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# REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION





# 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

### iREAD 2022: Read Beyond the Beaten Path

Follow along over hill and dale via Jessica Gibson's evocative artwork created for the iREAD® Summer Reading Program's 2022 theme with a "camp" feel. "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" combines camp, adventure, and skill development. Summer camp at the library can encompass many different summer experiences, including hiking, campfires, stories, and s'mores; animal identification; arts and crafts; music and talent shows; or earning badges. Gibson is one of four featured artists; she is joined by graphic artist Christina "Steenz" Stewart; Dav Pilkey, creator of *Captain Underpants*, *Dog Man*, and *Dragon*; and graphic artist Kayla Miller. Learn more about iREAD at [ireadprogram.org](http://ireadprogram.org).

Gibson is a freelance illustrator from Detroit, Michigan. Her love of animals, nature, and picture books led her to a career in illustration, following graduation from Wayne County Community College. Her whimsical, expressive characters populate editorial spot pieces, packaging design, and picture books including *Time to Roar* (Bloomsbury, 2020), *Very Lulu* (Sourcebooks, 2019), and *Walter Does His Best: A Frenchie Adventure in Kindness and Muddy Paws* (Thomas Nelson, 2021). Learn more about Jessica Gibson at [jessicamgibson.com](http://jessicamgibson.com).

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has five full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates 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 email to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org). You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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# Mobile Partnerships: Reaching Communities

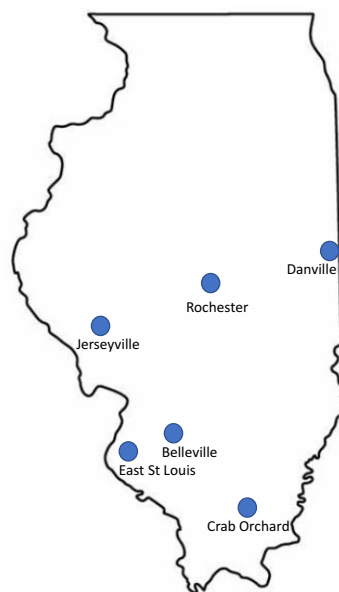
A casual conversation can spark a series of impactful events. Such a moment happened during the 2021 fiscal year. Susan Palmer, operations director at Illinois Heartland Library System, and Leander Spearman, director of Belleville Public Library, were envisioning what library service could and should look like. Spearman was discussing his vision of beginning a “co-op” of neighboring libraries to share mobile outreach and bookmobile services. Each community would provide a vehicle that would rotate among their communities on scheduled stops and the vehicles would provide wi-fi access, as well as resources and items specific to a theme. He mentioned to Palmer that vans and vehicles are needed within communities for outreach. This casual conversation got the wheels in Palmer’s head turning.

Libraries have continuously worked to grow and expand their ever-evolving services to engage and further meet their communities’ needs. Many libraries in central and southern Illinois have or are just beginning to find ways to extend their services to reach those in need; whether it is the various rural communities or the more highly populated areas where the presence of the library is not as easily known or seen. One solution is for libraries to implement the use of vehicles, such as a van or a bookmobile, to provide different services such as mobile hot spots, access to technology, homebound deliveries, signing up people for library cards, promotion of the library at special events (including farmers’ markets, festivals, and parades), or sharing a permanent or rotating collection of library materials.

Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), which services 28,141 square miles in southern Illinois, is charged with the task of providing the best possible services and resources to libraries to make sure that each library in the southern half of the state has access to as many of the available resources and services as possible. IHLS does this by partnering in a statewide interlibrary delivery service. Resource sharing has been the foundation of statewide library service in Illinois

for more than 50 years, allowing any Illinois resident with a library card to freely request and obtain materials from any other library in Illinois. Pooling together resources is standard practice in IHLS to offer more to all patrons. And sometimes, brainstorming ways to share resources leads to an unexpected and impactful series of events.

Every year, IHLS offers surplus vehicles to member libraries through an auction at 75% trade-in value. This gives libraries the opportunity to purchase affordable vehicles for their communities. Using Spearman’s input as the starting point, as well as her vision for this grant to be a way to give back to IHLS member libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic, Palmer constructed the IHLS Surplus Vehicles Grant. By December 2020, a grant proposal had been written. Out of the 15 libraries that applied, five libraries were awarded a 2017 Ford Transit Cargo van. Each of the winners has developed a concept for how the van will impact their communities while coming up with creative funding and partnerships.



Highlighted mobile outreach locations



Holly Kleiss and Johnson Flanagan, library staff from Danville Public Library, picking up van



"One solution is for libraries to implement the use of vehicles, such as a van or a bookmobile, to provide different services."



