money and securities
  - Data processing hardware, software, and extra expense
- Library Auto Extension Endorsement
  - Limited physical damage coverage for autos of employees or volunteers
  - Towing services/service call
  - Full coverage window glass
  - Rental Reimbursement
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  - Automatic value increase
  - Property in transit, including bookmobiles

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## JUNE 2008

**6** **ILA Executive Board meeting**, 10:00 A.M., Metropolitan Library System, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 400, Chicago, IL 60604-2501; phone: (630) 734-5000 or 866-734-2004; fax: (630) 734-5050.

**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/>.

## JULY 2008

**18** **iREAD meeting**, 11:00 A.M., Reddick Library, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa, IL 61350; phone: (815) 434-0509.

**31** **ILA Orientation Session**, Alliance Library System, 600 High Point Ln., East Peoria, IL 61611; phone: (309) 694-9200 or 800-700-4857.

## AUGUST 2008

**5–7** **Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2008**, Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton. For further information, see Illinois State Library Web site <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/>.

**12** **Show Me the Money!** Financial Strategies for Your Library. Metropolitan Library System, 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527. See registration form on p. 30 in this issue. Register online at [www.ila.org/events/](http://www.ila.org/events/)

**25** **Show Me the Money!** Financial Strategies for Your Library. Alliance Library System, 600 High Point Ln., East Peoria, IL 61611. See registration form on p. 30 in this issue. Register online at [www.ila.org/events/](http://www.ila.org/events/)

**10–14** **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*.**

**26** **Illinois State Library Advisory Committee**, Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.

## SEPTEMBER 2008

**23–26** **ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier**, Chicago, Ill. Conference Hotels: Chicago City Centre Hotel, 300 E. Ohio St., Chicago, IL 60611; phone: (312) 787-6100; fax: (312) 787-6259; single/double: \$209. Please inform the hotel that you are with the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference; reservations must be made by September 7, 2008. Hilton Garden Inn, 10 E. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60610; phone: (312) 595-0000; fax: (312) 527-1989; single: \$209; double: \$229. Please inform the hotel that you are with the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference; reservations must be made by August 22, 2008.

**27–October 4** **Banned Books Week.** For additional information, see <http://ala/oif/bannedbookweek>.

## OCTOBER 2008

**2–3** **Reaching Forward South Conference for Support Staff.** This conference theme is “Library Support Staff: A True Treasure” and registration is \$65. For further information, visit the Web site [www.reachingforwardsouth.org](http://www.reachingforwardsouth.org); contact Kim Drake at (217) 223-1309 x201 or [kdrake@quincylibrary.org](mailto:kdrake@quincylibrary.org).

**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/>.

**18–20** **Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2008**, Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle. For further information, see Illinois State Library Web site <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/>.

**20** **Family Reading Night is celebrated annually in Illinois on the third Thursday in November.** For further information, see Illinois State Library Web site <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/>.

## DECEMBER 2008

- 10** Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.
- 20** Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

## JANUARY 2009

- 11** 2009 ILA Annual Conference program proposals due in the ILA Office.  
See <http://www.ila.org/events>.
- 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*.

## MARCH 2009

- 12–15** Association of College and Research Libraries Fourteenth National Conference, Seattle, Wash. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/acrl>.

## 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*.

## MAY 2009

- 1** Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018.

## JUNE 2009

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



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## 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*.

- 23–27** 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/>.

## NOVEMBER 2009

- 4–8** American Association of School Librarians Fourteenth National Conference and Exhibition, Charlotte, N.C. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/aasl>.

## 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).

## APRIL 2010

- 12–18** 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/>.

- 12–18** 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 2010

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

- 24–30** ALA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

## AUGUST 2010

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

World Library and Information Congress: 76th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council, Brisbane, Australia. For further information, see IFLA Web site: <http://www.ifla.org/>.

## SEPTEMBER 2010

- 28–October 1** ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill.

