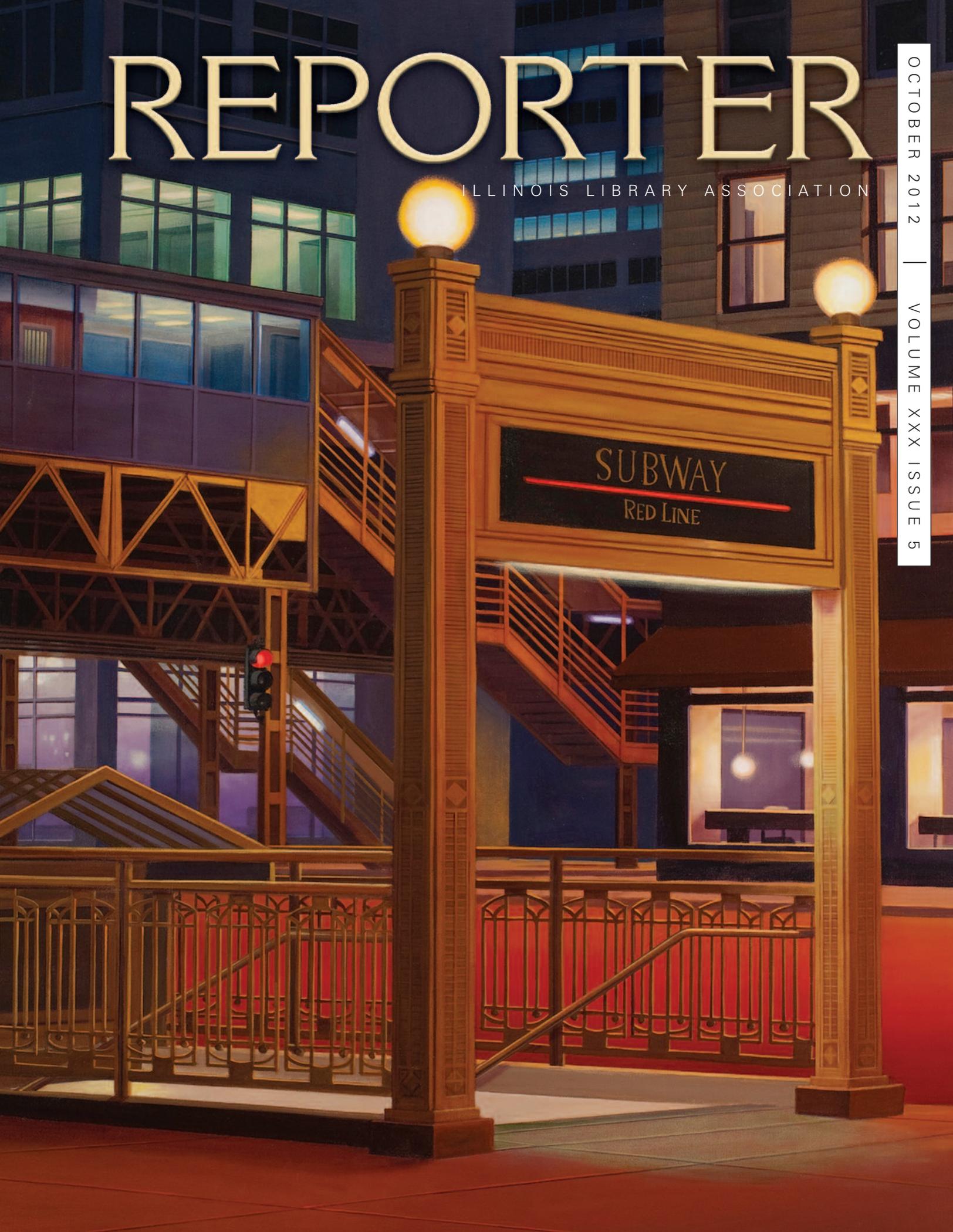


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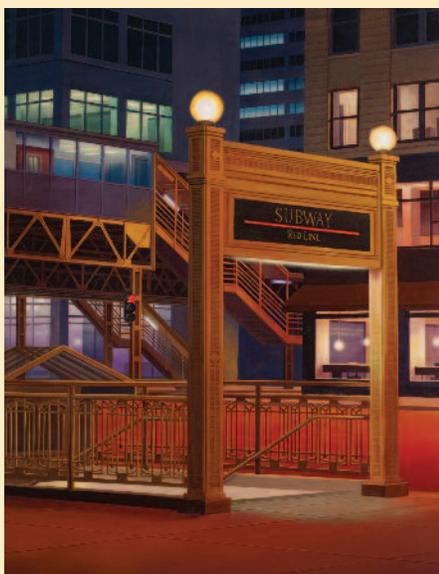
OCTOBER 2012

VOLUME XXX ISSUE 5



The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



ON THE COVER

Artist Kathleen Eaton's exhibit, *Urban Landscapes*, was shown in the Barrington Area Library's Gallery in the library from August through September 2012. Eaton's work has been featured in one-person and group shows for over twenty-five years and many pieces have been acquired nationally for public, corporate, and private collections, including her murals in the new terminal at Midway Airport. The painting on the cover, *Entrance to the Red Line*, is oil on canvas. See "Art in the Library: A How-to Guide for Temporary Exhibitions," beginning on page 4.

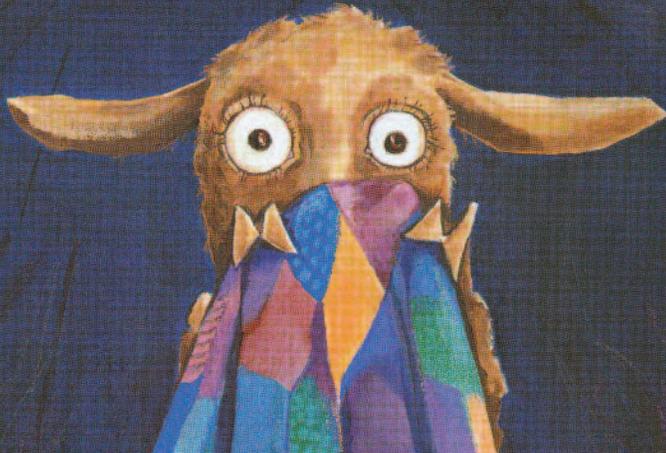
The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,200 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

The *ILA Reporter* is published six times/year (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.) and is a benefit of ILA membership; the subscription rate for nonmembers is \$25. ISSN 0018-9979. Designed by Verso Design Corp., Joliet, Ill. Printed by Aspen Printing Services. Indexed by EBSCO in *Library & Information Science Source*. The *ILA Reporter* was first published in 1962.

See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Robert P. Doyle

Art in the Library: A How-to Guide for Temporary Exhibitions

Our library recently began displaying temporary art exhibits and orchestrating community art projects with great success — it brought people into the library, gave our patrons not only wonderful things to look at but also to think about, and gave both the artists and our community a gallery space they hadn't had before. We realized that we needed to develop policies, procedures, and contracts for this, and had a lot of questions. We surveyed a sample of Illinois libraries to learn what they do and how they do it and received 104 survey responses from all types of libraries.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Respondents from small libraries with service populations under 10,000 are just as likely to exhibit art as large libraries with populations over 100,000.
- Libraries don't need a formal gallery space; only fifteen libraries report having one. Most (88 percent) exhibit throughout the building. While it's not uncommon to display in a meeting room, only six respondents use a room that's only open for programs or meetings. The idea seems to be that if you're going to display it, put it where most people can see it most of the time.
- Most respondents don't offer opening or closing receptions, or provide postcards to promote exhibits. These are common in other venues, often with the venue footing the bill, but sometimes with the artist paying, or providing potluck. Many libraries use their newsletters and traditional promotional methods in lieu of postcards. Libraries that do provide opening receptions say it's well worth the price of cheese and crackers. Barrington Area Library attracts crowds of 30–100 for art, appetizers, and Italian sodas. Sheryl Orlove, an independent curator who often works with libraries and helped us with an exhibit recently, explains that most sales happen at opening and closing receptions.
- Some libraries display an already-organized exhibit, others do a call for artists and then make their own selections. The library director is usually involved, often along with a committee made up of staff, artists, partner organizations, and others. The Wilmette Public Library enlists a jury of professional artists to select artwork for a prestigious annual show, which is followed by monthly exhibits throughout the year. Only four survey respondents involve their library boards in the selection process, and only one involves the Friends.
- Temporary exhibits tend to hang between one and three months. Local art is the focus for a majority of exhibits, but themes vary. Children's artwork, local culture, and book-inspired themes are some favorites. Groups of local quilters, photographers, gallery owners and others display their wares in libraries.
- Some of the most popular community art projects are contests. Auctions often follow these, with proceeds benefiting a community organization. This summer at Gail Borden Public Library District, in keeping with the iREAD[®] Reading Is So Delicious summer reading theme, local artists painted bistro tables and chairs, which were displayed at local businesses, organizations, and the library. The bistro sets were auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting sustainability programs.

[continued on page 6]



- Many exhibits and community art projects utilize partnerships with area schools and other organizations, and those partnerships are naturally their own reward. “Reach out to organizations to partner with,” urges Amy Ihnen, director of the Chatham Area Public Library District. “The art community may not think of showing in a library, but explain the amount of foot traffic you receive in a day and also the diverse clientele that may never step foot into a gallery to look at art.”

