

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2008

VOLUME XXVI ISSUE 6



We wrote the book on library construction.



Recently completed Eisenhower Public Library

Pictured from left: Neil Wisker - Mortenson Construction, Ron Stoch - Eisenhower Public Library Director, Michael Quirk - Mortenson Construction, Forrest Wendi - WCT Architects, Leonard Debickero - WCT Architects

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The Illinois Library Association Reporter

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



ON THE COVER

“Party Librarian” Victoria Correa from the Cicero Public Library, one of the participants in “Style from the Stacks: *Project Runway* at ILA.” Disproving the staid and quiet image much of the public holds about our profession, the 2008 ILA Annual Conference hit was conceived by Maria Pontillas of the Glenview Public Library. The fashion show was based on the popular Bravo Television series, *Project Runway* and even featured Steven Rosengard, a contestant in *Project Runway: Season 4*. ILA believes this was the first library fashion show with designs inspired by libraries and literature, created and modeled by library staff. Thirty-six models walked the runway for this library association first.

Photography by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 2,900 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

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

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to ila@ila.org. Copy may also be submitted on disk or faxed to (312) 644-1899. You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.



Programs Wanted!

FOR THE 2009 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Transformation: See Tomorrow Today”
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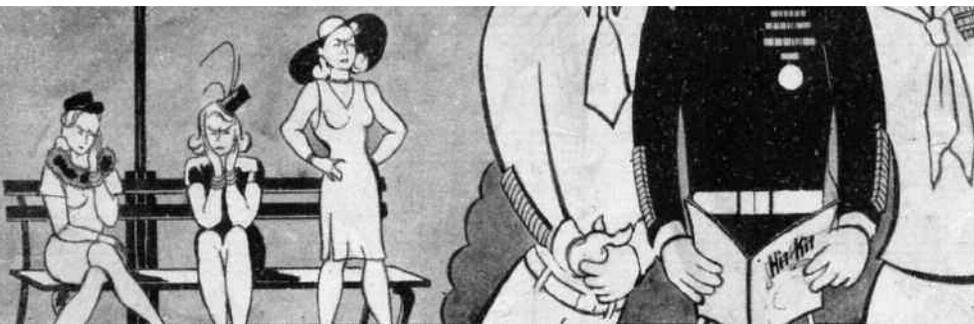
Have you created a new service? Have you incorporated new ideas into your department or library? Have you changed the way you are doing things? Have you transformed facilities, staff, training, boards, Web sites, or attitudes?

If you answered yes to any of the above, we want to hear from you! We want to hear how transformation has lead to celebration! Consider presenting a program, talk table, or poster session at the 2009 conference. Program proposal forms may be found on the ILA Web site www.ila.org/events/proposal.htm. Proposals must be submitted by January 12, 2009.

Preference will be given to proposals that align with the program theme.

And we are happy to help you develop your program. For questions or more information contact Sharon Wiseman, Chair, 2009 ILA Annual Conference Program Committee, swiseman@gailborden.info, (847) 289-5801.

CONTENTS



FEATURES

- 6 IT'S ALL PIXELS IN THE ARCHIVES:
TRANSFORMING THE ARCHIVES IN
THE DIGITAL AGE
by Anke Voss
- 8 DIGITAL PAST: TIME TRAVELERS
ALWAYS WELCOME
by Judy Hoffman
- 10 SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE 2008
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR LIBRARY SERVICE
by Carolyn Anthony
- 14 IS GOOGLE MAKING US STUPID?
by Nicholas Carr

OPINION & COMMENTARY

- 22 DE-HUMANIZING THE LIBRARY REDUX
by Allen Lanham
- 43 ORGANIZATION OF TODAY'S INFORMATION
by Kathryn Miller

NEWS FRONT

- 24 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 34 NEW MEMBERS
- 35 FORUM AND COMMITTEE NEWS
- 39 CALENDAR



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It's All Pixels in the Archives: Transforming the Archives in the Digital Age

The Champaign County Historical Archives first leapt into the digital age in 2004, when it transformed access to its collection with the advent of the *Local History Online* (LHO) database, hosted on the Urbana Free Library Web site (<http://urbanafreelibrary.org/>). Access to the LHO database — the Urbana Free Library's indexes to Urbana municipal government documents and Champaign County history and genealogy — is freely available to users of the Internet. Whether you're in the archives or visiting online, you can search the Historical and Genealogical Index, which allows users to keyword search over three million index entries for more than 500,000 items in the collection; the Urbana Municipal Documents Index contains over 500,000 searchable entries for Urbana city government documents.

Of course, like all libraries and archives throughout the nation, patrons seek access to a myriad of online resources and digital content. Using the archives' six public computer stations, patrons have access to a selection of free and subscription online sources, including *Ancestry* and *Heritage Quest*, *World Vital Records*, and full-text newspapers like *The News Gazette* and the *Historical Chicago Tribune*. The Illinois Digital Newspaper Project at the University of Illinois is currently digitizing *The Urbana Courier*, a newspaper published locally until 1979 (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/hpnl/index.html>). In an effort to smooth the path to more digital content in the archives, users are provided with three self-service scanners and three microfilm-reader printers, which patrons can print to paper or scan images directly to a portable storage device. We provide several types of storage devices for a reasonable fee.

Many of the other initiatives to bring digital content online would not be possible without collaboration with local cultural

heritage organizations, including libraries and archives. For the past year the archives has been working in partnership with the University of Illinois Libraries and the *Illinois Harvest Project* (<http://illinoisharvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/>), a free public gateway that provides access to digital resources about Illinois, in order to showcase several hundred photographs from our collection. The Illinois Office of the Secretary of State has awarded the Champaign County Historical Archives a FY2009 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant titled "Historic Champaign County: Neighborhoods and Homes" totaling \$19,934. This project will serve as the first phase for a portal to digital collections, called *Historic Champaign County*, with regional appeal for research in historic preservation and architectural history. Content will be drawn from a variety of academic and public repositories and other organizations dedicated to historic preservation in the region. The project is made possible through a partnership with Lincoln Trail Libraries System's *Digital Gems* initiative (<http://www.digitalgems.info>), a new service that will both preserve and provide access to historical materials, and which already hosts the Monticello Oral Histories and the Chanute Air Museum's 99th Pursuit Squadron Tuskegee Airmen Digital Collection. By next year, patrons can visit *Digital Gems* and browse a variety of materials from the Champaign County Historical Archives' collection, including photographs, architectural surveys, maps, and other historical materials about Champaign County communities.

No doubt the digital age has forever changed the content and access among all information providers. The archives is no exception, and will no doubt spend the foreseeable future attempting to keep up with all that's available to make the cultural heritage of our communities more accessible. Patrons are certainly demanding that they not be left behind. ■



EXHIBIT
PHOTO
28

PASSING THE TIME AWAY AT FT. SHERIDAN

Digital Past: Time Travelers Always Welcome

Back in ancient times, I was looking through a library's special collection of sheet music, and as I turned the page on a song I had long searched for, a large chunk of the page broke off into small pieces. I was horrified, but when I returned the folio to the librarian and admitted to my crime, he just shrugged. Time and the elements often had the last word on our rare collections in 1988.

Then came the revolution in time travel.

The North Suburban Library System launched Digital Past (<http://www.digitalpast.org>) in 1998 on the wings of an Educate and Automate grant. With the guidance of Northwestern University experts, fifteen member libraries learned the art of digitizing their local history collections. The first year finished off with 5,000 digital files. A decade later, Digital Past celebrates a growing collection that currently has 130,000 records contributed by forty cultural institutions throughout Illinois. Participants are a diverse group, including libraries of all types, historical societies, and museums.

The Lake County Discovery Museum (LCDM) is known for its Curt Teich Postcard Archive, recognized throughout the world as the largest public collection of postcards. LCDM Image and Licensing Specialist Debra Gust says becoming part of Digital Past "seriously changed the way we do business. In the past, researchers came to us because they knew of our collections, and the potential to fill holes in their research. Very few patrons were physically able to come to the archives. We were primarily contacted by phone or letter, and then started the many hours of pulling cards, and the back and forth via fax or mail."

The sea change for Gust is that people now contact her with questions regarding specific images they have already found online, and have in front of them via a direct Digital Past link. "The revolution of digitization is that the images are out there for the whole world to access," says Gust.

Digital Past Project Manager Kay Schlumpf remembers when it was all about the zip disk. "Participants sent cataloging in one file, and images in another. We had to upload and consolidate. Then the zips were wiped clean and returned to the institution. This definitely seemed cutting edge at the time."

In 2000, the digitization evolution turned Digital Past into a relational database. The cataloging standardized with Dublin Core and the appearance of standardized metadata. The next transformation came in 2004 with a move to OCLC's ContentDM, which offers many enticing features that enhance the experience for both the contributors and the users. From feedback, Schlumpf knows that for institutions adding content, the automatic generation of thumbnails from Web images is a big hit. For users, the ability to flip through a book, the zoom and pan of large images, and side-by-side journal and letter transcriptions are some of the favorite features.

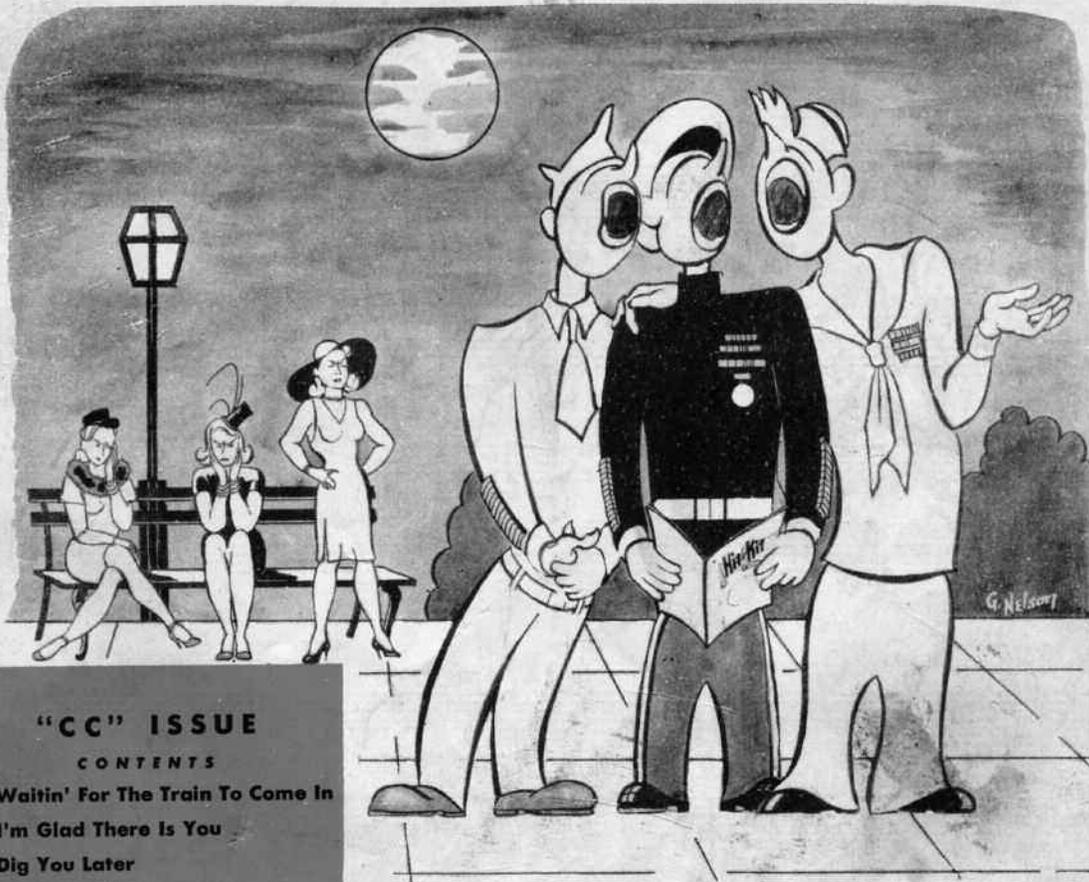
Last week I was diving into another musical search, and was surprised by a unique gem in the LCDM collection on Digital Past. Put "songbook" in the search box to enjoy the tuneful "Army Navy Hit Kit of Popular Songs." Check out "Dig Ya Later (A-hubba-hubba-hubba)" for lyrics that will definitely open a digital window on another era. **ILA**

ARMY

NAVY

Hit Hit

OF POPULAR SONGS



"CC" ISSUE

CONTENTS

1. Waitin' For The Train To Come In
2. I'm Glad There Is You
3. Dig You Later
4. But I Did
5. Aren't You Glad You're You
6. As Long As I Live
7. I Can't Begin To Tell You
8. With A Song In My Heart
9. I Can't Get You Out Of My Mind
10. After Dark

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Left to right: Mrs. Laura Bush, community member Aleksandr Krapivkin, Director Carolyn Anthony, and IMLS Director Anne Radice.



