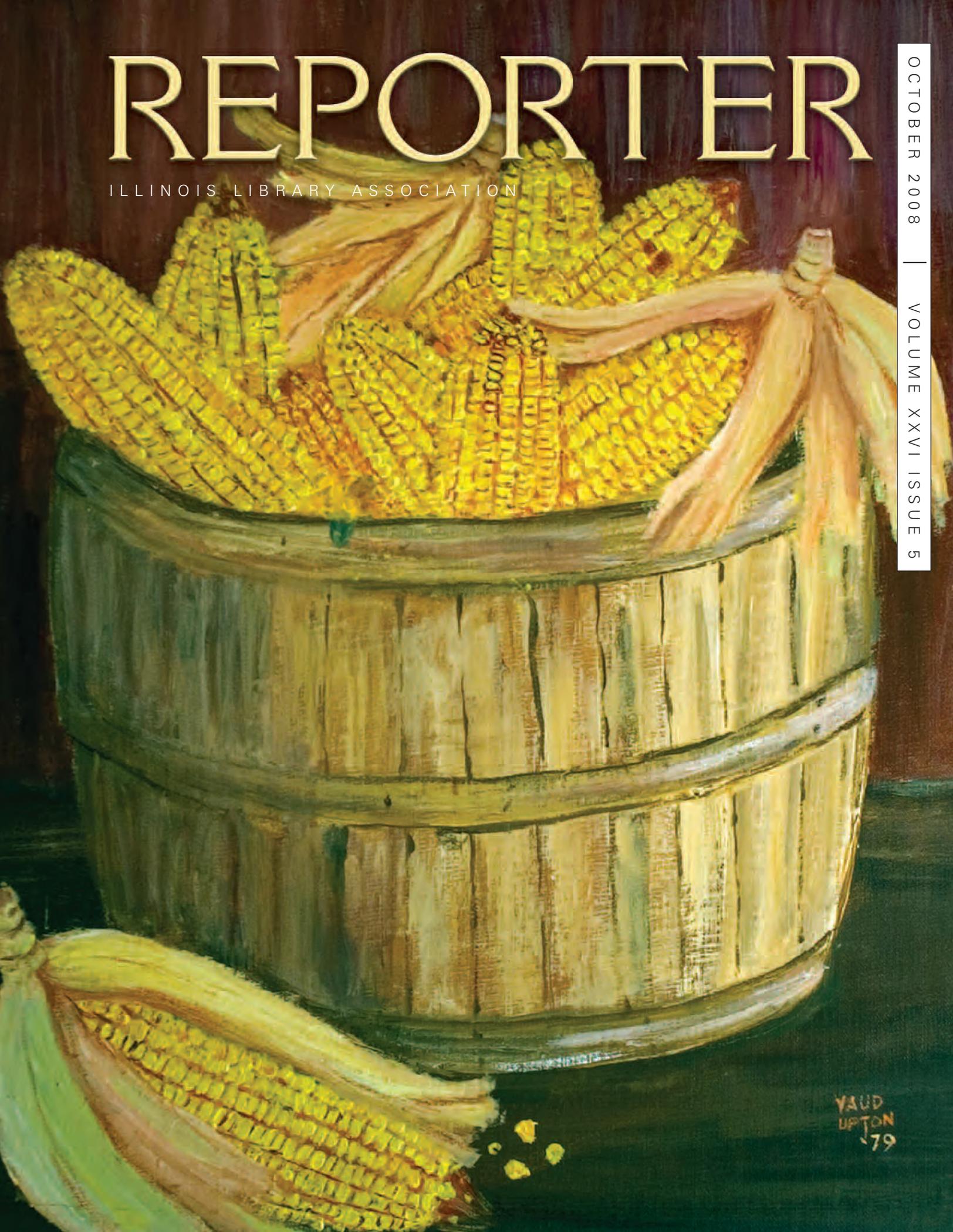


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ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME XXVI ISSUE 5



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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

“Corn Basket,” by Vaudron Upton, 1917–2008. The oil on canvas (20 h x 16 w) was painted in 1979 and is at the Atlanta Public Library District.

Founded in 1873, the Atlanta Public Library was the first public library in Logan County. Its current facility, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979, opened in 1908, an octagonal building designed by Paul Moratz of Bloomington and constructed by Joseph Reichel of El Paso. In 1973, the library helped establish the Atlanta Museum and houses it in their lower level.

The Upton Family has produced several artists in central Illinois. Born in Waynesville, Vaudron graduated from Atlanta High School and studied architectural drafting and radio operations. He was a display artist for several department stores until retiring to Mahomet, where he lived until he died last winter.

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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The Evolution of the Community

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the word “community” was limited in its scope. Your community was defined by your immediate surroundings. If you were from a large city, it was measured in blocks. If you were from a rural area, it was how far you or your horse could walk in a given day. In the early twentieth century, a Carnegie library was the most imposing structure in hundreds of small American communities from Maine to California.¹

September 2008 marks the one hundredth anniversary of Henry Ford’s Model T. With the advent of the Model T, the American community would never be the same. An article titled, “Citizens, Start Your Engines,” from *American History* magazine, states that the Model T’s “... affordability gave the masses mobility they could never have dreamed of, enlarging each owner’s world by more than a factor of ten as it increased the distance a person could travel in a day from being dependent on how far his horse could go to how much gas he had in his tank ... The Model T compressed time, reordered our sense of distance, led us to create grand cities and sprawling suburbs, and significantly speeded up our ride.”²

It may be hard to comprehend that the Model T is more important historically than the changes we have seen in our last decade, and I am no expert to debate this, but think about the impact that mobility would have had on communities

and all types of libraries. For those children who attended school, they often had no educational resources of their own, relying solely on the materials provided by the school library. As time passed, mechanization of factories, farming implements and the like, plus the passage of child labor laws, allowed children and school libraries to focus on the great need for reading materials. Carnegie had been building public libraries since the 1880s; add affordable transportation to those libraries and you have a powerful mix for disseminating information. Academic libraries (some of which were also started by Carnegie) began to reach more and more students as it became possible for not only wealthy students to enter college, but also academically strong students to reach the level of advanced study. And this from the very first volume of *Special Libraries*, “[special libraries], because of their isolated and unique positions and confined problems, have had little in common. Much can be accomplished if they unite along co-operative lines...”³ This organization acknowledged the isolation of its membership and sought to unify the special libraries across the country; that became possible partly due to mobilization.

What else happened in the United States in the early part of the 1900s that impacted our communities? How about going to the movies? From 1895 through 1906, the movie industry was mostly a novelty. The movies were short, silent, and made relatively cheaply. During the same time frame that the Model T

[continued on page 8]

“Think about the impact that mobility would have had on communities and all types of libraries.”



was growing in popularity, the movie industry made huge changes as well. The development of multiple reels of film, animation, sound, international films, establishment of cinemas in the larger cities of the United States, and, of course, the creation of the movie star widened our worldview to new proportions. Movies would change and evolve over the course of World War I, be used for propaganda during World War II, and mobilize an entire army of women to join the working world while men went off to fight. The power of the movies brought the world to our American communities.

Other inventions took root in the American household and became an extension of our community. Modernization of our appliances, radios, telephones, and electricity could easily be found in most, if not all, communities by the late 1950s. The availability of electricity would impact the libraries in these communities and what they would be able to offer in services.

Next up, television. Where news icons such as Brinkley and Cronkite documented the world events right in your living room. Where families gathered to watch life-changing moments — the assassination of a president, man's first walk on the moon, or the Vietnam war. TV started to reflect the diverse populations in our communities. The days of not being affected by world, country, state, or local events were over.

But during all those years of change in our communities, the libraries, whether public or school, academic or special, have been along for the ride as well. The library was a physical presence, a building with four walls housing an institution supported by taxes or private funds. The primary focus was books and more books. Then new technologies came into play. At one point, it was an initiative in the State of Illinois that all libraries have a fax machine. Now, we see that as “old” technology. We take it for granted or don't use it at all. Other inventions like the VCR or cassette decks pushed libraries into the movie and music business, but still, it all materialized within the library's four walls.

And then it happened, after the introduction of the personal computer, the Internet became accessible to the masses in addition to the academic and governmental world that had created it. And the definition of the word “community” would escalate once again. If you haven't heard by now, Library 2.0 is in full swing. Don't have a Web site yet? What are you waiting for? Don't think your small town is online? That is changing as broadband becomes more and more accessible in all types of areas. Do you have an organization that doesn't support Web access? Convince them.

Patricia Schroeder, Association of American Publishers president and chief executive officer, once said, “Those who declared librarians obsolete when the Internet rage first appeared are now red-faced. We need them more than ever. The Internet is full of ‘stuff’ but its value and readability is often questionable. ‘Stuff’ doesn't give you a competitive edge, high-quality related

information does.” Schroeder is absolutely correct. The Internet is not going away. Access is everything for the future of libraries. And your community, no matter what your audience, is looking for that access. Librarians have the tools to bring organization to the Web world; to help our communities navigate through that information. Some of us are embracing that whole heartedly and others seem to be dragging their feet.

Although I am definitely in the camp of whole heartedly embracing Library 2.0, what happens if you personally are not technically savvy? What if you are really limited by your organization or by funding? What can you do? In my opinion, you have options. If you can't be the center of your community in regards to technology, at least try to re-center your library in your community as a place of information. There are many ways to reach out to your community, and not all of them are technical in nature. Here are a few suggestions and examples:

Take a look at those people you work with. Do you know them? Really? Do you know what their hobbies are, where they spend their time volunteering, which organizations they belong to, what their family members do for a living? In Small Town USA, the answer might be yes for the most part, but maybe not. Many times we get so involved with how busy we are, we sometimes forget to look at what is right in front of us. So take a look at the people that you work with — what skills do they possess that would widen your library's impact in your community?

It is common sense to realize that most people need or want to be asked to participate before they will give of their time and talent. Most of us don't wake up in the morning and think, “I should volunteer today.” So, the next time you have a staff development day or board meeting, make up a fun activity and find out the people you work with. Do they have any cool hobbies? What are their specialty skills? Can they speak another language? They might surprise you. Even if you aren't able to use the information to create some new program right away, it will bring a level of understanding between those working together and hopefully open up options for the future.

One of your most valuable resources is the people that you know. If you need help getting something done, start asking. Next time you are at your local community meeting or social, school, or church event, make it known that you are looking for help. If you strike out, ask your volunteers, your trustees, other department heads, or your school administrators to ask the people they know. Odds are you will find someone who would be willing to help you out.

Recently in the Lincoln Trail area, we had a library that was having problems with their carpet buckling. The plan was to remove all the carpet and replace it throughout the building at the same time. But what were they going to do with all those books? They sought quotes for some very expensive options.

Then a local man who owned two semi trucks that he wasn't using for the week volunteered to let the library use them. The library hauled all of their items into the semi trucks until the carpet was finished. Sometimes all you need to do is spread the word that you have an issue or problem to solve. The local man was highly praised for his contribution and the library solved their problem for free — it was a win/win situation.

Don't count the kids out. Public schools would benefit greatly from buy-in from their young adults. Create a teen advisory group. Give them space in their library. Don't know how to set up a blog so they can rate their favorite book? Let them post cards on the library's bulletin board. I recently went to a very large library in northern Illinois and I was surprised to see a space dedicated to recommendations by patrons. It doesn't have to be high-tech to work.

Does your library have the same artwork on the walls that was there in the '90s? If you need a new look, sponsor a children's art contest. Pick different works of all types from children and frame them around the library.

This summer I attended a non-library conference. The theme had the word "community" in it. The organizers asked children to draw a picture of something that represented "community" to them. A little girl drew a picture of a library. At the conference, you were able to purchase the drawings for a small donation to a worthy cause. I bought the drawing and it now hangs in my office at work. Even at a conference that had nothing to do with libraries, I was still able to find that connection.

At larger libraries you probably don't see everyone who walks in the door, but friendliness and helpfulness can come from all staff members. Make it point to train everyone in your library to be willing to help. Even if they don't know an answer, they should be able to point out the person who does.

Ask a trusted friend or advisor who doesn't visit your library often to evaluate the effectiveness of your library. Have them walk in and ask a reference question. Have them evaluate your physical surroundings. Do you have signage that is understandable? Can they find an item quickly? Did the clerk at the front desk smile at them or ask them if they needed help? Customer service can go a long way. Sometimes we can get comfortable behind that desk. It's our territory, but every now and again, try to get out from behind it. Welcome your community into your library.

Bibliographies are not dead (and it would be great if they were on a Web site), and with your library expertise, you can recommend lists of sources of all types, for all kinds of subjects. If you are a special library, send bibliographies to your local public and school libraries, letting them know what resources you have available in your specialty.

At that same large public library, I was thrilled to find short bibliographies at the end of shelving units on all different topics providing access to all types of sources. They really got my attention and made a big impression on my library experience.

Diversity is in your community, whether it is economical, educational, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or people with disabilities. Embrace those differences. Have a new committee? Make sure that the diverse population of your community is reflected in its makeup. Find a key individual and ask them for help in how you can make an impact in their group. Reach out to a new group where they are. Don't expect them to come to you.

Partner, partner, partner. You can never have too many partnerships. In this issue of the *ILA Reporter* you will meet Laura Barnes, author of the My Turn article. Laura and I have known each other for quite a while. She works at a special library with a focus on waste and its disposal. I did not make the connection that she and her colleagues would be great speakers for a "Going Green" workshop. It wasn't until I heard she presented somewhere else that it clicked. Other examples include academic libraries partnering with their city on a city wide book read; school and public libraries working together to purchase unique manga and anime collections; or working with local businesses for summer reading prizes. The potential is astounding when you quit limiting yourself to the four walls you inhabit.

The above is just a small sampling of what you can do to increase the impact that your library has on your community. It is clear that the evolution of our communities has transcended beyond our physical walls, whether it is in outreach, Library 2.0, or partnerships. The key to our libraries and their future starts with the acknowledgment that our communities have changed, so our approach must change. Look around — your community is out there. Will you be a growing part of it? Or will you stand back and hope that they walk through your door?

The twentieth century was quite the ride, but I ask you now — is your library in the driver's seat, eagerly anticipating the next horizon, or are you looking back in the rear view mirror to see where you have been? 

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Safety First: Emergency Response Plan

There is no debating gruesome statistics, which indicate that extremely violent crime has increased in schools and on college campuses in recent years. A shooting episode leaving five dead and sixteen wounded at the Northern Illinois University (NIU) campus in February 2008 is the latest example of unimaginable trauma, tragic loss of lives, and lasting injuries inflicted by gun violence. Although the criminal act took place at a lecture hall, at least one NIU librarian reported in casual conversation among colleagues that the impact was felt throughout DeKalb's college community as school officials discussed the future.