Anita Driver, director of Jerseyville Public Library, pictured with van in parade



Linda Petty, IHLS area manager, and Millicent Cason, East St. Louis Public Library director





Janet McAllister, director at Rochester Public Library, and Denise Rainford, youth services director, picking up van



Chris Maness, Cataloger, and Anita Driver, director of Jerseyville Public Library, picking up van



Erin Steinsultz, director of Crab Orchard Library, and Stephanie Mall, program director picking up van



Metro East Mobile Library Services Cooperative

For the East St. Louis Public Library, having a van gives the community and library patrons the ability to connect to the internet to conduct business or schoolwork, or have entertainment without having to add it to their monthly budget. Millicent Cason, director of East St. Louis Public Library, worked to partner with the city, city council, and local schools to assist in raising money, which has allowed them to wrap their van making it more eye-catching and recognizable as a vehicle used by the library. The Rotary Club in this community has helped with funding as well. East St. Louis Public Library has plans for the van to go to schools to pass out free books, sign up kids for library cards, and provide a mobile wi-fi hotspot. Another goal is the ability to visit housing complexes and senior communities allowing the library to reach members of the community with limited ability to travel to the library otherwise by providing homebound deliveries.

Other libraries were on a tight budget, such as Danville Public Library, and the plans to purchase a van three to five years down the road turned into a three-to-five-month possibility. They were able to help their local school district in hosting a dress giveaway event to people in their community, and it was all made possible by having a big enough vehicle to do so. When the 2021-22 school year begins, they hope to meet with the local high school librarian to establish a mobile mini library in the high school and talk about the library's upcoming programs and events for teens. The van has also been used at a variety of local events over summer 2021 and has allowed the librarians to attend more community events and still keep up on their normal senior residence deliveries.

At the Crab Orchard Public Library, the library director, Erin Steinsultz, has spent five years working tirelessly to improve services for her district. She started a discussion on how to best serve their district's needs, and the bookmobile grant has allowed them to provide additional services. To cut costs and stay within budget, the library opted for magnets to attach to the side of the van instead of the more expensive wrap to be placed on the vehicle. When faced with an unexpected challenge regarding who would drive the van and provide outreach, Steinsultz looked to her board and advocated for approval of a new hire to fill this need. Her hard work and dedication paid off with the board's approval. Design ideas have been presented to the board, and tubs are being added to the van. The library has plans to start homebound deliveries, is also sponsoring a movie night, and the van will be available and stocked with books.

Janet McAllister at Rochester Public Library looked to her community members for support with the implementation of the van program and was able to obtain sponsorship from these community members. The library surpassed its goal amount, and the project has been fantastic for their library overall. Materials have been gathered to be delivered to an assisted living community through a homebound delivery program. A wi-fi hotspot is another goal, as well as taking the van to festivals, local farmers' markets, and daycare centers.


In Jerseyville, Anita Driver had huge success promoting their library at the local parade as a showcase for their van. They have bought pop-up shelving and are starting a homebound delivery program as well. The Friends of the Jerseyville Public Library have even taken to using the van. The program name that they have come up with is JPL. If you see this van out-and-about, please give them a wave, as they have come up with magnets for their vans to promote JPL, so they are easily visible. Driver stated that this van has served as a great marketing tool for the library.

Belleville Public Library was not one of the winners of the grant, but Leander Spearman was able to purchase two vans for the library during a recent IHLS surplus vehicle auction and his vision, which inspired the grant, for a shared vehicle co-op has led to the development of the Metro East Mobile Library Services Cooperative. The program was started by three neighboring libraries that entered into an intergovernmental agreement to provide mobile library services within their shared communities. Room for expansion has been left in the program for interested libraries to eventually opt in. The ultimate goal of the Metro East Mobile Library Services Cooperative is to have a fleet of vehicles that can provide mobile library services anywhere within St. Clair and Madison County and beyond.

When looking for new and innovative ideas, libraries can come up with invaluable ways to serve their communities. As needs form within these communities, libraries' dedication and creative thinking help make it possible to fulfill whatever goal needs to be achieved, whether it is homebound deliveries, sponsoring events, wi-fi hotspots, signing up kids for library cards, or just an old-fashioned bookmobile.