ILA wondered what it would be like to receive a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. With 42 percent of its residents foreign-born and ninety-seven languages other than English spoken at home — including Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Chinese, Urdu, Gujarati, and Greek — Skokie is recognized as one of the most diverse cities in the United States. The Skokie Public Library was honored for embracing the diversity of its constituency and taking great pride in targeting and tailoring its programming to the many and varied populations it serves. Carolyn Anthony provides this “behind the scenes” personal account of the 2008 ceremony.

Skokie Public Library and the 2008 National Medal for Library Service

I received the phone call in May informing me that the Skokie Public Library was selected as a 2008 National Medal winner. As you might imagine, I was so excited that I immediately wanted to tell everyone. I was making my mental list of people to call, composing my e-mail messages, and oh, should I blog this? What great news and haven't we all received enough bad news lately? The phone caller then informed me that I was not to mention the news to anyone. Have you ever tried to sit on big news? Every time someone asked, "So what's new at Skokie?" I had to jump over the obvious and try to think of something else to talk about. It was just like being on one of those reality TV programs. How long would I have to wait? Four months!? . . . Sorry, I should start at the beginning with a little background information!

We had read in the library press that the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services has an award for libraries which are making a difference in their communities. Thinking that the Skokie Public Library is making a difference in Skokie, we decided to apply. Our first application in 2007 was not successful, but we received encouraging feedback. Being confident that Skokie Public Library truly met the criteria, we persevered and applied again this year. We weren't wrong in our confidence — this time we received notice that we had been selected for the medal, along with four other libraries and five museums, and were invited to the White House for the ceremony honoring the winners.

We did, however, have preparations to make, made all the more difficult because the news was to be kept secret until further notice from IMLS. Christie Robinson, Manager of Skokie

Public Library's Public Information and Programs, was one of the few staff members aware of the honor to come, as she had to supply IMLS additional information about the library, photographs, and responses to questions. The staff at IMLS informed us that three people — the director, a board representative, and a community person — would be flown to Washington for the award ceremony. The community person was to be someone who had benefited from the library's services. How to pick one person who would represent use of the library? I talked with several patrons whom I either knew personally or who were recommended to me by other staff. We told people only that we were seeking persons to talk about their use of the library for a video we were producing. It certainly was gratifying to hear some wonderful compliments about the library, service received, and resources found.

Then I spoke with Aleks Krapivkin, a sophomore at Niles West High School who immigrated to Skokie four-and-a-half years ago with his mother, sister, and grandparents from Ukraine. His story was compelling and he told it with feeling and poise in nearly flawless English. Aleks came to the U.S., having studied some English in school, but speaking very little. An aunt who had come to the U.S. some years previously suggested that he go to the library and read picture books to improve his English, using the pictures to reinforce the text. Aleks did that and started hanging out in the library, gradually reading harder books as his English improved. Staff got to know him and asked him to help out with a birthday party for Curious George. Over time, Aleks learned more about the community and the library in conversations with library staff. He discovered a park district

[continued on page 12]



camp in theater, one of his passions. He became a conduit for his family, encouraging his mother and sister to take the ESL (English as a Second Language) classes offered by Oakton Community College at the library and bringing his grandparents to the library to check out books in Russian. Meanwhile, Aleks used his computer skills to help out with SkokieNet, the library's community information Web site, posting the Korean

page. This past summer, he was a volunteer in the "Booking with a Buddy" program in which an older student works with a first or second grader, meeting regularly over the summer to keep up new reading skills. This is particularly important in Skokie because a majority of people speak a language other than English at home and sometimes there is no one at home who is very fluent in English. The Krapivkin family credited the Skokie Public Library with easing their transition to life in this country and in Skokie. Three generations of an immigrant family whose lives were improved by the library — this story does say a lot about what we are doing in Skokie with the library's outreach to newcomers.

Having Aleks and his mother along with us on the trip to Washington made everything that much more exciting. Neither had ever been to Washington, never mind the White House, and Aleks was entranced with all the sights and activities. The day after we arrived in D.C., we joined other honorees for lunch, getting a chance to meet and talk with people from the other libraries and museums and to learn more about what would happen at the White House later that day and at the IMLS Symposium the next day.

Soon after lunch, John Graham, former President of the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees and current Vice President, Aleks, and I headed with the group to the south entrance of the White House, where we waited to be admitted. Once inside, we were greeted warmly by White House staff. Noting that John Graham is older and walks with a bit of difficulty, staff offered him the elevator while the rest of us walked up a number of stairs. Imagine his surprise to learn that he was in the President's elevator, but that they had time to get him to the next floor before the President arrived in fifteen minutes.

We assembled in the Gold Room to rehearse the ceremony, learning the appropriate way to get on and off the stage. We had some

free time to wander among the Green Room, the Blue Room, and the Rose Room, looking at paintings and admiring the furnishings. It was fun to snap a few photos with my Blackberry and send them back to the library so that staff could participate in the visit vicariously. A lovely reception was offered in the State Dining Room, with a number of guests from the sponsors and various federal agencies joining us. Former Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming was among the attendees; he is the board president of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, another awardee. He entertained us informally with stories about social events attended in the venue, tales about the Presidents' portraits, and other insider tidbits. After a time, we were summoned to the Blue Room to get in line for the official photograph with First Lady Laura Bush. A number of high-ranking military officers in dress uniform ushered us from room to room, checking to see that the group was all present and that the pronunciation of names was correct. We were announced and led into the Rose Room where we joined the First Lady by the fireplace for a photograph by the official White House photographer. She was lovely and gracious, commenting when she heard that Aleks was from Ukraine — "We had Mr. Yuschenko to dinner last week."

The ceremony itself was lovely. Laura Bush gave a nice talk featuring comments on each of the institutions being recognized as well as general remarks about the important role of libraries and museums in society. Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, praised Laura Bush for her support of museums and libraries, noting that her contributions would be missed in future years. We viewed a short film about the award winners, produced by the History Channel for IMLS. Each attendee also received a booklet featuring the honored institutions. Representatives of the sponsors, including the History Channel, Americans for the Arts, Hollinger/Metal

"It was clear that service offered by staff and the individual connections between people were the value-added component to well-crafted and responsive programs and resources."

Edge, Inc. Archival Storage Materials, and 3M Library Systems were in attendance, as were some other invited guests such as persons from ALA and other professional associations. Then each honored institution was briefly described and the director and community representative walked to the stage to receive the medal and certificate, combined in a frame for presentation. Each institution also receives a check for \$10,000. Photographs were taken and the ceremony was concluded.

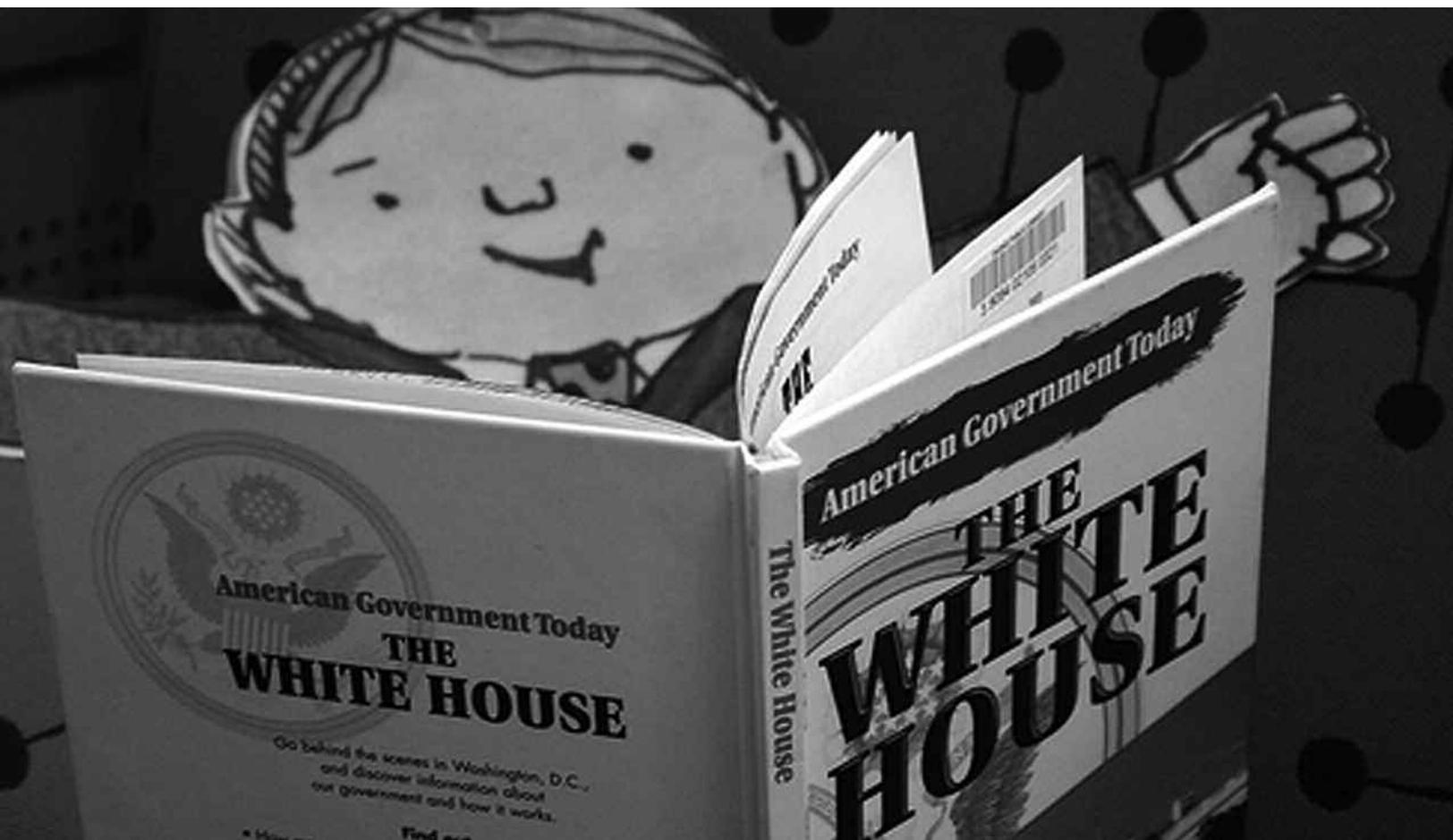
Wednesday morning, after a continental breakfast, we attended a symposium sponsored by the IMLS. Between remarks by Dr. Radice, Senator Alan Simpson, and a representative of Americans for the Arts, two panels were assembled. One featured the directors of the honored institutions who were each given two minutes to talk about leadership and what makes their institution successful (a tall order in any time frame, but particularly challenging in two minutes). The second panel featured the community representatives who told their personal stories of the impact of the institution on their lives. One person had lost her home in the storms on the Gulf Coast and found in the library not only a computer to file insurance claims, but a place to volunteer and begin to get her life back in order. Another discovered a new direction for work after a bleak period in a lost way. Aleks told his story in articulate English, explaining what the Skokie Public Library has meant to him and his family. It was clear that service offered by staff and the individual connections between people were the value-added component to well-crafted and responsive programs and resources. The community members confirmed libraries and museums do not

merely enrich lives, as important as that is, but make a significant difference in the lives of many people. What a grand affirmation of the work we do in libraries!