Mention educational institutions like Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va., Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., or Heath High in Padukah, Ky., and anyone plugged into a news outlet recognizes these locales for their connection to a criminally destructive act that occurred within the jurisdiction. Mass violence attracts intense print and broadcast coverage, usually by privately held media companies, which capture horrific scenes of carnage for public consumption.

“Libraries today face many of the same issues of crime and incivilities as does society in general.”

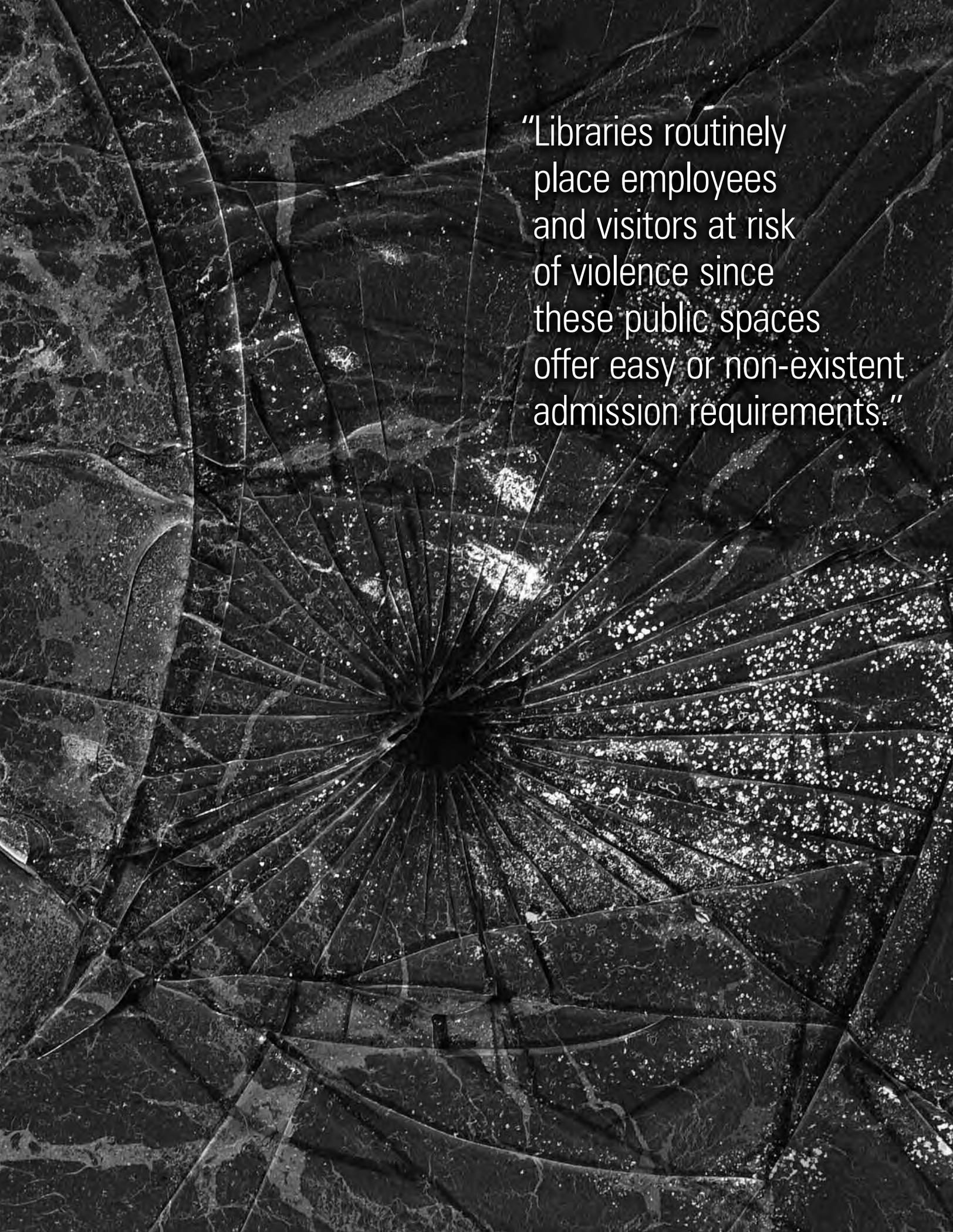
CRIME DOESN'T HAPPEN HERE

Libraries traditionally have been considered the place to go for books and reading. The OCLC 2005 report *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources* indicated “the ‘library’ is, in essence, a global brand: a brand dominated by nostalgia and reinforced by common experience.”¹ Furthermore, a recent OCLC report, *Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our Networked World*, notes that libraries have a high institutional trust level.² Yet *Security Journal* reported this year that “the public image of libraries as bastions of safe, quiet reflection and study is far removed from reality. Libraries today face many of the same issues of crime and incivilities as does society in general.”³

Bruce Shuman, author of *Library Security and Safety Handbook: Prevention, Policies, and Procedures*, published by the American Library Association, stated that “libraries routinely place employees and visitors at risk of violence since these public spaces offer easy or non-existent admission requirements.”⁴ School districts and academic institutions are more likely to have considered violence on campus in response to rising crime rates in educational settings nationwide.

But has the possibility of violence been carefully examined at libraries in Illinois, particularly at public entities operating without municipal or other corporate affiliation? For these situations, how should a library's governing board handle a violent incident if it were to occur?

[continued on page 12]



“Libraries routinely place employees and visitors at risk of violence since these public spaces offer easy or non-existent admission requirements.”

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (ERP)?

The most reliable method is to develop and implement an Emergency Response Plan. These consist of operational procedures utilized in response to a major violent incident. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report, *Emergency Management: Observations on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Preparedness for Catastrophic Disasters*, issued in June 2007, no federal laws require a school district to have emergency management plans. Most states and school districts, however, reported having the requirements for such planning. Both federal and state governments provide funding to develop plans along with local school districts.

This GAO report notes that thirty-two states have laws or policies in place requiring emergency management plans and that most school districts have taken federally recommended steps to plan and prepare for emergencies. The GAO surveyed school districts and found that 95 percent have written plans; however, content varies.⁵

School districts nationwide reviewed or revised safety plans following the 1999 Columbine High School shootings. Universities and colleges are likely to have established comprehensive plans covering situations, from extreme weather to pandemics, using multiple resources available, ranging from the chancellor and administrative deans to on-campus police and the office of safety and environmental affairs. Virginia Tech gave campuses reason to enhance security.⁶ *American Libraries* reported at least eight threats received at libraries following the 2007 incident.⁷

If a library doesn't have any guidelines in place, the first step toward establishing an Emergency Response Plan is to realize that it's okay to admit to lack of attention. After all, who wants to consider an unthinkable crime? But in times of natural and man-made disasters like Mississippi River floods and terrorist acts, having an Emergency Response Plan is a Best Practice or standard by which to benchmark good organizational behavior.



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WHY NOT USE A DISASTER PLAN?

An Emergency Response Plan goes beyond disaster and security management to place the first priority on saving lives during an unforeseen violent incident occurring on the premises. A disaster plan takes into account the prevention of, planning for, response to, and recovery procedures from any activity disabling the functioning of library operations. Disasters cause a library to close arising from, but not limited to, fire, tornado, water, and loss of electric power or communication. Human behavior, either malicious or simple error, can also cause damage.⁸

A security plan provides protection for buildings, collections, equipment, and people while offering open access to the facility. Security coverage encompasses library materials including objects and exhibits, computer equipments and networks, general facilities both internal and external, as well as access by persons.⁹

An emergency response plan could be incorporated into disaster or security plans if an organization lacks an administrative structure or capability to oversee arrangements. The plan should be thought of as exceptional measures to employ toward managing criminally violent behavior that falls outside of the routine response to disruptive individuals.

ORLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY (OPPL) MODEL

At least one public library in Illinois has taken steps toward thwarting potential offenders with a customized Emergency Response Plan that may encourage other libraries to consider planning procedures. Modeled on a sampling of school districts nationwide, the Orland Park Public Library administrators described a climate of concern for workplace safety expressed by staff following the Virginia Tech incident.

Conducting initial research, Orland Park Public Library Director Sharon Wsol presented the library's board with a draft version of an Emergency Response Plan. It incorporated various architectural features and building characteristics of the recently constructed 93,000 square foot facility. With full board support, local police were invited to review the document and to get involved in the process.

Orland Park Police Chief Timothy McCarthy and Deputy Chief Jerry Hughes of the Orland Park Police Department recommended a twenty-minute training video, *A Critical Incident: What to Do in the First 20 Minutes*, which was produced by the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission and used in their public schools statewide following the Columbine High School shooting. The video dramatizes school gun violence and provides step-by-step instruction to safely respond. Library staff viewed *A Critical Incident* as part of in-service day training in 2007.

“The most reliable method is to develop and implement an Emergency Response Plan. These consist of operational procedures utilized in response to a major violent incident.”

Police administration recommended the purchase of VIPER software. VIPER, or Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders, is used by law enforcement for total access to building floor plans, utility shut off, and communication capabilities. During a crisis, the police and fire departments while in a lockdown can utilize the information.

Police were asked to conduct a walk through and pointed out some easy ways to tighten security. The library made adjustments such as adding dead bolts at doorframes, punching out peek holes into doors, and defining predetermined areas of refuge in case of evacuation. Silent alarms were installed at each public service desk, which will alert the library's security company during an extreme situation.

The revised and enhanced Emergency Response Plan was completed in 2008 and incorporated the safety and security upgrades suggested by both the library's management team and backed by law enforcement officials. After library board approval, each staff member received an eleven page Emergency Response Plan. Employees will drill with police present at this year's in-service.

Additional entities to consider making arrangements with in order for the library to be able to set up crisis response operations include the fire department and local government, the schools and hospitals, and municipal buildings and businesses. An entire community would be asked to contribute support services if a violent incident were to take place.

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ERP: ONE OF MANY BEST PRACTICES

The cost to develop and implement an Emergency Response Plan is minimal as compared to the drastic and incalculable estimates inflicted through casualties and property damage. From a legal standpoint, libraries do not function in place of the parent, as do public school districts. Extensive professional expertise was utilized to devise this particular Emergency Response Plan and common law, otherwise known as “good Samaritan,” would apply.

According to Orland Park Public Library Director Sharon Wsol, “A perfect Emergency Response Plan simply doesn’t exist. We’re trying to be proactive and safe but nothing is fool proof. When a threat is unpredictable, all you can do is your best and preparation is an essential component.”

Wsol recommends that just as libraries drill for disasters, like fire and tornado, administrators and library boards should consider man-made disasters, specifically violent incidents, as part of crisis management. Crime prevention in libraries through an Emergency Response Plan is another way to implement best practices. **ILA**

ENDNOTES

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Sally in Libraryland

My mind operates strangely at times. Just recently, thoughts of intellectual freedom training and a GPS collided in my head, creating one of those “Aha!” moments for me.

Some of you were in Anaheim when the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee was awarded the SIRS/ProQuest Intellectual Freedom Award. Rose Chenoweth accepted a lovely plaque and a check for a thousand dollars for the award that acknowledged the committee’s statewide training efforts, as well as ILA’s ongoing commitment to intellectual freedom. It was a lovely occasion and a nice lunch (and being a guest at a nice lunch at a conference combines so many good things: a chance to sit down and to connect with colleagues, AND to save the library money!), and we were all happy to be there. Providing statewide training on an issue that is so important to us as a profession—and also to us as individuals—is something of which we’re justifiably proud. But then I had an experience with a GPS that gave me more to think about.

We went to the Boston area to visit the daughter who is living there temporarily, and, having experienced Boston driving, were delighted to take the car rental operation up on their offer to include a GPS navigation system with the car. You need to know that my husband the engineer is a smart man, and a very nice man, and has a long unbroken record for getting lost on his way out of any airport that is not O’Hare or Midway. So we were both highly pleased when the pleasant robot voice accurately and painlessly guided us through the twists and turns involved in getting from the rental lot to the expressway. For reasons I cannot explain, we named her Claudia. I later learned that many GPS users name them, so I didn’t feel quite so silly. We easily followed her directions through the tunnel (where she apologetically told us she had temporarily lost satellite reception, but she found it again as we emerged), and from one expressway to another, and we were soon on the last leg of the trip to the suburb where we needed to be. Then it turned ugly.



“The more ways you can share information, the better the odds are that it can be heard, and put into action.”

“Take exit number 24 on the right, stay to the left, then turn right onto Burlington Road” (if you know the Boston area, and this makes no sense, it’s because I blocked out large parts of the experience, and am faking the exits and street names), she told us. We thought we had done it right, but saw no Burlington Road, were somehow back on the expressway, and heard her say, patiently, “Recalculating.” So she guided us to the next exit, got us off and back on the expressway headed in the opposite direction, and tried again. Somehow, even bound in the other direction, we still didn’t get it, and again ended up on the expressway instead of on Burlington Road. “Recalculating,” she said once more, patiently. If we had not gotten over it weeks ago, I would be embarrassed to tell you that we tried twice more, with no luck. The Kingston Trio’s “The Man Who Never Returned” started to play in my mind. Claudia’s “recalculating” was starting to sound a little less patient, and somewhat judgmental. The tension in the car was thick, and we finally put Claudia in the glove compartment to think about what she’d done, because my husband felt that one woman in the car trying to direct him was more than enough. I called my daughter, who had begun to wonder where we were, and she guided us through the same exit—but in a way that we could understand.

Claudia, probably because she was a robot, had far too much faith in our ability to do what she told us. It was beyond her comprehension that we wouldn’t do what she said, the way she said it, just because she was the expert, and it made perfect sense to her. Our daughter, although having lived in the area long enough to know it well, had no such illusions, and was able to describe the correct path several different ways, until one of them clicked, and we were finally able to leave the expressway and get to her office. We forgave Claudia by the next morning, and she successfully got us everywhere we needed to be for the rest of the trip.

So all this came together in my head, and made me wonder. I’m glad we did all the intellectual freedom training we did,

and the tool we used was possibly the best I’ve ever seen. But are we finished? Can we figure Illinois library staff and board members are now all fully up to speed on intellectual freedom, and move on to the next pressing concern? Not even a little bit. Like Claudia, we knew what our listeners needed to hear. We did our best to guide them to the path to truth and enlightenment. We covered all the material, answered all the questions, gratefully acknowledged the applause. But I suspect—no, I’m sure—that any number of scenarios followed the training. There will have been people who simply disagreed with the concept, and although they participated politely, left the sessions with the certainty they arrived with, that libraries need to limit access to whatever subject or material that individual finds most troubling. Or people who enthusiastically embraced the concepts, welcomed the new knowledge, and six months later did not connect the patron demanding that the library move *And Tango Makes Three* into the adult section, lest children accidentally read it, with anything discussed in the sessions. And of course, there are always new people to reach—new board members, new staff whose jobs do not require attendance at library school (and maybe assuming the material was covered there is optimistic on my part), or librarians who would benefit from hearing it again.