All these stories give us hope. Hope that a little creativity, collaboration, and community partnership and engagement makes anything possible to find a way to work through the hurdles libraries face every day. Hurdles like understaffing, budget restrictions,

and time management. Hope that these hurdles can be overcome so libraries can continue to do what they do best: giving back to their communities and being a beacon of light for those in need of their remarkable resources, while simultaneously highlighting the unmeasurable value libraries hold within the communities they serve. Sometimes, all it takes is a moment in a conversation to spark innovation and opportunity. **ILA**



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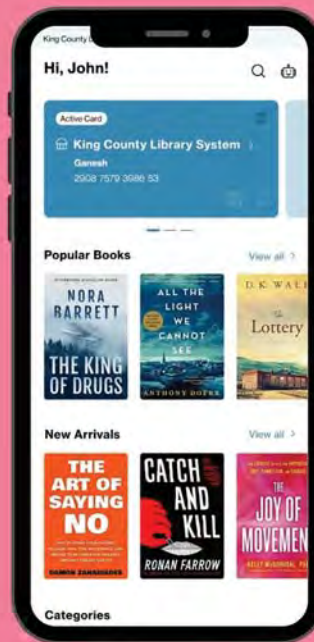




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# 2021 Consolidated Election Library Referenda Results

**T**his year there were five library-related referenda in Illinois on ballots in the 2021 Consolidated Election, with four passing and one failing. Two that passed are the first ones related to library territory annexation to occur under Public Act 101-0099: Cahokia Public Library District and Prospect Heights Public Library District. This law, passed in 2019, requires a “front-door” referendum when seeking to annex territory to a library district. A provision to enable disconnection of territory was eliminated by amendment, however. To date the success of both front-door referenda bodes well for at least these two communities’ support of their public library districts.

## CAHOKIA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Shall the unserved territory of Cahokia Heights, St. Clair County be annexed to the Cahokia Public Library district, in St. Clair County?

**RESULT:** Pass

**VOTER TURNOUT:** 14%

**YES:** 1,655 (82%)

**NO:** 267 (13%)

## CARTHAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Shall the bonds of the Carthage Public Library district, Hancock County, Illinois, in the amount of \$1,200,000 be issued for the purpose of building and equipping a new library Facility, construction site improvements and furnishing necessary equipment in connection therewith?

**RESULT:** Pass

**VOTER TURNOUT:** 21%

**YES:** 358 (52%)

**NO:** 333 (48%)

## PROSPECT HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Shall the following described territory be annexed to the Prospect Heights Public Library District, Cook County, Illinois?

**RESULT:** Pass

**VOTER TURNOUT:** 7.6%

**YES:** 787 (79.9%)

**NO:** 198 (20.1%)





## SHERRARD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Shall the annual public library tax rate for the Sherrard Public Library District, Mercer and Rock Island Counties, Illinois, be established at 0.19% of full, fair cash value instead of at 0.15%, the maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended?

**RESULT:** Fail

**VOTER TURNOUT:** 21.8%

**YES:** 185 (40%)

**NO:** 278 (60%)

We thank the Illinois State Library for assistance in compiling this information, available on the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) web site (Cahokia, Carthage, Sherrard, Monee) at <https://elections.il.gov/VotingAndRegistrationSystems/ReferendaSearch.aspx> and the Cook County Board of Elections web site (Prospect Heights) at <https://www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/election-results>. **ILA**

## VILLAGE OF MONEE

Should the Village elected officials continue its efforts to have a library facility located within its corporate boundaries?

**RESULT:** Pass

**VOTER TURNOUT:** 16.7%

**YES:** 487 (54.3%)

**NO:** 410 (45.7%)





# My Turn: School Librarianship During a Pandemic

I am a middle school librarian at Mascoutah Middle School in Mascoutah, Illinois. Like many other professions, the day-to-day life of a school librarian was upended completely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not everyone realizes that school librarians have two, and sometimes three, completely different sets of patrons. First and foremost are the kids, the students, the reason we get out of bed every day! Second, are the teachers. I consider keeping the teachers happy one of the most significant parts of my job. And finally: the administrators, both in the building and in the district. When the pandemic hit and schools were closed, all three sets of patrons had immediate, differing, urgent needs that I had to juggle. I was blindsided, just like everyone else, immediately wondering how I would keep the library going and help everyone through the upheaval.

Librarianship is a service profession, and while I may not be central to the pandemic like healthcare workers, I certainly tried to keep our school and library program operating.