Aleks took Flat Stanley (the title character of a 1964 children's book by Jeff Brown) along to Washington and you can see some highlights of their trip on the library's Flickr account (<http://tinyurl.com/imls-spl-photos>). It was surprising to see that most people knew Flat Stanley, welcoming him even to the White House (though he did not meet the First Lady). Aleks came into the library immediately on his return from Washington, stars still in his eyes, to tell staff about his most exciting adventure. Fortunately, we had all the photos to show that he did not dream the three days, but that he really did visit the White House and shake hands with First Lady Laura Bush. ■▲

Winners of the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service are:

1. Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyo.
2. The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.
3. General Lew Wallace Study and Museum, Crawfordsville, Ind.
4. Jane Stern Dorado Community Library, Inc., Dorado, P.R.
5. Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Mo.
6. Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York, N.Y.
7. Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami, Fla.
8. Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Fla.
9. Skidompha Library, Damariscotta, Maine
10. Skokie Public Library, Skokie, Ill.



Is Google Making Us Stupid?

As the world's attention spans shorten, how does our increasing reliance on scanning the Internet for information affect our cognitive abilities? We reprint this long-form essay with hope of beginning a discussion about the intersection of technology and the way we think.

Give your comments at www.ila.org/blog and read what others are thinking about this topic and its impact on libraries and our services.

“Dave, stop. Stop, will you? Stop, Dave. Will you stop, Dave?” So the supercomputer HAL pleads with the implacable astronaut Dave Bowman in a famous and weirdly poignant scene toward the end of Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Bowman, having nearly been sent to a deep-space death by the malfunctioning machine, is calmly, coldly disconnecting the memory circuits that control its artificial brain. “Dave, my mind is going,” HAL says, forlornly. “I can feel it. I can feel it.”

I can feel it, too. Over the past few years I’ve had an uncomfortable sense that someone, or something, has been tinkering with my brain, remapping the neural circuitry, reprogramming the memory. My mind isn’t going — so far as I can tell — but it’s changing. I’m not thinking the way I used to think. I can feel it most strongly when I’m reading. Immersing myself in a book or a lengthy article used to be easy. My mind would get caught up in the narrative or the turns of the argument, and I’d spend hours strolling through long stretches of prose. That’s rarely the case anymore. Now my concentration often starts to drift after two or three pages. I get fidgety, lose the thread, and begin looking for something else to do. I feel as if I’m always dragging my wayward brain back to the text. The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle.

I think I know what’s going on. For more than a decade now, I’ve been spending a lot of time online, searching and surfing and sometimes adding to the great databases of the Internet. The Web has been a godsend to me as a writer. Research that once required days in the stacks or periodical rooms of libraries can now be done in minutes. A few Google searches, some quick

clicks on hyperlinks, and I’ve got the telltale fact or pithy quote I was after. Even when I’m not working, I’m as likely as not to be foraging in the Web’s info-thickets, reading and writing e-mails, scanning headlines and blog posts, watching videos and listening to podcasts, or just tripping from link to link to link. (Unlike footnotes, to which they’re sometimes likened, hyperlinks don’t merely point to related works; they propel you toward them.)

For me, as for others, the Net is becoming a universal medium, the conduit for most of the information that flows through my eyes and ears and into my mind. The advantages of having immediate access to such an incredibly rich store of information are many, and they’ve been widely described and duly applauded. “The perfect recall of silicon memory,” *Wired*’s Clive Thompson has written, “can be an enormous boon to thinking.” But that boon comes at a price. As the media theorist Marshall McLuhan pointed out in the 1960s, media are not just passive channels of information. They supply the stuff of thought, but they also shape the process of thought. And what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation. My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski.

I’m not the only one. When I mention my troubles with reading to friends and acquaintances — literary types, most of them — many say they’re having similar experiences. The more they use the Web, the more they have to fight to stay focused on long pieces of writing. Some of the bloggers I follow

[continued on page 16]



NORRIS

have also begun mentioning the phenomenon. Scott Karp, who writes a blog about online media, recently confessed that he has stopped reading books altogether. “I was a lit major in college, and used to be [a] voracious book reader,” he wrote. “What happened?” He speculates on the answer: “What if I do all my reading on the Web not so much because the way I read has changed, i.e., I’m just seeking convenience, but because the way I think has changed?”

Bruce Friedman, who blogs regularly about the use of computers in medicine, also has described how the Internet has altered his mental habits. “I now have almost totally lost the ability to read and absorb a longish article on the Web or in print,” he wrote earlier this year. A pathologist who has long been on the faculty of the University of Michigan Medical School, Friedman elaborated on his comment in a telephone conversation with me. His thinking, he said, has taken on a “staccato” quality, reflecting the way he quickly scans short passages of text from many sources online. “I can’t read *War and Peace* anymore,” he admitted. “I’ve lost the ability to do that. Even a blog post of more than three or four paragraphs is too much to absorb. I skim it.”

“Thanks to the ubiquity of text on the Internet, not to mention the popularity of text-messaging on cell phones, we may well be reading more today than we did in the 1970s or 1980s, when television was our medium of choice.”

Anecdotes alone don’t prove much. And we still await the long-term neurological and psychological experiments that will provide a definitive picture of how Internet use affects cognition. But a recently published study of online research habits, conducted by scholars from University College London, suggests that we may well be in the midst of a sea change in the way we read and think. As part of the five-year research program, the scholars examined computer logs documenting the behavior of visitors to two popular research sites, one operated by the British Library and one by a U.K. educational consortium, that provide access to journal articles, e-books, and other sources of written information. They found that people using the sites exhibited “a form of skimming activity,” hopping from one source to another and rarely returning to any source they’d already visited. They typically read no more than one or two pages of an article or book before they would “bounce” out to another site. Sometimes they’d save a long article, but there’s no evidence that they ever went back and actually read it. The authors of the study report:

It is clear that users are not reading online in the traditional sense; indeed there are signs that new forms of “reading” are emerging as users “power browse” horizontally through titles, contents pages, and abstracts going for quick wins. It almost seems that they go online to avoid reading in the traditional sense.

Thanks to the ubiquity of text on the Internet, not to mention the popularity of text-messaging on cell phones, we may well be reading more today than we did in the 1970s or 1980s, when television was our medium of choice. But it’s a different kind of reading, and behind it lies a different kind of thinking — perhaps even a new sense of the self. “We are not only what we read,” says Maryanne Wolf, a developmental psychologist at Tufts University and the author of *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*. “We are how we read.” Wolf worries that the style of reading promoted by the Net, a style that puts “efficiency” and “immediacy” above all else, may be weakening our capacity for the kind of deep reading that emerged when an earlier technology, the printing press, made long and complex works of prose commonplace. When we read online, she says, we tend to become “mere decoders of information.” Our ability to interpret text, to make the rich mental connections that form when we read deeply and without distraction, remains largely disengaged.

Reading, explains Wolf, is not an instinctive skill for human beings. It’s not etched into our genes the way speech is. We have to teach our minds how

[continued on page 18]



Library Program

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■ Why Utica?

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to translate the symbolic characters we see into the language we understand. And the media or other technologies we use in learning and practicing the craft of reading play an important part in shaping the neural circuits inside our brains. Experiments demonstrate that readers of ideograms, such as the Chinese, develop a mental circuitry for reading that is very different from the circuitry found in those of us whose written language employs an alphabet. The variations extend across many regions of the brain, including those that govern such essential cognitive functions as memory and the interpretation of visual and auditory stimuli. We can expect as well that the circuits woven by our use of the Net will be different from those woven by our reading of books and other printed works.

Sometime in 1882, Friedrich Nietzsche bought a typewriter — a Malling-Hansen Writing Ball, to be precise. His vision was failing, and keeping his eyes focused on a page had become exhausting and painful, often bringing on crushing headaches. He had been forced to curtail his writing, and he feared that he would soon have to give it up. The typewriter rescued him, at least for a time. Once he had mastered touch typing, he was able

to write with his eyes closed, using only the tips of his fingers. Words could once again flow from his mind to the page.

But the machine had a subtler effect on his work. One of Nietzsche's friends, a composer, noticed a change in the style of his writing. His already terse prose had become even tighter, more telegraphic. "Perhaps you will through this instrument even take to a new idiom," the friend wrote in a letter, noting that, in his own work, his "'thoughts' in music and language often depend on the quality of pen and paper."

"You are right," Nietzsche replied, "our writing equipment takes part in the forming of our thoughts." Under the sway of the machine, writes the German media scholar Friedrich A. Kittler, Nietzsche's prose "changed from arguments to aphorisms, from thoughts to puns, from rhetoric to telegram style."

The human brain is almost infinitely malleable. People used to think that our mental meshwork, the dense connections formed among the 100 billion or so neurons inside our skulls, was largely fixed by the time we reached adulthood. But brain researchers have discovered that that's not the case. James Olds, a professor of neuroscience who directs the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study at George Mason University, says that even the adult mind "is very plastic." Nerve cells routinely break old connections and form new ones. "The brain," according to Olds, "has the ability to reprogram itself on the fly, altering the way it functions."

As we use what the sociologist Daniel Bell has called our "intellectual technologies" — the tools that extend our mental rather than our physical capacities — we inevitably begin to take on the qualities of those technologies. The mechanical clock, which came into common use in the fourteenth century, provides a compelling example. In *Technics and Civilization*, the historian and cultural critic Lewis Mumford described how the clock "disassociated time from human events and helped create the belief in an independent world of mathematically measurable sequences." The "abstract framework of divided time" became "the point of reference for both action and thought."