And in case you are wondering why my crystal ball is any clearer than anyone else’s, I can tell you that, in addition to being guided by a GPS on this topic, I also had the benefit of Juliette Douglas’s workshop participant survey results, conducted six months and more after the fact.

All respondents indicated an increase in their confidence and ability to handle concerns or challenges, which is truly wondrous. Twenty-one percent have offered IF training at their library; 34 percent have used the information acquired to develop policies and procedures to address issues in their libraries. Slowly but surely we are getting intellectual freedom information into the hands of the people who need it the most!

So the survey, my own experiences, and the GPS all led me to conclude that we need to continue educating as many people as we can about intellectual freedom issues, in as many ways as we can. Because—as I was painfully reminded in Boston—the more ways you can share information, the better the odds are that it can be heard, and put into action. David Hamilton is the new chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and he and ILA Executive Director Bob Doyle are already at work on several projects that will keep intellectual freedom in the forefront of our brains as we work with our patrons and our legislators. We should all continue to participate in the process of educating everyone we encounter, with passion and commitment! Have you done anything interesting in this vein lately?

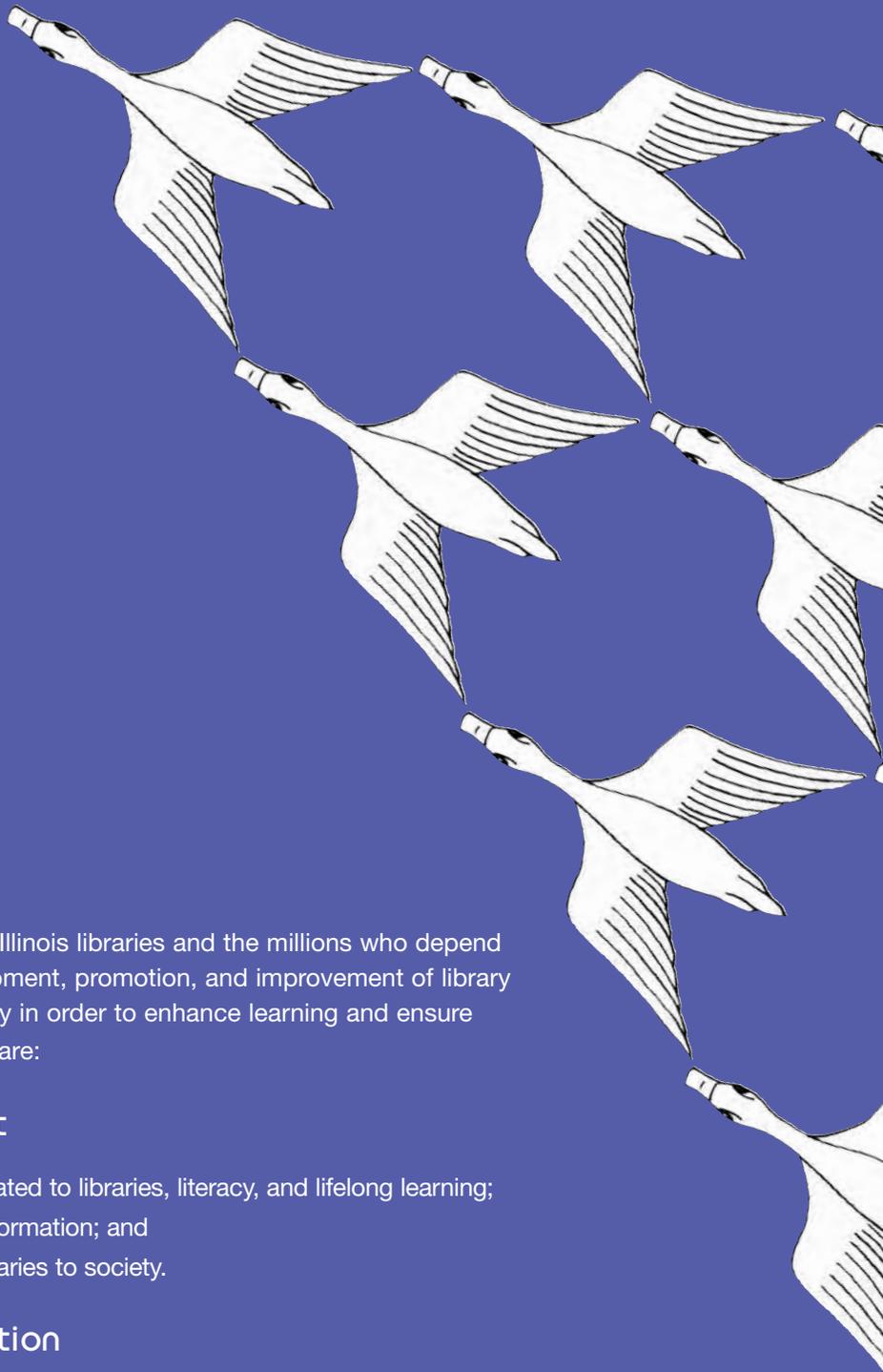
Tell me stories to share with the group, at sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com! 📖

Leading the Way in Advocacy and Innovation



Annual Report 2007-2008

Illinois Library Association



Mission Statement

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. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

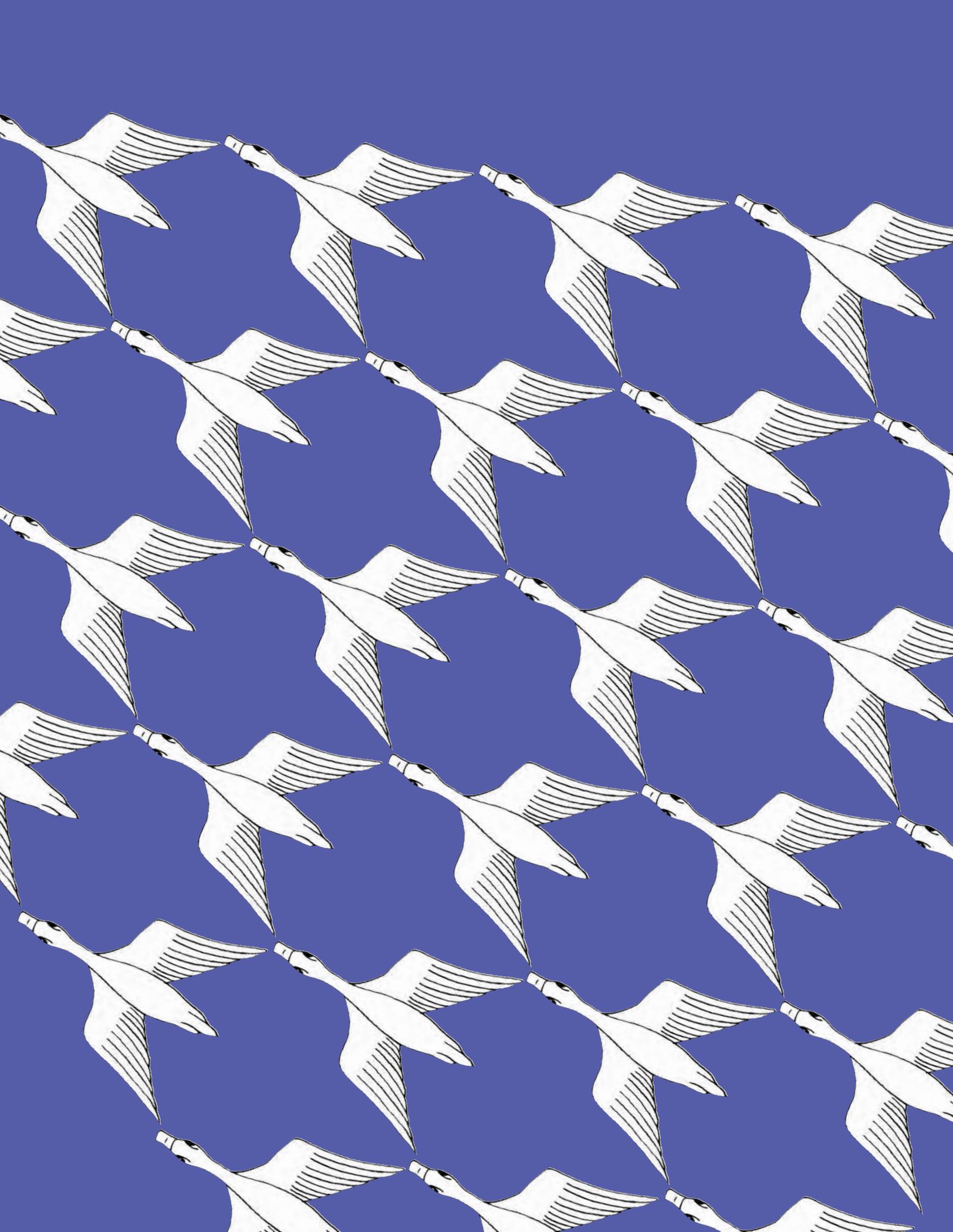
- » develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- » defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- » increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

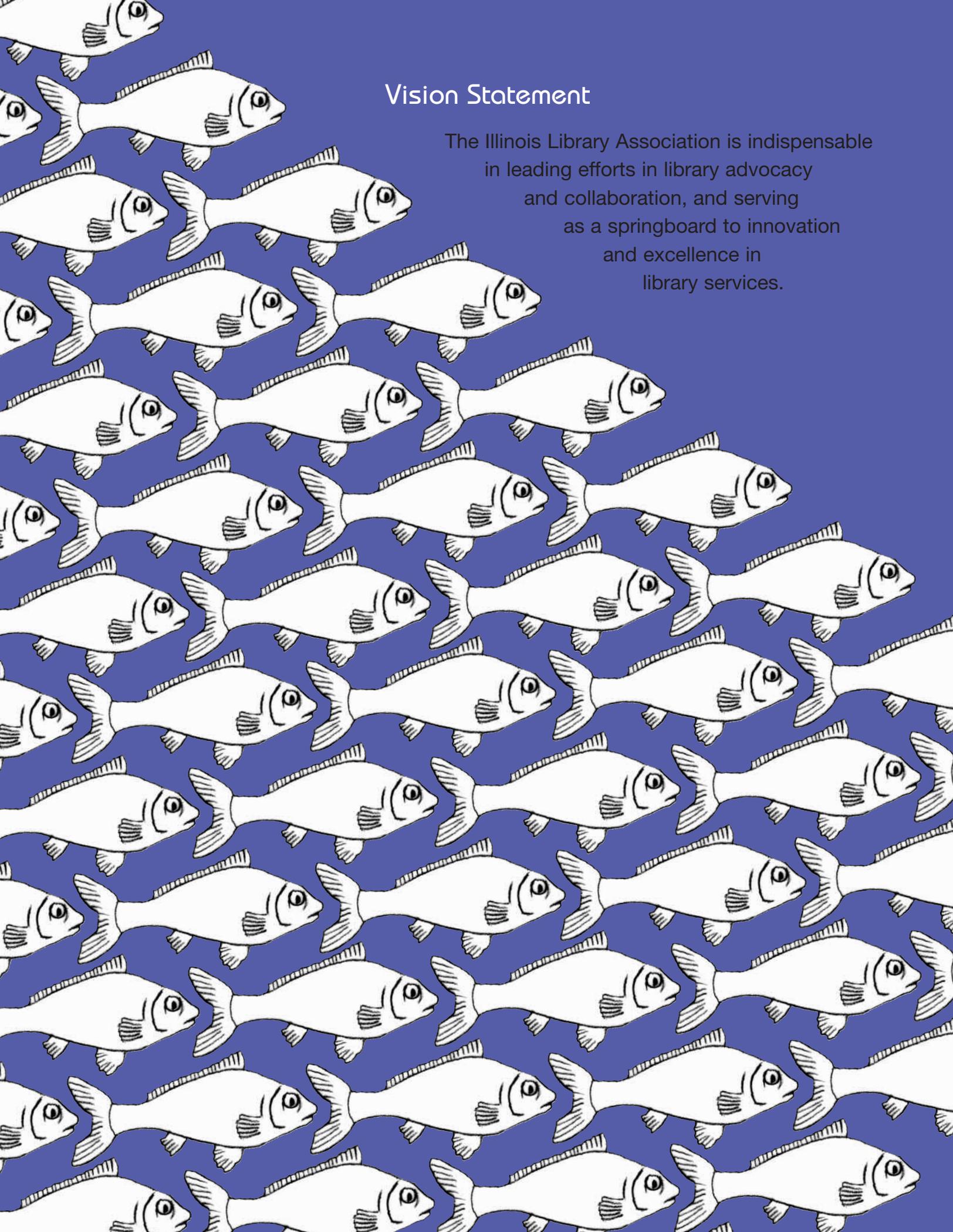
Promoting Excellence and Innovation

- » provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
- » support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
- » produce high quality publications and communications; and
- » celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.



The background of the entire page is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this background is a repeating pattern of white fish. Each fish is a simple line drawing with a white body, a black outline for the scales, fins, and tail, and a black dot for an eye. The fish are all oriented in the same direction, swimming towards the right side of the page. They are arranged in a somewhat staggered, overlapping pattern, filling most of the page area.

Vision Statement

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.

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

The proudest accomplishment of this year as your president is one that belongs to every member of this association: the development and completion of a new strategic plan for the association. Unveiled in the June 2008 *ILA Reporter*, this plan is driven by a dynamic vision for a more relevant and focused association. It is based on detailed and profound input from members, and was carefully crafted to ensure our activities maximize our resources.

This is not a modest plan that steps back from the challenges facing libraries, but a bold plan for the association to make a real difference for libraries in this environment of constant change. We are capable of that excellence and transformation, and our libraries and their patrons deserve no less.

The plan emphasizes the association's primary role in library advocacy, and confirms our overall mission, but makes several key shifts in how we conduct our everyday activities to advance these lofty goals. For example, communications will be retooled to take advantage of technology to push timely content out to members rather than expecting them to find it in static print or online formats. Our efforts in all areas will take into account what other organizations and individual libraries can do best, and limit our activities to those in which our statewide reach is unique.

One of things we do as an association, this year and every year, is lead by our example. This annual report chronicles some of those examples, ranging from our partnership with MySpace that resulted in distribution of more than two million bookmarks, providing information on making safe and informed decisions online, to receipt of a national award for our activities on behalf of intellectual freedom.