At first, our district was entirely remote. The students left with their library books and whatever else they had when they went home the night before. In mid-March 2020, no one was sure if touching contaminated surfaces transmitted the virus, so our district prohibited checking out books. I immediately went to work ordering e-books. Our e-book collection has always been on the small side for two reasons. First, before we went 1-to-1 (meaning, each student has access to a device), there was no reliable way for students to access e-books. Second, our print

material circulation was through the roof with a robust library program in place and a healthy reading culture. Students never seemed interested in e-books, no matter how much I tried to promote them. When faced with no other choice, many students became e-book converts overnight! This, however, presented a problem of how to train students to use the e-books we had available. In the past, I always showed interested students in person how to access our digital books. Thus began a mixture of joining Zoom classes to help teachers and students understand this new access and updating the library website constantly with how-to videos, virtual instructions, and step-by-step guides. My initial e-book purchases were primarily duplicates of extremely popular print books in our collection. As time went on, I began to better understand what kids wanted in an e-book.

Also, in those first early days, teachers were scrambling with how to teach reading virtually. We didn't know if we could record ourselves reading aloud or if copyright rules prohibited that. We didn't have digital copies of classroom novels. I spent a lot of time searching copyright laws and calling or emailing publishers about permission to record read-alouds of various books. Luckily, publishers and authors came around really quickly and jumped on board to make this process easier. Also, almost daily, I was juggling requests from the administration asking whether teachers could share workbook pages or whether one thing or another was a violation of copyright law. Every day brought a new set of unknowns we were trying to navigate. I have never spent so much time mired in copyright law.









Full Mascoutah Middle School Library pre-pandemic

Once school was over for the 2019/2020 school year, my immediate focus became trying to get back all the library books that had gone home in March. I'm still working on this. I have a steady rotation of tactics to try to get back these books, resorting to bribery, nagging, incentives, fees, begging, and so on. I have always been a proponent of forgiving lost book fees when I can because it's a bit of the cost of doing business as a library, and my goal is never to make it difficult for a student to check out a book. However, the mass exodus of so many books at one time was more than my library budget could bear to lose, so I am still working on that effect of the pandemic.


When we returned to school in the fall, we were a hybrid school. We had students coming on A/B days for a shortened school day, with about 30% of our students remaining fully remote. Our administration initially did not see a way to circulate books. Still, with some complex research done by me and our high school librarian into the REALM project conducted by IMLS in order to assess the danger of virus transmissibility via library materials, we were able to get approval for a book delivery/pick up program while quarantining materials for five days after getting them back. This change caused another scramble to train students to request books and understand how they would be delivered and returned. We had remote students picking up books from the office.

One of my favorite parts of my job is talking books with kids and trying to hook them into reading particular ones. I usually do this in person, in an unofficial capacity, as we chat while they browse or check out books. I really felt the loss of not talking to the kids, so I began e-book talks, posting a new video every day talking about a new e-book. I also contributed to First Chapter Fridays, a program our eighth-grade English Language Arts teachers started to get kids talking about new books. I created a virtual library and posted my bitmoji everywhere I could—linking the virtual library to every single team and teacher page. I also held Zoom office hours every afternoon when the teachers finished with Zoom for the day. I made it a help-desk Zoom—students and parents could hop on my Zoom meeting, which was open every day from 1-3 P.M. to ask any question, not just library-related ones. I helped many students reach virtual tech support, or reset passwords for various applications they needed to get into, or directed students to their teacher's office hours. I tried to be a friendly, helpful voice for everyone who had no idea what was going on, which was pretty much everyone!

I enjoy a great relationship with the teachers in our school, and I frequently collaborate with them in research units or information literacy units. With everyone trying to keep movement around the school to a minimum, that meant taking the research to them. At first, it was all virtual, which luckily was relatively easy since I had converted most of our reference material to virtual formats several years ago. I also used technology such as Google Classroom, Google Forms, Nearpod, and Loom, to make research easier for students. We adapted, revised, shifted, and changed almost every lesson or unit we taught, so it could work remotely and in-person while still keeping the library portion virtual.

One of my job duties has always been helping to set up online scheduling for parent-teacher conferences in October. Usually, this is a pretty straightforward, though time-consuming, task. This past year, however, I had to help figure out how to send all those hundreds of parents to the correct Zoom meeting on the right day at the right time. I embraced many new technology tools for mass emails and virtually visited each teacher's Zoom meeting to ensure there would be no problems. At the last minute, we discovered a glitch where some teachers' Zoom meetings had not been made public, so I ran crazily around the building visiting each teacher's classroom to make sure they knew how to do it. I also gave out my cell phone number for the evening so teachers could reach me if there were significant problems. Luckily, the conferences passed smoothly, and other than a few new gray hairs, I was none the worse for the wear.

As fall became winter, the COVID rate in our county spiked, and we began having pretty regular exposures, necessitating quarantines. While I never was exposed and never had to quarantine, this affected me because I, along with the physical education teachers, counselors, and social workers, was put into a rotation as a substitute teacher for the quarantined faculty. Many days, they could work from home but still needed a body in the classroom to supervise in-person students. This rotation of subs was constantly pulled into unfamiliar schedules and classrooms, trying to keep the doors to the school open.