FROM LOGAN SQUARE TO CARBONDALE

Independent curator/artist/librarian Sheryl Orlove recently curated an exhibit for the Carbondale Public Library, with work by seven artists, interpreting scenes from *The Book of Imaginary Beings* by Jorge Luis Borges. Each artist created six works, originally shown at the I Am Logan Square gallery in Chicago, then displayed in Carbondale and offered for sale in the library.

“I would love to be a programming librarian!” Orlove says. “There’s so much you can do to connect literature to art, connecting to a book or a genre. So many cultural references can be pulled together by a theme. There’s so much that can be done to pull people into the library with various interests.”

There were two reasons to bring Orlove’s “Imaginary Beings” show to the Carbondale Public Library: The book tie-in made it a natural fit, and five of the seven artists are Southern Illinois University (SIU) alumni. An alumna herself, Orlove had coordinated the show from the start, and having her assistance was particularly helpful as none of the artists live in Carbondale any longer. About thirty people attended the opening, including two of the artists, and the forty-two “imaginary beings” remained in the library for six weeks. The book dangled nearby for anyone wanting to read more about the beings.

A map is another way to help the viewer navigate the exhibit. “We create a map for our displayed artwork for every show,” says Ihnen. “This helps people locate particular artwork/artists when they come into the building. You’ll be surprised at how many people you’ll see carrying those maps throughout the show.”

COVERING COSTS

Most exhibits are low cost, but professional exhibits can be rented or borrowed from museums or the ALA Public Programs Office (<http://www.ala.org/programming/exhibitions>). The Ela Area Public Library rented “Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album” from the Anne Frank Center in New York, featuring photos of Anne Frank’s family. The library hired a docent trainer from the Anne Frank Center to train area teachers, library staff,

and volunteer docents. Docents provided information to viewers and helped with large tours. The library added elements, including a room replicating Anne’s annex.

The exhibit was funded by a combination of sources: the library budget; an LSTA grant; Friends; the Illinois Arts Council; and the local Rotary, which paid for hardware to hang the exhibit. Insurance was a significant expense, but as Ela Children’s Librarian Natalie Ziarnik says, if you choose a “topic that’s just right for your community, the expense will be worth it.”

It’s hard to think about exhibits without noticing the elephant in the gallery: liability. The vast majority of libraries don’t purchase insurance to cover artwork they don’t own. The very few that do tend to work with an area art organization providing its own insurance, or the library purchases insurance only for a prestigious annual show. Don’t let this prevent you from showing artwork, but learn what’s covered and what’s not, and figure out how to address the issue affordably for the library, the artist, and the community.

According to independent curator/artist/librarian Sheryl Orlove, large museums have insurance, but libraries, smaller galleries, coffee shops, and businesses will have the curator or artists sign a waiver. Orlove says, “In a setting like a library or a coffee shop the artist is going to understand the risk, and it’s usually a small risk. It’s understood that the venue will do all that they can to prevent damage or theft...and artists need to do it in order to get their work out there, so they understand the risk.”

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Liability also affects who does the actual hanging of an exhibit. According to Illinois law, volunteers are not covered by workers’ compensation insurance, so it’s wise to keep anyone other than staff and insured contractors away from ladders, which are sometimes required for art installations. That said, some libraries prefer that artists set up exhibits to prevent damage by library staff. Others have staff hang exhibits to prevent damage to walls. It seems best to know which risks you’re more comfortable with, then ensure that all aspects of liability, materials used, and division of responsibility are clearly stated in your artists’ contracts.

This might be why many libraries (67 percent) display artwork within the safety of enclosed cases. Another method for better insuring the safety of a display is to utilize a hanging system, which may lock art to a cable, and will protect the library’s walls. Libraries surveyed mentioned Walker System Art Exhibits and Displays, as well as systems from www.arakawagrip.com, www.gallerysystem.com, and www.art-supplies.net. Less formal options include picture rails, fishing line, and carpeted walls.

We've had mixed results using removable command strips with hooks. Be careful to apply them correctly, and use only with small light pieces.

In terms of policies and contracts, Orlove suggests having a contract for each artist, which they'll sign when they drop off and pick up their art (on specified dates). If a piece is sold, attach a receipt showing money the artist and library received. Add a signature and date of pickup from the purchaser as well.

Some policies and documents to consider developing include:

- Art Exhibit Guidelines
- Art Exhibit Policies
- Application and Release Agreement
- Diagram of Exhibit Area
- Calendar for Upcoming Exhibits
- List of Prices for Art Pieces
- Receipt for Art Purchased

Samples of some of these types of documents are available from various sources:

- Galesburg Public Library (IL):
<http://www.galesburglibrary.org/policy/gallerypolicy.pdf>
- Nanuet Public Library, Nanuet, NY:
<http://www.nanuetlibrary.org/pdfs/artpolicy.pdf>
- Leverett Public Library, Leverett, MA:
http://www.leverettlibrary.org/files/library_docs/LeverettLibraryArtExhibitPolicy.pdf
- Arlington Public Library, Arlington, VA:
<http://lib.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/about/ArtExhibitProgram/ArtPolicies.aspx>
- Library as Incubator Project:
<http://www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/USING-YOUR-LIBRARY-AS-GALLERY-SPACE.pdf>
- See also, "Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries," a database of art owned by Illinois libraries:
<http://www.library.eiu.edu/artarch> 

Two paintings from the exhibit *The Book of Imaginary Beings*, which featured the work of seven artists: Inga Comer-Keene (top right, "Offspring of Leviathan"), Carl Baratta, Iska Applin, Shannon Lunkes-Goldman (middle right, "Hua #2"), Sheryl Orlove, Neal Retke, and Peter Reynoso.

Painted bistro table from the Elgin Al Fresco art project, an annual community-based event that adopted Gail Borden Public Library District's summer reading theme, *Reading Is So Delicious*. The event organizer asked that all participants theme their bistro table on children's books.



iREAD® 2013

Have Book—Will Travel! Illustrator Anna Dewdney

Anna Dewdney is the author and illustrator of many wonderful children's books, including *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, and the creator of one of the posters for iREAD's 2013 *Have Book—Will Travel!* theme. Dewdney will be a featured author at the upcoming ILA Annual Conference in East Peoria (October 9–11, 2012) and recently talked with iREAD.

You worked many different jobs before dedicating yourself to children's books. What were they?

I have waited tables, worked in a furniture store, and been a teacher, among other things. I think my favorite job, however, was delivering the mail.... I got to drive my car from the right-hand side!

What's with all the llamas? How much of yourself or your children show up in the "Llama Llama" series?

The *Llama Llama* series is based on a little llama simply because I loved the sound of the word. My children show up all the time in the series, as do I, simply because I am writing about what I know.

In 2010, you published *Roly Poly Pangolin*. You traveled to the Cuc Phuong National Park in Vietnam to meet pangolins up close. What was that like? Have you heard from children who have been inspired to help save the pangolin and other endangered species?

I am so proud and honored that I've inspired children to learn and care about this incredible little animal, the pangolin. It was a wild and weird experience to travel to the other side of the world, and we will never forget it. My children always remember walking around Hanoi, the biggest city in northern Vietnam, in 110 degree heat, as well as sleeping in the jungle, listening to the gibbon monkeys calling and screeching.

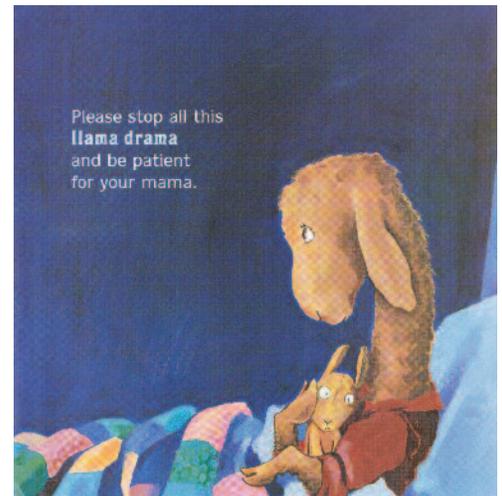
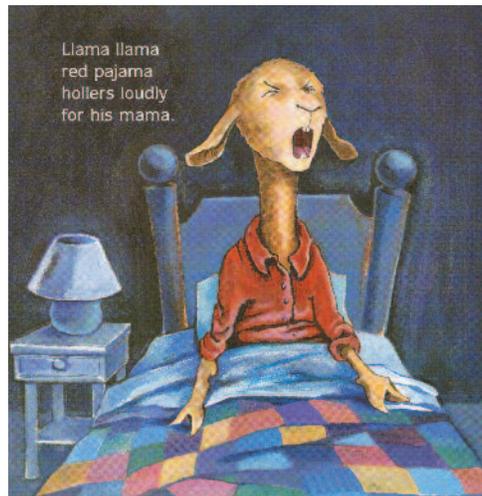
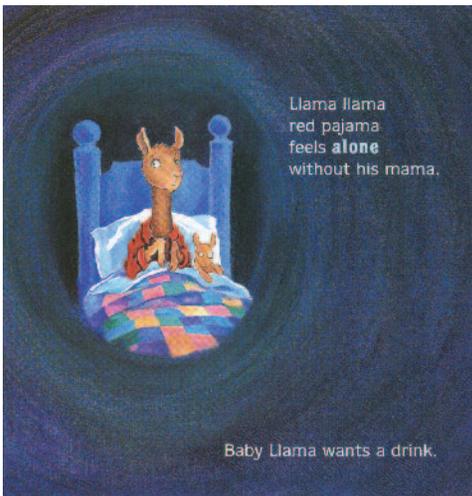
Have you traveled to other places to study for a book?