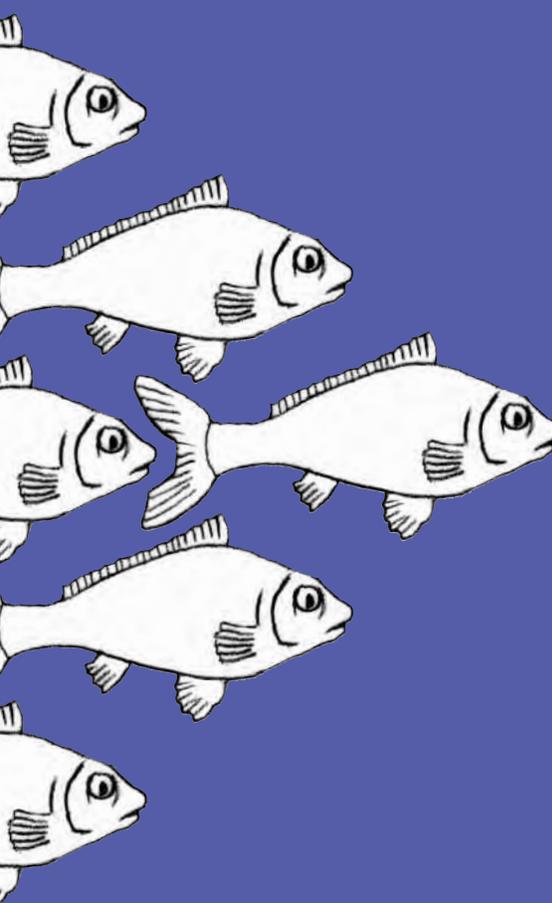
As always, we made our presence felt in Springfield and Washington, D.C., with informed and sizable delegations, advocating for the free flow of information and support for library services of all types. Our efforts were successful in defeating the sixteenth attempt to mandate statewide filtering legislation.

I look forward to the coming year and the changes it will bring to how we deliver information, and the ways in which we direct our time and energy to the tasks where the association can add the most value on behalf of our members. Most of all, I look forward to continuing to be part of the library community in Illinois and the association that works tirelessly—and indispensably—on its behalf.

Bradley F. Baker



ILA President, 2007–2008



Advocating for the Public Interest: 2007–2008

On April 10, the city of Springfield welcomed more than two hundred library supporters attending the 2008 Illinois Library Day. Sponsored jointly 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, the event drew librarians from all over the state and from all types of libraries.

Library advocates met with their legislators and urged them to take action on the following bills:

- » Oppose House Bill (HB) 1727, mandating statewide public library Internet filters.
- » Support Senate Bill (SB) 2321, increasing funding for county law libraries.
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4202, allowing for disposal of withdrawn materials from Illinois academic libraries.
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4518, providing a fair process to dissolve local libraries that do not meet specific criteria (such as appropriate, elect library board, hold meetings).
- » Support House Bill (HB) 4527, increasing public library equalization and school library grants.

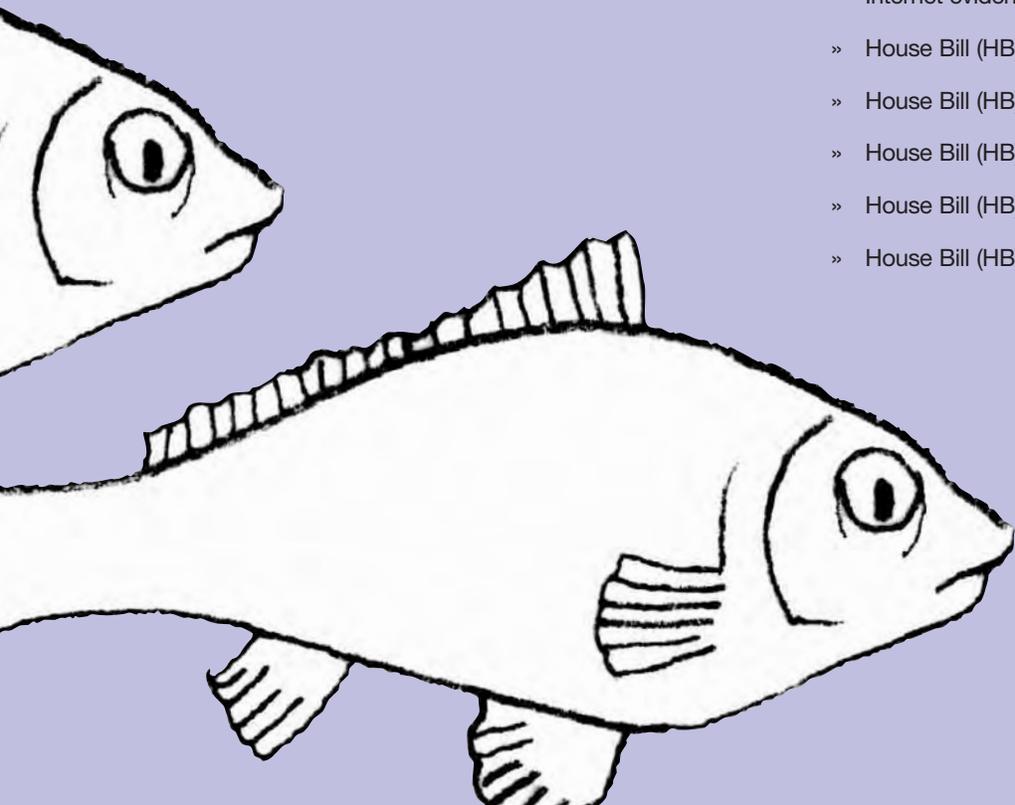
In May, Illinois again had the largest delegation attending National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., with fifty-two attendees, or 13 percent of the total attendance for the event.

State Legislative Scorecard

The 2008 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly was again dominated by disputes between the governor and legislative leaders. As usual, the budget was the most contentious legislative issue. The general assembly passed a series of budget bills, but the governor vetoed almost \$1.5 billion from those budget bills. Despite efforts to override the budget vetoes in the House, the Senate refused to consider the override motions, and the governor's cuts went into effect. Legislators filed almost 3,500 individual bills. The Illinois Library Association tracked more than ninety bills and resolutions on a variety of issues including funding for libraries, intellectual freedom issues, local government operations, and other issues of importance to the library community.

The association's record in opposing legislation harmful to libraries was outstanding — all bills opposed by the association failed. Those bills were:

- » Senate Bill (SB) 1682, prohibiting social networking;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 1158, amending the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 417, amending the Election Code to require that an elector subject to the Sex Offender Registration Act whose polling place is in a library or school must vote by absentee or early voting ballot;
- » Senate Bill (SB) 13, amending the property tax code;
- » House Bill (HB) 4380, amending the Board of Higher Education Act concerning student residential computer networks;
- » House Bill (HB) 2860, amending the criminal code regarding Internet evidence for law enforcement investigations;
- » House Bill (HB) 1727, mandating Internet filters;
- » House Bill (HB) 1226, mandating Internet filters;
- » House Bill (HB) 914, amending the property tax code;
- » House Bill (HB) 418, amending the property tax code; and
- » House Bill (HB) 23, amending the property tax code.



Our record for passage of bills supported by the association was nearly as impressive — four bills advanced by the association were passed by both chambers and sent to the governor, while two other bills passed in the House, but failed to advance out of the Senate Rules Committee.

- » Senate Bill (SB) 1865, sponsor: Senator Mike Noland (D-22, Elgin). Parental responsibility for minors damaging public property is currently limited to \$20,000; this bill increases the limit to \$30,000. Passed the Senate on April 17 by a vote of 54 to 0; House on May 30 by a vote of 113 to 0; and both houses May 30. The governor signed the bill on August 26 and it became Public Act 95-914.
- » Senate Bill (SB) 2321, sponsor: Senator Donne E. Trotter (D-17, Chicago). This bill allows county boards to authorize an increase in county law library fees (now, \$13) of not more than (i) \$18 in 2008, (ii) \$19 in 2009, and (iii) \$21 in 2010 and thereafter. Passed the Senate on April 17 by a vote of 42 to 12; House on May 22 by a vote of 76 to 34; and both chambers on May 22. The governor vetoed the bill on Tuesday, September 19, because it would allow local government, if they choose, to increase fees.
- » Senate Bill (SB) 2512, sponsor: Senator Terry Link (D-30, Lake Bluff). This Internet Safety Education Curriculum bill amends the School Code by providing that beginning with the 2009–2010 school year, a school district must incorporate into the curriculum a component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to students in grade three or above. It further requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for educating children regarding child online safety and requires the State Board of Education to provide to each school district educational materials for parents regarding child online safety. Passed the Senate on April 3 by a vote of 48 to 8; House on May 30 by a vote of 106 to 8; and both houses May 31. The governor signed the bill on August 21 and it became Public Act 95-086.
- » House Bill (HB) 4527, sponsor: Representative Lou Lang (D-16, Skokie). Requested by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and supported by Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22, Chicago), this bill changes equalization grant language in two significant areas: increases rate from \$4.25 to \$7.50 per capita and; increases minimum grant award to school libraries from \$100 to \$750. The per capita rate has not been increased since 1979 when the grant was created; the minimum grant level for schools has not been increased since 1994. Ten public libraries qualify for the equalization grants under the old limits; under the new formula, the number of public libraries that qualify will

increase to fifty-seven. In Fiscal Years (FY) 2007 and 2008, nearly 350 school districts received grants below the new minimum of \$750; it is expected that those school districts will benefit from HB 4527 in FY 09 and thereafter. Passed the House on April 3 by a vote of 108 to 0; Senate on May 20 by a vote of 56 to 0; and both houses May 20. The governor amendatorily vetoed the bill on Friday, August 15. The governor's changes take away local control and greatly add to the cost of providing local library service and ILA opposes the governor's changes. The sponsor of the bill will likely ask for an override of the governor's changes during the Fall 2008 Veto Session in November.

- » House Bill (HB) 4202, sponsor: Representative Dan Brady (R-88, Bloomington). This bill concerns the disposal of academic library materials and would amend the State Property Control Act. With respect to the transfer of books, serial publications, and other library materials to which the Act's transfer procedures do not apply, the bill adds items withdrawn from the transferring agency's library collection through a regular collection evaluation process; and adds non-profit agencies, whether located in or outside Illinois, to the list of entities to which such items may be transferred. The bill further authorizes sale of those items to the public at library book sales or to book dealers or the offer of those items through exchange to book dealers or to organizations, providing that revenues generated from such sales be retained by the agency and used for the purchase of library materials. Dane Ward from Illinois State University has been instrumental on working on this issue. HB 4202 passed in the Illinois House of Representatives by 109 to 0 on April 2, but never advanced out of the Senate Rules Committee.
- » House Bill (HB) 4518, sponsor: Representative Frank J. Mautino (D-76, Spring Valley). Referred to as "Libraries in Name Only," this bill received extensive discussion in the ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) because of recent developments regarding four township referenda (Fall River Township, Farm Ridge Township, Freedom Township, and Wallace Township in LaSalle County) where library districts have been created without clear intention of providing library service. The bill was crafted using language recommended by ILA PPC and mirroring language in Park District laws regarding dissolution. HB 4518 passed in the Illinois House of Representatives by 112 to 0 on April 15, but never advanced out the Senate Rules Committee.

Both HB 4202 and 4518 were not controversial, as evidenced by the margins in the Illinois House of Representatives, but were victims of the current political climate in Springfield.

Promoting Professional Excellence: 2007–2008

The topical theme of the 2008 ILA Annual Conference — “Changing Libraries, Changing Communities” — focused on the practical as well as the visionary in librarianship. Michael Stephens, author of the Tame the Web blog (<http://tameweb.com>) and contributor to ALA’s TechSource blog (www.alatechsource.org/blog), presented the keynote address, “Revisioning Libraries for a Hyperlinked World.” The conference was held October 9–12 in Springfield.

Other highlights included author/illustrator Tom Lichtenheld speaking at the Youth Services Breakfast, an all-conference reception at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and the first ever Illinois Library Book Cart Drill Team Competition. The Illinois Authors’ Luncheon featured Aaron Freeman. The comedian, actor, and journalist drew a capacity audience and helped conclude the conference on a humorous note.

ILA members and guests attended more than seventy sessions addressing topics from electronic intellectual freedom to serving ethnic populations, from passing referenda to library professional education. Conference attendance of 1,216 included 227 exhibitor representatives. A special thanks to the many sponsors and donors who made the conference possible, along with the members and visitors from around the world who made it memorable.

Continuing education across the state is a year-round event for the association. Selected examples include:

- » The Illinois Library Trustee Forum sponsored their annual Spring Workshop at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle in February.
- » The Illinois Association for College and Research Libraries (IACRL) sponsored a very successful spring conference in Bloomington.
- » In April and May, the Youth Services Forum sponsored workshops in Plainfield and Edwardsville on the topic of “Tech Savvy Teens.”
- » “Show Me the Money! Financial Strategies for Your Library,” was held at the Lewis & Clark Library System in Edwardsville in April.
- » On Friday, May 9, the eighteenth annual Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants drew more than 1,000 attendees to the Rosemont Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Joe Contrera, president and founder of Alive@Work, presented the keynote address, “Conquering Your Fear.”

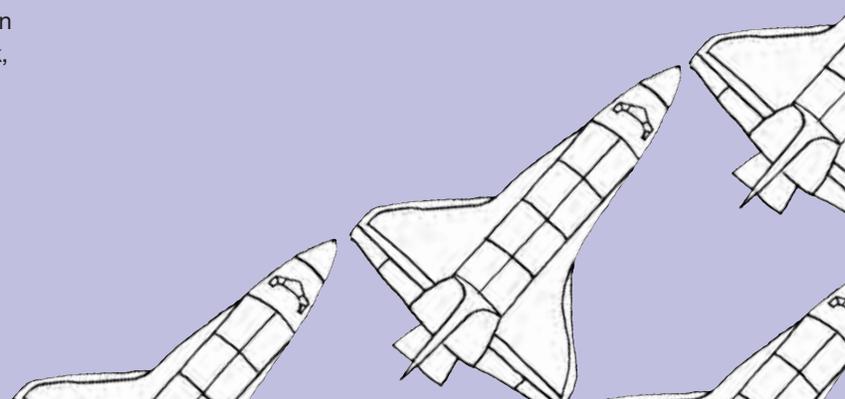
In addition to these workshops and conferences, ILA’s continuing education efforts were enhanced by the publication of *Illinois Library Laws & Rules in Effect January 2008*, and *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*.

Our public presence was underscored in a special partnership with MySpace. One million free Internet Safety bookmarks were produced and distributed in Illinois, along with another million distributed at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Three different NetSafe bookmarks — *Dealing with Cyberbullies: Tips for Kids*, *Safe Blogging: Tips for Teens*, and *Social Networking: Tips for Parents* — were produced with \$60,000 in support from MySpace. Additional distribution included 3,000 free bookmarks at the 2007 Illinois Library Day in Springfield, 20,000 at the 2007 National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., and thousands more to all attendees at the 2007 Reaching Forward Conference in Rosemont. ILA continued its educational efforts with the *ILA Reporter*, offering members a bimonthly window to the wider world of librarianship around the state and the nation. Special inserts in the *ILA Reporter* in 2007–2008 included:

- » *Books Challenged or Banned, 2006–2007* (April 2007)
- » *2006–2007 ILA Annual Report: Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense* (October 2007)
- » *2008 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2008)

The 2008 iREAD theme, *Get in the Game, Read!*, brought Illinois libraries the colorful and imaginative graphics of Caldecott winner Tom Lichtenheld.