# Weaving Through the Web and Time



I began working in Illinois libraries back in the dark days before the Internet. One of my first jobs was filing those little paper cards in the drawers of the children's card catalog of the Homewood Public Library. I hated it. I loved the people — my talented and creative coworkers, the inquisitive, and impressionable children. I loved helping readers find just the right book, and information seekers the answers to their questions; but the tedious and endless filing of those little paper cards was something I dreaded. That was 1987. I was twenty-two and thought myself "like totally way cool." I had big permed hair, drove an old beat-up Pacer, jammed to cassettes of the Thompson Twins on my Sony walkman, and proudly wore a yellow T-shirt with three kittens across my chest that read "All Booked-Up." Life got better.

It was while I was working on my Master's, in Library and Information Studies in 1990 that I first heard of this fringe thing called "the Internet."

I remember overhearing a conversation about "tell netting gophers." As a city dweller, I hoped this was something that would not be required for graduation. Believe it or not, I did earn my degree, and I managed to escape without encountering a single gopher on the NIU campus.

Thankfully, by 1995 I had a new hairstyle and the gophers were telnetting their way off the Web. That was the year I became director of the Kankakee Public Library, and our library launched its first Web site. It wasn't part of a long-range plan; it was fate that landed us on the Information Super Highway. We were one of the first in our system to have a Web site; it was really nothing more than an elaborate electronic telephone listing. We still had that dreaded paper card catalog and an overcrowded building with a host of problems, but our library, and our community, were now proudly officially part of this growing World Wide Web phenomenon.

Faster than fiber optics we find ourselves in 2008 with an award-winning Web site that bears little resemblance to our original site. Technology is continually evolving, changing how libraries interact with their users. Once our Web site was an afterthought; today it is an important and dynamic point of service. What is most exciting is that it is still evolving, changing, and bringing new opportunities to reach new library users. According to *Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our Networked World*, an OCLC report released last fall, over the past two years social networking has gone from relative obscurity to mass use. As our Web site evolves, our attitudes regarding traditional library services are evolving as well. The social networking components

of our Web site, such as blogging, podcasting, streaming media, wikis, etc., encourage our users to be the ones that generate the content and information. For better or worse, this changes our role. We are no longer the authoritative information providers. In fact, an OCLC report found that information seekers rated search engines higher than librarians. (Ouch!) So where does this lead us? Could those pessimists who continually predict the demise of libraries actually be right? I don't think so. I was not surprised when the *Pew Internet & American Life*

*Project* released their 2007 findings that showed people who use the Internet are more than twice as likely to be library users as people who do not use the Internet.

About a year ago, two librarians from the Netherlands visited our library. Erik Boekesteijn and Jaap van de Geer of DOK, Delft Public Library, succinctly and eloquently stated what libraries are all about: "To keep the stories, to share the stories, to make the stories."

Libraries have traditionally kept the stories by cataloging and shelving the books: we have shared the stories by checking those books out to our patrons, who have used those print resources to make their own stories. The library 2.0 philosophy is empowering us to do what we have been doing for centuries, only digitally. Our library users have their own stories to tell. Our library's Web site is now helping them to make, preserve, and share those stories with the rest of the world. Such as the role our citizens and community play in world history: a local soldier's experiences during World War II, Korea, or the Gulf War, the floods and natural disasters that have shaped our landscape, the railroad that put us on the map, the authors who spoke here, the celebrities and artists who passed through, and the three Illinois governors who lived here, too. We have teens and adults with talent and something to say. They want to be heard. Our library's Web site is becoming our community's platform, a vehicle for our community to contribute to the wealth of information on the Web.