I haven't traveled very far for any of my other books, because they have all been about "internal" places...and the sorts of locations where most children find themselves every day.

[continued on page 10]

"The *Llama Llama* series is based on a little llama simply because I loved the sound of the word."





[continued from page 8]

What is your favorite part of traveling?

I love to see different styles of architecture and landscapes. Every place is unique, and I really enjoy seeing all the differences in our world.

Do you think places where you have lived or visited have influenced your artwork?

I'm sure that my childhood and my childhood homes have influenced my art. I grew up in suburban New Jersey, but spent much of my youth outside in the garden. My mother is quite a gardener, and I'm sure that the colors of her garden and home have made their way into my paintings.

Who (or what) inspires you?

I take my inspiration from my emotional experiences and the experiences of my children, as well as the children I meet. I love meeting kids at signings...they remind me so much of my own children when they were young.

If you could go back and visit yourself at the beginning of your career, what advice would you give yourself?

"Hang in there, kid. Twenty years from now, someone will want to publish your stories." Of course, if I had known it would have taken that long at the outset, I might have been a little overwhelmed!

You have a new book coming out this fall, just in time for your appearance and book signing at the 2012 ILA Annual Conference. Tell us about it.

This next *Llama Llama* book is about sharing, which—in my experience—is tough for most children (and even for adults). I remember how hard it was to share when I was a child. There are some dramatic moments in this book, and I won't give away what happens, but there is a traumatic scene involving the fuzzy llama. We also get to meet a new character, Nelly Gnu, in this book.

On a scale of one to ten, how cool are librarians? Am I right?

Librarians are the bestest and the coolest. Librarians are the heart and soul of the school or town. To me, a library is always home; it is the place to go to zoom off into the universe or back in time, all from a comfy chair. **ILA**

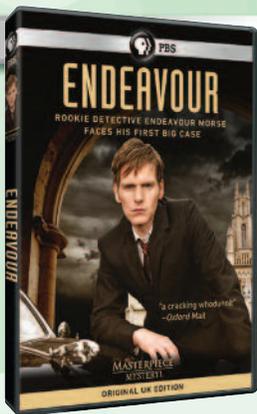
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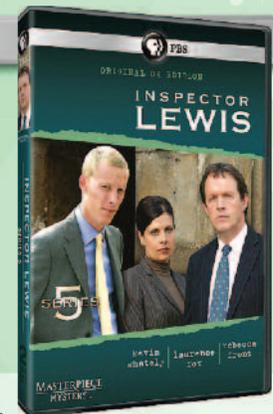


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2012 Recipients of the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship Fund

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



Anthony Bishop

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Undergraduate degree: Chicago State University,
Professional and Technical Writing, 2008
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Library and Information Science is a calling for me. A degree in this field will be the culmination of my passions. A librarian is one of the most important pillars to academic institutions, and my experience working with the diverse student body at Chicago State University as a library assistant has reaffirmed the field of library science as the right field for my skill set. As an African-American male, I believe I can contribute to the field by reaching across racial and cultural lines and inspiring young minorities to pursue a career in libraries. Being selected as a Spectrum Scholar and participating in the Spectrum Leadership Institute will provide me the resources and peer support to help me successfully navigate through the challenges I will undoubtedly face in the degree process.



Liza Booker

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Undergraduate degree: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
English and Creative Writing, 2011
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As a child, I always viewed librarians as the gatekeepers of information because on the south side of Chicago, the place that everyone went to gain knowledge outside of school was the library. I visualize countless opportunities with a career in library and information science because anyone can transfer their passions into research. I have always seen myself being a part of the library community and having a career in library and information science because I have a passion for exploring how librarians research and organize information. Being a part of LIS will allow me to give back to the community in the same way the library gave to me when I was younger. I want others to be able to join in on the admiration for the library and information science field. As a Spectrum Scholar, I will be able to improve my contributions to diverse library communities by studying to advance my knowledge of library and information science material so that I can continuously work on my goal to create more diversity in library communities among users and materials.



Christina Nhek

Hometown: Long Beach, California
Undergraduate degree: California State University, Long Beach, Art History, 2010
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I currently live in Long Beach and consider myself fortunate because Long Beach is home to the largest Cambodian community in the U.S. One of the reasons I want to pursue a degree in the library science field is to promote the importance of Khmer cultural awareness within the community. I also want to build relationships between older and younger Khmer generations. There is a great need to bridge the cultural gap between the two groups. With the history of war and psychological trauma, it is difficult for the older generation to relate their lives to the younger people. Unlike other established ethnic groups, there is little emotional and economic support within the Cambodian community. By pursuing this field, I would learn how to manage data collections and help establish connections within the Cambodian community. Being a Spectrum Scholar will allow me to pursue these goals. I always knew that I wanted to work with collecting research and archives. I have come to realize that it is more than my passion to collect materials; rather, it is the need for heritage preservation. I have encountered road blocks and some detours along my path. However, in the process, I have accumulated valuable experiences and knowledge. I know that my past can be used to prepare hope for the future.



Thomas Padilla

Hometown: Fremont, California
Undergraduate degree: San Francisco State University, History, 2007
Graduate Degree: San Francisco State University, History, 2012
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Of Mexican-American descent, raised by a single parent, and surrounded by the culture of a family supported by the automobile industry, access to information has been crucial to my development as an individual. With the realization that knowledge storage and transmittal has shifted definitively from the analog to the digital form, I have come to realize that access to information for future generations is in danger. Becoming a Spectrum Scholar and joining the Spectrum Leadership Institute will allow me to connect with other individuals interested in ensuring that those who are either marginalized or left out by virtue of race or place in the global order benefit from our work in digital preservation.

[continued on page 14]



Charlotte Roh

Hometown: Fullerton, California
Undergraduate degree: Johns Hopkins University, English with a History of Art Minor, 2002
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

One of my goals in pursuing a degree in library and information science is to gain a better understanding of how to better use and apply technology as more and more schools, corporations, and casual consumers move to rely on digital platforms for education and recreation.

Additionally, I have always been involved in nonprofit and volunteer work and my growing awareness of the issues surrounding ethnic minorities in the United States has fostered in me a need for dialogue and community. I am excited and thankful to be a recipient of the Spectrum Scholarship and the Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund so that I can engage in this conversation within a library context.

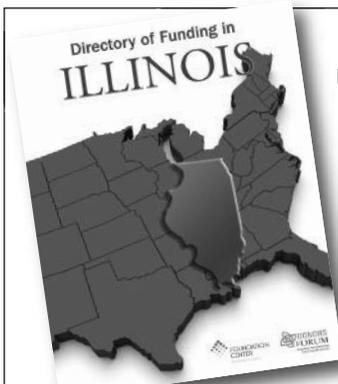
I have a personal investment in the changing face of information — in research, education, and engagement with the community. Understanding and bettering the use of information as it pertains to my interests, the needs of others, and the socioeconomic boundaries we currently face is a challenge that I look forward to in these rapidly changing times.



Jose Miguel Ruiz

Hometown: DeKalb, Illinois
Undergraduate degree: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Landscape Architecture, 2011
Current institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

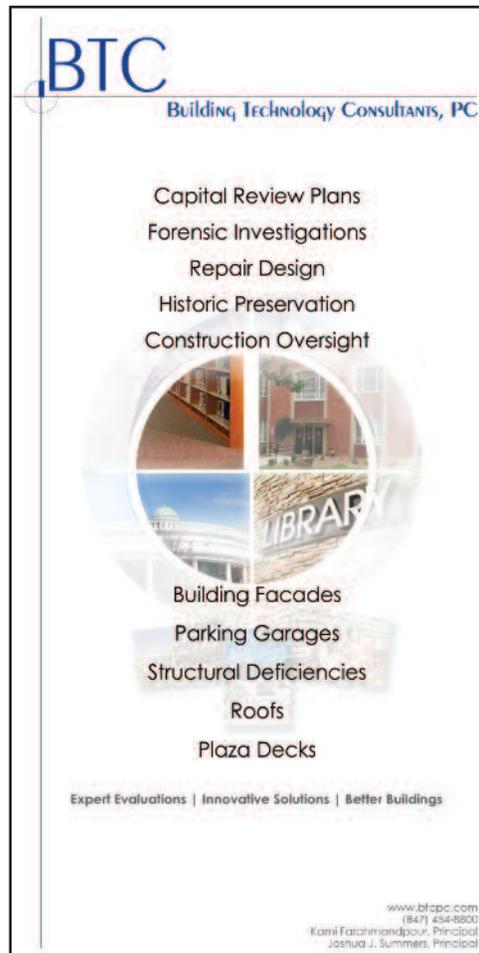
I began working at the DeKalb Public Library when I was fifteen years old. My experiences working with a diverse set of individuals including librarians, library support staff, and the public were both fulfilling and rewarding, which in turn promoted my interest within the field. I believe that it is a very fascinating time to be a librarian, and the opportunity to be a mover and shaker in the library profession promoting the values of diversity provides one of many goals as I pursue my professional aspirations. **ILA**



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Sally in Libraryland

I've had a lot of conversations about customer service lately, with people from all sorts and sizes of libraries. And the universe reminded me that an excellent perspective restorer can be stepping OUT of the library into some other realm, and being the customer hoping to get service! I just wish I had done it in a way that didn't obliterate two days of a long-planned vacation, but the universe does what the universe does.