In January, we went to all-remote classes for one week on each side of our Christmas break to allow students and teachers to quarantine if they had visited family during the holidays. Remote classes were a welcome respite to the hectic pace. The break was helpful because we opened on January 22 to a regular schedule, with all in-person students coming to school every day while still on a shortened schedule. Teachers juggled their classrooms to allow more students in with three feet of physical distancing and made it work. This was the beginning of getting some normalcy back to school, but the library remained delivery-only through the end of the school year. As of this writing, our district is back this fall to a regular schedule and plans a traditional school year. I really, really hope that we can achieve that! 

“I tried to be a friendly, helpful voice for everyone who had no idea what was going on, which was pretty much everyone!”



# Reading Colored Our World in 2021: iREAD® Roundup

More than 1,000 libraries in 36 states, plus Department of Defense base libraries worldwide, participated in iREAD® in 2021, themed “Reading Colors Your World.” This summer, the broad motif of “colors” provided a context for exploring humanity, nature, culture, and science, as well as developing programming that demonstrates how libraries and reading can expand your world through kindness, growth, and community. Library patrons young and old were encouraged to be creative, try new things, explore art, and find beauty in diversity.

Begun in 1981 as an Illinois-only partnership among youth services librarians in the state, iREAD® has grown to include formal or partial statewide adoptions well beyond our borders, including in Alaska, California, Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington (partial). In 2021, libraries decorated their spaces; conducted art projects including ink-and-fingerprint painting, a rainbow handprint wall, and colorful paper crafts; hosted games such as “I Spy;” encouraged participants with creative incentives such as a paper chain with loops readers contributed for each book read; and much, much more. Here we are happy to showcase some of the creative displays put on by this year’s iREADers. Read a book and color your world! 

We thank Alexandra Annen of the Homer Township Public Library, 2021 iREAD® chair, and her committee for their hard work to develop and implement this year’s fun theme.



© 2021 Hervé Tullet for iREAD® Summer Reading Program



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Pekin Public Library, Illinois





Euclid Public Library, Ohio



Ridgefield Library, Connecticut



Poplar Creek Public Library District, Illinois



Rock Island Public Library, Illinois



Lancaster Community Library, Virginia

Kenton County Library, Kentucky



Plainfield Public Library, Illinois



Glendale Library, California

Plainfield Public Library, Illinois





COMING IN 2022

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- » Animal identification
- » Arts and crafts
- » Music
- » Talent shows
- » Earning badges
- » Letters from camp



STEM programs and activities are very easy to work into this theme at the library because of its nature and outdoor aspects. There is also space camp, math camp, band camp, and coding camp, to name a few.

Books like *Spy Camp* by Stewart Gibbs, *Be Prepared* by Vera Brosgol, or Rick Riordan's *The Trials of Apollo, Book One* lend themselves to great theme-based stories and activities.



Whatever your patrons' areas of interest,  
summer camp with iREAD's

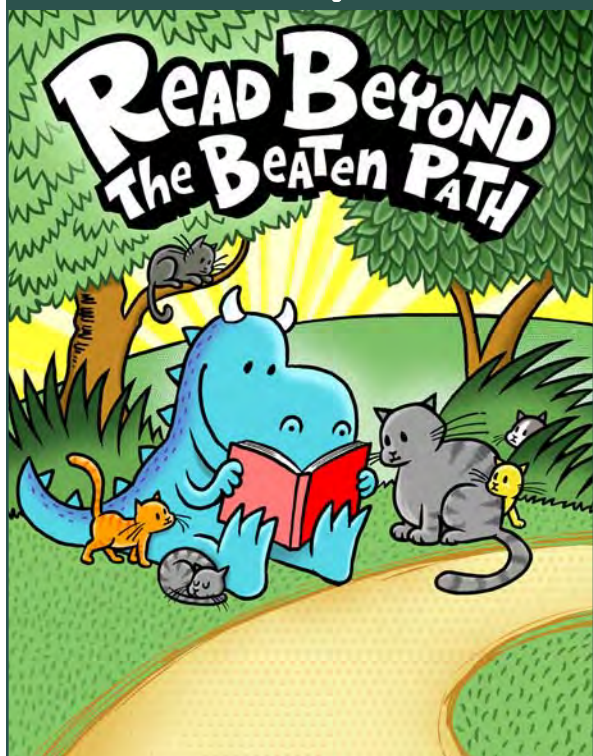
***Read Beyond the Beaten Path***

will be fun for all!