The clock's methodical ticking helped bring into being the scientific mind and the scientific man. But it also took something away. As the late MIT computer scientist Joseph Weizenbaum observed in his 1976 book, *Computer Power and Human Reason: From Judgment to Calculation*, the conception of the world that emerged from the widespread use of timekeeping instruments "remains an impoverished version of the older one, for it rests on a rejection of those direct experiences that formed the basis for, and indeed constituted, the old reality." In deciding



when to eat, to work, to sleep, to rise, we stopped listening to our senses and started obeying the clock.

The process of adapting to new intellectual technologies is reflected in the changing metaphors we use to explain ourselves to ourselves. When the mechanical clock arrived, people began thinking of their brains as operating “like clockwork.” Today, in the age of software, we have come to think of them as operating “like computers.” But the changes, neuroscience tells us, go much deeper than metaphor. Thanks to our brain’s plasticity, the adaptation occurs also at a biological level.

The Internet promises to have particularly far-reaching effects on cognition. In a paper published in 1936, the British mathematician Alan Turing proved that a digital computer, which at the time existed only as a theoretical machine, could be programmed to perform the function of any other information-processing device. And that’s what we’re seeing today. The Internet, an immeasurably powerful computing system, is subsuming most of our other intellectual technologies. It’s becoming our map and our clock, our printing press and our typewriter, our calculator and our telephone, and our radio and TV.

When the Net absorbs a medium, that medium is re-created in the Net’s image. It injects the medium’s content with hyperlinks, blinking ads, and other digital gewgaws, and it surrounds the content with the content of all the other media it has absorbed. A new e-mail message, for instance, may announce its arrival as we’re glancing over the latest headlines at a newspaper’s site. The result is to scatter our attention and diffuse our concentration.

The Net’s influence doesn’t end at the edges of a computer screen, either. As people’s minds become attuned to the crazy quilt of Internet media, traditional media have to adapt to the audience’s new expectations. Television programs add text crawls and pop-up ads, and magazines and newspapers shorten their articles, introduce capsule summaries, and crowd their pages with easy-to-browse info-snippets. When, in March of this year, *The New York Times* decided to devote the second and third pages of every edition to article abstracts, its design director, Tom Bodkin, explained that the “shortcuts” would give harried readers a quick “taste” of the day’s news, sparing them the “less efficient” method of actually turning the pages and reading the articles. Old media have little choice but to play by the new-media rules.

“Never has a communications system played so many roles in our lives — or exerted such broad influence over our thoughts — as the Internet does today.”

Never has a communications system played so many roles in our lives — or exerted such broad influence over our thoughts — as the Internet does today. Yet, for all that’s been written about the Net, there’s been little consideration of how, exactly, it’s reprogramming us. The Net’s intellectual ethic remains obscure.

About the same time that Nietzsche started using his typewriter, an earnest young man named Frederick Winslow Taylor carried a stopwatch into the Midvale Steel plant in Philadelphia and began a historic series of experiments aimed at improving the efficiency of the plant’s machinists. With the approval of Midvale’s owners, he recruited a group of factory hands, set them to work on various metalworking machines, and recorded and timed their every movement as well as the operations of the machines. By breaking down every job into a sequence of small, discrete steps and then testing different ways of performing each one, Taylor created a set of precise instructions — an “algorithm,” we might say today — for how each worker should work. Midvale’s employees grumbled about the strict new regime, claiming that it turned them into little more than automatons, but the factory’s productivity soared.

More than a hundred years after the invention of the steam engine, the Industrial Revolution had at last found its philosophy and its philosopher. Taylor’s tight industrial choreography — his “system,” as he liked to call it — was embraced by manufacturers throughout the country and, in time, around the world. Seeking maximum speed, maximum efficiency, and maximum output, factory owners used time-and-motion studies to organize their work and configure the jobs of their workers. The goal, as Taylor defined it in his celebrated 1911 treatise, *The Principles of Scientific Management*, was to identify and adopt, for every job, the “one best method” of work and thereby to effect

[continued on page 20]

“The idea that our minds should operate as high-speed data-processing machines is not only built into the workings of the Internet, it is the network’s reigning business model as well.”

“the gradual substitution of science for rule of thumb throughout the mechanic arts.” Once his system was applied to all acts of manual labor, Taylor assured his followers, it would bring about a restructuring not only of industry but also of society, creating a utopia of perfect efficiency. “In the past the man has been first,” he declared, “in the future the system must be first.”

Taylor’s system is still very much with us; it remains the ethic of industrial manufacturing. And now, thanks to the growing power that computer engineers and software coders wield over our intellectual lives, Taylor’s ethic is beginning to govern the realm of the mind as well. The Internet is a machine designed for the efficient and automated collection, transmission, and manipulation of information, and its legions of programmers are intent on finding the “one best method” — the perfect algorithm — to carry out every mental movement of what we’ve come to describe as “knowledge work.”

Google’s headquarters, in Mountain View, California — the Googleplex — is the Internet’s high church, and the religion practiced inside its walls is Taylorism. Google, says its chief executive, Eric Schmidt, is “a company that’s founded around the science of measurement,” and it is striving to “systematize everything” it does. Drawing on the terabytes of behavioral data it collects through its search engine and other sites, it carries out thousands of experiments a day, according to the *Harvard Business Review*,

and it uses the results to refine the algorithms that increasingly control how people find information and extract meaning from it. What Taylor did for the work of the hand, Google is doing for the work of the mind.

The company has declared that its mission is “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.” It seeks to develop “the perfect search engine,” which it defines as something that “understands exactly what you mean and gives you back exactly what you want.” In Google’s view, information is a kind of commodity, a utilitarian resource that can be mined and processed with industrial efficiency. The more pieces of information we can “access” and the faster we can extract their gist, the more productive we become as thinkers.

Where does it end? Sergey Brin and Larry Page, the gifted young men who founded Google while pursuing doctoral degrees in computer science at Stanford, speak frequently of their desire to turn their search engine into an artificial intelligence, a HAL-like machine that might be connected directly to our brains. “The ultimate search engine is something as smart as people — or smarter,” Page said in a speech a few years back. “For us, working on search is a way to work on artificial intelligence.” In a 2004 interview with *Newsweek*, Brin said, “Certainly if you had all the world’s information directly attached to your brain, or an artificial brain that was smarter than your brain, you’d be better off.” Last year, Page told a convention of scientists that Google is “really trying to build artificial intelligence and to do it on a large scale.”

Such an ambition is a natural one, even an admirable one, for a pair of math whizzes with vast quantities of cash at their disposal and a small army of computer scientists in their employ. A fundamentally scientific enterprise, Google is motivated by a desire to use technology, in Eric Schmidt’s words, “to solve problems that have never been solved before,” and artificial intelligence is the hardest problem out there. Why wouldn’t Brin and Page want to be the ones to crack it?

Still, their easy assumption that we’d all “be better off” if our brains were supplemented, or even replaced, by an artificial intelligence is unsettling. It suggests a belief that intelligence is the output of a mechanical process, a series of discrete steps that can be isolated, measured, and optimized. In Google’s world, the world we enter when we go online, there’s little place for the fuzziness of contemplation. Ambiguity is not an opening for insight but a bug to be fixed. The human brain

is just an outdated computer that needs a faster processor and a bigger hard drive.

The idea that our minds should operate as high-speed data-processing machines is not only built into the workings of the Internet, it is the network's reigning business model as well. The faster we surf across the Web — the more links we click and pages we view — the more opportunities Google and other companies gain to collect information about us and to feed us advertisements. Most of the proprietors of the commercial Internet have a financial stake in collecting the crumbs of data we leave behind as we flit from link to link — the more crumbs, the better. The last thing these companies want is to encourage leisurely reading or slow, concentrated thought. It's in their economic interest to drive us to distraction.

Maybe I'm just a worrywart. Just as there's a tendency to glorify technological progress, there's a countertendency to expect the worst of every new tool or machine. In Plato's *Phaedrus*, Socrates bemoaned the development of writing. He feared that, as people came to rely on the written word as a substitute for the knowledge they used to carry inside their heads, they would, in the words of one of the dialogue's characters, "cease to exercise their memory and become forgetful." And because they would be able to "receive a quantity of information without proper instruction," they would "be thought very knowledgeable when they are for the most part quite ignorant." They would be "filled with the conceit of wisdom instead of real wisdom." Socrates wasn't wrong — the new technology did often have the effects he feared — but he was shortsighted. He couldn't foresee the many ways that writing and reading would serve to spread information, spur fresh ideas, and expand human knowledge (if not wisdom).

The arrival of Gutenberg's printing press, in the fifteenth century, set off another round of teeth gnashing. The Italian humanist Hieronimo Squarciafico worried that the easy availability of books would lead to intellectual laziness, making men "less studious" and weakening their minds. Others argued that cheaply printed books and broadsheets would undermine religious authority, demean the work of scholars and scribes, and spread sedition and debauchery. As New York University professor Clay Shirky notes, "Most of the arguments made against the printing press were correct, even prescient." But, again, the doomsayers were unable to imagine the myriad blessings that the printed word would deliver.

So, yes, you should be skeptical of my skepticism. Perhaps those who dismiss critics of the Internet as Luddites or nostalgists will be proved correct, and from our hyperactive, data-stoked minds will spring a golden age of intellectual discovery and universal wisdom. Then again, the Net isn't the alphabet, and although it may replace the printing press, it produces something

altogether different. The kind of deep reading that a sequence of printed pages promotes is valuable not just for the knowledge we acquire from the author's words but for the intellectual vibrations those words set off within our own minds. In the quiet spaces opened up by the sustained, undistracted reading of a book, or by any other act of contemplation, for that matter, we make our own associations, draw our own inferences and analogies, foster our own ideas. Deep reading, as Maryanne Wolf argues, is indistinguishable from deep thinking.

If we lose those quiet spaces, or fill them up with "content," we will sacrifice something important not only in ourselves but in our culture. In a recent essay, the playwright Richard Foreman eloquently described what's at stake:

I come from a tradition of Western culture, in which the ideal (my ideal) was the complex, dense, and "cathedral-like" structure of the highly educated and articulate personality — a man or woman who carried inside themselves a personally constructed and unique version of the entire heritage of the West. [But now] I see within us all (myself included) the replacement of complex inner density with a new kind of self — evolving under the pressure of information overload and the technology of the "instantly available."

As we are drained of our "inner repertory of dense cultural inheritance," Foreman concluded, we risk turning into "pancake people" — spread wide and thin as we connect with that vast network of information accessed by the mere touch of a button.

I'm haunted by that scene in *2001*. What makes it so poignant, and so weird, is the computer's emotional response to the disassembly of its mind: its despair as one circuit after another goes dark, its childlike pleading with the astronaut — "I can feel it. I can feel it. I'm afraid" — and its final reversion to what can only be called a state of innocence. HAL's outpouring of feeling contrasts with the emotionlessness that characterizes the human figures in the film, who go about their business with an almost robotic efficiency. Their thoughts and actions feel scripted, as if they're following the steps of an algorithm. In the world of 2001, people have become so machinelike that the most human character turns out to be a machine. That's the essence of Kubrick's dark prophecy: as we come to rely on computers to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence.

"Is Google Making Us Stupid?" originally appeared in the July–August issue of *The Atlantic* and is reprinted here with the permission of the author. Copyright 2008 by Nicholas Carr. All rights reserved. 