I started thinking about libraries while standing in a very long line at O'Hare, to check a suitcase. I had, of course, done as much as I could ahead of time, including checking myself in and also weighing the suitcase so I didn't need to worry that this backbreaker was also going to break the budget. And it occurred to me that often a difference between a line at an airport and a line at a library (generally for checkout) is that the NEXT thing you're going to do at an airport is to continue your progress toward a flight from that airport — and the next thing you're going to do at the library is head in a totally different direction.

You have to get to the dentist or a meeting, or pick up or drop off kids somewhere. That's why, I think, people in airport lines are generally resigned, and people in library checkout lines are often impatient and fidgety. So any time we can find ways to make library lines shorter, we certainly should! And if we can't actually make them shorter, can we offer something to look at to help pass the time? Interesting posters about upcoming events, screens showing previous programs, reading recommendations — ANYTHING? When you give people nothing to do but fume, that's what they'll do, and that fume can become a full-on explosion when that fuming person finally gets to the head of the line.

But back to the airport. When we finally got that suitcase checked and got to the next step, we were told that our flight was delayed for four hours! We sometimes have to deliver bad news to patrons who have waited in lines — their card has a block, or there are no computers available, or no seats for the program. Do we do it as well as this particular airline employee did? She said, "That will take you way past dinner. I can give you vouchers to get something to eat." It never felt like she was the opposition — rather, it felt as though she truly regretted what had happened, and was trying to help us. Is there ever something we can do in libraries to soften the blow when circumstances beyond anyone's control threaten to make a patron unhappy?

The airport story isn't over. The flight was cancelled. Suddenly there were 767 passengers who all woke up that morning thinking they were starting their trips that night, and every one of us was not. What annoyed me the most was that it was 1:00 A.M., and it was clear that they had known since 9:00 P.M. that the flight would be cancelled. When bad news must be delivered — as it sometimes must — delaying it benefits no one! We should be as up front as we can possibly be with our patrons, whatever the circumstances.

The rest of the details are too grim and too long to share here — suffice it to say that we spent one night in a hotel near O'Hare, another at home, and FINALLY started our trip forty-eight hours behind schedule. But here's what else gave me pause: since I started my library career in circulation, I know how much abuse people on that particular front line are given, so I made a point of sharing my emergency chocolate with the gate agent the second day.



She was the first person to say flat out, “We really dropped the ball on this — I’m so sorry. Let me see what I can do.” I had seen other passengers berate her — as though it were her fault? Honestly. She was struggling mightily with a really awful computer system to get us where we wanted to go. And she tried to call a supervisor for help because she couldn’t pull it off. One supervisor appeared, asked for a description of our suitcases, said he would be right back, and vanished — never to be seen again. The second supervisor did not respond to pages or answer her calls. When I encountered that supervisor at the gate for a flight for which we were on standby, he said that there was no point in the gate agents trying to call him because he was very busy, and he didn’t have time to solve their problems, too. Really? And, he told me, they have to consider the “status” of individual passengers, and how much they paid for their tickets. He was incredibly rude and condescending (What? Just by looking at me he could tell how often I fly or how much I paid?) and walked away without even an apology.

When front line staff in any department at your library have to call for backup, do they get it? Isn’t that part of what supervisors are paid to do? Yesterday I was on the phone with Michele Davis, head of Youth Services at Indian Trails, and she said, “Just a minute — the desk is calling me and I need to find out what they need.” Yes!!!

And of course we saw passengers behaving badly. Screaming at a gate agent — or a random pilot accosted in the concourse — didn’t improve anything for anyone, and just added to the stress levels swirling around. Patrons behave badly sometimes, too, but we need to remember that the vast majority of them do not, and not let the surliness a previous patron dumped on us contaminate our encounter with the next one.

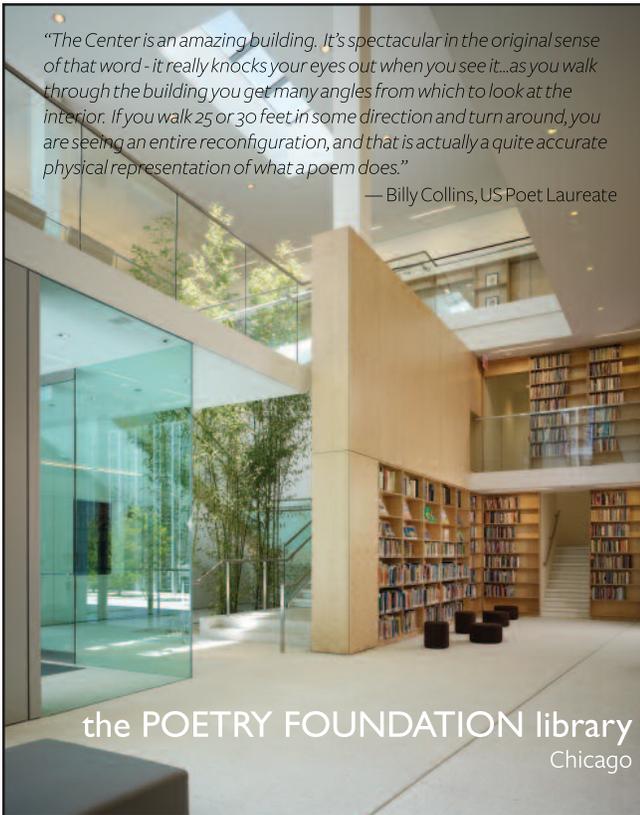
Is your library much like O’Hare? Do you try to make things go smoothly for your patrons, and apologize when they don’t? Have you given thought to your customer service experiences out in the world, and vowed to make the experience at your library a better one? Have you looked at layouts and staffing patterns to see what changes you can make? (I avoid one local post office because the staff breaks for lunch at noon no matter what, leaving ONE person at the service desk just when people are running in on their lunch hours. The line quadruples instantly. That’s not customer-oriented.)

What have you learned from the way you are treated as a customer? And have you been able to improve anything at your library because of it? When you’re out in the community, do you hear, “Oh, the people at the library are so NICE, ” or “I really love that library?” Feels good, doesn’t it?

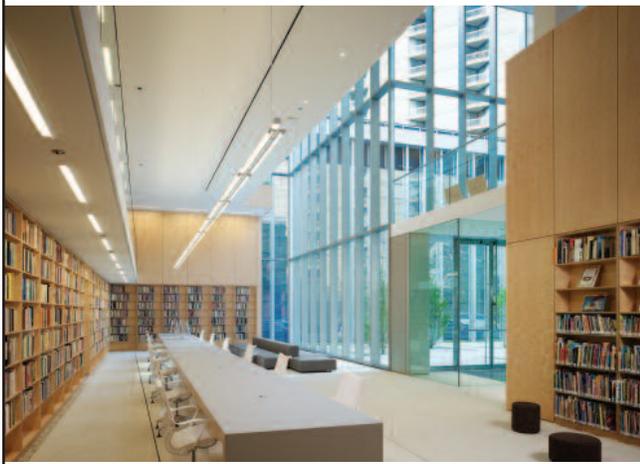
Agree? Disagree? Better stories? Tell me! You can reach me at sallyinlibraryland@yahoo.com. 

"The Center is an amazing building. It's spectacular in the original sense of that word - it really knocks your eyes out when you see it...as you walk through the building you get many angles from which to look at the interior. If you walk 25 or 30 feet in some direction and turn around, you are seeing an entire reconfiguration, and that is actually a quite accurate physical representation of what a poem does."

— Billy Collins, US Poet Laureate



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- Museum Adventure Pass Program
- Tutor.com Learning Suite

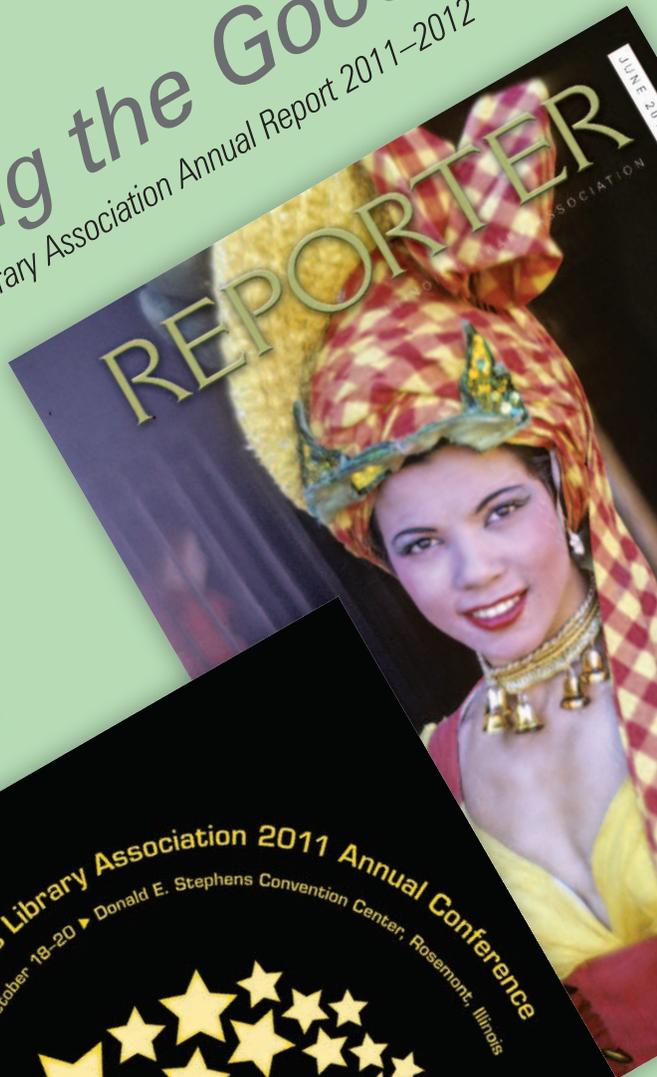


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Delivering the Goods

Illinois Library Association Annual Report 2011-2012





According to the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms, to deliver the goods is to “do what is required, to come up to expectations.” I hope and believe that is what ILA did this year not only for all our members, but for library patrons throughout the state. I know we did our collective best, and I’m grateful to each of you for meeting and exceeding my own expectations of what this organization can accomplish—every one of you came up with “the goods.”