Finally, ILA won two significant national awards. ILA received a Google Grants award to deliver the association’s message to a targeted audience of Google users. And, the American Library Association recognized ILA’s two-pronged approach to defending intellectual freedom — advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress, and education for the library community and general public — by awarding the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) ProQuest/SIRS State and Regional Achievement Award to ILA.



Preparing for the Future: 2007–2008

It was a disappointing fiscal year for the association, which ended FY 2007–2008 with a \$9,092 deficit. A mix of economic factors contributed to the first ILA deficit in twelve years, but the general downturn in the U.S. economy is impacting libraries and our association. If these trends continue, it is foreseeable that the next fiscal year could record another loss.

The 2007 ILA Annual Conference in Springfield was \$24,180 under budget and ILA's long-term investments sustained a \$24,632 loss. ILA's long-term investments, however, did outperform other traditional market indices declining 8.07%; in the same time period, the S&P 500 Index lost 14.86% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 15.36%.

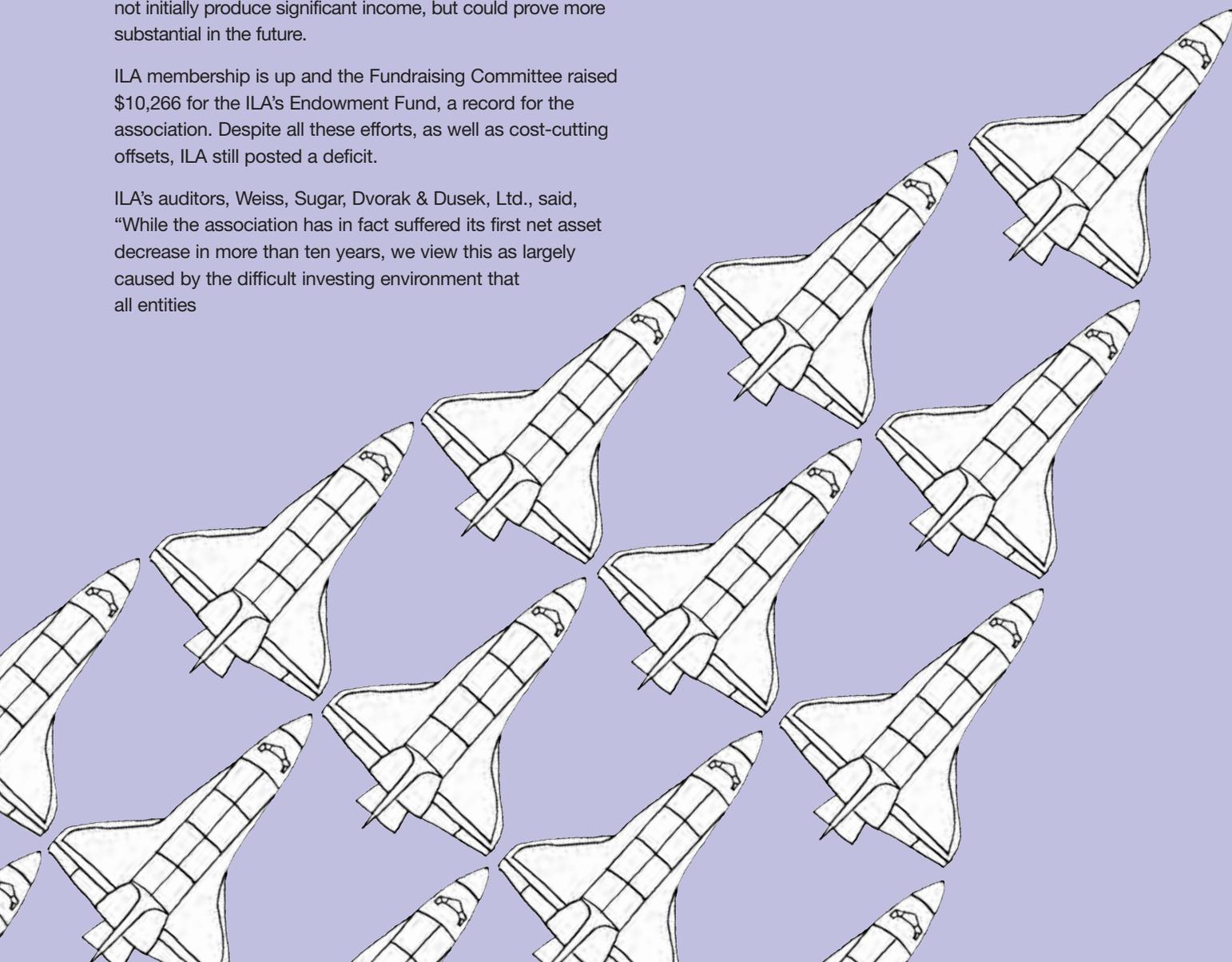
On the good news front, ILA had a successful year in publishing several revenue-generating products: the new NetSafe bookmarks, *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries*, *Illinois Library Laws & Rules in Effect January 2008*, and very strong iREAD sales. The Australian Library and Information Association and ILA announced a new iREAD licensing agreement that will not initially produce significant income, but could prove more substantial in the future.

ILA membership is up and the Fundraising Committee raised \$10,266 for the ILA's Endowment Fund, a record for the association. Despite all these efforts, as well as cost-cutting offsets, ILA still posted a deficit.

ILA's auditors, Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., said, "While the association has in fact suffered its first net asset decrease in more than ten years, we view this as largely caused by the difficult investing environment that all entities

(commercial and non-profit) have had to endure during 2008. If the effect of investment returns (earnings and unrealized losses) were disregarded, net assets would have increased by \$15,540. It should be noted that while your investments lost value during FY 2008, they still far outperformed the major market indices, and of course, a long-term approach to investing is necessary. The executive board and management should be commended for continuing to generate positive results from operations by partnering with Ancel Glink, MySpace, and Google in producing new opportunities and products such as the *Financial Manual for Illinois Public Libraries* and the NetSafe bookmarks despite a difficult economy and operating environment."

The ILA Executive Board pledges to continue to closely monitor and adjust association budgets to reflect market conditions. In addition to sound fiscal management, the executive board believes this year illustrates ways in which the association must continue to diversify income streams in order to maintain the financial health of the organization.



Membership

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its almost 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

Administration and Governance

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.

Forums

Government Documents Forum
Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum
Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum
Library Trustees Forum
Public Library Forum
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
Reference Services Forum
Resources and Technical Services Forum
Young Adult Services Forum
Youth Services Forum

Standing Committees

Awards Committee
Best Practices Committee
Conference Program Committee
Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee
Finance Committee
Fundraising Committee
Intellectual Freedom Committee
ILA Reporter Advisory Committee
iREAD Committee
Marketing Committee
Membership Committee
Nominating Committee
Public Policy Committee

2007/2008 Executive Board

President

Brad Baker, Northeastern Illinois University

Vice President/President-Elect

Donna Dziedzic, Naperville Public Library

Immediate Past President

Tamiye Meehan, Indian Trails Public Library District

Treasurer

Jamie Bukovac, Indian Prairie Public Library

Directors

Dean Bryan, Metropolitan Library System
Halle Cox, Kane County Law Library
Carole Dickerson, Freeport Public Library
Emily Guss, University of Illinois at Chicago
Robyn Hendricks, Decatur Public Library
Nancy Huntley, Lincoln Library
Julie M. Milavec, Plainfield Public Library District
Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University
Cristy Stupegia, Sparta Public Library
Jocelyn Tipton, Eastern Illinois University
H Dayle K. Zelenka, North Park University

ALA Councilor

Tina Hubert, Lewis & Clark Library System

Ex Officio

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association
Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library



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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.

Judge Approves Library Territory Transfer

A judge has approved plans to bring almost all of Romeoville within the Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, reported the September 3 *Homer Sun*. The decision grants a transfer of territory from the Fountaindale district to Des Plaines Valley.

The decision allows a large addition of territory that gives Des Plaines Valley jurisdiction over almost all of Romeoville. The only exception is a small portion still served by the Plainfield Public Library District.

Judge Bobbi Petrunaro held a public hearing on the matter August 25 in Will County court in downtown Joliet. On August 26, Petrunaro granted the transfer proposal, which was made this summer with resolutions by both the Fountaindale and Des Plaines Valley districts. “The boundaries of the territories proposed for transfer by the ordinance are appropriate and the territories to be transferred will receive substantially equal or greater benefits by being so transferred,” said a court order obtained by *The Herald News*.

Scott Pointon, director of the Des Plaines Valley district, provided a copy of the court order to the newspaper. “The proposed transfer will provide for substantially better alignment, effectiveness, and efficiency of library services among residents of Romeoville and among residents of the schools servicing Romeoville,” the court order states.

Pointon was pleased by Petrunaro’s decision Tuesday. “I guess the initial reaction is extreme relief and happiness,” Pointon said. “A lot of thought, a lot

of planning, went into this, and so we’re glad to see all that work bear fruit.”

Pointon credited the boards and staff of both districts for their hard work in accomplishing this goal. “The other thing I’m excited about is: This is another big step toward our vision of, really, a brand-new library district,” he said.

The Des Plaines Valley district is holding a November referendum regarding plans for three new libraries in Romeoville, Lockport, and Crest Hill.

Karen Anderson, Fountaindale’s director, also was positive about Tuesday’s outcome. “Fountaindale Library is very pleased with the decision of the judge,” Anderson said. “We look forward to working with Des Plaines Valley in the transition period to ensure that the residents of Romeoville continue to receive good library service.”

Beardstown School Board Wrestles with Banning Books

The Beardstown School Board meeting became a debate about morality, free speech, and the responsibilities of public school libraries, reported the August 27 *Jacksonville Journal-Courier*.

Stephen Griffin, of Beardstown approached the board with the request that the book *Nineteen Minutes*, by Jodi Picoult, be removed from the high school libraries’ shelves permanently.

Picoult is a widely published author known for her novels that frequently address volatile contemporary issues. According to Picoult’s Web site and the committee from the Beardstown district

that reviewed the novel, *Nineteen Minutes* is the story of a 17-year-old high schooler named Peter. Classmates verbally and physically abuse the boy.

The story also includes Josie, Peter’s friend who succumbs to peer pressures and engages in sex and teases less popular students. In the climax, Peter shoots some of his classmates and then commits suicide.

At the board meeting, Griffin said that his then-seventh-grade daughter brought the book home from school last year, and he was disturbed to find it contained the “f-word” more than forty times in varying contexts and “seemed to have somewhat of a preoccupation with penis size and penis envy,” Griffin said. Book in hand, Griffin read passages from the book illustrating his complaints. Passages included young men joking about sex and teasing about the size of their private parts.

At one point, board members stopped him in order to check with the audience to make sure no one was offended. No one objected.

Another section described sex between young students, including details of their groping. The passage went on to describe the “heat between her legs” and how the male moved against her during the sex act.

Griffin asked the committee if the book were a movie, wouldn’t it be rated R and would the board want that movie to be able to be checked out by young students? He told the board he felt the book was widely checked out with “prurient interests” and argued the novel sends students mixed messages. He asked the board if it puts restrictions on words

students can say and the length of skirts girls can wear, why it would not put a restriction on the content in its library.

“Censorship already exists,” he said. “This is a moral decision.” “It is not a question of will we censor, but a question of on what level,” he continued. “I’m not trying to get this book burned or banned from the public library, but removed out of the school because the school should have higher standards.”

Sue Reichert, the district librarian and member of the six-member review committee that read and evaluated the book, argued that the committee found the book too valuable to the current anti-bullying curriculum to be removed from the library.

The report from the committee states that, “Picoult’s book endeavors to show the extremes of negative behavior to which a bullied, rejected individual will go — casual sex, mass murder. The lessons learned here are rich and varied.” The report also states “sex is not the point of the novel” and “most importantly, we feel this is a book which emphasizes consequences.”

Review Committee members Carol Mohr, high school English teacher; and Cathy Beets, middle school principal; were present and agreed with Reichert. The group added that school boards across the country include the novel in their anti-bullying curriculums.

Reichert said it is her job to stock the library with valuable and current literature. “We have to tackle the issues of today,” said Mohr.

“We have just as much moral responsibility to do that,” added Beets.

The librarian also said that, since the book is more than 400 pages long, Griffin’s claim that it is widely checked out was false, because students rarely check out such lengthy books without being forced.

She presented the book’s checkout as evidence. It indicated that the book had only been checked out twice, once by Griffin’s daughter.

Griffin approached the board with *Nineteen Minutes* for the first time in March. He also brought the novel,

The Day After Tomorrow, by Robert A. Heinlein to the board’s attention. He requested both be reviewed for removal from the school library.

The Day After Tomorrow, although deemed a “great suspense dark thriller which meets the expectations of an action packed adventure with plenty of intrigue” by the committee in their report, was removed.

The report stated the book did contain murder, conspiracies, and passionate romance. The committee did not find the book “lewd” or “graphic,” but “rather very adult in nature” and, because the library already had a large selection of other valuable science fiction and spy literature, the committee elected to remove the book from the high school’s circulation and donate it to the public library.

Nineteen Minutes has been off the shelves at the library since March and will remain out of circulation until the board decides what action to take, said board President Don Schaefer. The board will respond within the next thirty days to the issue.

Reichert informed the board that, beginning this school year, the library sent home permission slips with seventh- and eighth-grade students asking their parents permission for the students to read any book from the high school fiction section.

Read more about the novel *Nineteen Minutes* at www.jodipicoult.com/nineteen-minutes.html, where the author describes the research that went into writing the novel.

Pekin Library Expansion Plans Approved

Preliminary expansion and renovation plans at the Pekin Public Library were approved by the library’s board of trustees, which still has to get the \$9.6 million project funded by the city council, according to the September 3 *Peoria Journal Star*.

“If we’re going to do it, now’s the time to do it,” Board President Vickie Koch said after the unanimous vote.

Board members approved the plans presented by architects, which include

adding about 13,000 additional square feet of space to the building at 301 S. Fourth St., creating a room for young adults, and adding public space to the building’s second floor. Library administrators say the expansion is not only needed to add room to the cramped building, but also to make it accessible to all library patrons.

Built in early 1970s, the current facility is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Library Director Jeff Brooks said one entrance has a ramp but it has too much of a slope and is too wide, making the handrails farther apart than what is acceptable under the act. Some shelves in the library are too tall for older patrons to access books on the top. Space is also at a premium because of the added amenities the library provides, including Internet access, CDs, DVDs, movies, and community meeting space.

Talks of making the expansion a reality have been ongoing for years. Brooks said ever-increasing construction costs push the total price up \$500,000 a year for each year the expansion isn’t done. Architects estimated the entire project would cost about \$9.6 million if it were done in 2009 and about \$10 million in 2010.

