

**April 27, 2015**

**Welcome to the Illinois State Library's new delivery services webpage!**

The physical delivery of library materials consistently ranks as the most valued service provided to ILLINET's 1,862 library agencies. Delivery is an extremely complex and expensive undertaking, which has been funded by the Illinois State Library for over forty years. Every year more than 16 million books, journals, magazines, audio books, CD's, DVD's and other library materials travel around the state to meet the information needs of residents from Galena to Mound City, Shawneetown to Gladstone and everywhere in between. Trucks, vans, cars and even bikes travel thousands of miles each week getting library materials into the hands of residents who need information. An efficient means of delivering library materials is a vital component of comprehensive resource sharing.

Illinois's delivery systems comprise the largest and most successful such enterprise in the nation. Despite the growth of and demand for electronic resources in libraries, the delivery of books, journals, audiovisual resources and other library materials continues to increase in volume and importance to library users. Consequently, the Illinois State Library, in partnership with the library systems, is committed to the goal of increasing the frequency of delivery to 5 days per week for all libraries and strengthening the reliability of resource sharing statewide.

So what do we hope to accomplish through this new webpage? We want to tell the story of delivery service clearly and comprehensively. We want to be the place you can come for up-to-date information about delivery today and discussions of plans for the future. We will highlight delivery successes and explore areas that need improvement. We intend to make this site a clearinghouse and a reliable guide to delivery information provided by the library systems and ILDS.

Along with the new web page, we are also launching an email list, so that we may push current news and time sensitive information out to you. You can sign up for the delivery email list at <http://islemail.org/mailman/listinfo/illinoisdelivery>.

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to suggest topics you'd like to see examined and discussed.