As some of you will recognize, this play on words is also a nod to a project that took a lot of our time and energy this year, preparing an extensive study on the future of library cooperation statewide, especially in terms of materials delivery. Funded by an LSTA grant from the Illinois State Library, the study resulted in a starting point to truly consider resource sharing in a new environment. Thank you to all who provided history, background, statistical information, and analysis. The study reflects the care and commitment we all share for Illinois libraries.

We delivered a lot of other goods, too—bold, brilliant, and brave conference programs and powerful messages to legislators and policy makers at all levels of government. Congratulations to our Public Policy and Advocacy committees, who by working closely together, effectively kept libraries in the forefront of legislators’ minds.

We delivered articles about system mergers, e-books, and new libraries for poetry and research in the *ILA Reporter* every other month. We continued to develop partnerships with library organizations near and far, to deliver iREAD’s summer reading theme—Reading Is So Delicious—to libraries worldwide. You read that right, worldwide. iREAD is created by librarians, for librarians, and there is no other program like it. We can be very proud of our youth services colleagues who create our themes each year and also of iREAD’s new registered trademark status—iREAD®!

Continuing that theme of deliciousness, one of my last official acts as ILA President was to deliver ice cream to the new member leaders at the ILA Orientation Session in Peoria in July. It was indeed a pleasure to welcome so many new faces, fresh pairs of eyes and ears, and interesting new ideas and approaches. I look forward to the coming year as a past-president, sharing what I’ve learned, and continuing to work toward making ILA everything it can be.

In anticipation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Elam". The signature is fluid and cursive.

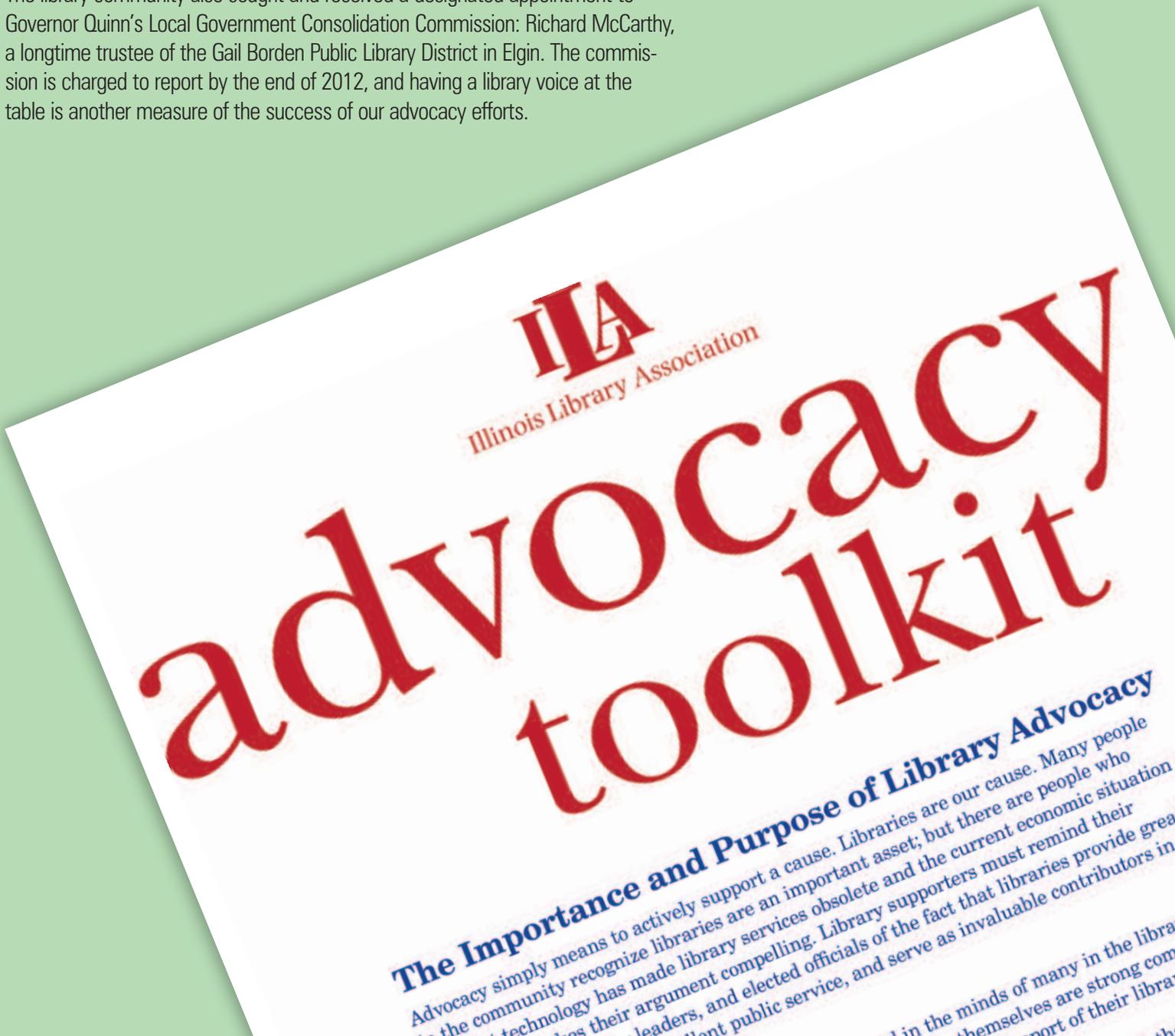
Lynn Elam
ILA President, 2011–2012

ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Advocacy remains central to ILA's mission, and 2012 was another busy year in both Springfield and Washington, DC. Members of the Public Policy and Advocacy committees took the lead in planning and executing strategies and events to inform elected officials and others about the importance of libraries and the need for continued legislative support.

Two key initiatives came to life under the leadership of this year's Advocacy Committee—we unveiled the Advocacy Toolkit, available online to help each and every advocate improve his or her skills in delivering the library message, and activated the Legislation Action Network (LAN), enabling us to direct constituent messages to key sponsors or opponents of specific legislation.

The library community also sought and received a designated appointment to Governor Quinn's Local Government Consolidation Commission: Richard McCarthy, a longtime trustee of the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin. The commission is charged to report by the end of 2012, and having a library voice at the table is another measure of the success of our advocacy efforts.



ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY FUNDING SURVIVES BUDGET AX

Statewide, we focused on preserving level funding for the largest library grant programs, and with your help, we succeeded! The Illinois General Assembly approved a \$33.7 billion state operating budget that made massive cuts to many state programs including an astonishing \$1.6 billion in cuts to the Medicaid program, and millions in cuts to education funding. In that context, libraries fared extremely well at the hands of Illinois' legislators.

The budget passed by the Illinois General Assembly maintains level funding for all the major library grant programs including per capita and equalization grants. Some smaller line items were affected by budget cuts, but in a year of dramatic reductions, the library community weathered the storm. In addition, many individual libraries are the beneficiaries of capital appropriations contained in Senate Bill 2332, and the \$50 million library capital improvement grant program continues to fund library projects throughout Illinois. Every substantive bill actively opposed by ILA was defeated in the recently concluded session. Senate Bill 2862, Senate Bill 2073, and House Bill 4608 all would have changed the tax cap statute to reduce available revenues to local taxing bodies in areas with declining property tax assessments. Effective messages from ILA members to legislators were key to our successful opposition.

Members mobilized to oppose and defeat House Bill 3637, a proposal to divert local revenues from the personal property replacement tax (PPRT) to state coffers. A very small amount of PPRT will again be allocated to pay the salaries of regional superintendents of education, but this amount is tiny fraction of what was proposed in House Bill 3637.

We were also instrumental in opposing proposed legislation, House Bill 5301, that would have required keeping logs of Internet users at Internet cafes and for some library patrons. This legislation would have violated the First Amendment, and based on concerns raised by ILA, the sponsor held the bill.

Finally, ILA worked closely with the sponsor of Senate Bill 3169 dealing with access to library services by the homeless. Ultimately, the sponsor agreed to hold the bill and instead asked ILA to take the lead in advising public libraries on developing local policies. This approach is both consistent with ILA's commitment to preserving local library board control and recognition of our role in implementing best practices.