De-Humanizing the Library Redux

Hurrah for technology in libraries! What would we do without it? So many areas of our operations have been enhanced by the powers of computers and the Internet — that is nothing new. Right?

But, how far can we take this? And, how far should we take this? And, when? Most of us know all about Libraries 2.0. My own library has delved into exploring newer communication methods with our patrons by using whatever was or is the newest thing. I still harbor some doubt as to their success, but I realize that sometimes the impression of newness or the act of being new is the point itself. If you want new, only new will do.

Quite frankly, I am usually bothered by those who always have their hand up as early adopters of every new thing on the market. When did they have time to use the last new thing enough to allow its potential to be harnessed? How long does it take to know that some things are great while others are wasting energy? Are we merely interested in touching base with those patrons fascinated by all things new or even those lost in Second Life?

Much comparison has been made of public services in libraries with those in a business setting. Although libraries have such devotion to patrons and attempt to offer services for free, the business folks are really trying to lure their clients from the aisles and Web sites of other businesses down the street in order to capture a larger market share. Cutting costs is a strategy to increase profit in a business, while cutting costs in a library is usually intended to provide more money for another service or program in that organization.

Let's look at the self-checkout stations for a start. By the way, I know this is not a new technology, but I have also noticed that more and more of them in libraries are stuck in a corner that seems more suited for a private Internet transaction than a brief

checkout encounter. In a business, these stations have taken over front and center to the extent that you have to wander around looking for a real person to help you. Library architecture and design may slowly place these stations on the main thoroughfare.

In libraries, these stations can provide a more private transaction for the patron and sometimes offer a quick exit, although we now assume that the patron is reading something more fun than their image might suggest or perhaps is still hiding the fact that someone in a mask has taken up residence near their mind. In the retail establishment, the idea is to have the work done by the client in an effort to cut personnel costs. Getting caught behind a slow person in a self-check situation is worse than getting stuck in a long line with a trained employee at the lead. I have watched who finished quicker, and it usually is the one who opted for a trained clerk who added something like, "Have a nice day. Thanks and come back," rather than an electronic beep beep telling you to remove your ID and move it on out.

Furthermore, have you noticed that the longer a business has the "let's put all the work onto the customer" attitude, finding a capable assistant to facilitate your purchase or one who knows how to operate the contraption you've decided to use is almost impossible. Yes, they are open longer hours, but their staff is less trained than ever, and usually know less about the product than the customer. Am I the only person who buys plantains and avocados at Walmart? Their inexperienced clerks have no idea about produce beyond apples and bananas even with a color picture guide in front of them.

Is this the role we want for our library employees in the future? Instead of the trained voices of the past serving patrons coming and going from our libraries, we could have more employees roaming the library hoping someone needs help. (This reminds me of a long-gone "pop cop" in an academic library who roamed nightly, enough to scare most of the patrons and bother all of the staff.) As time marches on, we could become quite comfortable

with our patrons marching toward brightly lit self-check machines which will say, "Show me your ID and you can leave here soon." With a bit of extra programming, I'll bet they could add, "Never come back here... you can request anything we do from home, online or by calling 1-800-SAVE-GAS. You too can check out of humanity by using buttons placed everywhere you go. Good luck and watch out for the moving sidewalk provided for your convenience and hardening of arteries."

As for most technologies playing a role in our libraries today, I feel that the most beneficial ones are those which are ubiquitous, for both the user and the library staff. There should be no question as to where or how the service is available. If automatic phone and e-mail messages have overtaken print notices and fax transmissions, it is because the library benefited in a substantial way, usually in time or money. It probably wasn't the patron who requested an e-mail rather than a note in snail mail nor a computer-generated telephone message rather than a personal phone call from a staffer. Many of us were not in libraries when microfilm replaced piles of newspapers, but I'll bet it was the library insisting upon the change, the same with coin-automated photocopiers, online catalogs, compact shelving, barcoding of library materials and patron cards, and many other innovations now routine.

As Library 2.0 technologies spread throughout the country, may they do as much for the library as they do for the patron who apparently, according to some, is screaming for them. Keep the message brief and informative, avoid usurping staffers' energies from the development of the library while they attempt to develop one patron at a time. If we can help citizens understand the world and its many innovations, perfect. If we are trying to compete with the commercial vendors of entertainment for teens or adults, we may come up short.

Blogging is a wonderful resource for public comment, especially about a thread related to the library or its programs. Attracting new users is a worthy goal.

Podcasting can document an event for those who could not attend in person. As for patrons contributing to our library catalogs and generating or writing new ideas over old ones, and debating subject headings, etc., I'll ask for more time to understand the value added. While library catalogers may be more difficult to recruit these days, I'll never trade them for the graffiti-esque ramblings of the wannabe writer or casual critic.

Let's keep the technology coming in libraries and at full speed, but let's make judicious decisions as to which ones benefit us and our patrons and which ones are just fun and seem to attract a lot of attention. I think our libraries and librarians have the power, energy, resources, and creativity to generate a lot of enviable attention with or without a new shiny thingamajig around their necks. **ILA**

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- **Online Images...what would grandma think?**
- **Blogs** are webpages, anyone can read them.
- **Text** only family and close friends.
- **Parents...tell them immediately** if you receive anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable.



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ILA and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan Cooperate on Internet Safety

In late October, Lisa Madigan wrote to all the Illinois library system directors about the distribution of a free Internet poster. In her letter she said, "Thank you for joining us in our efforts to help children and teens stay safe on the Internet. I am pleased that you — as stewards of some of our most valued public institutions — share my commitment to edu-

cate the public on protecting their safety and privacy online.

"As you know, the Internet provides us with access to a virtual universe of information — it is an essential research and educational tool of our time. Nonetheless, it also exposes us to serious risks in the real world. Our use of the Internet reveals our personal information, making us vulnerable to identity theft, online predators, and cyberbullying.

"In light of these concerns, my office encourages children and teens to follow seven key principles of Internet safety.

These key principles are:

- Never post personal information online;
- Don't put strangers on your buddy list;
- Don't post potentially embarrassing images of yourself online;
- Remember that anyone can read blogs;
- Communicate only with friends and family;
- Tell your parents if you receive anything that makes you feel uncomfortable; and
- "Think before you post" any information about yourself online.

"We are all delighted that the Illinois Library Association is joining our efforts by distributing the "Opening Kids' Eyes" posters. We hope your libraries will participate by making the enclosed posters visible. Also, if you would like to schedule Internet safety trainings for parents or children, please feel free to call my Director of Strategic Communications, Elizabeth Norden, at (312) 814-8570."

ILA's other partners in this effort are the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Many thanks to the Illinois library systems for distributing the poster throughout the state.

Fun and Creativity Featured at the 2008 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference: A Break from All the Bad Economic News

The 2008 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference (23–26 September 2008) in Chicago certainly disproved the staid and quiet image much of the public holds about the profession. In addition to the seventy educational and instructional sessions, the innovative conference hit was "Style from the Stacks: *Project Runway* at ILA."



**“Style from the Stacks:
Project Runway at ILA”**

Book jacket met evening jacket. MARC records met Marc Jacobs. The library world met the fashion world on Thursday, 25 September, at the ILA Annual Conference.

Conceived by 2008 ILA Annual Conference Program Committee member Maria Pontillas of the Glenview Public Library, the event was based on the popular Bravo Television series, *Project Runway*. Library staff members were encouraged to submit design proposals inspired by libraries and literature.

The program featured three categories of design: Library Inspired Casual Wear, In Style @ Your Library, and the Creative Reuse Collection. Thirty-six models walked the runway, displaying designs such as “Due Date Maternity Wear,” “Charlotte the Webrarian,” an entire “green” collection, and “A Dress for the Desk Set Cocktail Fete.” The evening concluded with “And They Lived Happily Ever After” — a wedding dress fashioned out of romance novels.

Steven Rosengard, a contestant in *Project Runway: Season 4*, served as master of ceremonies for the evening. Born and raised in Chicago, Steven’s path to fashion led him to Chicago’s Columbia College for fashion design, but he left after only one year to travel abroad where fashion and fabric continued to captivate him in places such as France, England, and Italy. His contributions as a Textile Preparator at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry may be seen in exhibits such as the U-505 Submarine and Transportation Gallery. Rosengard is a rising star in Chicago’s design community with his own label, Steven Rosengard Design.

At the conclusion of “Style from the Stacks,” ILA President Donna Dzedzic stated it best: “Like the designers on *Project Runway* — Illinois librarians also face challenges. Shrinking budgets, growing workloads, inadequate staffing, changing technologies, and a demanding public challenge our libraries. But, as evident in the fashions displayed here tonight, our creativity, dedication, and resourcefulness prevail and, in the end, we always pull it together with style.”



Another Fun Highlight was the 2008 Illinois Book Cart Drill Team Competition

Among the competing teams of eight each were the Windy City Wheels from Chicago Public Library (CPL), Schaumburg Township District Library's Cart Wheels, and the Warrior Librarians of Oak Park Public Library. Donna Dziedzic, ILA President and Executive Director of the Naperville Public Library, Bradley Baker, Immediate Past President of ILA and Director of the Northeastern Illinois University Library, and Jon Ison of DEMCO, which sponsored the competition, judged the competitors on both technical ability and artistic impression. Emcee for the event was American Library Association's Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels.

Each team designed choreography, music, and costuming to support their selected theme. Each performed a three-minute program in front of the judges and audience of more than two hundred fellow library staff from throughout the state.

Based on the Chicago Public Library's current One Book/One City selection, the Windy City Wheels presented *The Right Stuff*, featuring a space odyssey theme in costumes resembling white hazmat outfits and modernistic black helmets. The

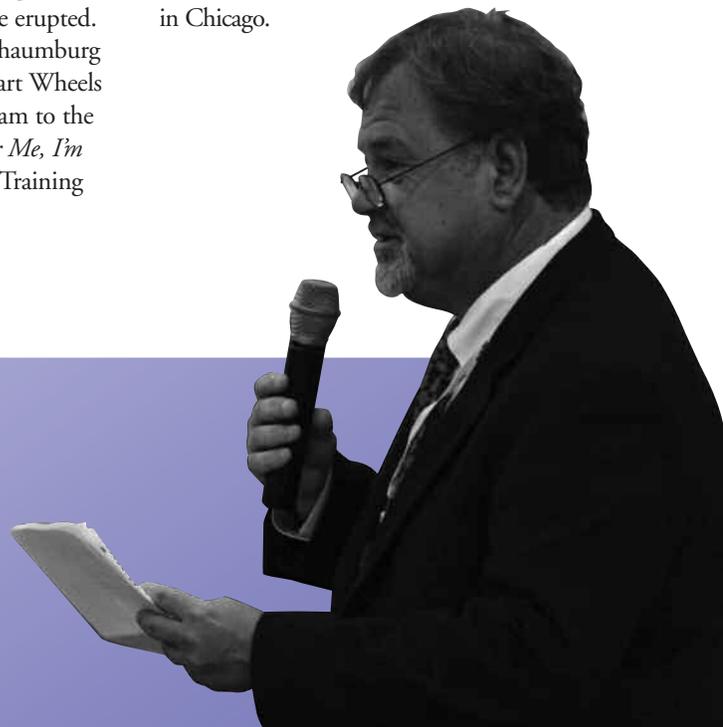
concept was the brainchild of Assistant Commissioner of Central Library Services Greta Bever. Choreographer Stella Natufe, a clerk at Chicago's Harold Washington Library Center, led the troupe through the performance. She credited the "group effort" for bringing the many staff from various departments together for this event. Her fifteen years of experience with the South Shore Drill Team also proved advantageous. Natufe noted that her greatest pleasure in this effort is "seeing everyone come together and getting a chance to meet new people" who work at CPL.