Brooks said now that the library has taken the vote it will be up to the city council to allocate funding for the project by issuing bonds. “We’ve been re-writing our plans year after year since 1996,” he said. “It’s time for the council to decide if it happens this year or tell us when it will happen.” City officials have previously said the 2010 budget will be a tight one and a decision on whether the project is approved or denied could be known by December.

If the project is funded, officials will have to decide whether to maintain operations at the current facility during construction or move to a temporary space elsewhere. Architects recommended the library move to a different location during any construction for public safety and efficiency. Brooks said the library has been looking at sites, but an in-depth search wouldn’t need to be conducted until later.



Honoring Peggy Sullivan

At the 2008 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, Peggy Sullivan was named an Honorary ALA Member in recognition of more than fifty years of dedicated service to the profession of librarianship. The citation named many of Sullivan's achievements, most of which are well known to those of us in Illinois who have directly benefited from her leadership. In her working career, she has served as Director of the Knapp School Libraries, Commissioner for Extension Services at the Chicago Public Library, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Rosary College (now Dominican University), Dean of the College of Professional Studies at Northern Illinois University, and consultant. She has mentored many librarians in Illinois and served as inspiration to others through these positions as well as through her leadership in professional associations, having served as President of ALA's Children's

Services Division (now the Association for Library Service to Children or ALSC), ALA President, and ALA Executive Director.

While it is a custom to honor people after their death with contributions to an organization related to their interests, why not honor Peggy now while she can appreciate the recognition and thanks? The ILA Fundraising Committee, with the support of ILA leadership, has launched a campaign to encourage those in Illinois who wish to recognize Peggy Sullivan to give \$50 to the ILA Endowment Fund in her honor, the amount inspired by her 50+ years of service to the profession. The campaign is a way of letting Peggy know how much the library community in Illinois appreciates her leadership and many contributions. It will also fuel the ILA's Endowment Fund, ensuring a lasting financial legacy that will continue to benefit librarians in Illinois for generations to come.

In four weeks, as of 1 September 2008, more than \$6,750 has been raised from the following contributors:

Betsy Adamowski,	Valerie J. Downes	Carole Medal
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Library Jobline of Illinois

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

Positions for Librarians and Support Staff



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

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Nominees Sought

The ILA 2009 Nominating Committee is soliciting nominees to run on the 2009 spring ballot for the ILA Executive Board, including the office of ILA Vice President/President-elect.

The Nominating Committee will select two candidates to run for each of the four Director-at-Large seats, the Vice President/President-elect, and the ILA's representative to the American Library Association's Council.

The President-elect will serve a three-year term as: President-elect in 2009–2010, President in 2010–2011, and Immediate Past President in 2011–2012. Director-at-Large seats are also three-year terms.

The Illinois Library Association Executive Board is the governing body of the association and is comprised of fifteen directors serving a three-year term. The board adopts and oversees implementation and evaluates all plans, policies, programs, and budget for the association. Together, board members constitute leadership of the association and assume responsibility for its success.

Members who wish to make nominations should submit the following information: nominee name; present position; institution; address; telephone; fax; and e-mail address. Self-nominations are encouraged. All potential nominees will be asked to complete a Potential Candidate Biographical Form that will be e-mailed to them.

Nominations may be sent to any member of the 2009 Nominating Committee or the chair: Bradley F. Baker, Northeastern Illinois University; e-mail: b-baker@neiu.edu.

2008 Recipients of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund

Seven individuals were selected as this year's recipients of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund. All seven are the Illinois recipients of the American Library Association's (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship.

The fund, named in honor of the late ILA President Sylvia Murphy Williams, was created to support the American Library Association's (ALA) Spectrum Scholars. Established in 1997, the Spectrum Scholars are ALA's national diversity and recruitment effort designed to address the underrepresentation of ethnic librarians within the profession while serving as a model for ways to bring attention to larger diversity issues in the future. Upon Sylvia's untimely death in 2003, ILA established a fund in her memory to provide additional support to Illinois recipients of the ALA scholarship. The following statements are taken from their applications.



Hannah Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Notions of identity, culture, displacement, and marginality have always been foremost on my mind as I grew up as a Korean American in white suburbia; attended a large public university divided over the issue of a racist school mascot; and began my teaching career.

My first teaching job was in a high school ravaged by gang violence in the Chicago Public School District. I had to rationalize and contextualize Chaucer,

Shakespeare, and other archaic texts to minority inner-city teenagers who faced responsibilities and hardships that made the reading of such texts seem initially irrelevant. I found myself asking questions about identity, culture, race, ethnicity, power, and language in the literature and critical articles I read, and in my teaching practices.

Soon after, I taught in France for two years and had my "otherness" highlighted on a regular basis. These were issues that my students were acutely familiar with as well — for many were the offspring of West and North African immigrants. I saw them struggle with cultural stigma and confusion — for they were told that they were French, yet "other" — and understood their struggle as they wrestled with finding their place within that country.

After I returned to school to pursue Writing Studies, I found myself teaching non-traditional, mostly minority students in the Academic Writing Program, and again found myself thinking about issues of identity, culture, displacement, and access as I taught these students. Even today, as I currently teach a motley group of undergraduate and graduate students on using video as a rhetorical medium, I feel like I am on the fringes, for there are some who would question the premise of combining video and writing to teach an advanced composition class. Thus, almost all of my professional experiences have dealt with these issues of marginality, culture, identity — of being on the edges.

It is this notion of marginality that first attracted me to teaching, and it has in turn brought me to where I am now, as I prepare to enter a graduate program in Library and Information Science. I have always been interested in information services — in access to information, literacy and policy issues, social justice, and the intersection between identity, culture, language, and power. After receiving my MLS, I would like to work in a diverse underserved library setting — and I know that my background and experiences will serve me well in this endeavor.



Harriett Elizabeth Green, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Libraries are the foundation of our communities: they are a gathering place where everyone can take part in the acts of reading and learning. I aspire to be a librarian because I want to contribute to the educational enrichment of young and old, and I feel that I am meant to work with people and share with them my passion for knowledge.

My studies at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science will be focused on academic librarianship, because I feel that our institutions of higher education are the bulwarks of knowledge and information in our communities. As an academic librarian, I hope to promote research and information to not only students and faculty, but all researchers seeking to use the library's resources. I feel that libraries are especially important for minority communities, because the library empowers them to build a better life for themselves through the information services available in the library. As a black female, I feel that I could serve as a more approachable information professional who uniquely understands the needs and mind-set of minority communities.

In my volunteer work at homeless shelters and with those in need, I have seen firsthand how the information provided in libraries is crucial to rebuilding people's lives and shoring up their futures. I think this is especially applicable to minority groups, given the higher numbers of low-income citizens in African American and Latino communities. As an African American librarian, I would work to make information services and databases fully accessible to everyone. In our

rapidly evolving digital age, the information literacy gap between socioeconomic classes has the potential to grow exponentially, as the poor are excluded financially from accessing Internet and digital services. As a librarian, I will be committed to preventing this inequality in information access and literacy.

I would be honored to be a Spectrum Scholar, and I know that I would uphold the principles espoused by the American Library Association and the Spectrum Scholarship Program. I feel called to librarianship because of my lifelong love of the written word and passion for preserving knowledge and artifacts, and my career as a librarian would be grounded in these ideals.



Deana Greenfield, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I wish to pursue my Masters in Library Science to understand how the concept of libraries is changing, to explore the common ground on which universities and large corporations such as Google are now standing, to educate faculty and students alike about how to effectively use the resources at hand, and to use my interest and knowledge of technology to enhance the way the study of literature is perceived (through the implementation of digital archives and other data collectives). My research interest at Northwestern University has been the materiality of language and how it can be used to break down ideological conventions and allow for multiple evocations of transnational or diasporic identity. The instability of categories such as “black,” “American,” and “foreign” despite (or perhaps because of) their constant repetition has led me to consider the role of lan-

guage in information classification and retrieval. What are effective ways to classify the literature of diverse populations without compromising identity? If identity is accepted on a fluid plane, how does that affect the field of information science? How can keywords and subject headings function within diasporic communities? These are some of the overarching questions that I wish to explore in tandem with learning practical methods of information classification. I greatly appreciate the practical experience that I have gained from working at the ground floor of library management in my role as a library assistant for Northwestern University’s extensive collection.

In my current position as the library program manager for National-Louis University, I am learning more about the importance of partnerships between libraries on a national and international scale. My background in teaching has shown me that librarians are foremost teachers in the sense that they help people find the information that they are seeking and discover connections that they may not have realized. I have an overwhelming desire to help students, faculty, and the general public seek out resources, discover information, and develop new questions and conclusions. As technology becomes more important in education, I believe that the people who act as bridges across the informational divide will come to prominence as leaders in this field. I wish to serve in such a leadership position and demonstrate to the public that the stereotype of the disconnected academic laboring away in the ivory tower isn’t necessarily true or useful. Leaders within the field of library science need to have an awareness of the isolated card catalog past but also maintain a vision of the virtual communities of the present and the future.



Roy Saldaña, Jr., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Public libraries serve many purposes in the lives of young people. For many at-risk and lower income youth, it is a safe haven place to study and learn during after-school hours. As times and human needs and expectations change, I feel that libraries need to follow suit. As standard as fiction and nonfiction sections are in public libraries, I feel that higher education preparation sections need to become main arteries of the library structure. I am interested in making this a long-term goal during my professional career as a librarian focusing on Youth Literature and Services.

One consistent need has become apparent to me while working in diverse settings including a family service agency, a K–12 school district, as well as a small, and “Big 10” university. Higher education preparation and procedures are not known well or early enough for at-risk and lower income youth to incorporate into their own life goals. Many parents of these children are also inexperienced in these respects. Thus, I intend to translate these needs in the form of after-school programs, so to empower youth to be proactive in their educational future.

Follow-through would be an essential objective of my higher education preparation initiative. Students are given mass amounts of higher education information in the form of books, handouts, and applications. Without follow-through assistance to navigate these resources, students will not as efficiently translate them into action. Thus, higher education preparation sections need to expand and come to life through a workshop format, with assertive follow-through efforts and a partnership of university students and higher education institutions.

I come from a family in which few obtained even the most basic education. I was someone who could have benefited greatly from after-school higher education programs. The significance of education was never understood nor incorporated in my family's life goals, thus I had no idea how to be educationally successful when enrolled as a college freshmen. As a result, I made significant errors in learning and managing the process of being a student. However, by senior year, I understood well how to navigate myself academically and on campus and am proud to have graduated and become a pioneer in my family history.

Collectively, I feel my educational journey and professional experiences make me a well-rounded individual who can successfully manage higher education resources, while empathetically navigating this information into the life-changing information students need to change their life path from at-risk and lower income youth to college graduates and contributors to society.



Laksamee Anne Putnam, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I want to be a librarian so I can give everyone the access and ability to understand how complex any individual or society can be. From my own personal experiences of growing up in a biracial family, I strive to be an effective librarian for a diverse future population. This is a goal I hope to fulfill by receiving a graduate degree in Library and Information Science.

When it comes to introducing myself I have a routine. It always starts with my name: Laksamee. First I give a lesson on how to pronounce it, then I say where it is

from, and finally I say what it means. Most people are more interested in identifying my ethnicity and they use my name as a polite doorway of inquiry. I typically lead the way by explaining that my mother is Thai and my father is American. Now I have identified myself as biracial and the conversation typically ends.

I often feel, when introducing myself, that all the other person wants to do is place me in a simple identifying category. My multicultural heritage is a big part of who I am, but it has also motivated my pursuit to be more than just someone with an interesting background. At a very young age I realized there was more to me than being the class "Pocahontas" and I empathized with others who were also stereotyped.

To show people there was more than one side to any story I decided to become a librarian and pass on information, expanding everyone's perspective. I draw strength from my heterogeneity, because I acknowledge everyone as a complex part within a progressive society. I plan to use my strength to help create a society that can become more unified by understanding every individual as unique.



Linda Sue Collins, Chicago State University

Leadership and facilitation of academic achievement in multicultural communities is my overarching goal. By managing an engaging collection of resources in sync with curricular needs, I support high student accomplishment. My commitment to educating children of all types is evidenced by fourteen years of service to urban students as an alumnus of Teach For America. Extensive experience in management, interpersonal and

public communications, curriculum planning, and instruction reflects an interdisciplinary career spanning over twenty-five years. As an African American elementary student I was impacted and motivated during the Civil Rights Movement. I pledged to carry on the work of helping change society to offer equal options and rich experiences to all its members. My diverse background includes interaction with people of all races, cultures, and religions, with varied learning modalities and behaviors.

In my practice, the maintenance of a well-stocked, high usage library is vital. I understand the phenomenal impact library programs have on literacy and content area research throughout an educational community. The library is a reservoir of information and should be student-centered. Having revived a formerly chaotic school library, we are now realizing the benefits of a robust library program. It's crucial for a librarian to constantly seek opportunities, sponsor special events, initiate collaborations, develop and promote the collection. My mission is to generate the excitement and diversity that energize a library.

A lifelong learner, my professional development focuses on research, design, implementation, and evaluation of successful elementary education and information literacy programs. It is mandatory to address the needs of contemporary youth. I strive to assist students in obtaining a relevant knowledge base. As my career evolves, efficiency in reference functions should significantly increase. It is urgent to increase applications for technology integration, project-based assessments, multicultural and self-awareness, and evaluation of Web resources for validity. Currently I customize and try resourceful approaches to cataloging and circulation utilizing standard computer software. My librarianship is vested in obtaining quality education, along with the integrity that I bring. I value the opportunity to earn a Masters in Library Science with the financial and professional support this scholarship affords.



Elizabeth Hernandez, Dominican University

Librarians are individuals who hold unlimited power as a result of their access to information. A dedicated librarian provides a learning environment in which all patrons feel confident that their information needs will be addressed. I aspire to become a librarian because of my steadfast commitment to assist people and to impart the insight and skills necessary to further develop and expand inquisitive minds.

One of the most important elements of this profession is that it allows a forum upon which individuals can help motivate and enlighten others. Subsequently, librarians have the opportunity to change and improve lives, families, and communities. My primary objective in this role is to help underrepresented people enhance their personal abilities by helping them to collect and synthesize information, think critically, and aid them in developing a relationship with words. If people learn to create a personal rapport with words, they will more easily become successful, lifelong learners.

Often many might take for granted the array of books that are available in libraries. However, librarians recognize the responsibility associated with taking care to insure that a wide array of resources and literature is available. They identify the importance of freedom of expression and the protection of the public's right to access information. Subsequently, they can be described as gatekeepers who serve as guides to help others navigate through what can seem like overwhelming volumes of data and make certain that all patrons obtain the information avenues they seek.

Collaboration is another crucial component of this career. For example, if librarians place effort toward creating positive interactions with local residents and neighborhood leaders, they can be more aware of the needs of their community. Consequently, they can establish collections of publications and resources that focus on local area matters and concerns in an effort to increase awareness and promote the development of the community overall.