The Illinois General Assembly did not pass significant state pension reform during the spring 2012 session, but it remains an issue of interest to libraries, their boards, and the public. In all, ILA tracked and worked on over 150 individual bills that covered an incredible range of issues, and our members can take pride in being active and successful in the association's 2012 advocacy efforts.

PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Maintaining a year-round calendar of educational opportunities is at the heart of ILA's mission to keep our members informed and engaged. Workshops, conferences, advocacy events, and more are held all over the state and beyond; communications reach out in print and online on a wide range of topics for diverse audiences. Our forums, committees, and affiliated organizations all play key partnership roles in this ongoing series of programs and events.

The Illinois Library Trustee Forum sponsored two spring workshops; the first at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook in February and the second in March at President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield.

Also in March, the **Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries** (IACRL) held their conference, "Adopt, Adapt, Accelerate," in Oak Brook. Steven Bell from Temple University presented the keynote address and more than twenty peer-reviewed sessions, preconferences, and vendor exhibits rounded out the program.

The **Advocacy Committee** planned three events to help members reach out to their elected officials at the state and national level:

- 21st Annual Presidents' Day Legislative Breakfast in Buffalo Grove;
- April 18 Illinois Library Day in Springfield;
- And six days later, Illinois' participation in the 2012 National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC, on April 24.

The Illinois delegation sponsored a dinner on April 23 featuring an address by Christina M. Tchen, assistant to President Barack Obama and chief of staff to First Lady Michelle Obama. Tchen also serves as executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, and was a former member of the Chicago Public Library board of directors. Delegations from Ohio, California, Texas, the Public Library Association, the American Library Association, and others attended the dinner and the next day, joined us to hit the "hill" to deliver our message to Congressional offices.

The Youth Services and Young Adult Forums sponsored two April workshops in Edwardsville and Arlington Heights on the topic of "Sense"-ational Programming and Outreach for Special Populations," legal issues as they relate to youth and teen services.

On Friday, May 4, the twenty-second annual **Reaching Forward Conference of Library Assistants** drew approximately 1,000 attendees to the Rosemont Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Keynote speaker Jim Feldman presented "Shift Happens," addressing how to solve problems using existing resources to save your library stress, time, and money.

WHO SAID THERE'S NO FREE LUNCH?

There were several "firsts" at ILA's 2011 Annual Conference, held October 18–20, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont: it was our first meeting in suburban Rosemont and the first time registration included lunch for registrants on all three days!

A few other things you missed if you weren't there:

- Technology Petting Zoo, sponsored by Best Buy, a chance to try out the latest apps, devices, and technology
- Conference App, sponsored by Boopsie
- Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Cunningham and Emmy Award winner Paula Poundstone
- 1,945 of your colleagues, 145 exhibit booths, and three days of great programs and events, all helping to support librarians and libraries

Illinois Library Association 2011 Annual Conference
October 18–20 ▶ Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois



READ ALL ABOUT IT

The association's electronic newsletter, *ILA E-Newsletter*, marked its fourth year of publication with timely issues on legislative and newsworthy topics. Thirty-two issues were sent to all ILA members and all Illinois members of the American Library Association to communicate more effectively and efficiently with members, keeping them up-to-date with concise information in a predictable and attractive format.

The evolution of the *ILA Reporter* into a bimonthly magazine providing ideas, inspiration, and innovation for its readers continued as well. Articles featured:

- New library buildings and library architecture and design, including the Poetry Foundation's new home for poetry and the University of Chicago's Helmut Jahn – designed Mansueto Library.
- Exploring and using special collections, such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's political cartoon collection as a window into journalism, race relations, and politics in the mid-1800s, and how a local resident's career as a trapeze artist led to a world-class collection of circus images and memorabilia at Illinois State University's Milner Library in Bloomington-Normal.
- Current topics for library staff and patrons, ranging from e-book consortia and contracts, system mergers and cooperative services, digitizing local history, and how to get along with local governing bodies.

In keeping with our streamlined publication plan, four special inserts were bundled with the *ILA Reporter* issues to facilitate distribution, including: *2011 ILA Annual Conference Preliminary Program* (June 2011); *Books Challenged or Banned, 2010–2011* (August 2011); and the *2010–2011 ILA Annual Report: Libraries... and Their Users... Out Loud!* and the 2012 iREAD Summer Reading Program Catalog (both in the October 2011 issue).



NEW ROLES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

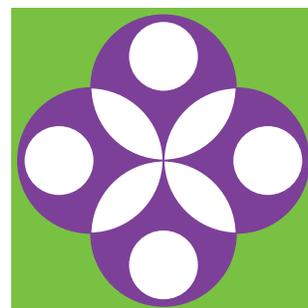
With the state's regional library systems undergoing major restructuring in 2011–2012, ILA assumed some new roles and responsibilities. Effective January 1, 2012, we became the new home for the Fund for Illinois Libraries, formerly administered by the Illinois Library Systems. Libraries wishing to receive gifts that require 501(c)(3) status are eligible to have these gifts processed through the fund.

Under the continuing Future of Illinois Library Cooperation umbrella, ILA received an LSTA grant from the Illinois State Library to coordinate a study on new models for materials delivery and, to a lesser extent, other cooperative services. The report, "Exploring Effective, Efficient Service Models," was released in March 2012. An RFP for consulting services was awarded to The Galecia Group and principal investigator Lori Ayre, who developed templates and baseline data to support key findings and recommendations for use in re-envisioning delivery and resource sharing statewide.

The report findings were presented in separate meetings at all three library system locations (Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), and Chicago Public Library System), and were attended by system staff, representatives from the Illinois State Library, Illinois Delivery System, and other key stakeholders. A printed copy of the report was distributed to a targeted audience, and remains available as a PDF on the ILA website.



The **Future** of Illinois Library Cooperation



**FUND FOR
ILLINOIS LIBRARIES**

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

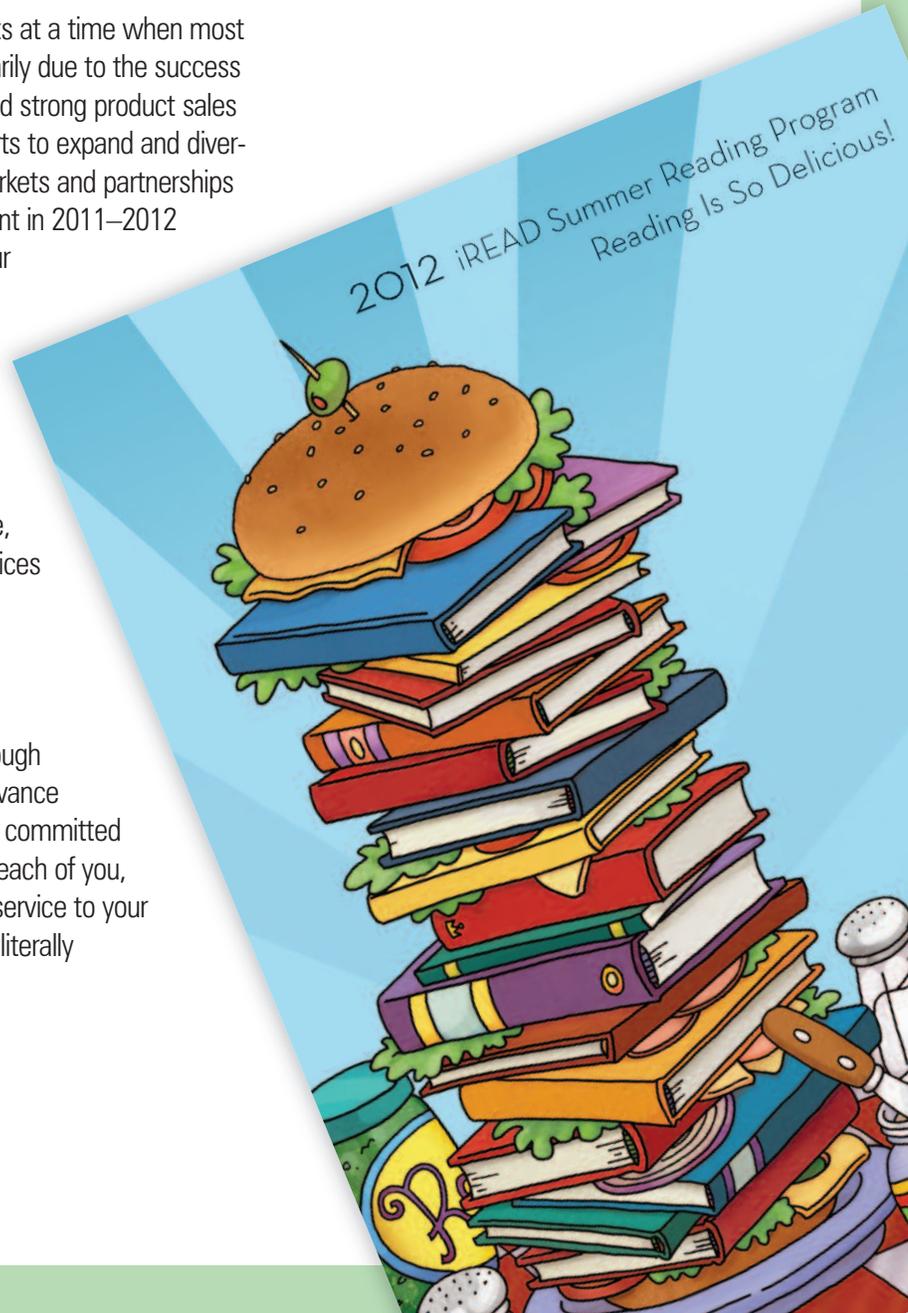
A move to new office space in the summer of 2011 was accomplished with little or no interruption in operations. Since then, we've bought some new furniture and hung some pictures, improved our technology infrastructure, and hosted the ILA Executive Board for its June meeting—we finally have a conference table large enough to accommodate the full board, complete with wifi access and call-in capabilities. We negotiated a favorable lease, giving us room to grow and flexibility for the future.