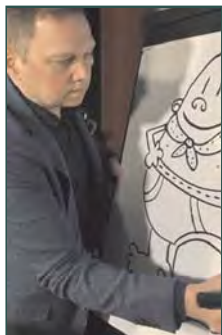




### Poster for Early Readers

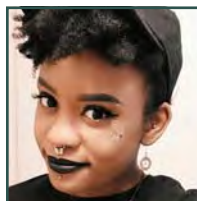


When **Dav Pilkey** was a kid, he was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia. He was so disruptive in class that his teachers made him sit out in the hallway every day. Luckily, Dav loved to draw and make up stories, so he spent his time in the hallway creating his own original comic books—the very first adventures of Dog Man and Captain Underpants.



Since then, Dav has written and illustrated a number of bestselling and award-winning children's books, including the Caldecott Honor book *The Paperboy*. His Captain Underpants series and Dog Man graphic novels have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into many languages.

### Poster for Adults/All Ages



**Steenz** is a St. Louis-based cartoonist, editor, and professor. She's the cartoonist on the syndicated comic strip 'Heart Of The City', and the co-creator of Dwayne McDuffie Award-winning graphic novel *Archival Quality*. She participates in and creates community building comics-related programming. Steenz currently teaches cartooning at

Webster University. She lives with her husband and two cats, and watches a lot of esoteric social documentaries.

### Poster for Elementary Readers



**Jessica Gibson** is a freelance illustrator born from the riverfront area of Detroit, Michigan. A love of animals, nature, and picture books has always inspired her to draw whimsical, expressive characters and led to a career in illustration.

Jessica has produced illustrations for a number of publishers and brands, including picture books, editorial spot pieces, packaging design, and surface patterns. She says, "Whatever project I work on, I make sure the final outcomes have a real sense of fun!"

## 2022 iREAD® Posters

### Poster for Teens



**Kayla Miller** is a *New York Times*-bestselling author and illustrator living and working in New York. They have a BFA in Illustration from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. When not busy working on graphic novels, Kayla enjoys watching bad movies, trying to cook new recipes, playing games (both board and video), and reading other people's graphic novels.







# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Want to see your name in print? Earn a publication credit?  
Explore current issues in librarianship? Consider writing for the *ILA Reporter*!

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- Articles that explore an issue, rather than promoting a particular initiative or program, with examples from more than one library or type of library
- Writing that considers a "how to think about..." approach rather than "how to do..."
- Submissions from all geographic areas of the state
- Submissions that relate to ILA's strategic goal area of a culture of diversity and inclusion, both in the profession and the association



Illinois Library Association

View submission guidelines at [www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter](http://www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter)  
and consider sharing your ideas! Send submissions to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).





Illinois Library Association  
**2021 Annual Conference**  
October 12–14, 2021

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

For full conference information and to register online: [ila.org/conference](https://ila.org/conference)  
#ILAAC21



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On behalf of the 2021 ILA Conference Program Committee, we invite you to join us at this year's conference **Breaking Down Barriers, Building Up Communities**. The conference will be held virtually for the second year in a row.

We are well into our second pandemic year and, perhaps more than ever before, it is critical for Illinois library staff to share knowledge, resources, and expertise with each other and their communities. The goal of the conference is to create an environment that enables attendees to learn from each other and leave with ideas, themes, and mindsets that they can take back to their own organizations and communities.

Awarding-winning author Clint Smith will kick off the conference with his keynote address. He is a staff writer at *The Atlantic* and his debut nonfiction book *How the Word Is Passed*, debuted at #1 on *New York Times* Bestseller List. The President's Program will feature ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall. Twanna K. Hodge, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Librarian at the University of Florida Libraries, will present the annual DiversiTEA address, sponsored by the ILA Diversity Committee. The Youth Services Forum welcomes Steenz, a St. Louis based cartoonist, editor, and professor.

The three-day conference will feature more than 60 sessions, which will be recorded and available for later viewing. **(Please note that Clint Smith's keynote will not be recorded.)** The exhibit hall will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. each day of the conference and networking opportunities will be available throughout the conference. Be sure to join us for the ILA Awards Ceremony, which will be the closing event of the conference.

Throughout time, libraries have been steadfast institutions — providing services to people of all backgrounds and walks of life. In times of struggle — economic recessions, disasters, and pandemics — libraries lean into this role, overcoming challenges through creative thinking. Becoming a source of inspiration and a beacon of hope by **Breaking Down Barriers: Building Up Communities**.