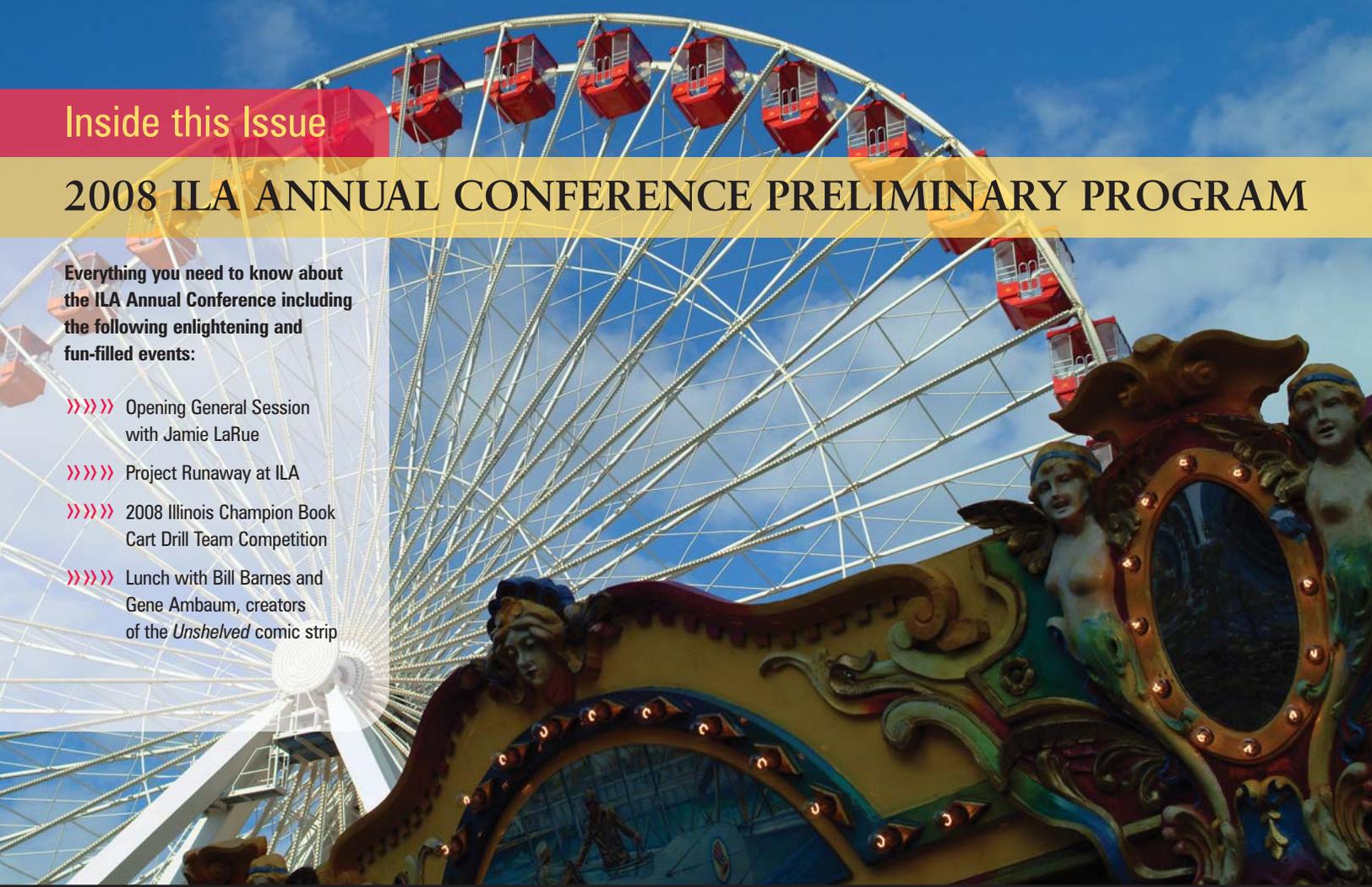
This is 2008. I am 40ish, and I still think of myself as "like totally way cool." I have stylishly sleek hair; drive a PT Cruiser Convertible, and am chillin' to John Mayer on my iPod Nano. Life is better; but I am positive that the best is yet to come. ■

*Information Searches That Solve Problems.* Pew Internet & American Life Project; University of Illinois. December 2007.

*Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our Networked World.* OCLC, Fall 2007.

*Perception of Libraries and Information Resources.* OCLC, 2005.





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## 2008 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Everything you need to know about the ILA Annual Conference including the following enlightening and fun-filled events:

- »»»» Opening General Session with Jamie LaRue
- »»»» Project Runaway at ILA
- »»»» 2008 Illinois Champion Book Cart Drill Team Competition
- »»»» Lunch with Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, creators of the *Unshelved* comic strip



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