Oak Park's Warrior Librarians approached the competition in a humorous manner. Under the leadership of Reference Librarian Irene Balks and costume designer/librarian Jeanne Friedell the troupe brought Norse mythology to life. Performing to Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries*, the group-choreographed team entered in horned helmets, long braided wigs, and decorated carts. Sweeping away their rustic capes, the warrior regalia were revealed and the audience erupted.

A first-time competitor, Schaumburg Township District Library's Cart Wheels brought yet another diverse team to the competition with *Don't Bother Me, I'm Reading*. Kristine Kenney, the Training and Instruction Librarian at

Schaumburg, created the witty choreography. When asked why she was a participant, Popular Services Librarian Amy Peterson responded, "I love the audience response. It's nice to have libraries perceived in a different light." Director of Circulation Services Richard Hanrath added, "I just wanted to know some different uses for book carts, other than shelving books."

In the end, the judges awarded prizes to all the teams competing. Schaumburg was named "Most Original." "Best Costuming and Decorations" was awarded to Chicago, while Oak Park received the title of "Most Outrageous." Upon tallying all the points given from all the judges, third place and a \$100 DEMCO gift certificate was awarded to Schaumburg Township District Library. Chicago Public Library and Oak Park Public Library tied for first place and both received a \$250 DEMCO certificate. Both winning teams are now invited to compete for the national title and additional DEMCO prizes in July 2009 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago.



Conference Statistics

Total attendees: 2,187

Attendees from: Bahrain; Colombia; Ghana; Japan; Kenya; Nigeria; Palestine; South Korea; Tanzania; Uganda; United States; Uzbekistan; and Vietnam.

Exhibit booths: 178

Major Speakers: Jamie LaRue, author of *The New Inquisition*; 2009 iREAD illustrator Patrick Girourad; Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, creators of *Unshelved*, the library comic strip; and the always-popular Al Gini discussing The Seven Deadly Sins.

Conference Registration

	2008 Chicago	2007 Springfield	2006 Chicago	2005 Peoria	2004 Chicago	2003 Springfield	2002 Chicago	2001 Springfield
Full	767	580	844	616	736	527	699	579
Single day Wednesday	242	68	281	35	151	39	161	46
Single day Thursday	269	109	233	122	282	119	258	66
Single day Friday	77	12	66	24	98	8	83	47
Preconference only	16	5	32	6	108	151	151	73
SUBTOTAL	1,371	774	1,456	803	1,375	844	1,352	811
Speakers	83	74	100	27	105	78	133	102
Free expo passes	326	141	206	50	236	100	426	88
Exhibitor representatives	407	227	368	207	392	202	503	236
TOTAL	2,187	1,216	2,130	1,087	2,108	1,224	2,414	1,237

Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	695	795	592	783	575	918	554	861
Hotel Rooms Used	611	939	690	945	626	1,169	605	896
Number of Companies	157	125	137	113	151	132	165	117
Number of Booths	178	142	158	129	170	144	173	112.5
(including any paid canceled booths)								
Total Square Feet	17,600	14,200	15,800	12,900	16,700	14,400	18,600	12,250

Early bird registrations accounted for 86 percent (versus 72 percent last year) of final paid registration figures; advance registrations accounted for 12 percent (versus 8 percent last year) of final paid registrations; and on-site registrations accounted for 2 percent (versus 10 percent last year) of final paid registrations.

ILA expresses its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and donors of this year's conference:

Sponsors: ASI-Modulex, Baker & Taylor, Book Wholesalers, Inc. (BWI), Brainfuse, Cart by Cart, Davidson Title, Inc., DEMCO, Ehlers & Associates, Inc., Heil & Heil Insurance Agency, Ingram Library Services, Inc., Rob Innes, Kepner + Associates, M. A. Mortenson Company, Miriam Pollack, ProQuest, Sikich LLP, Today's Business Solutions, Tutor.com, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wiseman Consulting and Training

ILA wishes to thank our sponsors and all those individuals and organizations who have given generously of their time and talents to make this conference a success.

2008 ILA Annual Conference Award Photos Photos by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.



Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial/DEMCO Award

Award presented by John Ison, DEMCO, Inc. (l) to Sarah Long, North Suburban Library System (r).



Crosman Memorial Award

Award presented by Kathy Underriner, Brodart Co. (l) and Sara McCambridge, Membership Committee chair (r) to Skye Lavin, Blue Island Public Library (c).



Davis Cup Award

Award winner Lori Craft, Hillside Public Library.



Golden Ticket Award

Noël Zethmayr, LaGrange Public Library Award presented by Mary Marshall, Youth Services Forum Awards Co-Chair, and Robert Zimmers of Quality Books, Inc.



Highsmith Library Innovation Award

Award presented by John Wilson, Highsmith, Inc. (l) to Nancy Heuser (c) and Sharon Wsol (r), Orland Park Public Library.



Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award

Award presented by Isaac Hunter Dunlap, IACRL Forum Manager (l), to Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University (r).



Intellectual Freedom Award

Award presented by David Hamilton, chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee (c), to Township High School District 214 Board President, David Schuler (l), and Township High School District 214 Superintendent, Lenore Gonzales Bragaw (r), Arlington Heights.



Librarian of the Year Award

Award presented by Sue Beach (l) to Sharon Ruda, Illinois State Library, Talking Book & Braille Service (r).



Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award

Award presented by Dee Brennan, chair of the Public Policy Committee (l), to Lou Ann Jacobs (r).



Jane O'Brien Award

Award presented by Sue Beach, Awards Committee chair (l), to Melinda Provost, Chicago Ridge Public Library (r).



Deborah Dowley Preiser Award

Allison Beasley, Kankakee Public Library, was unable to attend.

Award presented by Sue Beach, Awards Committee chair (c), to Camille Rose (r), and Yvonne Crosswell (l), Kankakee Public Library.



Reference Services Award

Award presented by Sue Beach, Awards Committee chair (l), to Carolyn M. Mulac, Chicago Public Library (r).



Alexander J. Skrzypek Award

Award presented by Anne Craig, Illinois State Library (r), to Robert Blanchard, Des Plaines Public Library (l).



TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Award presented by Nathan Handlon, TBS, Inc. (r) to Joy Anhalt, Tinley Park Public Library (l).



2009 ILA Action Agenda

The Illinois Library Association is committed to serving as an advocate for libraries by developing legislative initiatives that: improve funding for libraries; protect intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality; expand access to information and library resources to all Illinois residents; and increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries.

Library Funding

The Illinois Library Association will work with a broad coalition of library advocates to improve funding for libraries. The association will:

1. Develop a multi-year plan to reverse the trend in state funding for libraries.
2. Work to expand existing funding levels and explore alternative sources of library funding.
3. Endeavor to increase the funding level for public and school library per capita grants.
4. Work to increase funding for regional library systems.
5. Develop and support legislative proposals to mitigate the harmful effects of the tax cap limitation act.
6. Work with the legislature to increase the Illinois Secretary of State's budget in order to increase the funding for the Illinois State Library.

Intellectual Freedom and Privacy

The Illinois Library Association is committed to protecting intellectual freedom and privacy while providing open access to information for all Illinois residents. The association will:

1. Continue to educate the public on the safe use of the Internet, including interactive web applications.
2. Continue to oppose legislation mandating the use of Internet filters in libraries.

3. Encourage governing boards of schools and libraries to develop an Acceptable Internet Use Policy with input from their community.
4. Continue to oppose legislation that erodes the privacy of library users.

Access to Library Services

The Illinois Library Association believes access to library services should be a right and responsibility of every Illinois resident. The association will:

1. Oppose legislation that would erode public library service areas.
2. Work to extend tax-supported public library service to the 9 percent of Illinois residents currently unserved.
3. Work to ensure libraries are established in good faith with intentions to operate as a library.
4. Work to ensure that school library legislation is expanded to equip all school libraries with certified media personnel.

Increase Effectiveness of Illinois Libraries

The Illinois Library Association is committed to promoting legislation that will increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries. The association will:

1. Work to develop library legislation that is comparable to legislation benefiting other entities of government.
2. Work to develop initiatives that improve the ability of Illinois libraries to provide library services to the citizens of Illinois.

Drexel University Online, ILA Members Receive 20 Percent Off Tuition!

The Illinois Library Association recently formed an educational partnership with Drexel University Online. Through this partnership, ILA members are entitled to receive a 20 percent

tuition reduction on Drexel's top-ranking online degree and certificate programs.

A leader in online education, Drexel has offered advanced degree programs in Information Science and Technology entirely online for over a decade. Drexel's MS in Library and Information Science program is ranked in the "Top Twenty Library and Information Studies Programs" in 2009 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Drexel Online – Features and Benefits

- Ranked in "America's Best Colleges 2009" by *U.S. News & World Report*
- 20 percent tuition reduction for ILA members
- Nationally ranked *iSchool*
- ALA-accredited library science programs
- Access classes anytime, anywhere!

Drexel University Online offers library science professionals a convenient way to earn a reputable, accredited degree. Without an added commute, fixed class hours, or career interruption, you can earn a degree while earning a living! Visit www.drexel.com/ila to apply online free! Be sure to enter your partner code "ILA" to receive your tuition reduction. For more information, please contact your partnership liaison: Valerie Malinowski, ILA Partnership Liaison; phone: (215) 895-0915; e-mail: vm97@drexel.edu; www.drexel.com/ila.

2008 General Election Library Referenda Results

In this latest election, there were ten library referenda — 0 passed, 10 failed for a 0 percent success rate.

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
Atlanta Public Library District	Logan	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Atlanta Public Library District, Logan County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to .085 percent above the limiting rate for levy year 2007 and be equal to .26593 percent of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?
Barrington Public Library	Cook, Kane, Lake, McHenry	Failed	Bond	Shall the bonds of the Barrington Public Library District, Cook, Kane, Lake, and McHenry Counties, Illinois, in the amount \$34,300,000 be issued for the purpose of constructing an addition to the existing library building and related improvements, furnishing necessary equipment therefore and acquiring library materials such as books, periodicals, films, recordings, and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?
Des Plaines Valley Public Library District	Will	Failed	Bond	A proposition to issue \$40,900,000 in Library Bonds.
Des Plaines Valley Public Library District	Will	Failed	Tax	A proposition to increase the Limiting Rate.
Huntley Area Public Library District	Kane, McHenry	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Huntley Area Public Library District, McHenry and Kane Counties, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.075 percent above the limiting rate for levy year 2007 and be equal to 0.24886 percent of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011?
John Mosser Public Library District	Knox	Failed	Tax	Shall the annual public library tax rate for the John Mosser Public Library District, Abingdon, Illinois be established at .35 percent of full, fair cash value instead of at .25 percent, the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?