Be sure to mark your calendars for October 18–20, 2022, when we hope to finally meet in person at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

Jeanne Hamilton  
ILA President

Amanda McKay  
Conference Co-Chair

Rachel M. Park  
Conference Co-Chair





## 2021 ILA Annual Conference Program Committee

**Jeanne Hamilton**, ILA President  
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**Sarah Rice**  
Forefront

**Leander Spearman**  
Belleville Public Library

**Susan Wolf**  
Northbrook Public Library

## Featured Speakers



**Clint Smith**  
Opening General Session  
Tuesday, October 12  
10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Clint Smith is staff writer at *The Atlantic* while also teaching writing and literature at the DC Central Detention Facility. He is the author of *Counting Descent*, which won the 2017 Literary Award for Best Poetry Book from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. Clint has received fellowships from New America, the Art For Justice Fund, Cave Canem, and the National Science Foundation. His writing has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Paris Review* and elsewhere. His debut nonfiction book *How the Word Is Passed*, which explores how different historical sites reckon with—or fail to reckon with—their relationship to the history of slavery, was published by Little, Brown in June 2021. He received his B.A. in English from Davidson College and his Ph.D. in Education from Harvard University.



**Tracie D. Hall**  
President's Program  
Wednesday, October 13  
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

In February 2020, Tracie D. Hall was appointed the American Library Association's tenth executive director in its 143-year history. In her new role, Hall oversees the oldest and largest library association in the world, made up of 57,000 members and more than 200 staffers. Hall is the first female African American executive director in ALA's history. Upon Hall's appointment ALA President Wanda K. Brown observed that "Her unique combination of philanthropy and library know-how position her to be the leader ALA needs today. She is optimistic, energizing, and innovative, qualities that will serve the association well as it continues its investments in advocacy, development, and information technology."





### **Steenz**

Youth & Young Adult Keynote  
Wednesday, October 13  
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Steenz is a St. Louis based cartoonist, editor, and professor. She's the cartoonist on the syndicated comic strip "Heart Of The City", the co-creator of Dwayne McDuffie Award winning *GN Archival Quality*, and is featured in short story anthologies such as Eisner and Ignatz Award-winning *Elements: Fire, Mine!*, and *Dead Beats*. Steenz launched and edited the popular RPG periodical *Rolled & Told*. She participates in and creates community building comics related programming, and is a frequent panelist at comic cons. Steenz currently teaches cartooning at Webster University while editing titles from Mad Cave Studios. She lives with her husband, two cats, and watches a lot of esoteric social documentaries. She is one of the iREAD® 2022 illustrators.



### **Twanna K. Hodge**

DiversiTEA  
Wednesday, October 13  
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Twanna Hodge (she/her) is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Librarian at the University of Florida Libraries. She holds an MLIS from the University of Washington. Her research and professional interests include diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility issues and efforts in the workplace and LIS curriculum, library residencies and fellowships, cultural humility, and the retention of underrepresented and BIPOC library staff in librarianship. She is the National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) XI Conference Programming Committee co-chair, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2021 Scholarship Committee, co-chair, and more. She is a 2013 Spectrum Scholar and 2018 ALA Emerging Leader.



### **Awards Ceremony**

Thursday, October 14  
4:00 P.M.

Join us to celebrate our colleagues and friends within the Illinois library community. As we do each year, we will honor and recognize the best in libraries throughout the state. This is an event you will not want to miss!



## Program Schedule at a Glance

### Tuesday, October 12

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Exhibits Open
10:00 – 11:30 A.M.	TBS Opening General Session, featuring Clint Smith
NOON – 1:00 P.M.	Program Session 1
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Program Session 2
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Program Session 3

### Wednesday, October 13

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Exhibits Open
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.	Program Session 4
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Membership Meeting & President's Program
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Program Session 5
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.	Program Session 6

### Thursday, October 14

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Exhibits Open
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.	Program Session 7
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Program Session 8
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.	Program Session 9
2:30 – 3:30 P.M.	Program Session 10
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Awards Ceremony

## Exhibits

The Exhibit Hall will be open 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. each day of the conference. Be sure to make time to visit our exhibitors.



## Registration Rates & Deadlines

Your full conference registration includes access to all sessions, the exhibit hall, and networking. Conference sessions, **with the exception of Clint Smith's keynote address**, will be recorded and available for viewing until January.

	Early Bird	Advance	On-site
<b>Full Conference Registration</b>	by 9/13	by 10/14	10/5-10/8*
<b>ILA Member (Personal or Institutional)**</b>	\$125	\$150	\$175
<b>Non-member</b>	\$150	\$175	\$200
<b>Full-time Student or Retired Librarian***</b>	\$50	\$75	\$75

\* Registrations will not be accepted after October 8.