Another annual summer ritual is the orientation for new committee and forum members, held in East Peoria. It's a time to come together to plan for the coming year and the year after that, with the current president leading the day and the president-elect assembling the Conference Committee for the following year. It's a time for new members to learn from old hands, and vice versa.

The association continues to grow net revenues and assets at a time when most professional associations are seeing declines. This is primarily due to the success of our summer reading program, iREAD®, which maintained strong product sales with existing customers in Illinois and worldwide. Our efforts to expand and diversify our revenue streams include not only seeking new markets and partnerships for iREAD®, but other opportunities, including our LSTA grant in 2011–2012 and two new publications planned for 2012–2013. And our emphasis on controlling costs remains unchanged.

The future is built on the past, and the Illinois Library Luminaries program marked its fourth year with four new inductees: Kathleen Balcom, Tobi Oberman, Tom Rich, and Nancy Smith. Each luminary brings a minimum of \$1,000 contributed to the ILA Endowment in their name, and is recognized for his or her contributions to library services in Illinois. The Fundraising Committee is focusing on new nominations for the coming year, as well as appropriate recognition and ongoing engagement.

The future of our association is in your hands, not only through your membership activities, but in everything you do to advance the profession of librarianship. The leadership and staff are committed to delivering the best possible membership experience to each of you, and in turn, enable you to deliver the best possible library service to your patrons. Together, we will continue to “deliver the goods,” literally and metaphorically.



FINANCIALS

The association ended FY 2011–2012 with a \$179,069 surplus and \$737 loss in the ILA’s long-term investments for a total gain of \$178,332, making significant progress toward the goal set by the ILA Executive Board of creating a reserve equal to 50 percent of the annual budget.

Auditors Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd. completed their annual audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, and noted that ILA’s financial house appears to be in good order. “We continue to see good record-keeping and continued revenue growth, and concur in the overall plan to build reserves, limit expenditures, and employ prudent investment strategies. The association appears fiscally responsible, and we congratulate the board and staff on sound financial management.”

ILA FISCAL REPORT *Year Ended June 30, 2012*

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 46,723
Membership	\$ 301,923
Conference	\$ 406,140
Publications	\$ 1,924,568
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 1,805
Endowment	\$ 7,003
Workshops/Projects	\$ 167,778
Reaching Forward	\$ 105,000
Total Revenue	\$ 2,964,940

Expenses (before allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits to functional areas)

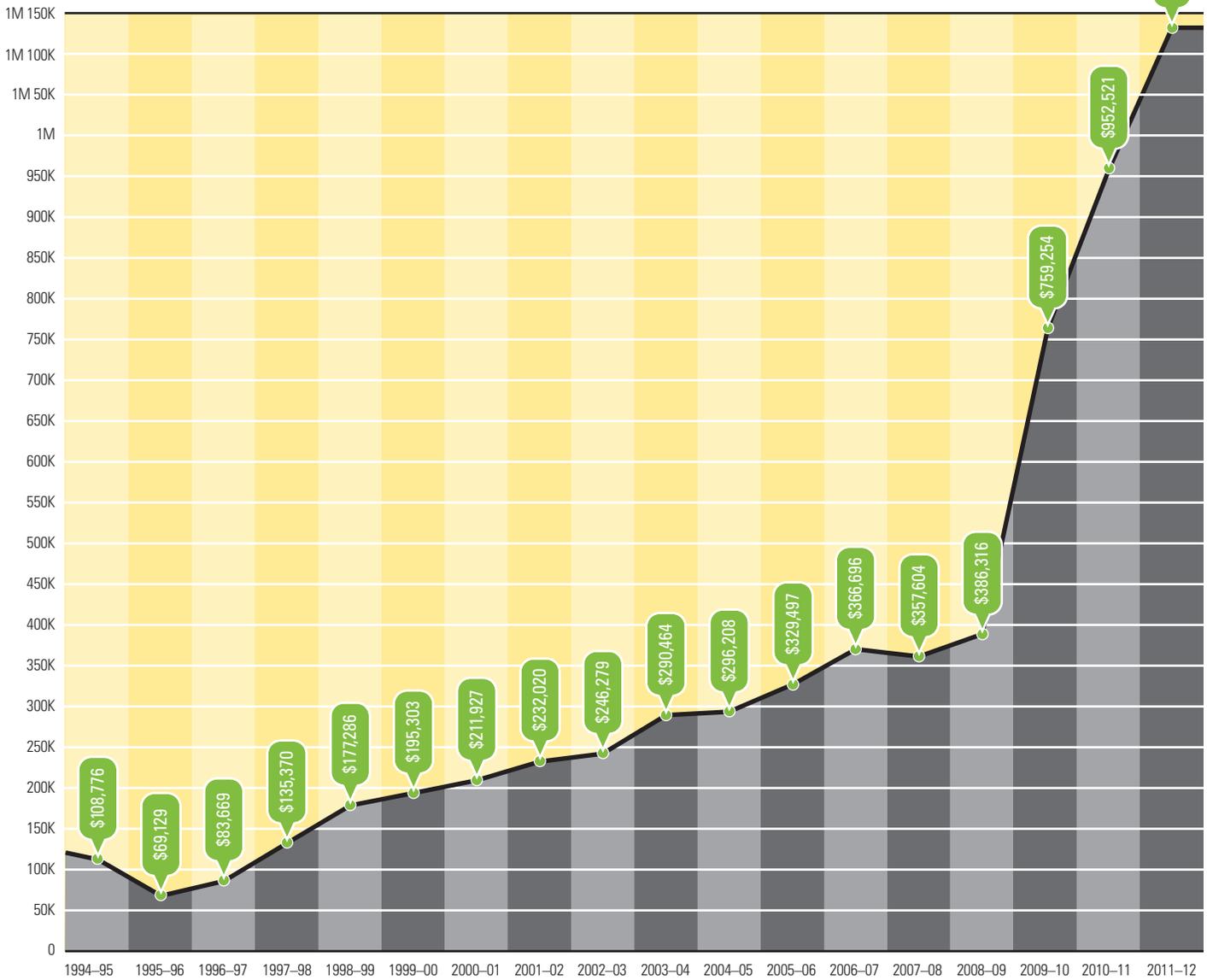
General Operations	\$ 555,514
Membership/Directories/Reporter	\$ 81,571
Conference	\$ 361,647
Board/Committee	\$ 11,816
Publications	\$ 1,429,043
Public Policy	\$ 67,433
Awards	\$ 3,602
Workshops/Projects	\$ 173,298
Forums	\$ 2,178
Reaching Forward	\$ 99,769
Total Expenses	\$ 2,785,871

Net Income before Gain (Loss) on Long-Term Investments	\$ 179,069
Loss on Long-term Investments	\$ -737
Net Income	\$ 178,332
Net Assets at end of FY 2011	\$ 952,521
Net Assets at end of FY 2012	\$ 1,130,853

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,033,617
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 14,030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,376) • deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283) • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$498) • Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$857) • Legal Defense Fund (\$560) • Preiser Award (\$1,003) • Illinois Library Day (\$3,453) 	
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$ 83,206
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2012	\$ 1,130,853

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NET ASSETS



CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

After sixteen years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last sixteen fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$1,061,724.

2011-2012	\$ 178,332
2010-2011	\$ 193,268
2009-2010	\$ 372,938
2008-2009	\$ 28,712
2007-2008	\$ -9,092
2006-2007	\$ 37,199
2005-2006	\$ 33,289
2004-2005	\$ 5,744
2003-2004	\$ 44,185
2002-2003	\$ 14,259
2001-2002	\$ 20,093
2000-2001	\$ 16,624
1999-2000	\$ 18,017
1998-1999	\$ 41,916
1997-1998	\$ 51,701
1996-1997	\$ 14,540
Total	\$1,061,724



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. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people. 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.