Government Unit Name	Jurisdiction	Result	Referenda Type	Description
McHenry Public Library District	McHenry	Failed	Bond	Shall the bonds of the McHenry Public Library District, McHenry County, Illinois, in the amount of \$32,000,000 be issued for the purpose of erecting a new building to be used as a library, furnishing necessary equipment therefor, acquiring library materials such as books, periodicals, films, recordings, and electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith, erecting other improvements on the site thereof and demolishing the existing library building and related facilities?
Sugar Grove Public Library District	Kane	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the Sugar Grove Public Library District, Kane County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to .108891 percent above the limiting rate for levy year 2007 and be equal to 0.20 percent of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?
Village of Villa Park	DuPage	Failed	Tax	Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for the library funds of the Village of Villa Park, DuPage County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.08 percent above the limiting rate for the levy year 2007 and be equal to 0.3401 percent of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2008?
Village of Villa Park	DuPage	Failed	Bond	Shall bonds in the amount not to exceed \$24,900,000 be issued by the Village of Villa Park, DuPage County, Illinois, for the purpose of paying costs of constructing a new library building, purchasing and improving a site therefor, furnishing equipment and acquiring library materials such as books, periodicals, films and recordings, and electronic data and storage facilities therefor, demolishing the existing library building and paying expenses incidental therefor, said bonds bearing interest at a rate not to exceed 7 percent per annum?

Past Referenda Results

According to the Illinois State Board of Elections Web site (www.elections.il.gov), from 1995 to 2005, there have been 200 library referenda — 91 passed; 88 failed; and 21 no results. In 1995, there were 10 library referenda — 9 passed, and 1 failed for a 90 percent success rate. In the 2004 General Election, there were 23 library referenda — 10 passed, 13 failed for a 43 percent success rate. In the 2005 Consolidated Election, there were 29 library referenda — 11 passed, 18 failed for a 38 percent success rate. In the 2006 Primary Election, there were 24 library referenda — 16 passed, 8 failed for a 67 percent success rate. In the 2007 Primary Election, there were 24 library referenda — 11 passed, 13 failed for a 46 percent success rate. In the 2008 Primary Election, there were 18 library referenda — 7 passed, 11 failed for a 38.8 percent success rate.

Abraham Lincoln Statewide Read: Call for Volunteers!

The Land of Lincoln Statewide Read: Connecting with Mr. Lincoln will launch on his 200th birthday, Thursday, February 12, 2009! Volunteers are needed to help with activities such as coordinating local travel arrangements, publicity, updating a calendar of events, and keeping an eye on the blog. The blog is at: <http://lincoln2009.blogspot.com/>. Volunteers will not be turned down so if you have expertise or other ideas, please consider getting involved! Please send e-mail to Kay Shelton at: kayshelton@hotmail.com.

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.

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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Bolingbrook
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Ruta Jancys, Woodridge Public Library
Sarah Kovac, Carol Stream Public Library
Ann Kruckmeyer, Park Ridge Public Library
Skye Lavin, Blue Island Public Library
Christine Lees, St. Charles Public Library District
Linda K. Ling, Shorewood-Troy Public Library District
Jean MacDonald, Illinois State University, Normal
Megan Marsh, Acorn Public Library District, Oak Forest
Elizabeth Marszalik, Indian Trails Public Library District,
Wheeling
Melvin L. Meling, Batavia
Nancie Mitchell, McHenry Public Library District

Michael Mulholland, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Maria X. Peterson, Chicago Public Library
Lynne Rickard, Bloomington Public Library
Deborah Shippy, Moline Public Library
Sharon Sonin, St. Charles
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Nancy Swanson, Woodridge Public Library
Amy Webb, Mahomet Public Library District
Kelly Wolfe, McHenry Public Library District

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Patrick McDonnell, Woodridge Public Library
Edward Mudra, Algonquin Area Public Library District
Marianne Orr, Palos Heights Public Library
Nancy Sanders, Sandwich District Library
Karen Thompson, Bellwood Public Library
Lajuan Whitfield, Bellwood Public Library



Artist Tracy Worth — otherwise known as Tracy Ducksworth, Director of the Grande Prairie Library District — performs at the ILA Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee's annual DiversiTea. Proceeds from the event benefit the Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund.

Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee

Kay Shelton, Northern Illinois University

The Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee has much to celebrate this fall. Thanks to your generous donations, the annual teapot raffle during the DiversiTea event at the ILA Annual Conference raised \$1,302 in one day for the Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund. The scholarship supports Illinois winners of ALA's Spectrum Scholarship. It is never too late to contribute to help college students in library science programs. Please see the ILA's Contributions Web site at: www.ila.org/about/contributions.htm.

For those who missed the DiversiTea and the bus tour of libraries in the Chicago area, there are summaries and pictures on the committee's blog at: <http://illinoislibrarydiversity.blogspot.com/>.

Barbara Adrianopoli, committee member and Director of Branches and Extension Services for Schaumburg Township District Library, took second

place and a \$200 DEMCO gift certificate for her exhibit at the American Library Association's Diversity and Outreach Fair this summer. Her exhibit was titled, "Having Fun Learning the More We're Different, the More We're the Same: Diversity."

Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL)

Hunt Dunlap, Western Illinois University

The votes are in and have been tabulated... please join me in congratulating Jane Treadwell and Ellen Corrigan who were elected to IACRL offices in the recent election. Thanks to all who participated in our first e-election. A total of 81 ballots were cast (of 263 eligible voters or 31 percent). While a good start, we welcome suggestions for ways to improve voter participation in future elections.

IACRL VP/President-Elect 2008–09

Jane Treadwell, University of Illinois at Springfield, jtre1@uis.edu.

IACRL Secretary 2008–09

Ellen Corrigan, Eastern Illinois University, ekcorrigan@eiu.edu.

Illinois Reading Enrichment and Development Committee (iREAD)

Lisa Sarm, Lincoln Library

If you weren't able to make it to the ILA Annual Conference at Navy Pier, the iREAD committee has a treat for you. The iREAD committee is pleased to announce that we have created a public service announcement for *Read on the Wild Side*. Thanks to Alexis Sarkisian and the Library Production Studio, we have produced a PSA that you may use to promote *Read on the Wild Side* free of charge this year. Please let your public relations staff know about this exciting new offering from iREAD. It's really something to ROAR about!

The iREAD committee is patiently

waiting for your ideas for *Scare Up a Good Book*, the theme for the 2010 program. This year we are also adding ideas for adults, in addition to children's and teen ideas. We'd love to put your name in our manual, but the only way to see your name in print is by submitting ideas to the resource guide. Visit <http://www.ila.org/pub/ireadsub.htm> for theme submission form.

If you'd like to see your name in print more often, consider volunteering to help with iREAD. Please contact 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.

Reaching Forward Forum for Library Support Staff

Sally Schuster, Addison Public Library

Do you feel like you are outside the technology loop? Do words like hyper-linked library, blog, twitter, weblog, and RSS feed make you scratch your head and pray your supervisors will not ask you to get involved with all this new stuff, some of which has been around for a number of years?

Michael Stephens, Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University, River Forest and author of Tame the Web blog (<http://www.tametheweb.com>), is the keynote speaker for the 2009 Reaching Forward Conference. He has a passion for the practical application of technology in libraries and how it extends the core mission of what libraries have always done. He teaches classes on library technology, speaks to all kinds of library groups, and uses social networking in his work and personal life.

Michael Stephens sometimes thinks he's the poster boy for the emerging digital consumer: iTunes TV shows, newsfeeds from his hometown, and Netflix delivered to the mailbox.

He recently canceled his newspaper subscription because he is getting all his news online. According to his blog, he wishes he received more news from his library online.

How many of our patrons are like Michael? Are our users looking for something more interactive than going to our library's Web site? Should we incorporate the world of iPhones and texting, wikis, and blogs into our working library world?

What can we learn from Michael Stephens? What is the hyperlinked library, anyway? In Michael's words, "The Hyperlinked Library is human. Communication, externally and internally, is in a human voice. Staff speaks to users via open, transparent conversation.

"The hyperlinked library provides spaces and places for users to interact, to collaborate, and to create content. In an age of digital tools such as video editing stations, podcast studios, and multimedia PCs, this library is a place to have access to all manner of new and emerging technologies. To test drive. To make something.

"The most wonderful thing about emerging technologies is many of them bring the library staff right to wherever the user happens to be online," he said in an interview.

Using the Internet and other tools to communicate with library users is not just for the managers of our Web sites. It is part of what each of us does every day in every patron interaction. The successfully hyperlinked library will incorporate new technologies into everyday communication with our users. Everyone in every department can contribute to this effort. Our libraries need to be hyperlinked!

One of the reasons for attending Reaching Forward is to expand your horizons. Michael Stephens will show you the future begins today. Join us Friday, May 1, 2009 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois.

Reference Services Forum (RSF)

Blaine Redemer, Illinois State Library

The Reference Services Forum (RSF) is the Illinois Library Association's forum for ILA members who are interested in library reference services and readers' advisory in Illinois. Each year the RSF presents programs at the ILA annual conference, including an annual luncheon meeting with guest speaker; presents the Reference Services Award sponsored by ProQuest; and last year we conducted a survey of interested people to find out what direction the RSF should go in the future. From this survey we were given a number of ideas that the RSF is interested in pursuing.

During this next year we would like to continue with scheduling programs for the conference, awarding another wonderful recipient for the Reference Services Award and proceed with some of the suggestions proposed by the survey to enhance reference services for Illinois.

If you would like to participate in helping to make the goals of the RSF a reality, please join us for one of our meetings. We will be holding meetings the second Thursday of every other month starting in November throughout the next year. They are usually held by conference call with more specific information forthcoming. Information about the RSF will be distributed through WebJunction Illinois in the reference group* and RefTalk. To sign up for RefTalk, visit the link <http://maillist.nsls.info/mailman/listinfo/reftalk> and follow the instructions under Subscribing to RefTalk.

If you are interested in participating but are unable to attend the meetings, please feel free to contact Blaine Redemer and look for the RSF presence on WebJunction Illinois.

We welcome your involvement in making reference service in Illinois the best in the country.

*For details about joining the Reference Group on WebJunction Illinois look for an announcement on RefTalk in early January or contact Blaine Redemer at brede-mer@ilsos.net or (217) 782-5430.

Resources and Technical Services Forum (RTSF)

Joy Anhalt, Tinley Park Public Library

The Resources and Technical Services Forum sponsored three programs at the 2008 ILA Annual Conference.

The full-day preconference, "Acquiring and Cataloging Video Game Collections," presented by Nanette Donohue, Technical Services Manager at the Champaign Public Library and Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, covered selection, circulation policies, collection planning, security, maintenance, and cataloging for collections of console and hand-held video game discs and cartridges. Systems discussed include the Nintendo Wii and DS, the Xbox 360, the PSP, and Playstations 2 and 3. In addition to the examples provided by the presenter, participants shared examples and best practices from their home institutions.

Kathryn LaBarre (University of Illinois GSLIS) and Marjorie Bloss (Dominican University) presented an RDA (Resource Description and Access) Update. The program gave an overview of the objectives and differences of the replacement of AACR (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules).

Quality or Quality in Your Catalog featured Caren Soltysiak (Vernon Area Public Library District), Mary Konkel (College of DuPage Library) and Virginia Seward (Cooperative Computer Services) sharing their best practices in maintaining a quality catalog.

