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**Jesse White Hosts Little Free Library® Build Day Held at the Illinois State Library**  
*Twelve groups statewide built a Little Free Library for their neighborhood*

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White hosted a Little Free Library Build Day at the Illinois State Library this week. Twelve groups from across Illinois built Little Free Libraries to take back to their communities. Todd Bol, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Little Free Library®, assisted with this effort. A Little Free Library is a structure that contains books, in which a person picks a book and returns it once they are finished reading it, or replaces it with another book. The Illinois Build Day was sponsored by Little Free Library® and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book.

“I am proud to offer Little Free Libraries to communities throughout the state,” said White. “The convenience of having a Little Free Library in your neighborhood encourages neighbors to read together. I applaud Todd Bol’s concept to promote casual reading, which will lead to lifelong learning.”

In June 2014, the State Library began a “Little Library” program based on Bol’s concept as an outreach effort to state employees. Currently, there are 11 “Little Libraries” in state agencies in Springfield and one in Chicago. In the program’s first year, the Illinois State Library’s “Little Libraries” circulated 1,036 books. Todd Bol created the first Little Free Library in 2009 to share books with his neighbors. After seeing the community’s positive reaction to the miniature library, Bol built 30 more and gave them away to a broad range of neighborhoods. Today, there are over 30,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and over 70 countries around the world.

The Illinois Little Free Library Build Day was the second stop on the Little Free Library’s Road to the National Book Festival, which is the first leg of a bigger trip – Across America with Little Free Library®. For more information about the Little Free Library® movement, go to: <http://littlefreelibrary.org>. For more information about the State Library’s “Little Library” program, please contact Taran Ley at (217) 785-5615.

Illinois Build Day participants include:

- Athens Municipal Library
- Chenoa Public Library District
- Giant City School, Carbondale
- Illinois Reading Council, Normal
- ILLINOIS READS 2016, Mt. Sterling
- Midlothian Public Library
- Princeton Public Library
- Rochester Public Library
- Sherrard Public Library District
- Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City
- Springfield Southeast High School Library
- Wyoming Public Library District