I believe that my purpose as a librarian is to provide patrons with a welcoming, organized, and balanced learning atmosphere. I choose to pursue this profession with the purpose of inviting and encouraging others to use the library as a source for development and improvement. My focus is to help people become stronger versions of themselves and to give them the tools necessary to better and more competitively function in mainstream society.

2008 Charlotte Kim Scholars in Residence Program

The Chicago Public Library (CPL) invites ILA members to the 2008 Charlotte Kim Scholars in Residence Program, Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago.

Patricia Martin, author and cultural analyst, will deliver the keynote address: "How to Build the RenGen Brand from the Inside Out." Martin will explain the significance of the rising RenGen, short for Renaissance Generation, a movement created by the convergence of art, entertainment, information technology, and business. This full-day presentation will help you position your library to attract this rising tide of bright, socially responsible, eco-conscious, culturally curious consumers, and to shape their library experience.

The following panelists and presenters will join Martin:

Brandy Agerbeck, graphic facilitator, Loosetooth Communications;

George Needham, vice president

of member services, OCLC;

Ty Tabing, executive director, Chicago Loop Alliance; and

Carol B. White, president, Carol B. White and Associates, Inc.

Their thought-provoking comments will stimulate thinking from all levels of staff at all types of libraries...it is not just for marketing professionals! Martin's presentation at last year's program was riveting, and she will expand upon the conversation she began in 2007. Come join us for a day of well-researched content and practical applications.

Please contact Joan Levey at (312) 747-4963, or e-mail: jlevey@chipublib.org, for additional information and for registration instructions visit the library's Web site at www.chipublib.org.

Start a Science Club at Your Library with Free Resources from PBS's FETCH!

Create some science buzz at your library by offering hands-on activities from the PBS kids' show *FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman*. The free *Ruff Guide to Science* will help you draw kids (ages 8–10) to your library for six science activities and a game that introduces them to exciting careers in science. This resource, designed with librarians in mind, includes tips on recruiting kids from your community (and managing the lengthy wait list), leader notes, kid direction sheets that can be photocopied, membership cards to start a weekly *FETCH* Club, and a list of related science books (selected by librarians) to feature so as to increase the circulation



of your science collection. No television viewing is required and all activities use easy-to-find, inexpensive materials that won't break your budget. This resource is especially of value to librarians working in public libraries, but could be equally useful at schools where librarians and science teachers collaborate.

To order your free copy to be mailed in fall 2008, send an e-mail to fetchnews@wgbh.org including your name, organization, mailing address (please indicate work or home address), e-mail, and phone number.

***Libraries Connect
Communities: Public
Library Funding &
Technology Access Study
2007–2008 Available
Online***

Featuring new data on technology funding, IT staff support, public access computer time limits, and management and support for peripheral devices, the American Library Association (ALA) has published *Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2007–2008*.

Conducted by ALA and the Information Use Management and Policy Institute at Florida State University (FSU), the study is available for free download at www.ala.org/plinternetfunding. Additional copies may be purchased through the ALA Store. The report provides state-level data and information from libraries of all sizes.

As part of the release, the ALA will highlight key findings to media and link back to the value of libraries and library cards as part of Library Card Sign-up Month (September). ALA hopes this also provides an opportunity for libraries to highlight their Internet services, classes, and new or unique technology offerings. Some possible programmatic or media tie-ins for local libraries might include:

- Announcing your library will offer “tours” of the library Web site during Library Card Sign-up Month;
- Announcing new online resources or classes now available;
- Highlighting “top 10” staff picks of licensed resources freely available through the library;
- Announcing increases in hits to library Web site, Internet sessions, or use of electronic resources, particularly if you can compare it with a previous year;
- Announcing what your library has done in the past year to improve technology access or raise awareness of barriers the library faces in providing high-quality technology access; and
- Including library technology as part of media outreach around back-to-school and/or issue a release focusing on the resources available to help students returning to classrooms.

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<http://www.gumdropbooks.com/library/Scholarship08-09.pdf>.

If you have questions, please contact us at 800-651-2580 or email scholarships@gumdropbooks.com



ILA Welcomes New Members

We would love to welcome your friends and colleagues, too. By sponsoring a new member, you share the benefits of membership with others... and help create a stronger and more effective voice to promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

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Sarah E. Dulay, Northwestern Business College, Bridgeview
Beth Duttlinger, Alliance Library System, East Peoria
Christy Eyre, Brookfield Public Library
Jeanette E. Finkes, Freeport Public Library
Maureen F. Garzaro, Fountaindale Public Library District, Bolingbrook
Bella Karr Gerlich, Dominican University, River Forest
Susan Rush Gerstenecker, Pontiac/William Holliday School District #105, Fairview Heights
Betty Giorgi, Wilmette Public Library District
Michael Gorman, Chicago
Ben Haines, Forest Park Public Library
Amy Hanaway, Decatur Public Library
Lynette Heiden, Charles B. Phillips Public Library District, Newark
Connie Heneghan, Evanston Public Library
Heather Hollis, Kewanee Public Library District
John Holmes, Bartlett
Jessica Hubinek, Carol Stream Public Library
Alyce R. Jackson, Peoria Public Library
Mayureshwari Jakate, Addison Public Library
Margaret M. Johnston, Geneva Public Library
Melissa Jones, Schaumburg Township District Library
Dubravka Juraga, Triton College, River Grove
Susan Keller, Cary Area Public Library
Christy Kepler, Oswego Public Library District
Jamie King, Hainesville
Kathryn M. Kniffen, Evanston Public Library
Susan Kunkle, Forest Park Public Library
Nancy Kupec, Park Forest Public Library
Melissa Lambrecht, Eisenhower Public Library District, Harwood Heights
Tiffany L. Lewis, Eisenhower Public Library District, Harwood Heights
Laura Lowe, Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Lockport
Jeanne May, Helen Matthes Library, Effingham
Janet McIntyre, Glenview Public Library
Paul D. Mills, Prairie Area Library System, Coal Valley
Estevan P. Montano, Ela Area Public Library District, Lake Zurich

Beverly Nash, Niles Public Library District, Chicago
Judy Nicholas, Plainfield Public Library District
Mary H. Ocasek, Indian Trails Public Library District,
 Wheeling
Laura Oldenburg, Steger-South Chicago Heights Public
 Library District, Steger
Patti Paige, Ela Area Public Library District, Lake Zurich
Lisa Palmer, Palatine Public Library District
Jeni Pastors, Naperville
Jashubhai Patel, Skokie
Rita Perona, Elmhurst Public Library
Jo N. Robinson, Mount Prospect Public Library
Joel Sanders, University of Illinois at Chicago
Abby R. Schor, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Elisabeth Seasonwein, Ela Area Public Library District,
 Lake Zurich
Katherine Sexton, Berwyn Public Library
Madeline Shea, Glen Ellyn Public Library
Leora Ornstein Siegel, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
Regina Stephens, Plainfield Public Library District
Eileen M. Stewart, Wheaton Public Library
Sarah Strahl, Ela Area Public Library District, Lake Zurich
Susan Stumbaugh, Park Forest Public Library
Sarah Stumpf, Des Plaines Valley Public Library District,
 Lockport
Gayla Swansen, Palatine Public Library District
Julia Theobald, Rolling Prairie Library System, Decatur
Bradley P. Tolppanen, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
Peggy Tomzik, Eisenhower Public Library District,
 Harwood Heights
Joanne Torogian, Grayslake Area Public Library District
Dawne Tortorella, BellCow, Inc., Riverside
Diane L. Velasquez, Dominican University, River Forest
Rudolf Vilik, Morton Grove
Pat Vorwald, Freeport Public Library
Colleen Waltman, New Lenox Public Library District
Laura Wapole, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
Leah White, Calumet City Public Library
Stephanie Wolferman, Glenside Public Library District,
 Glendale Heights

STUDENT MEMBERS

Cheryl Andrew, Chicago Public Library
Leslie A. Barrs, Shorewood-Troy Public Library District
Carol Dolan, Fox River Grove Public Library District
Kathryn Dowd, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Sarah Ehlers, Hinsdale Public Library
Lisa Fabris, Poplar Creek Public Library District, Streamwood
Emily Faught, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove
Breanne Geery, Riverside
Adam Girard, Highland Park Public Library
Joslyn Jones, Plainfield Public Library District
Julie Jurgens, Glenside Public Library District, Glendale Heights
Rachel Juris, Highland Park Public Library
Jonathan Kirsch, Wilmette
Jacqueline Laramie, Itasca
Ryan Larkin, William R. Harper College, Palatine
Candice Lynne Lauret, Des Plaines
Asher H. Lowrey, DeKalb
Joe Marcantonio, Plainfield Public Library District
Anita Mechler, University of Illinois at Chicago
Edward Moy, Schaumburg Township District Library
Elizabeth Neill, Brookfield Public Library
Jennifer Norborg, Oak Park Public Library
Bob Peck, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jacob Post, Arlington Heights
Robert Schiller, Saint Charles
Marisa Spooner, Dominican University, River Forest
Renee Wellborn, Central Citizens' Library District, Clifton

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Patricia Cross, Freeport Public Library
Edward J. Geeser, Rockford Public Library
Jeffrey M. Glass, Rockford Public Library
Connie Hendrickson, Bradley Public Library District
Frank Marasco, McHenry Public Library District
Don McCarty, Bradley Public Library District
Nancy Offenhiser, Freeport Public Library
Skip Richardson, Bradley Public Library District
Jeffery Rozovics, Des Plaines Public Library
Ron Selph, Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City
Steve Ziegler, Mahomet Public Library District

Illinois Reading Enrichment and Development Committee (iREAD)

Lisa Sarm, Lincoln Library

The iREAD Committee would like to high-five all participating Illinois libraries for making *Get in the Game—READ!* a success.

The iREAD products for the 2009 *Read on the Wild Side* campaign are available for purchase. The catalog is enclosed in this issue of the *ILA Reporter* and a PDF of the catalog is posted on the ILA Web site. You can also access our wonderful online shopping site at the redesigned iREAD page: www.ila.org/iread or, go to the ILA home page and click on the iREAD (eye + READ) icon.

Some of the committee's favorite products are: new stickers featuring eight different characters per sheet, a mesmerizing morphing bookmark, fun flying drop 'n' pop zeebeez, a stylish travel mug, skater beanie caps, fuzzy wristbands, and even an elephant radio!

Remember, orders received past November 7, 2008 will incur an additional late fee of \$5.00 and materials ordered on time will be shipped sometime in January/February 2009.

Don't let this scare you, but this year we are looking for submissions for all ages — kids, teens, and adults. If you have spine-tingling, book-opening ideas for crafts, slogans, songs, skits, finger plays, decorations, games, book titles, Web resources, programs, etc., Resource Guide Coordinator Michele Wyss seeks your submissions for 2010's theme: *Scare Up a Good Book!* Submissions are due to Wyss by January 7, 2009 for inclusion in the 2010 *Resource Guide*.

Vince Sovanski, 2009's iREAD chair would also like to thank all the youth services librarians who attended the iREAD 2011 Brainstorming and 2009 Showcase at the 2008 ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier. All the members

of the iREAD committee hope that you enjoyed stopping by this event and seeing the finalists for the 2010 *Scare Up a Good Book* teen poster contest and all the fun ideas to take back to your libraries.

Finally, if you wish to volunteer on the iREAD Resource Guide task force (the gracious volunteers who edit each section of the resource guide), or if you wish to work on the iREAD Committee, please write current chair Vince Sovanski, Glenside Public Library District, 25 E. Fullerton Ave., Glendale Heights, IL 60139; phone: (630) 260-1550; e-mail: ghdyouth@glensidepld.org.

Marketing Committee

Peggy Berry, Naperville Public Libraries

The ILA Marketing Committee, chaired by Alissa Williams (Bloomington Public Library) has met and set goals for the 2008–2009 year:

Host annual Inspiration Station (previously Swap-N-Shop) at ILA Annual Conference beginning in 2008 to share best practices in marketing materials.

Using a free service, create a library marketing blog which will be incorporated into the ILA Web site following the upcoming site renovation/redesign. Blog editor is Denise Raleigh (Gail Borden Public Library District).

Increase *ILA Reporter* presence.

Plan and present a marketing-related program at the 2009 ILA Annual Conference. Please send your suggestions for consideration to alissaw@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Research and develop possible statewide campaign highlighting libraries as a community's "green resource."

Reaching Forward

Sally Schuster, Addison Public Library

It is hard to believe that the 2009 Reaching Forward Conference is just a little more than seven months away. Those of us on the committee feel like

we just finished the 2008 conference. However, time is not a good thing to waste, so we have already begun to pick topics and speakers for next May.

The keynote speaker is Michael Stephens from Dominican University. He has spoken at numerous library conferences to rave reviews, and the committee is delighted to have him at Reaching Forward. There will be more detailed information about Michael and his keynote address in the next issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

The process for selecting programs begins with a general list of topics. This year the list includes staffing, children's programming, general programs, tweens, authors, adults, adult readers' advisory, adult technology, and hot topics. At the first planning session held in August, committee members suggested programs that fit under each of those topics. The list is more than five pages long.

Then, it is time to narrow in on which of the many suggestions will work and to determine who can speak about that particular topic. By the time you read this article, most of the topics will be set and presenters will be under contract.

One of the goals of the committee is to have two or more programs from each of the general topics. For some library departments, like readers' advisory, it is easy to find new and different programs each year. For others it is much more of a challenge. Each year, programs concerning technical services seem to be one of the most difficult in finding new topics and interesting speakers.

If it seems that your specialty is not being addressed, please suggest program ideas and speakers to anyone on the committee. To make it as easy as possible, there is a form on the Reaching Forward Web site (www.reachingforward.org) that you can complete. New ideas make the Reaching Forward Conference what it is.

If you haven't marked your calendar, the 2009 conference is Friday, May 1, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont.

Young Adult Services Forum (YASF)

Kelly Laszczak, Orland Park Public Library

The Young Adult Services Forum is growing! Since its inception in 2006, we've added new members and set forth official guidelines for meetings and terms of service. Hopefully you had a chance to attend the YASF Reception on Wednesday night at the ILA Annual Conference and meet some of the forum members and other young adult librarians. The forum members were also present at the many teen programs that the conference hosted. At conference, there were evaluation forms that allowed potential members to express interest in joining the Young Adult Services Forum. If you are interested in planning ILA Annual Conference programs with other librarians who work with teens, planning regional workshops, and helping establish an ILA award specifically for Young Adult Librarians, then you should consider joining the forum — contact the forum manager, Veronica Schwartz (vschwartz@dppl.org) at the Des Plaines Public Library.