The RTSF luncheon, sponsored by ASI-Modulex, was followed by our annual meeting to select the forum manager-elect and brainstorm program ideas for next year's conference. By acclamation, Nanette Donohue of the Champaign Public Library was selected as the RTSF Manager-Elect.

Thank you to all the moderators, presenters, and attendees that made these programs successful.

Joy Anhalt, Tinley Park Public Library, received the 2008 TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award. As the award winner the author wishes to thank my library administrator Rich Wolff for nominating me, the RTSF Awards committee for choosing me, and to TBS, Inc. for sponsoring the award.

Dear Elsie,

What's this FRBR I keep hearing about? Do I have to worry about it?

Apprehensive in Arcola

Dear Apprehensive,

Elsie doesn't think we have to worry about it — it may shake up the way we do things, but it's not going to put us out of work. In fact, we can hope it will make our work more interesting and help us serve our publics better.

FRBR — usually pronounced “Ferber” — stands for Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records. That name reflects the purpose of the international group that created the FRBR model between 1992 and 1995 — to identify what users want and need from bibliographic information and develop a model that would effectively address those needs. So while other aspects are more discussed, FRBR really starts with four basic “user tasks”: Find, Identify, Select, and Obtain. Aside from the more universal and less book-centered language, these are not fundamentally different from the “objects of the catalog” first published by Charles A. Cutter in 1876.

FRBR, following terminology first developed by Peter Chen in the 1970s, describes the bibliographic universe in terms of *entities* and *relationships* among those entities. Group 1 entities are “the products of intellectual or artistic endeavour” (in Robert Maxwell's phrase), described at several levels of abstraction versus specificity; Group 2 entities are persons and corporate bodies that are related to Group 1 entities in various

ways (such as composer/composed by, adapter/adapted by, publisher/published by, and many others). Group 3 entities are the subjects of works.

One of the most intriguing aspects of FRBR is its categorization of the Group 1 entities: *work*, *expression*, *manifestation*, and *item*. Work in FRBR is a highly abstract concept: “a distinct intellectual or artistic creation,” but a creation at, if you will, an early stage of conception, before it is put into words, musical notes, charcoal on canvas, or any other physical form. *Expression* is the realization of a work in some form, but is still abstract; the uniform title might be its nearest equivalent in current cataloging practice.

Manifestation, defined as “the physical embodiment of the expression of a work,” is the first level that involves a physical form; examples would be a manuscript, an edition of a book, or a recording of a performance. This is the level at which bibliographic entities are traditionally cataloged. And finally, a FRBR *item* is a single instance of a manifestation and is what is described in an item or copy record.

What implications might FRBR have for cataloging practices? Just looking at the Group 1 entities, one possibility would be the way we assign subject headings and class numbers (that's the part of a call number that expresses the subject, nature, or form of a resource — the part before the Cutter). Currently, we assign these to the work being cataloged, or in FRBR terms, to the manifestation. But is this logical? All editions of *The Origin of Species* are about evolution, and all recordings of Dave Brubeck's “Take Five” are jazz (unless there is an undiscovered Buck Owens country version somewhere). If our cataloging rules and bibliographic databases incorporated FRBR, subject analysis and classification might be more appropriate at the expression or even the work level. In general, it's safe to say that both our rules and our database and record structures will have to be rethought and expanded if we are to take

advantage of FRBR's complex and detailed entity-relationship model.

For those who wish to learn more about FRBR, Elsie recommends three resources, starting with the briefest and most basic:

Tillett, Barbara. *What Is FRBR?* Library of Congress Distribution Service, 2004, and at <http://www.loc.gov/cds/downloads/FRBR.pdf>

Maxwell, Robert. *FRBR, a Guide for the Perplexed*. American Library Association, 2008.

Taylor, Arlene G. *Understanding FRBR: What It Is and How It Will Affect Our Retrieval Tools*. Libraries Unlimited, 2007.

And the FRBR Final Report itself is available here:
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/>

We will be discussing the development of new cataloging rules (including FRBR's influence) in a later issue of the *ILA Reporter*. And please don't forget to send in any questions or comments you may have. Meanwhile, forward with FRBR!

Bibliographically yours,

Elsie

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: Technology, Politics, Law...and Libraries

ILA Library Trustee Forum 2009 Workshop | Saturday, February 28, 2009
Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Center | 1195 Summerhill Drive | Lisle, IL 60532

Join the ILA Library Trustee Forum for our annual workshop, designed specifically for library trustees.

Michael Stephens of the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science will discuss "The Hyperlinked Library: Trends, Tools, and Transparency." Michael is the author of the *Tame the Web* blog (<http://tametheweb.com/>), and a contributor to ALA's *TechSource* blog. He will offer insights for planning and projects, and explain the hot technologies libraries are grappling with today. Don't know much about new technology? This is the workshop for you!

The afternoon will feature ILA Legislative Consultant Kip Kolkmeier and Attorney Phil Lenzini. Kip and Phil will provide an update on what's going on in Springfield and answer all your legal and legislative questions.

Schedule

6:30 – 8:30 A.M.	Breakfast in the Hickory Ridge Dining Room
8:30 – 9:00 A.M.	Library Trustee Forum Business Meeting
9:00 A.M.	Introductions
9:15 – 10:15 A.M.	Michael Stephens
10:15 – 10:30 A.M.	Break
10:30 A.M. – NOON	Michael Stephens
NOON – 1:15 P.M.	Lunch in Hickory Ridge Dining Room
1:15 – 3:30 P.M.	Kip Kolkmeier and Phil Lenzini

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday, February 27. For hotel reservations, please contact Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Center, at (800) 334-0344. The single room rate is \$89, double rate is \$109, plus tax, per night. Please note the conference rate deadline is February 15, 2009.

For more information, contact Carol Kissane at c.kiss@comcast.net or (708) 387-0670.

Registration Form

Remember to contact the hotel directly for room reservations!

ILA Member Registration: \$150*

Non-Member Registration: \$175*

Registration includes breakfast and lunch, two snack breaks, and the workshop.

* Register multiple trustees and save! Register one trustee at the full price and each additional trustee from your institution will receive a \$10 registration discount. Please send a separate form to register each trustee.

Name:

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Expiration Date:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Deadline for registration is February 13, 2009. Cancellations must be received in writing before February 13. Cancellations received after February 13 and before February 28 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 28. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee. Confirmations and additional information will be sent after the registration deadline. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: (312) 644-1896, fax: (312) 644-1899.

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.
- 18** **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 is on page 38.

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/>.

APRIL 2009 (CONT.)

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.

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

- 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/>.

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

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*.



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Organization of Today's Information

One of my favorite warm weather activities is visiting garage sales. Call them garage sales, tag sales, yard sales, or estate sales, I love the challenge of seeking out (and finding) bargains, treasures, and those must-have items that I will surely refinish, clean, or recreate sometime in the next thirty years, or so. I love the garage sale hunt, but it is a time-consuming process with no organization system reflecting what is available where.

Imagine if garage sales could be organized like library catalogs. There could be a garage sale public access catalog (GSPAC) where a person could type in keywords and, possibly, find what they were looking for, a location, and an offer price. This technology would make my Saturday mornings so much more effective. In ways, this sounds like a more garage-sale-oriented version of Craig's List (<http://www.craigslist.com>).

Speaking of good used resources, I think of the treasures held in Illinois libraries: the first editions of books, autographs, and memorabilia that your library may own. These treasures are so often not cataloged or otherwise made available to users, and thus, are left undiscovered by users beyond your libraries walls.

Consider for a moment, what treasures do you have in your library? Does your school, community, or town know about these treasures? How do you organize your library's resources so that others can know about and use this information?

I have been a faculty librarian at National-Louis University (NLU) since 2000. In that time, the university has left its storied Sheridan Road in Evanston location and moved to a state-of-the-art campus in Skokie, Illinois. Like any move, through planning, packing, and cleaning, we discovered many treasures of National-Louis that were previously not available to persons who did not know where our Evanston storage room was located.

In addition to pictures, scrapbooks, and hand-written letters from the university's founder, Elizabeth Harrison, the university has also located and identified Froebel gifts and Montessori educational toys including the Broad Stair block set, counting sticks, colored spools, and sound boxes. These National-Louis treasures represent the educational foundations that the university was built upon; they represent how children learned in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This is our history. This is your history. This history was sitting in a small room, known to only a few.

National-Louis has organized and made these educational treasures available by photographing, scanning, and organizing the material on the NLU Library Web site (<http://www.nl.edu/library>). With the leadership of Mark Burnette and Nathaniel Wilson, National-Louis has identified, saved, and made pieces of history available for researchers. While not every library is able to put in the time or investment into saving their treasures, National-Louis has been fortunate to have the university's support in saving our history. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Illinois State Library, Illinois library systems, and other organizations have also worked to help fund, and thus preserve, the history in our libraries throughout Illinois.

Technology has been able to unite library treasures with users. The technology is out there to include archival materials in online public access catalogs (OPACs) or to create new resource access mechanisms including Web pages,

wikis, LibGuides, and other organizational systems. Libraries can put information about our unique holdings on the Internet, and others have the chance to discover our treasures and learn about our rich histories.

Those stories and artifacts from various libraries, schools, communities, and people that do make their way to the Internet need to be organized to help researchers discover this information. Library treasures are not necessarily tied together to help interested persons make the necessary connections that push learning and understanding to the next level. For example, it's great that Elizabeth Harrison is now searchable using Google, but how can we make sure that she is connected with her peers like Jane Addams and associated with efforts that ran parallel to and were adapted because of her efforts to educate the mothers of young children?

How can the Internet be organized so that we can help people research, expand their ideas, and bring learning to another level?

Librarians have strived to organize technology-based information for years. We have done this, primarily, through our catalogs and MARC records. A MARC record is a Machine Readable Cataloging record and it is the library's way of telling a computer what materials are available in the library. Each MARC record provides several ways for the content of a material to be described to the user and linked to other relevant materials. If the Internet could be organized with a system of mandatory tags that describe a web page, access to and linkage of relevant material could be more consistent. Imagine if every Internet page had a mandatory MARC 520 tag, a summary statement.

Metadata tags are available, and they can be helpful, but they are not controlled like a subject system. The lack of a controlled vocabulary for metadata tags results in relevant information not being located.

The Internet is not logically organized. Search engines allow searchers to type in a word or words and find information that may or may not be relevant to what they are looking for. Some libraries contribute to the organization of the Internet by finding and connecting users with quality sites. Because the information available through the Internet is not being organized through a central organization system, this information could be lost or simply never found.

In "My Turn," I encourage every Illinois library to consider how the knowledge and logic of library education can play a role in organizing the Internet. Organization of the Internet? This could be a twenty-second century role of every library. Libraries have the tools, background, and experience to organize the Internet; this is our chance to claim a role in the development of technology-based information. The Internet needs librarians, and, I believe, libraries need the Internet.

Librarians unite! Organize the Internet! And if you happen to find a cozy coupe in excellent condition at a local garage sale, please e-mail me directly at kmiller@nl.edu. 

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Freedom to Read Foundation

Sunday, July 12, 2009

The Modern Wing, Art Institute of Chicago



Museum opens at 6:15 P.M.

Cocktails 6:30 P.M.

Dinner 7:30 P.M.

For more information, please visit:
www.ft rf.org/ft rfgala

*Join us to celebrate the Freedom to Read Foundation's
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