\*\* Attendees can register at the ILA Member rate if they have either a Personal Membership or work at a library that has an Institutional Membership. If you are not sure of your membership or member status, please email [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).

\*\*\* This registrant type applies to full time students and retired librarians. If you do not fall into that category and you register at this rate, you will be billed for the appropriate level of registration and will not be allowed to fully register for the conference until the correct registration rate is paid in full.

## Cancellation Policy

All refund requests must be received in writing by October 4, 2021.  
No telephone cancellations/refund requests can be accepted.  
Please email refund requests to [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).

**No refunds after October 4. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee.**

**If you have any questions regarding registration, please email [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org).**



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# ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

## TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**Patricia Bonk**, Midlothian Public Library  
**Kimberly Brightmore**, Oak Lawn Public Library  
**Liz Cicio**, Six Mile Regional Library District  
**Winnifred Clonts**, Glenview Public Library  
**Jessica DeSpain**, Edwardsville Public Library  
**Michael Foellmer**, Champaign Public Library  
**Sarah Galla**, Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
**Kathryn Jarosch**, Elk Grove Village Public Library  
**Vivian Kerley**, Maryville Community Library District  
**Lynda Lane**, Normal Public Library  
**Jennifer Lucas**, Barrington Area Library  
**Alice McBride**, Park Forest Public Library  
**Cathy McCauley**, Elmhurst Public Library District  
**Kate McDermott**, Oak Lawn Public Library  
**Amy Mueller**, Schaumburg Township District Library  
**Dick Munson**, Hinsdale Public Library  
**Geoff Pettys**, Lincoln Library  
**Amy Prochot**, Gail Borden Public Library District  
**Carole Pye**, Schaumburg Township District Library  
**Themis Raftis**, Indian Prairie Public Library District  
**Sri Rao**, Indian Prairie Public Library District  
**Roger Reeves**, Maryville Community Library District  
**Kathy Ridder**, Quincy Public Library  
**Beth Robb**, Normal Public Library  
**Christina Rodriguez**, Indian Prairie Public Library District  
**Tiffany Roe**, Lincoln Library  
**Ruth Rosenblum**, Glenview Public Library  
**Paul Schreck**, Lake Villa District Library  
**Mary Silcroft**, Elmhurst Public Library District  
**Andrew Sitshela**, Indian Trails Public Library District  
**Amy Somary**, Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
**Chuck Stump**, Crystal Lake Public Library  
**Joy Symonds**, Gail Borden Public Library District  
**Becky Timmins Sisler**, Crystal Lake Public Library  
**Eileen Valentino**, Elk Grove Village Public Library

## STUDENT MEMBERS

**Mary Black**, Evergreen Park  
**Devon Blumenshine**, Peoria  
**Jessie Bond**, Chicago  
**Teri Bushey**, Kankakee  
**Elaina Dague**, Homewood  
**Jessica Davis**, Moline  
**Sylvia Figueroa Ortiz**, Urbana  
**Kaitlin Fink**, Onarga  
**Melissa Georges**, Chicago  
**Adrienne Golbeck**, Wheaton  
**Alysha Jackson**, Bloomington  
**Rebecca Keane**, Niles  
**Justin Marrier**, Mokena  
**Samantha Oakley**, Chicago  
**Tabitha Rathmann**, Butler  
**Samantha Totten**, Valparaiso  
**Karin Wece**, Freeman Spur

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

**Joanna Bertucci**, Park Ridge Public Library  
**Aaron Bryant**, Chicago Public Library  
**Dorothy Debosik**, Oglesby  
**Andrea Goodyear**, Aurora Public Library District  
**Mallory Jallas**, Illinois State University  
**Rhonda Jenkins**, Indian Prairie School District 204  
**Kathleen Karnoscak**, Elmhurst Public Library District  
**Alexandra Krejci**, Berkeley School District 87  
**Heidi Lundquist**, Morton College Library  
**Colby Maddox**, Old Town School of Folk Music  
**Robin Mize**, University of Illinois at Springfield  
**Amber Moore**, Lincoln Library  
**Elizabeth O'Boyle**, Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District  
**Megan Rasmussen**, Round Lake School District 116  
**Jeremy Staicoff**, Six Mile Regional Library District  
**Sanga Sung**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Payton Virsik**, Roselle Public Library District  
**Laura Watson**, Clarence Mitchell Library  
**Elizabeth White**, Signal Hill School District 181  
**Rosie Williams-Baig**, Nancy L. McConathy Public Library

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*"Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I've learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it's a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result."*

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

For additional information visit **[www.lirapool.com](http://www.lirapool.com)**



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