Youth Services Forum

Mary Marshall, Addison Public Library

The Youth Services Forum announced the winners of the Davis Cup

Award and the Golden Ticket Award at the ILA Annual Conference Youth Services Breakfast. Lori Craft, director of the Hillside Public Library, was chosen as this year's recipient of the Davis Cup Award. The Davis Cup Award honors an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library services to young people within her/his community and beyond. To qualify for the Davis Cup Award, nominees must be members of ILA, have a Masters in Library Science, and participate in organizations both within and outside of their communities. Kathy Nief, representing Children's Press, Weston Woods, Franklin Watts, Grolier, and Scholastic Classroom and Library Group, the sponsor of the award, presented the traditional Davis Cup silver bowl and a cash prize.

Craft is the former head of youth services at the Itasca Public Library and a former youth services staff member of the Downers Grove Public Library. She has been a member of the ILA Youth Forum, twice chaired the iREAD program, and been past co-chair of the Youth Forum Awards Committee. The Awards Committee chose Craft as the recipient of the Davis Cup because of her creativity, her advocacy for youth, and her involvement in statewide programs.

Noël Zethmayr, head of young adult services at the LaGrange Public Library, was chosen as this year's recipient of the Golden Ticket Award. The Golden Ticket is awarded to an individual who

works directly with children and has made an outstanding local contribution in library services to young people in his/her community by creating and implementing library programs that promote a love of literature and instill positive feelings about libraries. Rob Zimmers, representing Quality Books, the sponsor of the award, presented Noël with a one-year paid membership to ILA and a cash prize.

Noël's creative programming for young adults, including movie nights, summer reading programs, the complete Jane Austen Reduced readers theatre, and her online videos "Book Talks with Noël," impressed the Awards Committee. Noël has chaired the MLS Young Adult Special Interest Group and is passionate about education and programs for young adults.

Members of the Youth Forum Awards Committee include: Carol Brockmeyer (Daugherty Public Library District), Angela Green (Alliance Library System), Melissa Henderson (Glencoe Public Library), Kristi Howe (Helen Plum Memorial Library), Pam Kramer (DuPage Library System), Portia Latalladi (Chicago Public Library, Garfield Ridge Branch), Kelly Laszczak (Orland Park Public Library), Jody Long (Barclay Public Library District), Sarah Schroeder (Oak Lawn Public Library), Michele Wyss (Forman Valley Public Library), and Mary Marshall, chair, (Addison Public Library).



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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; contact Kim Drake at (217) 223-1309 x201 or kdrake@quincylibrary.org/.
- 6 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 20 Deadline for December issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**
- 27 Show Me the Money! Financial Strategies for Your Library.**
Rolling Prairie Library System, 345 W. Eldorado St., Decatur, IL 62522-2114. Register online at www.ila.org/events/.

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/>.

- 7 iREAD meeting,** 11:00 A.M., Peru Public Library, 1409 11th St., Peru, IL 61354; phone: (815) 223-0229.
- 8 ILA Library Trustee Forum business meeting,** Brookfield Public Library, 3609 Grand Blvd., Brookfield, IL 60513 from 10:00 A.M. to NOON. For further information, please contact Carol Kissane, phone: (708) 387-0670; e-mail: c.kiss@comcast.net.
- 10 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 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/>.
- 19 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/>.
- 21 ILA Executive Board meeting,** 10:00 A.M., Prairie Area Library System, 405 Earl Rd., Shorewood, IL 60431-9445; phone: (815) 729-3345; fax: (815) 725-0930.

DECEMBER 2008

- 1 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Prairie Area Library System (Rockford), Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 10 Illinois State Library Advisory Committee,** Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill.
- 20 Deadline for February issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

JANUARY 2009

- 5 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Prairie Area Library System (Rockford), Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 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

- 2** **ILA Public Policy Committee meeting**, NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Prairie Area Library System (Rockford), and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 6** **iREAD meeting**, 11:00 A.M., Peru Public Library, 1409 11th St., Peru, IL 61354; phone: (815) 223-0229.
- 20** **Deadline for April issue of the *ILA Reporter***.
- 20** **ILA Executive Board meeting**, 10:00 A.M., via VTEL videoconferencing, Alliance Library System, Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), Prairie Library System (Rockford), Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System.
- 28** **Trustee Forum Workshop**, Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, 1195 Summerhill Dr., Lisle, IL 60532. Individual attendees will make reservations for the event directly with Marriott Reservations at 800-334-0344. If the individual attendee does not check in, there will be a charge of one night's room rate. Registration form will be in the December 2008 issue of the *ILA Reporter*.

MARCH 2009

- 2** **ILA Public Policy Committee meeting**, NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 12-15** **Association of College and Research Libraries Fourteenth National Conference**, Seattle, Wash. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/acrl/>.

APRIL 2009

- 3** **iREAD meeting**, 11:00 A.M., Peru Public Library, 1409 11th St., Peru, IL 61354; phone: (815) 223-0229.
- 6** **ILA Public Policy Committee meeting**, NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.

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; <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.
- 4** **ILA Public Policy Committee meeting**, NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago), Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.

MAY 2009 (CONT.)

- 11–12 National Library Legislative Day,** Washington, D.C. The ALA briefing day will be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill, an Affinia Hotel, 415 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001. ILA has reserved a block of rooms at the Capitol Hill Suites, 200 C St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003; phone: (202) 543-6000; fax: (202) 547-0883; \$249 single, \$269 double, \$289 triple, and \$309 quad, 14.5 percent sales taxes are not included. Room rates include continental breakfast. High speed wired and wireless Internet access are available complimentary within guest suites.
- 15 All award nominations are due in the ILA Office.**

JUNE 2009

- 1 ILA Public Policy Committee meeting,** NOON, Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Illinois State Library, Lewis & Clark Library System, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Metropolitan Library System (Burr Ridge), North Suburban Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System via VTEL videoconferencing.
- 20 Deadline for August issue of the *ILA Reporter*.**

JULY 2009

- 10–15 ALA Annual Conference,** Chicago; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.
- 17 iREAD meeting,** 11:00 A.M., Peru Public Library, 1409 11th St., Peru, IL 61354; phone: (815) 223-0229.

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.

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; <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*.

15–18 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.

OCTOBER 2010

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

NOVEMBER 2010

4–6 Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Chicago Sheraton Northwest, Arlington Heights, Ill. For further information, see <http://www.islma.org/>.

DECEMBER 2010

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

JANUARY 2011

7–12 ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, Calif.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

FEBRUARY 2011

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

APRIL 2011

7–10 Association of College and Research Libraries Fifteenth National Conference, Philadelphia, Pa. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/acrl/>.

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

JUNE 2011

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

23–29 ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, La.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

AUGUST 2011

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

OCTOBER 2011

18–21 ILA Annual Conference at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL 60018.

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

26–30 American Association of School Librarians Fifteenth National Conference and Exhibition, Minneapolis, Minn. For further information, see <http://www.ala.org/aasl/>.

DECEMBER 2011

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

JANUARY 2012

20–25 ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, Tex.; phone: (312) 280-3225; <http://www.ala.org/>.

THE LIBRARY OF AMERICA *presents*

William Maxwell

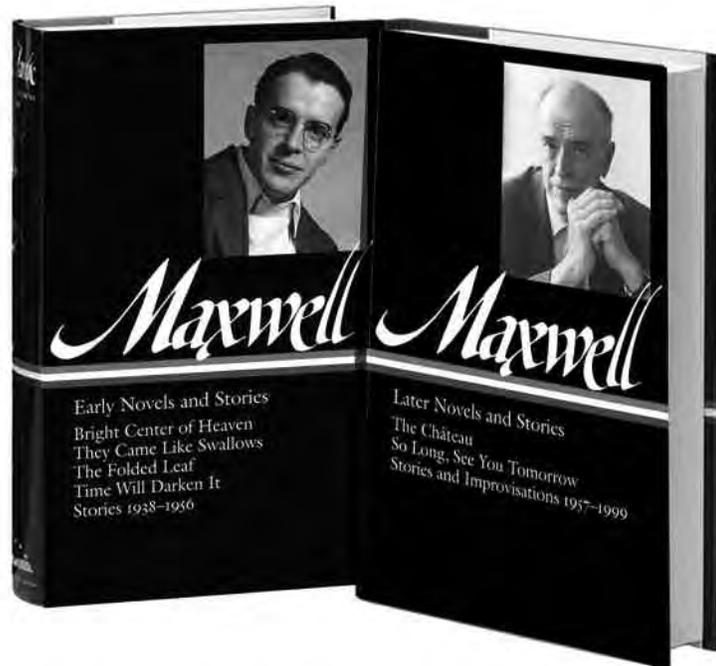
Early Novels and Stories

Later Novels and Stories

A deluxe centennial
edition of the great
Illinois writer

Born in 1908 in Lincoln, Illinois, and a 1930 graduate of the University of Illinois, William Maxwell was a quintessential midwestern writer whose work—even after moving to New York and a long career as editor at *The New Yorker*—remained steeped in the rhythms and resonances of his Illinois home. On the centennial of Maxwell's birth, here is an unprecedented two-volume collected edition that restores the full range of this extraordinary literary voice. John Updike has called "one of the wisest in American fiction . . . as well as one of the kindest." In *Early Novels and Stories*, Maxwell's lighthearted first novel, *Bright Center of Heaven* (1934)—here restored to print after more than 75 years—is gathered with nine masterly short stories and his three major early works: *They Came Like Swallows* (1937), *The Folded Leaf* (1945), and *Time Will Darken It* (1948). *Later Novels and Stories* gathers *The Château* (1961) and *So Long, See You Tomorrow* (1980), widely considered Maxwell's greatest work. Part memoir, part fictional re-creation of a crime of passion, Charles Baxter has called Maxwell's final novel "an unobtrusively perfect example of literary art." Here too is the story collection *Billie Dyer* (1992) and eleven other works of short fiction—some never before collected. The volume concludes with forty brief "improvisations"—fairy tales Maxwell wrote for his wife—and the essay "Nearing Ninety" (1997), his moving valediction to a lifetime of reading and storytelling.

Christopher Carduff, editor, is a consulting editor at The Library of America. A longtime publisher and book editor, he collaborated with William Maxwell on several projects.



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"Will surely cement Maxwell's reputation."
—Barnes & Noble Review

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Libraries Can Go Green



I began my professional library career in 1991. At the time, public awareness of environmental issues was on the downswing. Interest peaked in the early 1970s, with the first Earth Day and the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency. Events like the Cuyahoga River fire in 1969 and the Love Canal disaster in 1979 led to the passage of a slew of environmental laws including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, otherwise known as Superfund. Consumers also became interested in energy conservation and smaller cars in the late 1970s as gas prices topped \$1.00 per gallon.

But by the early 1990s, memories of these events had faded. Most people equated industrial pollution with environmental problems and thought that the laws passed in the 1970s and 1980s solved that. By the late 1980s, many people increasingly believed that personal responsibility for the environment was the bailiwick of liberal weirdos. Atmospheric scientists discussed and debated climate change, but it was of little interest to the general public. Cars and houses got bigger. Big box stores like Wal-Mart and Best Buy sold consumer goods from overseas more and more cheaply. Few people thought about where these products were made or what effect they had on the environment.

Fast forward to the present. Al Gore, once considered a political has-been, is now an environmental superhero. People worry about the plastics in their kids' toys and where their food comes from. Climate change makes headlines in daily newspapers and every company from Wal-Mart to Clorox is clamoring to show consumers how green they are. I knew environmentalism had really hit the mainstream when I saw *Sustainable Living for Dummies* in my local bookstore as part of a huge display of green lifestyle books.

So where do libraries fit into this new green culture? The good news is that the library's core services are already eco-friendly because they encourage people to borrow rather than buy materials. That's an excellent place to start. Beyond that, there are two major areas where libraries can be greener.

The first is in building operations and maintenance. Some small things with fairly quick payback time include:

- Printing fewer copies. Use digital files instead and collaborate in work-sharing documents. When you can't avoid it, print on both sides of the page, reuse paper that's only been printed on one side, and look into the free (Windows-compatible) software from GreenPrint (<http://www.printgreener.com/>) that helps you avoid printing blank or unwanted pages.
- Turning off lights in unused rooms.
- Shutting off computers, copiers, and other energy hogs at night.
- Purchasing programmable thermostats, then using them properly so you're not heating or cooling the building when people aren't in it.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Purchasing reusable coffee mugs, plates, utensils, and drink cups instead of disposables.
- Using tap water in pitchers rather than buying bottled water. If you provide drinks as a part of a library program, buy dry drink mix and make your own rather than buying the premixed version.

Some bigger projects include:

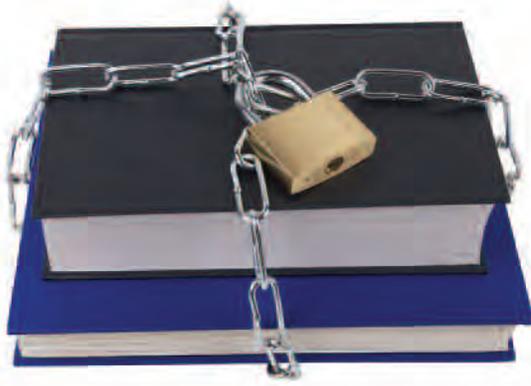
- Installing occupancy sensors to turn off lights when nobody is using a room.
- Starting a library-wide recycling program if you don't already have one. Don't forget that you can also recycle soda cans and plastic drink bottles, as well as paper. Some recycling programs also accept bound materials like books. Check with your hauler.
- Evaluating the office products and cleaning supplies you use and replacing them with greener alternatives.
- Replacing old computers, electronic equipment, and appliances with ones that are Energy Star certified.
- Landscaping with native flowers and plants around your building or planting a rain garden to help to absorb rainwater runoff from your parking lot. Consider working with a local environmental group to do these projects.
- Incorporating green building materials and design elements into your next remodeling or new building project.
- Running your bookmobile on biodiesel fuel. You might be able to partner with a local high school and use fuel made from cafeteria waste oil.

The second area where libraries can lead the way is by fostering environmental sustainability efforts within the community. Some ways to do this include:

- Collaborating with local environmental groups to be a community recycling drop-off site for batteries or used electronics.
- Establishing an environmental book club or considering books with an environmental theme for your next One Book community program. The ISTC Library's *Environmental Novels Reference Guide* (http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/library_docs/other_pubs/EnvironmentalNovels.pdf) has some suggestions to get you started.
- Developing other programs with sustainability themes. Create a kid's program around the book *The Garbage Monster* and incorporate a craft that uses things that people usually throw away. Book a speaker on a green business or lifestyle issue. Have an environmental film festival.
- Developing displays that showcase your collection of sustainable living books and DVDs.
- Advertising your library's sustainability efforts. Libraries can and should establish themselves as community leaders in this area.

Is your library doing something great to be green? Send your library's name and a brief description of the project to lbarnes@istc.illinois.edu so I can incorporate it into a green libraries workshop I'm giving at the Lincoln Trail Libraries System in March 2009. I'd also like to take this workshop on the road. If you're interested, encourage your library system to contact me and I'll be happy to work them into my schedule.

Kermit was right. It isn't always easy being green. But with some thought and planning, it can be easier and will improve your library and your community.



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