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.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

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 3,500 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

Administration and Governance

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

Forums

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

Standing Committees

Advocacy Committee
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

2011–2012 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Lynn Elam, Algonquin Area Public Library District

Vice President/President-Elect

Pam Van Kirk

Immediate Past President

Gail Bush, National Louis University

Treasurer

Cynthia L. Fuerst, Vernon Area Public Library District

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Laura Barnes, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

Terry Cottrell, University of St. Francis Library

Kate Hall, New Lenox Public Library District

David Hamilton, Springer Science + Business Media

Jeanne Hamilton, Charleston Carnegie Public Library

Sheree Kozel-La Ha, Homer Township Public Library District

Amanda McKay, Helen Matthes Library

Scott E. Pointon, White Oak Library District

Ellen Sutton, College of DuPage Library

Rebecca Teasdale, Oak Park Public Library

Leslie Warren, American Bar Association

ALA Councilor

Donald L. Roalkvam, Indian Trails Public Library District

Ex Officio

Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association

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Robert P. Doyle

Executive Director

Cynthia M. Robinson

Conference and Continuing Education
Manager

Anne Bustamante

Member Services Manager

Brett M. Stephan

Information Systems Manager

Jon Daniels

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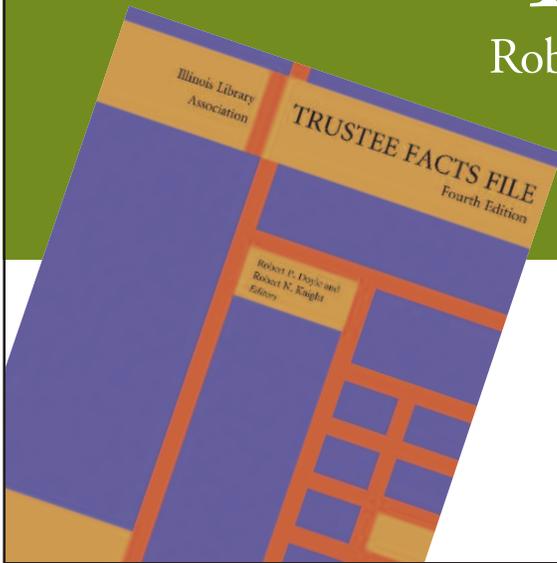


Illinois Library Association

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◀ MY TURN ▶

Ruth Shasteen, Illinois State University and University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Gone Fishing!

When I ask my son where he catches the big fish he always replies, “Where they live!” The same philosophy applies to working with students and faculty in the school library. Where do you catch their interest? Where they live, of course, in a socially interactive world full of not only school requirements but also family, friends, community, and work obligations where multitasking divides attention.

School library media specialists are also pulled in many directions, to the point of being overwhelmed with the diverse needs of the patrons. Two barriers to meeting those needs shared by all members of the learning community are lack of time and lack of skill or knowledge. Haven't you been discouraged, disinterested, or apathetic about tasks you didn't have time to complete or didn't know how to do? Content creation in the library can help you AND your students overcome those barriers.

Defining content creation as it relates to school libraries provides opportunities for examining our role in several areas of service. What is the mission of the library in relationship to the mission of the school? Are we primarily curriculum support? The keepers of books and equipment? Do we provide professional development for our peers? Are we talking about librarians themselves as content creators or about the students? Or both? Original creators or aggregators? What exactly is this content? Are school library media specialists facilitators, collaborators, providers, guides, teachers, or innovators? The answer is “Yes,” to all of the above. Your school library brings together people, ideas, training, tools, and workspaces (both physical and virtual) to enable members of your learning community to be more effective “prosumers” (producers and consumers) of information.

Help students and teachers focus on well-chosen resources on a specific topic, or point them to the best search tools and strategies to maximize the time they have. Make coming into the library a smart thing to do to find resources, technical assistance, equipment, and tools. Model use of the resources

and equipment by creating pathfinders, tutorials, websites, or presentations to make most efficient use of your own time — better to take the time once to create something that can be used by many than to spend time repeating the same information over and over to patrons individually. Inspire curiosity when working with students — if you don't know how to do something, or where to find the right answer, don't be afraid to say, “I don't know, but I'll find out,” or “Let's figure this out together.”

Whether you call yourself a content aggregator, curator, or creator; write a blog or maintain a wiki; create a website or make pathfinders; film video book talks or design information literacy lessons, you are demonstrating your interest in lifelong learning and bringing information together in new ways to share with and inspire your patrons. How do we meet the needs of so many, including ourselves? Why should we add one more task to our ever growing list of “to do's?” Content creation isn't just one more task to take on — it *is* your task.

Dynamic libraries and librarians are energetic, current, fearless, and relevant. They provide virtual and physical workspace where everyone feels comfortable with exploring, creating, and evaluating content. No one has time to be inefficient or disinterested. Social, personal, and professional demands in our world provide more than enough reason to develop skills in these areas. The expectations embedded in every aspect of our roles share common threads — look at the state association program guidelines, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines, Common Core standards, and your local school district goals. In their articles (see resource list at end of article), Gail Bush and Jami Jones have identified dispositions and traits of exemplary school librarians; read for in-depth discussions of traits that can help you meet your goals. Explore the literature on learning styles and how to match those styles with appropriate study, teaching, and demonstration methods. Read the Pew Internet studies (<http://www.pewinternet.org/>) to find out about teens and technology (“where they live.”)

Some examples of content creation in the Central A&M (CAM) High School library in Moweaqua include student — created video book trailers, advertisements, tutorials, and reinterpretations of Shakespeare’s plays in contemporary settings. Students create digital presentations using cloud applications and software, including Prezi and SMART Notebook.

We all learned together how to use inexpensive digital cameras, voice recorders, and free software applications such as Movie Maker, a free download in Microsoft Windows, and website creation tools such as Wix (<http://www.wix.com>) and Weebly (<http://www.weebly.com>). Students and faculty helped each other learn by sharing what they knew.

Students made connections by interviewing older members of the community to capture memories and stories of life during the coal-mining era and the aftermath of the Moweaqua Coal Mining Disaster in 1932. As part of the collaborative LSTA grant project, “Mining More in Moweaqua,” they helped create content that didn’t exist before in any searchable or accessible format. Working with the historical society, public library, and the Coal Mine Museum, this project provided valuable and lasting resources for the community.

Be willing to try new techniques and approaches. Don’t be afraid to learn along with your students. If you wait for the perfect moment to start something, when you have all the answers and skills, you will probably never begin. Get started!

Resources:

American Association for School Librarians. *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. <http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards>.

Bush, Gail and Jami L. Jones. “Forecasting Professional Dispositions of School Librarians.” *School Library Monthly*. Volume XXVII, Number 4, January 2011: pp. 54–56.

Common Core Standards FREE app for iPad; available through iTunes.

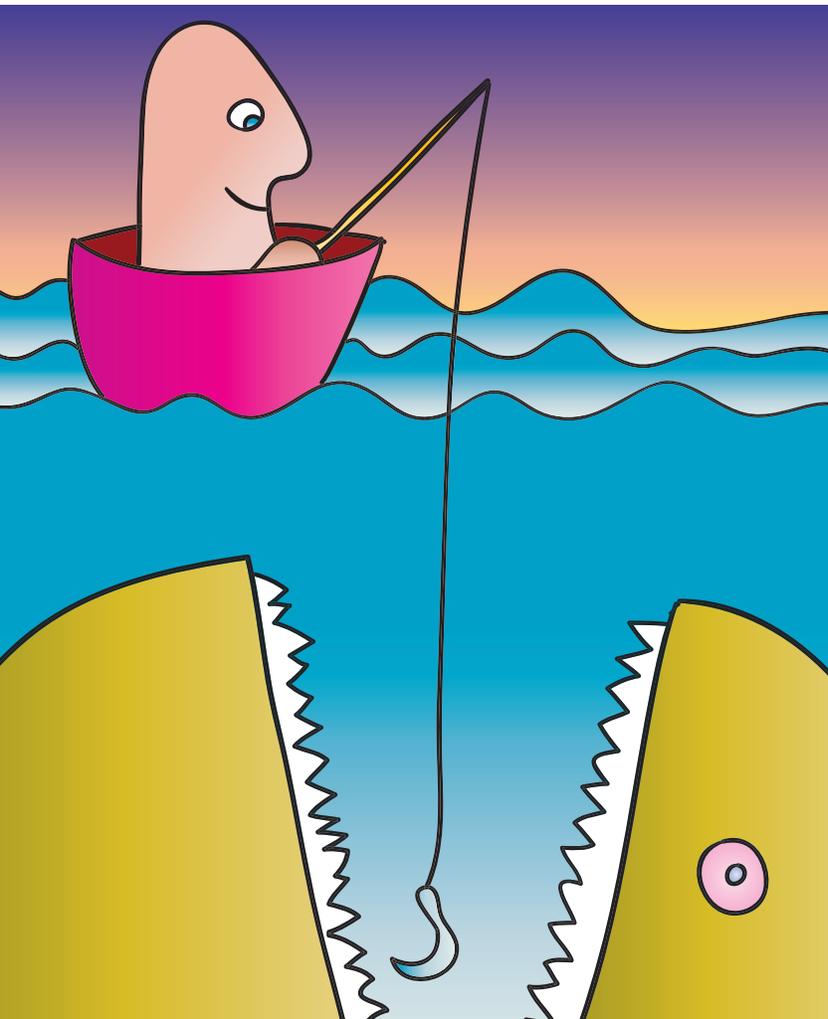
Jones, Jami and Gail Bush. “What Defines an Exemplary School Librarian?” *Library Media Connection*. May/June, 2009: pp. 10–12.

Linking for Learning Program Guidelines, from Illinois School Library Media Association, <http://www.islma.org>

The New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core, http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm

Pew Internet & American Life Project
<http://www.pewinternet.org/>

VARK: A guide to learning styles
<http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>



Helpful TAGS and search terms:

lifelong learning
collaboration
creativity
technology integration
professional development
content creation AND libraries
content curators
content creators
content aggregators

Web 2.0 tools to explore:

LiveBinders: <http://www.livebinders.com/>
PearlTrees: <http://www.pearltrees.com/>
LibGuides: <http://springshare.com/libguides/>



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